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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JUNE 3, 2010

Biomass Opponents Gearing up for Greenfield Vote

BY JOSHUA WATSON

GREENFIELD - Biomass opponents are urging Greenfield voters to the polls on Tuesday to decide on referenda which could block the sale of treated wastewater to Pioneer Renewable Energy for use as a cooling agent for PRE's proposed 47-megawatt biomass plant, to be constructed in the Greenfield industrial park.

Though the Greenfield Town Council voted to approve the proposal to enter into a contract with the plant's owner to sell the wastewater, Questions 1, 2 and 3 on the June 8th ballot could overturn that vote.

In order to do so, 25% of Greenfield's registered voters must participate in the election, and a majority of these voters must vote "no."

Pioneer recently withdrew its application for the Reclaimed Water Permit it had submitted to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, citing "timing constraints" and concerns that delays in the application process would hinder progress in the plant's planning.

Matt Wolfe, principal of Pioneer, said in a press release the plant would use "dry cooling," with air driven by large fans to cool the steam from the turbine, rather than use the

see BIOMASS pg 13



PARZYCH PHOTO

Yvette Dodge stands by one of many tall pines that blew down on her property on Mountain Road last Wednesday.

Gill Hit Hard by Last Week's Storm

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH

GILL - The severe thunderstorms that ravaged the area on Wednesday night last week did not spare the town of Gill. Most Gill roads were blocked with fallen or broken trees.

"Mountain Road, Main Road, West Gill Road, Ben Hale Road, Pisgah Mountain Road, River Road, Hoe Shop Road and Bascomb Hollow Road on the Greenfield side were all closed," highway superintendent Mickey Laclaire said. "We've got all of them open now, but we'll be

cleaning up for the next two weeks. River Road and Mountain Road were hit the hardest."

On Mountain Road, more than 50 tall pines were blown over in a wooded area off of Main Road, owned by the Dodge family. Five trees came down across power lines, knocking over a light pole with a transformer on top and blocking Mountain Road. The power is back on, but the transformer is still sitting by the side of the road.

"It was scary," said Yvette Dodge, recalling the late night

storm. "The wind was blowing and the kids were upstairs yelling they could hear trees cracking. I was afraid one of the tall pines by our house would fall on us. One tree is already leaning toward the house."

The trees on Mountain Road were blown over in a swath, parallel to Main Road, in the mid section of the grove of trees. Not all made it to the ground. Groups of three or four are still hung up on other trees. They creak and crack in the wind, showing signs

see GILL pg 8

Town Meeting to Decide on GMRSD Assessment

BY DAVID DETMOLD

MONTAGUE - Although the Gill-Montague school committee has approved superintendent Carl Ladd's \$16.53 million level funded budget request for the coming fiscal year, as it turns out, that level funded budget would cost the town of Montague \$401,255 (5.6%) more on the FY '11 assessment than the town spent for the GMRSD in FY '10.

Town administrator Abbondanzio said that increase is due "mainly to the loss of state aid and the reduction in the amount of excess and deficiency monies the school district has allocated," to meet operating costs this year. "They've committed half of their projected E&D money for FY '11, and they want to save the other half for FY '12," Abbondanzio said.

The excess and deficiency account is the school district's free cash reserves, left over from unspent line items annually, or unanticipated revenues.

Abbondanzio said the school committee would likely seek a small increase to the proposed \$7,602,878 assessment for Montague at annual town meeting on Saturday, because the percentage of students from Montague attending district schools has risen slightly in comparison to Gill.

see GMRSD pg 12

FURBISHING THE AVE

Growing for the Future at Bloody Brook Farm



FURBISH PHOTO

Laurie Callaban staffs Bloody Brook Farm's stall at the Great Falls Farmers Market

BY JOHN FURBISH
GREAT FALLS - The Bloody Brook Farm is a pillar of the Avenue's weekly Great Falls Farmers Market, which takes place on Wednesday afternoons from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the corner of

2nd Street.

Last summer we got to know their cheerful worker Laurie Callahan. The farm's delicious offerings are produced the old-fashioned way, with 25 acres of good tillable soil, hard conscientious work, and help

from nature. No pesticides, growth hormones, or chemical fertilizers are used at Bloody Brook, which distinguishes their produce from much you may find at the grocery stores.

see AVENUE pg 9

Around Brook's Bend



DETMOLD PHOTO

Shetland lambs at Brook's Bend Farm

BY ANN FEITELSON
MONTAGUE CTR - Old Sunderland Road rises out of Montague Center, and rolls along a pasture or two on its way to a steep descent to the Connecticut River. Between town and river, past a small bridge over Cranberry Pond Brook, at the summit of a

hillock, lies Brook's Bend Farm, owned since 2003 by Suzanne Webber and Al Miller.

Skittering in their yard are chicks and poults (baby turkeys). Out in the field are 23 shaggy Shetland ewes accompanied by 35 month-old lambs. The flock creates a symphony

of low-pitched calls (from the adults) and high-pitched bleats (from the lambs): "ma, me-uh," answered by "da, ah, eh," an arrhythmic call and response sounding somewhat like "Mommy" and "darling."

The flock is flickering see BROOK'S pg 14

PET OF THE WEEK

Awesome Personality



Kiko

My name is Kiko and I'm a three-year-old short hair cat in need of a good home. Who's black and shiny and fun all over? Kiko! That's me! You can probably tell from my picture that I'm handsome, but what you can't see is that around the adoption center I'm known for my awesome purrsonality! I'm a bit of an attention hog. But I can't help myself! I just love people so much. What I need is a family of my own to give me the love and attention I so desperately need. Black cats are sometimes overlooked, but please come see me! You won't regret it! For more information on adopting me, please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at 413-548-9898 or via email:

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MONTAGUE LIBRARY NEWS

Genealogy Gathering at the Carnegie Library

BY SARA CAMPBELL

ERVINGSIDE - Local researchers will gather at the Carnegie Library on Tuesday, June 8th, at 6:00 p.m. to share their research successes and struggles at the monthly meeting. Plans are being made for a speakers' series later in the summer, as well as a group project to increase awareness of the value

of preserving historic family records. Come share the fun of genealogy!

Meetings are posted at rememberingancestors.blogspot.com, along with a dialogue concerning genealogical resources.

Contact rememberingancestors@yahoo.com to be put on the mailing list.

WENDELL LIBRARY NEWS

Swing Dancing for Teens and Tweens

On Sunday, June 6th, from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., dance instructor Tricia Lea will demonstrate some sweet swing dance and lindy hop moves, before teaching basic steps to the group. No partners or experi-

ence necessary. Go to tnt.wendellmass.us to watch videos of the styles. The library will be open from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. that day.

For more information, call 978-544-3559.

WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE MUSIC FESTIVAL Friday, June 11th and Saturday June 12th

TURNERS FALLS - PowerTown Music presents the Water Under the Bridge Music Festival next weekend, Friday, June 11th and Saturday, June 12th in downtown Turners Falls.

Water Under the Bridge is a two day festival of music at 12 different venues, with over 40 artists from the Pioneer Valley and beyond.

Venues include The Rendezvous, the Shea Theater, Burrito Rojo, Ristorante DiPaolo, Round Here Café, 2nd Street Bakery, Jakes, Peskeomskut Park, the Hallmark Gallery, Great Falls Discovery Center, and the Brick House.

Full information and schedule is available at www.turnersfallsriverculture.org and www.power-townmusic.com.

Acts scheduled to appear include Naia Kete, Stone

Coyotes, Rusty Belle, MarKamusic, Boxcar Lillies, Ray Mason, Heather Maloney, Ghost Quartet, The Banjo Queen with Jared Libby, Owiehops, Darlingside, Bellas

Bartok, Daniel Hales and the Frost Heaves, The Warblers, Dakota Roberts, Katie Sachs, Phantom Fairlane Eric D'ambra, Brooke Brown Saracino, Jamie Kent, Trials and Tribulations, MarKamusic, Box Car Lillies, Micheal Horlean, 23 Enigma Horrible, Appetite Who Da Funk It?, Tom Woodbury, Steve Nelson, The Mitchell's, Opel, Space Captain, Dave Dersham, Carrie Ferguson, Paul Root, Ronald Meck, Presentense, Sue Kranz, Chris Scanlon, Darlingside, GrooveShoes!

This downtown music festival takes place in partnership with Turners Falls River Culture and is sponsored by Turn it UP!



The Stone Coyotes will appear at 9:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 12th for a CD release performance at Burrito Rojo

Seeds of Solidarity Offers Free Tour and Workshop

Learn to "Grow Food Everywhere" at a free tour and workshop on Saturday, June 12th at Seeds of Solidarity, 165 Chestnut Hill Road in Orange.

The morning tour is from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. followed by an optional optional potluck lunch. The afternoon workshop

is on No-till Gardening from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m..

This event is free, no pre-registration. For directions and more information visit www.seedsolidarity.org or contact Deb Habib at (978) 544-9023.

Seeds of Solidarity consists

of a farm, home, and non-profit organization with educational programs and a mission to "inspire people to grow food and use renewable energy in their communities." The tour features solar hoopouses, energy efficient buildings, abundant market gardens and more.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES – June 7th to 11th

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

Monday, June 7th

10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Easy Aerobics
1:00 p.m. Knitting Circle

Tuesday, June 8th

9:00 a.m. Walking Group
1:00 p.m. Canasta

Wednesday, June 9th

9:00 a.m. Foot Clinic

10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics

11:15 a.m. Friends Meeting

12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday, June 10th

10:00 a.m. Coffee and conversation

1:00 p.m. Pitch

Friday, June 11th

10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics

10:45 a.m. Easy Aerobics

1:00 p.m. Scrabble

1:00 p.m. Writing Group

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

or medical necessity.

Monday, June 7th

9:00 a.m. Tai Chi

12:00 noon Pitch

Tuesday, June 8th

8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics

10:15 a.m. Senior Business Meeting

12:30 p.m. Painting

Wednesday, June 9th

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing

12:00 p.m. Bingo

Thursday, June 10th

8:45 a.m. Aerobics

Friday, June 11th

11:30 a.m. LUNCH - Out to eat at Old Time New England Seafood Restaurant, Athol

WENDELL Senior Center is located at 2 Lockes Village Road. Call Kathy Swaim at (978) 544-2020 for hours and upcoming programs. Call the Center if you need a ride.

FACES & PLACES



Kimberly Santiago, Linoleum Block Print
Grade 9, TFHS
Anne Harding Photo

HIGH SCHOOL ART SHOW - The Turners Falls High School Art Show and Open House has been rescheduled for Thursday, June 3rd from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. The show features the work of students from grades 9 through 12 in fine arts to graphic design, from video to sculpture and ceramics to music.

HOME REPAIR COUNSELORS WANTED

Franklin County Home Care (FCHCC) is looking for volunteers to help elders access the FCHCC online Consumer Home Repair Guide. Counselors will also help elders access funds to pay for home repairs and weatherization.

Training will be June 8th & 14th from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m. at Franklin County Home Care, 330 Montague City Road, Turners Falls.

Please call Ms. Chris Baronas at (413) 773-5555, extension 2229 or (978) 544-2259, extension 2229 or via email at cbaronas@fchcc.org.

Writers Wanted

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

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JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

Local Briefs

COMPILED BY DON CLEGG - The fast moving thunderstorms that hit the area on Wednesday night, May 26th, brought more than just downed trees, branches, power lines and property damage. The storm had a definite impact on the human relations as many of our villages went days without power.

Neighbors could be seen checking in on and helping each other. In many cases, generators were being shared between homes, with extension cords strung over fences and through windows. Children, freed from the tether of video games, were to be seen outside running through sprinklers or zipping around on scooters and bikes. Barbecues sprang up everywhere, with friends and neighbors sharing food before it spoiled in warm refrigerators and conversations about what they were doing when

the power went out.

And there was the omnipresent, quaint old stand-by, people listening to small battery powered radios to find out what was going on.

The storm did cause significant damage to homes and cars. Chain saws will be growling for a while yet cutting up those trees that used to shade the yard. But sometimes, when **"Mother Nature" comes calling** in this manner, it helps folks to remember all the conveniences we have, and how they sometimes distract us from the simple pleasures of spending time with family and friends, and the satisfaction that can be gained from helping out our neighbors.

The Great Falls Farmers Market will hold its first **Sunday market** on June 13th from noon until 4:00 p.m., on the corner of 2nd Street and Avenue A.

Bike Races!

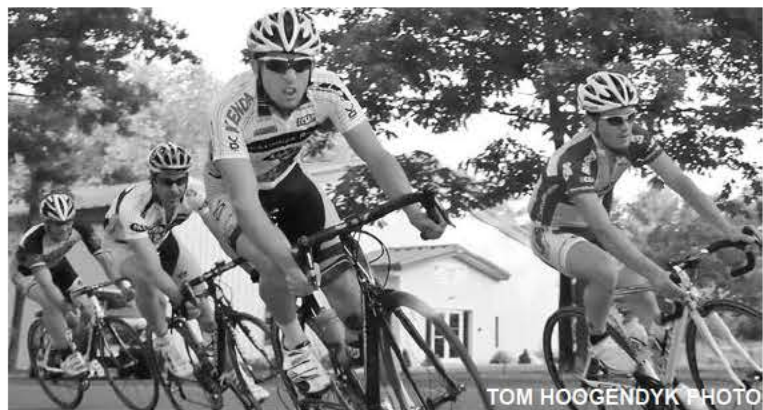
BY ANNE HARDING MONTAGUE - The first of five Montague Training Criterium bike races went off without a hitch Wednesday evening, May 26th, at the Turners Fall Industrial Park.

Montague resident and race organizer Greg Garrison was particularly excited about the event since the nearest similar races are in Plainfield, CT and eastern Massachusetts.

About 40 racers and their fans convened just past the

Franklin County Technical School at the juncture of the one kilometer loop, toward the end of Industrial Boulevard. The "B Race" started at 6 p.m. and riders did 25 laps around the loop. The more experienced riders took part in the 35 lap "A Race" at 7 p.m.

The series is hosted by the Northampton Cycling Club, for the next four Wednesdays. For more information, potential racers should contact Garrison at 413-863-8616.



TOM HOOGENDYK PHOTO

Racers round the bend at the first Wednesday night Criterium at the Montague Industrial park.

Interested vendors should call Don at 413-336-3648.

A trip to downtown Turners Falls that Sunday could be well worth your time. The Great Falls Discovery Center will also be open until 4:00 p.m. and the Turners Falls Fishway at Unity Park is open until 5:00 p.m.

Fish print your very own T-shirt or create other great works of art on Saturday, June 12th from 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. at the Turners Falls Fishway. You will be able to use accurate replicas of Connecticut River fish to design you T-shirt or make a great Father's Day present. The event is free and recommended for children over the age of six. Please wear clothes that can get stained.

And speaking of great works of art, score another point for Turners Falls as a cultural center. The latest issue of the New York literary magazine, Zen Monster, contains an entire section of poetry entitled "Turners Falls Feature." It even displays the pronouncement prominently on the cover. The feature contains poems from a group reading at The Rendezvous in June of 2008. The local poets featured include Turners Falls residents Patricia Pruitt and Christopher Sawyer-Laucanno, and Greenfielder Edward Foster. The other poets were Lisa Bourbeau from New Hampshire and New Yorkers John High, Andrea Libin, Murat Nemet-Nejat and Simon Pettet.

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

Berkshire Botanical Garden Visits Sheffield School

BY SUSAN PELIS TURNERS FALLS - On Wednesday, May 5th, the three first grade classes at the Sheffield Elementary School in Turners Falls were treated to a visit by youth education coordinator Judy Boschetti, from the Berkshire Botanical Garden.

Boschetti spent an hour in each classroom presenting a

Relay for Life a Network of Miracle Workers

BY JOLINA BLIER & KAT PALSO GREENFIELD - Relay for Life is more than just an event, it is a network of "miracle workers" coming together to try to save the lives of cancer victims all over the country.

Relay for Life raises hundreds of thousands of dollars every year, and gives 100% of the money raised to the American Cancer Society for cancer research. Each individual who participates gains a sense of accomplishment, fulfillment, and pride.

Every year, Relays take place all over the country. We are fortunate enough to have a Relay for Life in our very own Franklin County.

The relay takes place at the Franklin County fairgrounds in June. This year, the relay will take place on June 11th and 12th, and participants will be celebrating the 15th anniversary of the Relay for Life.

Over the course of the weekend, thousands of people will walk laps around the half mile luminary lit track to help raise money and awareness for the fight against cancer.

Last year, over 350 cancer survivors joined us to celebrate how far research has come, and

to express hope that scientists soon find a cure for cancer.

People from all over Franklin County create relay teams and fundraise hundreds of dollars for this very important cause. In the hours people spend at the Relay, they form a joyful bond with each other.

They are all there for the same reason: they want to find a cure for cancer. Everyone greets each other with a warm smile. We hope to see even more people on the track this year than we have in any previous year!

The Relay for Life is a worthy cause and fundraiser where all ages have the time of their lives. We hope more community members will want to become a part of this amazing fundraiser, helping to raise money and spread the word until that long-awaited day when we finally find a cure.

Call 413-863-3167 for more information on the Relay for Life.

Jolina Blier is a sophomore, and Kat Palso a senior at Turners Falls High School. They are the children's activity co-chair and chair for the Relay for Life.

program entitled "the Science of Spring." She taught students about the different parts of seeds and their purpose. Boschetti led an activity using articles of clothing to teach the boys and girls how each seed part functions.

Boschetti helped each student plant a tomato plant seedling. She discussed the

roots, stem, and leaves, teaching the purpose of each plant part. Each student was able to take his or her seedling home to plant in the family garden.

The program was supported in part by a grant from the Montague Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Leverett Coop Spring Fling

MOORES CORNERS - The Leverett Village Coop Spring Fling is coming on Saturday, June 19th, at the coop on Rattlesnake Gutter Road, just a few miles east of

Road. The party will be going on from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., with live music featuring John Sheldon starting at noon. Delicious food will be available for purchase.

Vendors are welcome: \$15

in advance, or \$20 at the door; kids set up for free. (Please bring your own table & shade). Questions? Contact: Roxanna at 413-367-2084 or roxanna-keen@earthlink.net.

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"The Voice of the Villages"

Our Schools, Our Community will Endure

BY PATRICIA CROSBY GILL - Any Massachusetts public school still standing in a working class or poor neighborhood these days is a survivor — not just literally, having evaded the wrecking ball or the decisive stroke of the downsizer's pen, but also in the modern day emotional sense of the word: tough, scrappy, and enduring.

Gill-Montague, or more specifically and historically, the Turners Falls school system and the Gill Elementary School, have long been survivors in those senses of the word. They have endured much, including experiments, meddling, political footballing, neglect and abuse, and they have given up little (school buildings, grade levels, Latin classes, late buses) without a heck of a fight. What they have kept is a steady belligerence, and despite all odds, and in the face of unwarranted disdain, a persistent pride.

Maybe it's the immigrant in them that makes Turners and Gill citizens, especially current and former students (many of the latter now town fathers and mothers) persevere the way they do. French, Irish, Polish — I don't know which ethnicity was here first (well, after the Native Americans and the industrialists, that is) nor if it matters, but I do know that I see myself, my father and mother, and my grandparents in the faces of many of these Turners and Gill residents, including in faces a different color than my own.

I see my parents' and grandparents' forbearance and dignity; the weariness of long work hours in the set of their shoulders, their delight in a hard-earned patch of vegetable or flower garden; their mischievous and defiant planting of a clothesline, a plaster statue, or a trailer right where their tonier neighbor would have much preferred they not. I feel sometimes like I see all of this when I walk down the side streets off Avenue A, sit in a Gill town meeting, or drive through a

succession of lovely though humble streets to Yelena's for an ice cream.

Perhaps it's my imagination, but I think it's this heritage, this kind of village ethos, that will allow Turners and Gill, including their public schools, to outlast and even triumph over the cavaliers and the naysayers. The long-time citizens, the ones that never strayed very far and aren't going any place now, will quietly join hands with the newcomers, especially the ones who appreciate the area's homely beauty and quiet charm — not just its 'potential' or its 'pristine-ness' — and will find a way to keep the streets clean, support appropriate business growth, nurture neighborhoods, preserve common spaces, and yes, save the schools. They will do it despite some ridicule and some impatience, and perhaps have to endure some roughing up along the way, but they will do it because it's the right thing to do, and because it's theirs.

And when the zeal for education 'reform' has burned itself out or been diverted elsewhere, there will be left behind the same solid group of stubborn people, supporting their kids through schools that have never been short of professionals of tremendous good will and considerable talent, turning out citizens who give back to their communities from near and far. Citizens who don't have to remember as a long-ago and faraway dream a time when we provided our education the old-fashioned way — locally, democratically, and honestly. Instead we will know it as a persistent and enduring reality, here and now.

We Welcome Your Letters!

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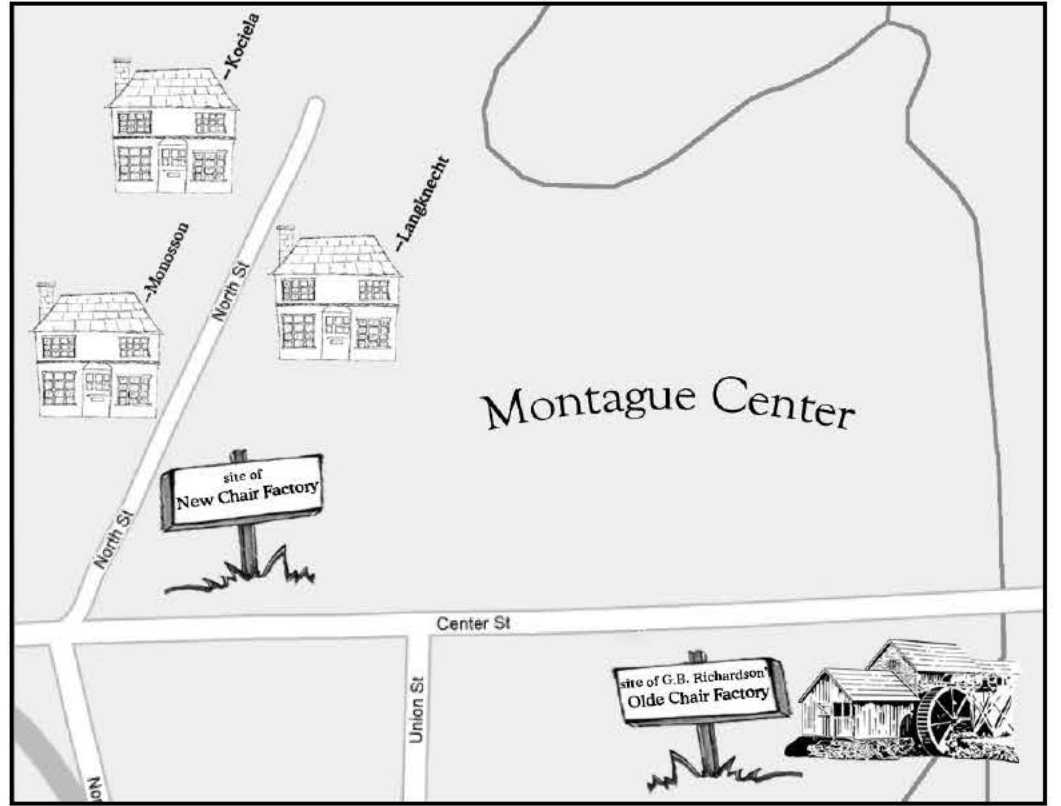
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CLAUDIA WELLS ILLUSTRATION

The last three chairs of the Gill-Montague School Committee have all been elected from North Street. The trend can't continue for long, however. North Street is only about one block long.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Greenfield: Vote No on Biomass

We should all have a healthy mistrust of government and big business, considering recent radioactive leaks at Vermont Yankee and the oil spill in the Gulf. As Gary Sanderson put it in a recent column in the Recorder, "And, yes, hate to say it (not really) but that includes snake-oil salesman Matthew Wolfe, our friendly biomass man — you know, the one who supposedly has Franklin County's best interests in mind. It's a joke, not just toxic smoke, something else he has no short supply of."

Mr. Wolfe now says he will be using dry cooling, instead of sewer effluent, to cool the 47 megawatt biomass plant he pro-

poses to build in our industrial park. But he can change his mind at any time, unless we vote no on June 8th. In terms of revenue for Greenfield, the biomass plant would generate 12.8 cents per person per day. Using sewer effluent would add another 7.6 cents. That equals 20.4 cents per person per day... not worth the negative health and environmental issues associated with biomass. We will be spending more than that on medical bills if this plant gets built.

The number of permanent jobs for the plant is between 12 and 20. The biomass industry is taking subsidies away from truly green energies. The same

money spent on conservation and public transportation would create more jobs than biomass, and create less air pollution and cause fewer negative health impacts.

It's crucial that 3,000 Greenfield voters (25% of the registered voters) vote on these questions. Listen to the doctors and medical associations. They are urging all voters in Greenfield who share our concerns to vote 'no' on questions 1, 2 and 3 on June 8th. Encourage everyone you know in Greenfield to do the same.

This is your chance to be heard on this issue!

- Sandra Kosterman
Greenfield

Montague Receives Green Community Designation

BY DAVID DETMOLD - Montague is one of 35 communities statewide that has received Green Community status under Massachusetts' Green Communities Act legislation, the Montague selectboard announced on Tuesday.

"Congratulations to all who worked so hard," on the designation, said Montague selectboard member Mark Fairbrother, "especially the energy committee and [temporary town planner] Walter Ramsey."

Energy committee chair Chris Mason said the town is now eligi-

ble to apply for a grant to assist the town in making further energy conservation improvements to buildings and infrastructure.

Mason, Ramsey and others on the energy committee worked with department heads to prepare a competitive grant application highlighting a number of projects the town intended to pursue, including developing an energy management system at the Sheffield and Hillcrest elementary schools, and the installation of a photovoltaic array on the new police station.

But Mason said at the last minute, the state changed the format of the grant program from a competitive approach to a formula-based allocation of funds.

"A week before the grant was due, instead of competing for the best ideas for the funds, every Green Community will be given a certain amount, as long as they can come up with a proposal idea," Mason said.

Montague has been told by the Department of Energy Resources to expect a grant in the amount of \$155,000, which Mason said the town would direct toward upgrading the aeration system at the town's wastewater treatment

plant, a major consumer of electricity.

"It will make the most sense to apply it to the wastewater treatment plant," Mason said. "That will get the highest return for the town," and will help pay down the energy performance contract the town is entering into with Siemens Building Technologies for energy conservation measures at a number of other town buildings.

The return from energy savings at the treatment plant "will be used to purchase more energy efficiencies, so it will have the greatest multiplied effect," Mason said.

Ramsey said the specific improvements to the wastewater treatment plant will include replacing existing centrifugal blowers with more efficient turbo blowers, and installation of a fine bubble aeration system for further energy savings.

Montague will also receive four Green Community signs, along with a solar trash compactor valued at \$4,000 for use in Unity Park, and the offer of technical assistance on energy conservation as part of its Green Community designation.

American Dead in Iraq and Afghanistan as of 6/2/10



GUEST EDITORIALS

Reject Casino Gambling

State sponsored gambling represents a "something for nothing" philosophy that is harmful to the state as well as to many individuals. Mount Toby Friends Meeting opposes the most recent proposals to bring casinos and slot machines to the Commonwealth.

We must accept the responsibility as citizens to tax ourselves for the services we require. We must not depend on or prey on the weaknesses of some to finance our common welfare. We are called to love our neighbor, and we express this love in our acceptance of our responsibility to provide for our neighbor through taxation as well as through service.

We reject the argument that the gambling instinct is too strong to be outlawed and therefore the state should legalize it and raise revenue from it.

Indulgence in gambling not only causes the material ruin of many individuals, but dwarfs and warps their moral and spiritual lives as their hopes are focused on financial gain for which they will have rendered no service to the community.

The leadership of our state government must recognize the danger of becoming addicted to gambling revenues. It is wrong to encourage our citizens to be covetous, to make a profit out of the inevitable loss and possible suffering of others.

Using gambling in this way is unethical. We call upon our elected officials to recognize the damage it would inflict on our neighbors and to reject casinos and slot machines in Massachusetts.

- Don Stone, Clerk
Mount Toby Friends Meeting

Broadband and Local Economy

BY JONATHAN VON RANSON

WENDELL - In response to my friend Robbie Leppzer's opinion piece about the WiredWest initiative, (MR VIII # 33) I would say, I understand the appeal of broadband. The internet practically demands it. In the context of our present lives, it can feel frustrating to be without it.

There are other considerations, though. As Pete Seeger colorfully told a friend recently, "All this technology that's supposed to free us up doesn't give us time to take a dump." Speed and power captivate us, and often bite us. I myself tend to get snared in the crazy pace of dial-up email.

Even our economic desires — especially our economic desires — and the job possibilities that universal broadband holds for our communities don't excuse us from looking at the other edge of this double-edged sword.

The idea of the computer was to serve a complex system that required the unique, irreplaceable power of oil (and a stable climate). Because of the backlash of global climate change and the

poised hammer of peak oil — consequences of a specialized economy that won't yield to normal patterns of correction — we need in our every choice to be descending rather than climbing the economic and job ladder.

Broadband won't get food out of the earth or hold off the cold and wet. To those who've studied the situation openly, it appears inescapable that our cultural continuity and even our lives depend on urgently developing actual, local economies. That implies fresh imagination, persistence and difficult choices that don't involve imported fuels or electricity with their many hidden costs.

Higher technologies, which have become practically our religion, interfere with basic subsistence. This is a bad time to be creating more desk work or splitting our focus between two worlds: fast and slow, cyber and real. It's time to begin gardening, farming and offering our skills to each other locally — the heirloom seeds of local economy.

- Jonathan von Ranson
Wendell

Erving Agrees to Conservation Restriction on Murdoch Hill

BY DAVID DETMOLD - Paul Daniello, conservation project manager for the Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust, and landowner Verne Fellows got together at the Erving selectboard on Thursday, May 20th, to pitch a plan for permanently conserving Fellows' 133 acres on Murdoch Hill Road, bordering state forest land in Northfield and Erving.

The deal, which would involve the town of Erving accepting responsibility for managing a perpetual conservation restriction (CR) on the land, is being arranged with the help of the U.S. Forestry Service, which is paying 75% of the cost of the CR, as part of Mt. Grace's three-town, ten landowner, 1184 acre Forest Legacy project.

Leigh Youngblood, director of Mt. Grace, said this is the second landscape project the land trust has taken on with the assistance of the federal Forest Legacy project. In 2009, the land trust

completed a four year, 2000 acre project permanently conserving land around the Quabbin Reservoir, mainly in the town of Petersham.

Youngblood said the current project, including Fellows' land on Murdoch Hill Road, would add important parcels contiguous to state forests in Warwick, Erving and Northfield to better secure a north - south wildlife corridor, protect forest land, and conserve acreage on the popular Monadnock - Metacomet Trail, a new national scenic route, one of only 11 in the country.

"I bought the land when I was 18 years old," said Fellows, who owns the acreage with his wife, Caroline. "I've owned it for 57 years. My family has owned it for 97 years. I have a good history with the property. I have a good reason to protect it. My children don't want it, and that's fine with me."

Under the terms of the conservation restriction, Daniello

explained, the landowner retains ownership of the land but gives up development rights.

"I can continue to farm it," said Fellows. "I can do anything I want on this property except build homes."

Daniello said the land would remain on the tax rolls. Fellows plans to pursue Chapter 61-A designation for the land, to add another level of protection to it and make sure it remains in agricultural production, in which case, the land would be assessed at a lower valuation locally in the future.

The land has 16 acres of hayfields, and the rest is forested. A woodlot management plan is part of the deal.

Additionally, the land has beautiful views, a pond, and stone mounds that might be of Native American origin, Daniello said.

Fellows said that might be the case, or might not.

"They're just piles of stone, laid up we're not really sure by whom," Fellows said. "Nevertheless, we're protecting them (as part of the CR), so in the future," a determination of their origin may be made.

The conservation commission has walked the land already, and signed off on the proposed CR, which the commission would monitor over time. The selectboard also signaled their approval for the conservation plan.

"As long as Mr. Fellows is being taken care of, I'm happy," said board member Jaime Hackett, whose family owns neighboring parcels in Northfield.

In other news, the selectboard heard from Jacquie Boyden, assistant assessor, about town hall workers' security concerns. There are a number of departments at town hall that keep evening hours, including the town clerk, the tax collector and the assessors. Given the town hall's proximity to the busy east-west thoroughfare of Route 2, Boyden said there are often times when workers at town hall feel

see ERVING pg 16

New England Conservation Conference to Highlight Forest Protection

The New England Forestry Foundation is hosting a one day conference on June 4th featuring the Harvard Forest report co-authored by scientists from across the region, *Wildlands and Woodlands—A Vision for the New England Landscape*.

Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust director Leigh Youngblood and founder Keith Ross will lead a discussion on land aggregation: working together with multiple landowners to protect their properties as part of one large 'aggregated' project. For more info on the conference, call: 978-248-2043 x 19.

The *Wildlands and Woodlands* vision calls for an unprecedented, long-term conservation effort to retain the majority of the New England landscape in forestland, permanently free from development, and capable of supporting people and nature. Since most forests in New England are privately owned, usually in relatively small parcels, by families and individuals, achieving landscape

scale conservation locally requires adaptable land trusts that are willing to create and refine new conservation techniques such as aggregation.

Mount Grace, based in Athol, Massachusetts, has been a national leader in land aggregation. The trust's completed aggregation projects, including the Tully Initiative and Quabbin Corridor Connection, have protected 11,000 acres of land.

While the Tully Initiative, beginning in 2000, was the first aggregation project in the northeast, today many of the largest proposed conservation projects in southern New England are aggregation projects.

The conference aims to bring new strategies like this to bear on the rapid, unorganized development of productive forestland, so that New England will retain the vibrant, sustainable landscapes that shape its identity and support local economies, communities, and quality of life. Information on *Wildlands and Woodlands* is available at www.wildlandsandwoodlands.org.

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NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Cut off for War Funding Sought

BY DAVID DETMOLD - "This isn't about leaving the troops there without funding," said Elliot Tarry. "This is to bring the troops home."

A few days after the United States' combined spending for the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq climbed past the \$1 trillion mark, Tarry, a massage therapist from Montague Center, came before the Montague selectboard to explain the purpose of a petitioned article he initiated for the town meeting warrant for Saturday's annual town meeting.

If passed, the article, which will come up last on the 27 article warrant, would direct the selectboard to call on Massachusetts senators and Montague's congressional representative to oppose any further troop increase in Afghanistan and to cut off funding for the wars in the Middle East.

The article also calls for a public discussion to be held in Montague about the cost of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan in terms of the availability of resources to fund education, transportation, security and human needs.

Tarry said not counting pending appropriations for the wars, Montague citizens have already paid, or become indebted to pay, \$26.4 million in federal tax dollars to support the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, a statistic he gleaned from the Cost of War calculator on the nonpartisan National Priorities Project website (www.nationalpriorities.org).

Tarry said mayors from Boston to Binghamton, NY are working to educate their citizens about the cost of these wars, and the way the allocation of tax dollars to fund war deprives their communities of resources for vital services.

"This resolution is not coming in a vacuum. It's part of a forum to inform our elected leaders in Congress."

Selectboard chair Pat Allen thanked Tarry for bringing the discussion forward, but also said she had received "a couple of phone calls" questioning whether town meeting is the proper forum for such a resolution. She asked

whether Tarry had considered putting the question of cutting off funds for the ongoing wars on a townwide election ballot, to get a more accurate sense of the community's opinion.

But Tarry said organizers were not interested in a non-binding public opinion question. "We're interested in a binding resolution, which would mean something more to legislators."

Tarry added, "Just like in Viet Nam, when Congress cut off funding for the war, that's when we finally brought the troops home. Also, there would be more money to fund veterans services, which are not getting enough funds now," Tarry claimed. He said troops in Iraq and Afghanistan are facing "an untenable situation," of repeated tours of duty in wars that have already lasted eight and a half years in the case of Afghanistan, and seven years, in the case of Iraq. More than 4400 U.S. troops have died in Iraq, and more than 1,000 in Afghanistan.

Tarry said, "This past weekend was Memorial Day. People were going to parties, families were celebrating. Government officials and veterans were honoring the sacrifices of veterans. The only other people who are paying attention to the sacrifices our troops are making are the peace activists. For eight years we have been saying, 'Bring them home. See what peace is like for once.'"

"I thank you for coming and presenting this so people can think about it," said Allen.

The selectboard thanked the department of public works and other emergency responders who helped the town deal with the punishing effects of the severe thunderstorms that blew through central Franklin County on Wednesday night, May 26th, from north to south around 11:00 p.m., leaving 24,000 customers without power. Power was not restored in downtown Turners Falls until about 6 p.m. on Friday, and up to 24 hours later in some outlying neighborhoods in Gill and Montague.

Allen said the town transfer station had remained open all

weekend for residents to more easily dispose of downed limbs and brush, and would be open again on Wednesdays from 7 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and on Saturdays from 7 a.m. to noon. She asked residents not to leave tree limbs on the side of the road, as the highway department does not have enough personnel to deal with downed limbs from private property.

The board authorized tree

warden Mark Stevens to cut down five to ten trees on public property that were severely damaged in the storms, without holding the normal public hearings. The board asked that abutters first be notified, and a list of the damaged trees provided to the board.

The board approved Mark Fairbrother and another member of the conservation commission to join a soon to be formed committee with representatives from the town of Leverett, Northeast Utilities, and landowners abutting a beaver lake at the top of Richardson Road. The committee

will seek a community-based solution to the problem faced by the utility, which needs a method of accessing and maintaining wooden utility towers, whose bases are presently submerged in the waters of the beaver lake.

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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Wendell Repays Neighboring Towns for 2006 Tornado Cleanup

BY JOSH HEINEMANN - The first thing Wendell did with the recently received \$150,000 state reimbursement for cleanup from the July 2006 tornado was to pay back the 11 towns that came to Wendell's aid in the storm's aftermath.

Orange was owed the most, followed by Erving, Turners Falls, New Salem and Montague. Wendell returned a total of \$37,782.43 to surrounding towns for their help clearing Wendell's roads and checking on Wendell's citizens.

Board members signed letters to state representative Steve Kulik, senator Stan Rosenberg, and secretary of Administration and Finance Jay Gonzales, thanking them for actually getting the authorized tornado money to Wendell, nearly four years after the storm blew through town.

Aldrich said there is no word yet from the state Department of Revenue on how Wendell can use that money beyond repaying surrounding towns for mutual aid.

Most of the selectboard's agenda for the May 26th meeting was devoted to a discussion of the warrants for the special town meeting and the annual town meeting which will take place at 7:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., respectively, on Wednesday, June 16th.

Six articles on the special town meeting warrant would take \$40,000 for the pension reserve fund, \$20,000 for the unemployment compensation fund, \$20,000 for the insurance reserve fund, \$9,000 to replace the town hall oil tanks with double wall

tanks, \$6,000 to paint the interior of the town hall, and \$10,000 to paint the exterior of the police station - a total of \$105,000 - from free cash.

Article seven, to transact any other legal business that may come before the meeting, would put any remaining free cash into the stabilization fund.

The annual town meeting warrant is not finalized yet.

Ray Didonato and Robbie Heller, representing the website committee, met the selectboard next with ideas to help some departments keep their section of the website updated. Didonato suggested a buddy system by which a person who is comfortable with computers and familiar with the process of updating the website works with a department or board to help keep their postings updated.

The energy task force, represented by Jonathan von Ranson, Paul Costello, and Laurie Didonato, met the selectboard with written and verbal suggestions for four annual town meeting warrant articles.

One article would create a position called gardening coordinator, who would be paid a stipend to foster local food production by offering workshops and advice, connecting people needing space with available land, and assisting marketing efforts. The task force believes Wendell is vulnerable to disruptions in the current food distribution network, made more pressing by peak oil production, investor anxiety, shifting energy markets, environmental woes,

military over-extension and national debt.

Keller said he thought the proposal needed to be more defined. The town's new personnel policy requires a precise job description, and with town meeting so close, he recommended waiting to put that article on a special town meeting warrant.

Pooser said if the salary or stipend were removed it might be possible to bring the measure before the annual town meeting.

The second article would have the town receive the energy task force's report, created over the last year. The third article would replace the energy task force, whose term expires with the end of the fiscal year on June 30th, with a permanent energy committee that would coordinate town efforts toward energy security and conservation in both the public and private sectors.

The fourth article would have the town request from National Grid a record of the town's electricity use by customer type, residential, commercial, and industrial, going back to mid 2008. This information is available, and would help track the town's energy use, and help the town track its efforts to reduce energy consumption.

Stan Tech Engineers need to step foot on land belonging to abutters of the Cooleyville Road Bridge in order to evaluate the bridge for replacement or repair. Aldrich sent out letters asking those abutters for permission.

The selectboard appointed

Melissa Grader as a library trustee.

The finance committee met with the selectboard to discuss the financial aspects of the town meeting warrant

If the town uses stabilization money to pay off the new fire truck note, the Fiske Pond note, and the note for the purchase of the town office building lot, the savings in interest would be considerable.

If the town pays \$300,000 from stabilization toward the USDA building loans, savings in interest over the life of the loan would be \$700,000, although there are complications that might decrease those savings.

The finance committee is recommending a 2% cost of living allowance for town employees, partially making up for the 0% COLA last year.

Finance committee member Jim Slavas said he was inclined to recommend the town vote an assessment amount for Mahar Regional High that would represent an equal per student assessment with the other three member towns in the district.

But finance member Doug Tanner said, "We are not all of one mind on that issue." Tanner may go along with the present statutory method of assessment for Mahar, which requires Wendell to pay higher per pupil costs than Orange, Petersham or New Salem. He said there are two issues to consider - a reasonably fair assessment, and the quality of education.

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Free breakfast and lunch for everyone ages 18 and under is available. Meal Sites: Turners Falls High School & Great Falls Middle School Cafeteria, Sheffield Elementary School and Unity Park Field House breakfast 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. and lunch 11:00 a.m. to 12 noon. On days with inclement weather, meals will not be served at Unity Park Field House.

The program is sponsored by

the Gill-Montague Regional School District with funding from the Massachusetts Department of Education and the United States Department of Agriculture and assistance from Project Bread.

For more information please contact Teen Health Project, Gill-Montague Community School Partnership at (413) 863-7310.

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Gill Holds Memorial Service

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH - Pastor Gary Bourbeau led a memorial service at the Gill Congregational Church on Sunday at 10 a.m. William Burnham, Lynda Hodsdon-Mayo and Paul Seamans spoke of past Gill residents and the love, devotion and motivation of the men and women who served our country, sometimes making the ultimate sacrifice with their lives.

Bourbeau pointed out that it wasn't just men who served, as Chris Kovalchick had served in both Vietnam and Korea.

Burnham spoke about his friend, Harold Schechterle of Shelburne Falls, who was on the USS Indianapolis in the South Pacific during World War II when a Japanese submarine torpedoed the ship. Only 316 of the 1200 men aboard survived. Schechterle stayed afloat in the oily water as best he could, and was finally rescued.

Burnham read a poem he'd written about Schechterle's ordeal.

Hodsdon-Mayo spoke of the love of country that inspired people to join the armed services in time of war. She also spoke of local minister and poet Josiah Canning, and local writer William Glen Boyle, reading one of Boyle's Memorial Day poems.

Seamans spoke of the inspiration he got from a plaque honoring Robin Hartman that read, "Do your best," and gave a few pointers about really looking at an audience when speaking, rather than just looking up.

After the church service, Bourbeau invited the congregation to walk across the common to the veterans memorial next to

the Slate Memorial Library for a ceremony honoring veterans who served their country, and those who lost their lives in doing so.

The granite monuments list, on bronze plaques, Gill residents who served in various wars beginning with the Revolutionary War, when 37 Gill men served.

Caleb Combs was the sole Gill Revolutionary casualty. The war with the British lasted eight years, beginning in 1775 and ending in 1783. Almost as long as the war in Afghanistan today.

In the war of 1812 with England, 16 Gill men served; none died in battle. The war ended less than three years later in 1815.

Next on the plaque is the Grand Army of the Republic, listing 37 men from Gill. This fraternal organization was formed by former Civil War veterans after the war. Four Gill men died fighting in the Civil War: Dennis Carter, John Hale, Oscar Hale and David Sancomb.

The Spanish American war was fought over possession of an assortment of islands, mainly Cuba, Puerto Rico, the Philippines and Guam. The war was largely fueled by the unexplained destruction of the warship Maine in the harbor of Havana. It wasn't the best excuse for a war, but close enough. The U.S. gained possession of Puerto Rico, the Philippines and Guam. Cuba became independent. The only Gill man to serve was George Blackmer, in a war that lasted less than six months.

World War I claimed only one man, Hector Munn, out of 34 Gill men who served.

World War II, 1939-1945,

claimed five Gill men: Ellwyn Bogue, Stephen Krejmas, Richard Merritt, Gordon Pferdisich and Phillip Tuttle, out of 117 men who served.

In the Korean war, 1950-1955, 30 Gill men served, with no deaths among them.

In the Vietnam War, 1955-1975, 87 Gill men served. Two men, Stephen Davis and Winston Parker died in the service of their country and were recipients of roses, as were all the other men who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Gill veteran Douglas Smith called out the names of recipients and his wife, Elaine, passed out roses to Boy Scouts to present to gold star mothers or to be inserted into a wreath placed in front of the memorial monuments.

Though more than 58,000 Americans and millions of Vietnamese died in Vietnam warding off the "domino effect," when it was feared all countries adjacent to Vietnam would fall to Communism, that didn't happen. Vietnam, today, is flourishing, the economy is growing, slums are being razed to make room for decent housing construction, and the country is abuzz with capitalistic enterprises. Vietnam has become a desirable tourist destination with ads and publicity recently published in the *Boston Sunday Globe*.

At present, there are no monuments in Gill to honor those who have served in the Iraq or Afghanistan wars.

Charles Neff, member of the Oak Ridge Detachment Marine Corps offered a closing memorial prayer, and the U.S. flag was raised to half mast for a salute.

Joyana Damon played taps and her husband Steve played a faint echo from behind the church for a touching finale to the memorial service.

Memorial Day in Turners Falls

By Ellen Blanchette -

The day was cool, the sun shone down on the small group of veterans, town officials, and Elks, accompanied by the Turners Falls High School Band, proudly marching down Avenue A in Turners Falls to the veterans memorial.

With the band lined up below, people took their seats and Al Cummings, chair of Montague's Trustees of the Soldiers Memorial, led the ceremonies. Minister of the Gill Congregational Church Gary Bourbeau gave an address in which he spoke of sacrifice and what all can do to honor the memory and service of veterans, by dedicating themselves to doing their part at home to make democracy strong.

At the end, the band played God Bless America and those assembled sang along.

The day was a moving reminder of those lost but not forgotten, and what we owe to them and to their families.



Army Specialist 4th class Jessica Jensen laid a wreath at the memorial for soldiers lost in Iraq and Afghanistan on Avenue A on Monday. Jensen returned last week from serving in Iraq.

GILL from pg 1
of breaking free or taking other trees to the ground with them.

The power went off in most of Gill a little past 11:00 p.m. on Wednesday and came back on at 8:30 p.m. on Friday. In the meantime, food was getting warmer in the refrigerator and private water systems were losing pressure fast.

No one misses their water until the faucet stops gurgling.

Fosters Supermarket in Greenfield was generous with

their cooler space, allowing the Wagon Wheel Restaurant in Gill to store food there until power was restored.

Postal carrier Joan Schacht delivering mail in her little green Jeep on Thursday said she was able to make it through the fallen trees on West Gill Road, but had to go as far as she could from one way, then circle around and deliver mail on the other side of the blocked roadway.

Apparently, Schacht takes seriously the postal motto of,

"Neither snow nor rain nor... gloom of night..." or something like that. Maybe it even mentions getting around uprooted trees in the roadway. But she got the mail delivered to most, if not all, of the mail boxes even if folks didn't have lights to read the mail that night.

Electric company utility trucks teamed up with tree crews to facilitate clearing of the electrical lines. Cities and towns to the south were in worse shape than we were, and didn't have

utility crews to spare. They had their hands full getting their own power and telephones back on.

Many trees were uprooted and blown over, but others were snapped off 20 or 30 feet above the ground, apparently from micro-bursts that send the wind straight down, snapping trees high off the ground in the process. Winds up to 70 miles per hour were reported in Franklin County that night.

Scientists have predicted that global warming will result in

more violent weather. Climate scientists are the target of threats and defamation. Ben Santer, a climatologist who warned of global warming found a dead rat on his doorstep when he answered the doorbell.

Maybe the person who deposited the rat hopes the scientist will change his mind and global warming will go away. If it works, I've got a dead mouse to contribute because I've got big trees growing awful close to my house.

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Nest Building at Turners Falls High

BY ANNE HARDING

TURNERS FALLS - The next time you're in the vicinity of the Turners Falls High School, take a few minutes to walk behind the school and seek out the latest addition to classroom space.

You will find a 5½ foot tall, 12 foot diameter structure with a metal framework woven with native saplings to resemble, at a distance, a giant bird nest. This cooperative venture between students in the TFHS 'Foundations of Art' classes and Montague sculptor Joe Landry is well worth the visit.

Cross the passageway into the nest and you will find ample seating for a class of 15 or 16 students, about the average class

size at the high school.

Landry dreamed up the idea of fabricating an outdoor classroom, in consultation with principal Jeff Kenney and art teacher Heidi Schmidt. Landry received a \$300 grant from the Montague Cultural Council, which covered about 50 per cent of the materials costs for the project.

Schmidt's students worked collaboratively on the project with Landry, who has previously worked with private entities to create cooperative art. The students were introduced to many aspects of a career in art when they visited his studio and talked with Landry about the business side of art, the creative process (bringing ideas into physical

form) and the funding of public art.

From there, the students set to work assisting with structure design, dimension calculation and bending steel for the framework of the outdoor classroom.

Landry completed the welding of the steel rods, built the seats and delivered the 'nest' to the school. Meanwhile Schmidt's students cut and stripped saplings to weave into the framework and plan to paint seat panels with a theme of rivers and birds.

The project is a perfect example of the authentic application of learning - where teachers help students to connect learning to real life experiences and projects rather than homework assign-



Students in TFHS 'Foundations of Art' class in their outdoor classroom

ments students may not consider relevant.

The Foundations students received an introduction into the practical side of an arts career, helped with design, used math skills to calculate material needs,

bent metal, cut saplings (while learning about forest ecology), wove the saplings and will soon be painting.

The end result is a unique outdoor classroom that can serve many purposes.

AVENUE from page 1

Locally owned and operated, the farm is headed by a brother and sister, Pudge and Poppi, who grew up on the South Deerfield dairy farm purchased by their father Walter Yazwinski Sr. in 1950. Pudge is Walter, Jr. He lives and works on the farm. Poppi Yazwinski Kelley has brought in more Kelleys and Rourke to the family enterprise. There is a cooperative spirit at the Brook, and much of what is done there is conducted with the idea of what can be passed down to granddaughters Chloe and Sydney Kelley, and in time to come to their grandchildren.

The 60-plus acres of Bloody Brook are handsomely situated. At the front is a beautiful sign made from two trees by the farm's 'resident artist,' noted Northfield sculptor Jamie (James) Rourke (who married Poppi's daughter Sara).

Also on the roadway end of the farm is the old, slow-moving Muddy Brook, which on September 19th, 1675 turned crimson red with the blood of 71 British colonial soldiers from Essex County ambushed by Pocumtucks and their allies during King Phillip's War (hence the commemorative name Bloody Brook).

At the back of the 60 acres of fields are almost 20 acres of woodland at the base of Mount Sugarloaf.

The Bloody Brook Farm has a beautiful attitude, first articulated by Poppi's daughter, Dr. Sara

Rourke, a family practitioner in Greenfield, who has two girls of her own. It's not enough just to grow things, she said, but everything on the farm should serve to work for the next generation.

So now, Bloody Brook tries to conduct sustainable farming with organic practices. Pudge has brought cows back to the farm, three so far, and they are entirely grass fed.

Poppi's son Justin worked tirelessly through 2008 and 2009, helping redefine Bloody Brook as a family farm with a sustainable, organic approach. Presently, Justin is studying Buddhism in India.

Rourke does a lot of work on the farm. Last year, he planted a blueberry patch, apple and peach trees to start up an orchard. This year he helped introduce strawberries and raspberries. (Great Falls denizens know Rourke from his "Powertown" public sculpture, marking the start of the canalside bike trail by Unity Park.)

The Conway School of Design came up with a five (or will it be 25?) year plan to convert the farm to renewable energy sources. Conway grads Amy Livingston and Jessie Froehlich advised the farm how to become certified organic. They suggested greater use of the existing grazing areas, a compost system in the back, an irrigation pond, and the development of trails on their woodlands at the base of the mountain to feed into the trails of the Mt. Sugarloaf State

Reservation and its commanding views of the river, the Valley and nearby hills. The main advice from the Conway students was to "go green" in terms of energy use, by conservation and conversion to biomass, photovoltaic and geothermal sources of energy.

One of the last remaining family farms in South Deerfield, Bloody Brook has been placed under an agricultural preservation restriction, to ensure that it will remain farmland in perpetuity.

To help it realize its potential, the Bloody Brook Farm has aligned itself with the Community Supported Agriculture movement that began in Switzerland and Japan. CSA shareholders provide financial help, especially for innovations at the farm, in the months between harvest and next year's planting. During the farm season, shareholders receive quite a 'return on their investment' in the form of fresh produce.

Linda Sarage and her extended family joined the Bloody Brook CSA because they love summer greens. And reds and yellows and purples and oranges. Every Tuesday, Sarage and her family look forward to receiving their box of produce and bags of chilled items. With all the cool weather crops coming now, they had to learn the difference between mustard greens, turnip greens, three kinds of kale, collards, several spinaches, mesclun, and a number of Asian greens. Scouting out recipes, Sarage said, they "made pesto from the basil,

put mustard greens on sandwiches, sautéed kale in bacon and onions, and shared steamed baby beets and their greens with an appreciative neighbor."

Mid-summer brings a dozen varieties of tomatoes, red, orange and even green tomatillos, along with traditional summer squash varieties, peppers, zucchini, Italian and Oriental eggplant, herbs and seasonal berries. By September, CSA shareholders will see winter squashes and potatoes, and many kinds of greens. Leeks, onions, and parsley will add zing to hot soups and hearty meals. And all along during the end of summer there will be corn, sweet and delicious.

At the Great Falls Farmers Market, we all have a chance to take home vegetables, herbs, fruits, and flowers grown lovingly at the Bloody Brook Farm, and by other local farmers and vendors. A crisp crunch and the actual flavor of the produce comes through, without the chemical mask of preservatives. Family reunion planners note: wholesale orders can be placed through bloodybrookfarm.com. Drivers and cyclists can get their produce from any of Bloody Brook Farm's three farm stands: 144 North Main Street in South Deerfield, and in Northfield on Main Street and Route 142.



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News from Franklin Home Care *Helping Women Care for Themselves*

BY TERRIE EDSON

MONTAGUE CITY - The Women's Health Network Care Coordination Program is a program offered by Franklin County Home Care Corporation (FCHCC), helping to provide free healthcare, support, and education to women in 30 towns located in Franklin County and the North Quabbin area.

This program provides medical services for women between the ages of 40 - 64 who are uninsured and underinsured, and offers them a free comprehensive approach to women's health issues, with a focus on preventative healthcare.

Care Coordination provides help if you need assistance with healthcare options, educates you about medical services, and ensures you receive quality care in a timely manner.

This year more services are offered and care focuses on the whole person. The Care Coordination Program continues to work on prevention and early detection of breast cancer, cervical cancer, colorectal cancer, heart disease and stroke. Changes in the program help you to use preventive services and to ensure you have a primary health care provider in place. The Care Coordination Program offers

case management, patient navigation, risk reduction education, and lifestyle intervention services.

Some of the medical services offered are: complete physical exams, including yearly pap smears and breast exams; yearly mammograms for women over 40; cardiac screening including cholesterol and blood sugar tests; colonoscopies for those 50 years of age, or younger if there is a family history of colon cancer.

If you are between 40 to 64 years old and are a Massachusetts resident, you may be eligible for our program. Under certain circumstances, the

program will enroll 21 to 39 year olds who may have an abnormal breast or cervical screening.

Please contact the Women's Health Network Care Coordination Program at 413-773-5555 or 978-544-2259 or info@fchcc.org to learn more about this important free program.

Our Woman's Health Network Care Coordination Program is the only access point into the Massachusetts Health Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Program, a Medicaid funded program implemented in 2004.

This treatment program pro-

vides care and treatment for eligible clients who have breast or cervical cancer or a pre-cancerous condition.

Terrie Edson is the director of the Women's Health Network Care Coordination Program.

Town Ambulance Informational Meeting Rescheduled

The Turners Falls Fire Department Prudential Committee has rescheduled its downtown Turners informational meeting on their proposal to start a townwide ambulance service for Tuesday, June 15th, at 3:30 p.m. at the Gill-Montague Senior Center.

Inconclusive Talks on Mahar Assessment Method

BY KATIE NOLAN

ORANGE - The Mahar regional school committee's subcommittee studying methods for assessing costs to the member towns of New Salem, Orange, Petersham, and Wendell met on May 27th. Mahar superintendent Michael Baldassarre had invited finance committees and selectboards from each member town to the meeting. New Salem failed to send a representative.

Attending from Orange were selectboard member Bob Andrews, town administrator Rick Kwiatkowski, Mahar school committee member Peter Cross, and interested citizen Kathy Reinig. Petersham selectboard member Rick Marsh attended. Selectboard member Jeff Pooser, finance committee members Michael Idoine and Jim Slavas, and Mahar school committee member Dick Baldwin attended from Wendell.

Slavas presented an overview of the current method of assessing costs to the towns, called the statutory method. This assessment method was developed by the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).

DESE uses a model called the "aggregate wealth model" to determine the total value of property and the total income of citizens in a town. Each town is then assessed 0.2956% of property value and 1.3682% of income for

regional school costs, regardless of the number of students that town sends to the regional school.

This method of assessing regional school costs to member towns differs from the contractual method, which the four towns used when the Mahar region was formed and the towns signed a contract stating each would pay the same amount per pupil.

According to Slavas, for FY '11, using the statutory method Wendell will pay approximately \$10,000 per student attending Mahar, while the approximate per student costs for the other towns will be \$8,500 for Petersham and New Salem and \$5,000 for Orange.

Using DESE criteria for determining wealth, Slavas said Petersham ranks as the wealthiest of the four towns, followed by New Salem, then Wendell, then Orange.

Slavas noted Wendell's higher per-pupil assessment results from the low percentage of high school students in Wendell's population compared to the other towns.

Slavas presented a "modified aggregate wealth model" as an alternate assessment method. He said the modified model factors in both enrollment and the wealth of a community. Using this alternate method, FY '11 per pupil costs would be: \$8,800 for Petersham, \$8,200 for New Salem, \$7,200 for Wendell, and

\$5,800 for Orange.

Slavas commented, "There are winners and losers. But it's fairer to consider the number of kids each town is sending. The school committee has refused to engage on this. We need to discuss what we think is fair."

Baldassarre said whatever assessment method was used, "My job is to get the kids the resources they need."

Commenting on the fact that Wendell town meeting has initially turned down the requested assessment for Mahar for the past several years, as a way to bring attention to the inequity in the statutory assessment method, Baldassarre said, "Not funding the budget goes on the backs of the kids."

Marsh, the Petersham selectboard member, said just because a community is richer in property values, the individual citizens don't necessarily have a lot of money. "Costs should be distributed equally," he concluded.

Reinig responded to Slavas's mention of fairness, saying, "What do you tell a taxpayer who has no children who is paying for neighbors who have four children?" She added, "Each of us provides for everyone's students. Equal student assessment is not fair. The purpose of taxes is to support the whole society."

Kwiatkowski said the alternate method Slavas presented, "shifts the responsibility of pay-

ing more to New Salem and Petersham." He suggested that because Orange has the highest number of low income students at Mahar and the state provides \$3,200 extra in Chapter 70 school aid per low income student, "You [Wendell] want to benefit from the Chapter 70 money given to Orange. You want other towns to pick up the tab so you can pay less."

Baldwin commented, "It's not Wendell against the other three towns."

Slavas said, "Wendell and Orange bring in an equivalent amount of Chapter 70 money on a per person basis. The data don't support that Orange is bringing in a disproportionate amount of Chapter 70 aid."

He said 44% of Orange students are considered low income and 42% of Wendell students are considered low income.

Kwiatkowski replied, "We're bringing in more money than New Salem and Petersham from Chapter 70. But that doesn't address that for New Salem and Petersham there would be a new inequity of paying more per student," using the alternate method Slavas outlined.

Pooser asked whether Orange was happy with the DESE's statutory assessment method.

Kwiatkowski replied, "In my personal opinion, the consensus would be they enjoy the system because the town benefits." He continued, "How do you get along in the sandbox is the ques-

tion."

Pooser said, "Either you agree with the original contract: equal, or the state: wealthier pay more. Maybe that's the first question to ask."

Cross recommended considering an incremental system to bring the assessments to equal per student over a long time frame. He said returning to a formula that calls for equal per student assessments all at once "would devastate Orange." But he said, "The fair answer in the end is same rate per student. It's easy to understand. That would be the goal. It could take years to reach that goal."

Cross said the subcommittee meeting was educational, but "a nice education is not going to go anywhere. We could see this as a good start. Some of the pieces are missing. No one from New Salem came and only one person from Petersham, and he left early."

Slavas agreed that, despite the invitations to boards in the four towns, "some of the people we need to talk to aren't here."

Kwiatkowski suggested the subcommittee talk with the New Salem, Orange and Petersham finance committees, adding, "the Orange fin com will be a tough group to convince." He said the subcommittee needs to find "people in the towns that hold some credibility" in order to convince the towns to make changes.


"Wendell walking into the room doesn't get there."

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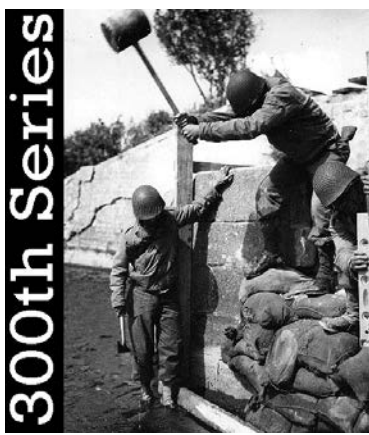
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300th Series
300th Combat Engineer Battalion repairing the under piling of a bridge destroyed by enemy fire along the Carentan - Cherbourg Road in France - June 30, 1944.

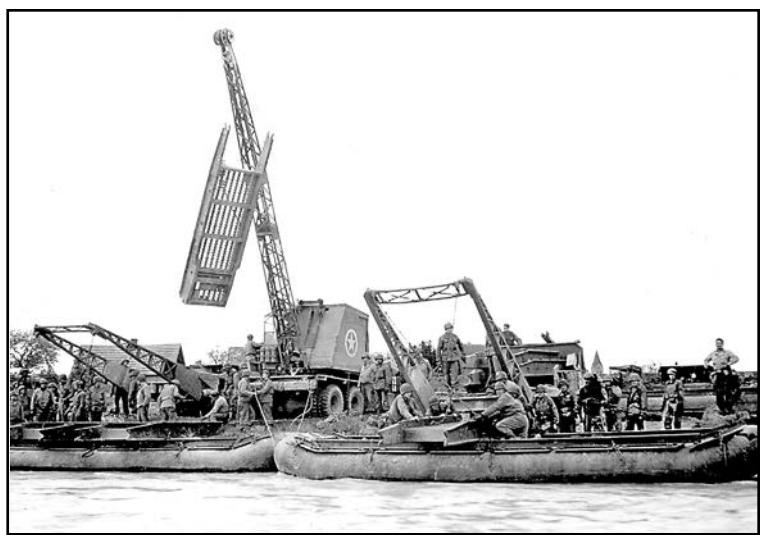
Dispatches from Germany: May, 1945

3rd Army Commander) looked on, as we assembled the 280 foot floating span. Dozers had started breaking the earthen levee clearing the way for the launching ramp.

"Everywhere there was activity. Crews assembled the rubber floats, inflating them with huge compressors, and a crane was lifting the steel treadways upon them as each section was floated into position. Guy lines were being secured to the blown wreckage that remained of the original bridge upstream. Infantrymen of the 395th Regiment, 99th Division, per-

ing Treadway while the little power boat slowly made its way against the river pulling another section into position. As the boat neared the center of the river, the current won its first battle. A float was swept broadside into the current, ropes snapped from the men's hands and down the angry Isar it went. The power boat wheeled sharply about, rapidly closing the gap to catch the float and move it safely to shore.

"Victory number two for the river came one hour later. As the power boat could no longer haul its load against the tireless current, a crane was run onto the



Near the end of the war in Europe, the 300th Engineers built this bridge over the Isar River in Moosburg, Germany as General Patton observed their work.

BY BRAD PETERS & JAN ROSS

ERVING - With this installment, we complete our retrospective on the history of the 300th Combat Engineers as they made their way across Europe 65 years ago, as told in their own words. Jan Ross's father, Donald Ross, served in the 300th.

Beginning on April 30th, Company C of the 300th built a Treadway bridge across the Isar River in Moosburg, Germany near the Austrian border, shortly before VE-Day.

Randy Hanes remembers the obstacles faced by the 300th Engineers in building the bridge at Moosburg. "The bridge was built for General Patton's 3rd Army across the Isar River. The current was swift and vicious. The Isar River was an important link to the rapidly advancing front.

The press, official photographers, and newsreel cameramen were there to capture the event while three generals (one-star Brigadier General Smith, Armored Division Commander; two-star Major General Van Fleet, Corps Commander; three-star Lieutenant General Patton,



The 300th preparing to build a bridge over the Isar River beginning April 30th and finished in early May 1945.

ilously walked its twisted trestles. Several tanks, with their guns pointed beyond the far shore, stood by in an emergency position. Overhead, 155mm shells whizzed toward the forward enemy lines with a loud 'crack' as the noise rolled over the hills.

"The engineers had connected the first two floats without mishap, putting the two, sixty-five pound pins through the link-

bridge in hopes of pulling the sections to the head of the bridge where it could be connected. Suddenly, a float capsized from the pulling action of the crane. The heavy Treadway hung vertically on its side and two men fell sprawling into the river. Frantically, they swam ashore while the third man still clung to the upper side of the float. All were saved.

"At last the far shore was reached and the last section was pulled into place. Waiting columns of vehicles began to warm their engines. Gesturing to our company commander, Captain Swartz, General Patton said to General Smith, 'You can thank his men for getting your ass across this river.'"

Warren Chancellor recalls the bridge at Moosburg. "I had been temporarily assigned to Company C as an aid man at the bridge site. The Isar River was a mountain stream with extremely rapid currents. There were quite a lot of large boulders in the river and this was a great aid in anchoring the ropes that held the pontoons in place.

Company C did a tremendous job in constructing this Treadway under adverse conditions. They definitely should have received a unit citation for this job. As you know, General Patton appeared (standing in his command car) shortly after the bridge was completed and exclaimed, 'Damn good bridge.' This was the only time I ever set eyes on the general."

William Lakey remembers General Patton. "The only time I saw the old man, you know,

General Patton, was at the bridge we were building at Moosburg. Our lieutenant, we called him Junior but his name was Mellencamp, was the platoon commander. Those pins that you put those Treadway's together with, they weigh about 50 pounds each and you drive them in with a sledgehammer.

"He was over there driving his pin in and he didn't have his helmet on. General Patton walked up and he told him to stand up. He stood up, and Patton could see the Lieutenant's bars. Patton told him, 'Lt., I'm going to tell you right now you better put that blank-ety blank hat on.' He said, 'Don't let me ever catch you again, or any of your men without that hat on.' I can't repeat the exact words he used."

James Kennedy also recalled General Patton at the bridge in Moosburg. "When we were building that bridge on the river, General Patton came up and walked over the bridge, looked it over, and I made a picture of him leaking on the river."

Building the bridge over the Isar River was the last major task performed by the 300th prior to the end of the war in Europe on May 8th, 1945.

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Bridge Progress from All Sides



PARZYCH PHOTO
John Tiliakos of AllSet is prepared to begin 'sandblasting' on the Gill-Montague Bridge

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH - GREAT FALLS - AllSet from Georgetown, MA is all set to begin "sandblasting" the Gill-Montague Bridge. Except they won't be using sand.

"We don't use sand anymore," supervisor John Tiliakos said. "We use steel shot and recycle it."

The steel shot is about the size of poppy seeds.

The work area of the underside of the bridge will be

enclosed in canvas with negative air pressure inside. The air, laden with lead paint dust, rust particles and spent shot will be vacuumed to the recycling unit parked on the blocked off exit to Riverside on the Gill side of the bridge. Dust collectors will scavenge the dust of lead paint

and rust. Magnetic collectors will pick up the steel shot which will then be passed over a screen to eliminate the shot that has worn too small.

Salvaged steel shot is returned to the supply hopper for another trip back to the blasting nozzle. The recycling unit is powered by a huge diesel engine.

Workmen will be required to wear protective clothing and respirators.

"We'll be here about six months cleaning and painting," supervisor Tiliakos said. "Then we'll move to the Turners Falls side for another six months."

Painting will be a three step process. The first coat will be zinc primer in place of the lead primer of old. The second coat will be epoxy, followed by a final coat of urethane. Tiliakos said he does not know what the bridge's final color will be.

First a work platform needs to be installed. According to Mimosa Construction employees who will install the platform, the first step is for some brave soul to string ropes cross way under the girders about every 20 feet.

Once the support ropes are in place, longitudinal ropes will be strung the length of the bridge in a loop to serve as an endless belt attached to a winch. This will allow workmen to attach wire rope (cable) to be strung the length of the bridge in three or more rows. The next step is to attach steel panels for a working platform, secured to the wire ropes with clamps.

Once the work platform is in place, workmen will enclose the work area with canvas to keep lead dust and debris out of the atmosphere and the river below. According to Tiliakos, the shrouded area will have windows to allow air to enter for ventilation to be drawn back to a large dust collector beneath the bridge in a negative air situation.

The bridge railings are slated to be replaced so cleaning and painting them will not be

an issue.

Once the bridge is cleaned and painted, the painting crew will return later on to paint new girders, installed to replace rusted girders. Which raises an interesting question: why not

wait until the steel work is complete to paint the bridge superstructure?

Stay tuned for more answers to this and other questions about the mysteries of state government and bridge repair.

GMRSD from page 1

The finance committee and selectboard recommend a smaller sum - \$7,230,327 - for the FY'11 assessment for the district. This number would represent a \$24,788 (.34% increase) over last year's assessment.

On the town side of the budget, Abbondanzio said town meeting would be asked to approve a \$7,164,447 appropriation to fund operating budgets for town departments, an increase of \$349,071 (5.1%). He said two thirds of that increase (about \$220,000) was due to the debt exclusion spending for the new police station, payments for which begin in earnest in FY'11.

Additionally, Abbondanzio said a \$45,000 increase in veterans services would add to FY'11 outlays. Seventy five percent of veterans service spending will eventually be reimbursed to the town.

If those two items were factored out, the town administrator said the town side of the budget would be increasing by only 1.2% for FY '11.

Abbondanzio said the town expects a 4% cut in state aid for the coming fiscal year, on top of the half million loss in state aid the town has experienced over the past two years.

He said it would probably be 2014 before the town could reasonably expect to see an uptick in state aid, and even then legislators have signaled their intent to sock more money away in a 'rainy day fund' to smooth out future boom and bust cycles in the capital gains tax.

Abbondanzio said the town presently holds a balance of \$736,000 in reserves, before committing \$175,000 to capital items, like a new police cruiser, on Saturdays' town meeting warrant. The town will also have about \$129,000 set aside in a specially designated Gill-Montague education fund reserve.

Finance committee chair John Hanold said his committee is recommending moving \$100,000 from free cash and about \$70,000 from unexpended balances from old warrants to augment the town's stabilization fund.

Even so, the town administrator said if town meeting approves the town's capital requests and votes in favor of the assessment request for the GMRSD as it now stands, funding the additional \$401,255 from reserves, that would exhaust more than half of the town's available reserves in one budget year, a prospect Abbondanzio called unsustainable.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Malicious Destruction and Assault Arrest

Wednesday, 5/26	Thursday, 5/27	Friday, 5/28
2:56 p.m. Report of speeding vehicle driving erratically on Walnut Street. Gone on arrival.	3:33 a.m. Assisted Bernardston police with structure fire on Turners Falls Road.	9:21 p.m. Assisted Bernardston Police with domestic issues on Eden Trail Road.
9:20 p.m. Report of past domestic disturbance on Mountain Road.	6:15 a.m. Alarm activation on Barton Cove Road.	11:13 p.m. Report of a suspicious subject at the corner of Boyle Road and Cross Road. Checked area, subject gone on arrival.
11:15 p.m. Arrested [redacted] charged with malicious destruction of property and domestic assault and battery.	7:20 a.m. Medical emergency on Mount Hermon Campus.	Saturday, 5/29
11:30 p.m. Numerous power outages and power lines down with roadways blocked throughout town due to strong thun-	4:10 p.m. Report of suspicious vehicle and person on Green Hill Road near South Cross Road. All checked OK.	11:13 a.m. Report of larceny on Boyle Road.
	5:20 p.m. Report of roadway hazard on Main Road, tree in lane.	7:26 p.m. Assisted stranded motorist near Factory Hollow

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JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

THE HEALTHY GEEZER:

Treatment of Prostrate Cancer

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ — *Q. What are the options for treating prostate cancer?*

Prostate cancer is one of the most common types of cancer among American men. Treatment for prostate cancer works best when the disease is found early.

There are many options for treating prostate cancer:

- Observation. If the cancer is

growing slowly, you may decide to wait and watch.

- Hormone therapy. This stops cancer cells from growing.

- Surgery. There are several surgical options. These include radical prostatectomy or removal of the entire prostate, cryosurgery that kills the cancer by freezing it, radiation therapy to shrink tumors, and implant radiation that places radioactive seeds into the prostate.

Surgery can lead to impotence and incontinence. Improvements in surgery now make it possible for some men to keep their sexual function.

Q. What exactly is perimenopause.

The process of reproductive aging begins around age 40. Declining levels of the hormones estrogen and progesterone change a woman's periods. These hormones maintain the health of the vagina and uterus, and regulate the menstrual cycles

Menopausal transition, called perimenopause, is the time when a woman's body is close to menopause. Periods may become irregular. A woman may start to feel hot flashes and night sweats.

Perimenopause usually begins about two to four years before the last menstrual period. It ends when menopause begins. A woman reaches menopause when a year has passed since her last period.

Q. I'm 67 years old. Should I expect to get cataracts eventually?

A cataract is a clouding of the lens, the clear part of the eye that helps focus images like the lens in a camera.

Most cataracts are related to aging. By age 80, more than half of all Americans either have a cataract or have had cataract surgery. There are other causes of cataracts such as diabetes, eye injury, radiation and surgery for other eye problems.

Cataracts tend to worsen gradually. The clear lens slowly changes to a yellowish/brownish color, adding a brownish tint to vision. If you have advanced lens discoloration, you may not be able to identify blues and purples. The most common symptoms

of a cataract are: blurred images, faded colors, glare, poor night vision, double vision, and frequent prescription changes in your eyeglasses or contact lenses. If you have any of these symptoms, see your doctor, because they can be signs of other eye problems.

If you are 60 or older, you should have a comprehensive dilated eye exam at least once every two years. In addition to cataract, your eyecare professional can check for signs of age-related macular degeneration, glaucoma, and other vision disorders. Early treatment for many eye diseases may save your sight.

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

BIOMASS from pg 1

wastewater for coolant as originally planned.

Pioneer's decision would seem to render the three voter initiated referendum questions irrelevant, but the Concerned Citizens of Franklin County, who oppose the biomass plant, continued their get-out-the-vote campaign this week in hopes of finalizing the issue and shutting down any possibility of Pioneer's reconsideration of the matter.

"What [Matt Wolfe and Greenfield Mayor Bill Martin] have failed to disclose," said opponent Wendy LaPointe, who is also an abutter to the industrial park where the plant would be built, at a press conference on May 20th, "is that Mr. Wolfe can reapply to use the wastewater at any time."

On Wednesday, opponents of

the biomass plant, including LaPointe and abutter Lenny Weeks, held a press conference to announce their filing of a legal "Request for Admissions" to Pioneer, to highlight the change in circumstances of the plant from water-cooled to dry-cooled, and demand that the special permit granted to the plant from Greenfield Zoning Board of Appeals be withdrawn.

Wolfe was not available to respond to a request for comment on the matter.

On a related note, Harvard Forest on May 19th unveiled its "Wildlands and Woodlands" plan to double the present rate of forest conservation, to keep 70% of New England forests permanently free from development by 2060.

Alarmed by declining forest cover caused by in part by "shifting land ownership," residential

and commercial sprawl, Harvard Forest hopes to encourage conservation through easements to private landholders, low-impact development, and public funding for forest conservation projects.

Kathy Lambert, science and policy director for Harvard Forest, said forested land reached its post-Colonial peak in Massachusetts after about two centuries of steady increase at in 1970, when about 70% of the state was covered in forest.

"Massachusetts forestland has been pretty steadily declining since then, to 59% in 2006," said Lambert, who attributed the loss of forest land in the Commonwealth to development.

Asked about the effect the plan might have on Massachusetts green energy projects, Timothy Fahey, a forest ecologist at Cornell University and co-author of the report, said,

"We did a fairly careful analysis of the potential for solid biofuels from sustainably managed woodlands to offset fossil fuel emissions, and the potential is there if it's done carefully. The challenge is to make sure it's done in a sustainable way."



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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Three Hit and Run Accident Reports

- Wednesday, 5/26**
5:16 p.m. Pedestrian accident at Unity Street and Hillside Avenue. Report taken.
- Wednesday and Thursday 5/26 and 5/27**
Safety hazards due to stormy weather on Third Street, Wentworth Avenue, Vladish Avenue, Turnpike Road.
- Wednesday and Thursday 5/26 and 5/27**
Alarms due to stormy weather at Turners Falls High School, Sheffield Elementary School, Swift River Hydro Electric, Millers Falls Rod and Gun Club.
- Thursday, 5/27**
3:31 a.m. Unwanted person on Grand Avenue. Services rendered.
- 8:15 a.m. Fight on Griswold Street. Report taken.
- 3:07 p.m. Assault and battery on Fourth Street. Referred to an officer.
- 5:12 p.m. Assault and battery on L Street. Juvenile arrest.
- 5:46 p.m. Brush fire on Fifteenth Street. Referred to another agency.
- 6:03 p.m. Burglary/breaking and entering on West Mineral Road. Report taken.
- 7:56 p.m. Suspicious auto on Randall Wood Drive. Referred to an officer.
- 8:11 p.m. Shoplifting at Cumberland Farms. Summons issued.
- 8:57 p.m. Fire on Wentworth Avenue. Services rendered.
- Friday, 5/28**
3:26 a.m. Suspicious auto near the Crocker Building on Avenue A. Investigated.
- 5:46 p.m. Structure fire on Chestnut Street. Referred to other agency.
- 7:39 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Avenue A. Subject removed to hospital.
- 11:00 p.m. Accident with personal injury on Alice Street. Referred to other agency.
- Saturday, 5/29**
9:30 a.m. Suspicious person at the Canal Road footbridge. Investigated.
- 12:54 p.m. Hit and run accident in Montague. Services rendered.
- 11:00 p.m. Hit and run accident at Hillside Plastics on Millers Falls Road. Unable to locate.
- Sunday, 5/30**
7:56 p.m. Assault and battery at the Cutlery Block on Third Street. Peace restored.
- Monday, 5/31**
3:28 p.m. Shoplifting at F.L. Roberts on Third Street. Investigated.
- 6:06 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] for disorderly conduct on L Street.
- Tuesday, 6/1**
3:18 p.m. Shoplifting at Food City.
- 5:42 p.m. Hit and run accident on Davis Street.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Unsupervised Children on the Tracks

- Wednesday, 5/26**
11:45 p.m. Responded to Bernardston with Northfield police for a domestic situation near Fall Town Spirits. Both subjects located. No physical abuse detected.
- Thursday, 5/27**
6:50 a.m. Tree blocking roadways at Dorsey Road, Route 2, Old State Road, Wheelock Road. Removed tree or appropriate agencies notified.
- 7:30 a.m. Assisted Northfield police with structure fire at Main Street.
- Friday, 5/28**
6:29 p.m. Report of two children under the age of seven playing on the train tracks in Millers Falls. Advised Montague police. Found a four year old and a seven year old playing unsupervised on train tracks by the river.
- 8:53 p.m. Report of mid-
- dle-aged man walking dog at Veteran's Park making inappropriate comments to young females. Report taken.
- Saturday, 5/29**
8:21 p.m. Report of teenage male inside vehicle on Dorsey Road. Advised four teenagers running up street. Arrested [redacted] for attempt to commit crime, larceny of a motor vehicle, and breaking and entering into a motor vehicle with intent to commit a felony.
- Monday, 5/31**
5:15 p.m. Arrested [redacted] for speeding, operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, operating a vehicle under the influence of liquor. Citation issued to [redacted] for allowing improper operation of a motor vehicle.

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GO GREEN FAMILY

Episode 14: Food Challenge – The Results Are In

BY JEANNE WEINTRAUB-MASON

MONTAGUE CENTER – WGBJ host Sam Lively, brimming with nervous energy, gave a signal to the TV cameras, and ascended to the podium. He spoke to the small crowd that had assembled to hear the results of the Go Green Family contest's Eating Green challenge at the Strawberry Festival.

"The Tinker, Bartlett and Robbins-Levine families have taken different approaches towards this challenge—I have a feeling this one may not have been easy to decide. On that note, let me introduce our three judges: we have Judy Newton, with Citizens for Climate Protection (CCP), Jill Beber with Support

our Family Farms (SOF), and Peter Gomez with the US Organic Growers Association (OGA). Jill, who do you think should be taking away the prize?"

"I'm impressed by the Tinker family's locavore commitment. The food they're eating comes to their house with the lowest miles traveled, a big savings in fuel. And even more important, nearly all of it is organic, so they're supporting sustainable farming practices. Of course I understand the Bartletts recently began a concerted effort to eat local food as well."

"But Jill, what about all the fuel and time they spent driving around to find those foods?" asked Sam Lively.

"And how practical is this approach during the winter in the

Northeast when nothing green grows outside of a greenhouse?" interrupted Judy Newton.

Without giving Jill Beber a chance to respond, Sam Lively directed his attention to Peter Gomez. "And you, Peter? Who received your highest score?"

"All three families have really done their best to choose organics. But I do question both the purity of the organic label and the nutritional content of some of the foods the Robbins-Levine family purchases at Whole Fare and the Bartlett family buys at Shop and Save. The produce is more often than not trucked in from California or farther, and it loses nutritional content along the way. Plus, foods labeled 'made with organic ingredients' may be only 70% organic. So, although the

Robbins-Levine family's receipts show the most organic foods, I like the Tinker family's approach. We know in most cases how their food is being raised."

"But Judy—which family's strategy has the greatest reduction on their carbon footprint?"

"Unquestionably, the Bartlett family—they've completely eliminated meat from their diet. Growing two pounds of beef creates more greenhouse gas emissions and other pollution than driving for three hours while leaving all the lights on back home. By giving up meat, they've shrunk their carbon footprint by at least 1.5 tons of carbon dioxide a year."

Sam summed up the panel's decision. "Since reducing carbon footprints is the focus of the Go Green Family contest, our judges have decided that the Bartlett family, with their strict commitment to a vegetarian diet, wins the food challenge."

"So, young lady, how does it

feel to have won the food challenge?" WGBJ host Sam Lively asked Jayden Bartlett, the only member of her family he spotted in the crowd.

"Awesome." Jayden said. "You should try my dad's cooking—as far as I'm concerned, we can just keep this challenge going."

"Well, it's time for a new challenge!" announced Sam. "Now it's time for the Go Green families to show our audience how to save electricity. And to 'spark' you all on (Jayden winced at this) we will award the winner of this challenge 3,000 kilowatt hours of renewable energy, courtesy of GreenValley Power Utility Company. Of course, the more you reduce your electric use, the longer it will last! If you're very frugal, it could be a couple years."

"Fat chance for us on this one," Jayden thought to herself.

Continued next issue...

BROOK'S from page 1

with activity, the adults wiggling their ears rapidly to deter flies, the lambs wagging their tails when nursing.

At this point in their new lives, the lambs both nurse and graze, and will phase out nursing over the summer. Today, a sunny, breezy day, when the threat of strong winds seems to have receded over the horizon, the flock is herded by two English Shepherds, Gemma and Joe. They move from the open pasture where the breakfast menu consists of grasses, clover and plantain (not the banana, but low-growing leaves of the genus *plantago*) into a smaller temporary paddock.

In the tree-shaded roadside swath where they regather, the menu is different: brush such as poplar, maple, birch and shrub saplings.

Webber said, "Shetland sheep are more like goats in what they eat, which is to say, they eat almost everything, even multiflora rose and barberry!"

The sheep shift locations every few days in a system known as Management Intensive Rotational Grazing, or MIRG, so they thoroughly eat and fertilize an area, and vary their diet. Lightweight portable flexible

fences, or flexinets, reposition readily.

Webber is selling wool from these sheep at the farmers market in Montague on Monday afternoons. The yarn is extraordinarily soft. She saved raw, lanolin-drenched fleeces for three years to send to be washed, carded and spun at Still River Mill in Connecticut, which gave her back 140 pounds of yarn, roving and batting.

The yarn is for knitting and weaving; the roving can be spun into yarn by spinners; the batting is for felting. It comes in all the shades of Shetland sheep: black, brown, white and several distinct colors in between, for example, emsket (a Shetland word for grey), moorit and miogit, which are browns, and fawn, a beige.

There's much more to this pleasant farm than meets the eye. Not just an experiment in agriculture – and it is an experiment in many ways, with, for example, a wild turkey inserting his genes into two generations of heritage breeds – it is also educational. The Vermont Wilderness School runs several programs at Brook's Bend for children during the school year and during the summer. Wendell master herbalist Chris Marano grows an apothecary of herbs there; he will be teaching at Brook's Bend on

Herb Gathering and Medicine Making on June 19th (see www.clearpathherbals.com).

A Shearing Day will also be held on June 19th; children and families are welcome to watch hand shearer Kevin Ford, who can shear a sheep using hand held blades in less than ten minutes.

It is a farm of many ideals—diversity, community and sustainability. "Our vision of the farm at Brook's Bend is to be a place for many people to work and learn together," said Webber.

That vision is fueled by Webber and Miller's enthusiasm, and also by an alphabet soup of organizations. First, the Agricultural Preservation Restriction Program, APR, has preserved the land for future agricultural use, eliminating the threat of development. The USDA, the United States Department of Agriculture, through its Natural Resource Conservation Service, NRCS, which ensures that private lands are conserved, restored, and made more resilient to environmental challenges like climate change, has given Brook's Bend a grant from the Grasslands Reserve Program, GRP, to maintain and increase open land and create habitat for ground-nesting birds. One way they do this is through silvi-pasture, thinning

the forest edge to make the shade sheep crave, and increase habitat for deer, rabbits, birds and foxes.

Eight chickens were killed last week, though, by an unknown predator. So, maybe it's not wise to foster foxes.

The culprit could have been a raccoon, a coyote or a weasel. The chickens have been providing eggs to the residents and neighbors, but maybe not so many anymore. Webber and Miller work with the North American Shetland Sheep Association, NASS, to test and refine their wool, micron by micron; and with the American Livestock Breed Conservancy, ALBC, to conserve rare breeds and genetic diversity in livestock. Their heritage turkeys are on endangered and threatened lists but seem to be thriving on this verdant, fertile hilltop.

The farm will be selling lamb and mutton in July, slaughtered in Athol and returned frozen. About 20 families subscribe to a version of a community supported agriculture farm, selling vegetables grown at the farm and other local produce (bread and goat cheese). If interested in joining, email suzanne@brooksbendfarm.com. More information on mid-week pick-up of produce is available at montaguema.net. Webber is looking for barter to help set up the

farm's website.

The farmers market on the Montague town green is held every Monday until October 31st, 3-7 p.m., to coincide with the hours of the Montague library, which is open from 2-5 p.m., and from 6-8 p.m.


Currently participating are the following farmers:

- Suzanne Webber, with wool, flowers and vegetable starts.

- Pinnie Sears and partner Billye Davis, selling free range eggs, in a delightful assortment of blues, greens and shades of brown from Americana chickens, also known as Easter egg chickens; also perennial plants. Later in the season they will have vegetables.

- Suzanne Kretzinger, of Hunting Hills, with greenhouse hanging baskets, flowers, herbs, and tomato plants.

Farmers impatient with waiting lists at other local farmers markets are slated to join; anyone with produce to sell is welcome. Call Pinnie Sears, the organizer, 367-9746. The market, said Sears, is "a low-key affair," with no fee for participants, and flexible hours.

One of the advantages of this small market, said Webber, is you can "sit around and share stories and get to know one another." 

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



THURSDAY, JUNE 3rd
Deja Brew, Wendell: *Nobody's Fat*, jazz trio, 8 to 10 p.m.

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Falltown String Band* 7:30, no cover.

Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: *Margo Valiente*, singer songwriter, 7:30 p.m. www.myspace.com/margov.

FRIDAY, JUNE 4th
Ferd's Amazing Card Party held at the Grange hall, Montague Center. Hearts, Spades, Oh Hell, B.S., Go Fish, Bridge, and other favorites! Kid friendly. Bring a dish and beverage for dinner. Music, chairs, tables and wonderful neighborly interactions. \$5 donation suggested, 6 p.m.

Montague Bookmill, Montague Center: *Stephen Katz*. A cellist, vocalist, guitarist and award winning composer. 8 p.m. \$15 www.stephenkatzmusic.com.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Equalites*, reggae, 9 to 11 p.m.

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Tracy Grammer, Jim Henry, Dave Chalfant, and Ben Demerath*, 9:30 p.m. \$5

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Cellist Stephen Katz Friday, June 4 at the Montague Bookmill, 8 p.m. Arrive early for couches, armchairs, and to browse the books.

Discovery Center, Turners Falls. Fifth Annual Family Fish Day event from 10 to 2 p.m. Free raffle for everything from fishing gear to fishing trips! No need to bring any equipment, we have it all. This year, we're adding face painting and fish printing!

Violin Recital by students of Susan Conger, 4 to 6 p.m. at the Montague Grange, Montague Center.

Montague Bookmill, Montague Center: *Long Time Courting*. Bookmill favorites: four individually accomplished traditional musicians and singers with fresh attitudes. Ellery Klein on fiddle/vocals, Liz Simmons on guitar/vocals, Shannon Heaton on flute/vocals, and Ariel Friedman on cello, this Boston-based band shares a love of traditional Irish and American music, as well as contemporary folk and pop. www.longtimecourting.com. \$10 advance / \$12 door.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *A Ghost Quartet*, Jazzy Blues with a taste of fist fight swing! 9 to 11 p.m.

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: 50s Prom Night!!!! FREE (if you come in costume)

SUNDAY, JUNE 6th
Monthly Scandinavian workshop/dance series at the Montague Grange, always with great live music! Open request dancing follows teaching. All levels of experience are welcome! No partner necessary. \$10 / \$8 students, seniors, low income. Info: (802) 451-1941 <http://montaguescandinavia.org>.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Pat & Tex LaMountain* with *John White* on bass, 8 to 10 p.m.

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Bryan's Birthday Party!* \$5 suggested donation. *Happy Jawbone Family Band, Zach Zucker Band, Jeez Louise*

MONDAY, JUNE 7th
Transition Montague Presents: *Valley Time Bank Introduction*, 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Montague Center Congregational Church. As the economy wobbles and money is harder to come by, it makes sense to explore alternate ways to meet our needs. The Valley Time Bank system is already in place and running.

North Star in Hadley will be the beneficiary of Hope and Olive's monthly Free Soup and Games night. 5 p.m. Open to the public and free; snacks and goodies will be for sale and donations will be warmly accepted.

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Best In Show on the Big Screen*, 9:30 p.m. Free.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9th
Great Falls Farmers Market. On the lawn near the Discovery Center, Avenue A, Turners Falls. 2 to 6 p.m. Rain or shine every Wednesday.



Boxcar Lilies perform at the Great Falls Discovery Center Coffee House on Friday, June 11, 7 p.m.

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Berkshire Jazz Underground*, 8:30 p.m. no cover.

THURSDAY, JUNE 10th
Miles Orgasmic celebrates the release of their CD, *Clouds*, at the Rendezvous, Turners Falls. Percussive polyrhythms, pulsating pulse of electric bass, a panoramic spectrum of melodies are summoned by flute and electronically enhanced guitar.

FRIDAY, JUNE 11th
Boxcar Lilies at the Great Falls Coffeehouse, 7 p.m. An evening of Americana music with a folk and rock influence. Doors open at 6:30. Museum and store open at intermission. Donations accepted to benefit the Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, JUNE 11th & 12th
Water Under the Bridge Music Festival at various sites in Turners Falls. Twelve different venues! See www.turnersfallsriver-culture.org for musicians.

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls, Riverfest Weekend: *Rivers of a Lost Coast* on Friday at 7:30 p.m. Award win-

ning director and producer Joe DeFelice from Newfane, VT will be discussing the film. *The Deerfield-A Working River* on Saturday, 7:30 p.m. Northampton resident Elinor Lipman, who wrote the novel upon which the film is based will be guest speaking. Music before movie at 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 12th
Arena Civic Theatre 40th Anniversary Gala at the Moose Club, Greenfield. The semi-formal event will provide a buffet dinner with a variety of meat and vegetarian dishes, dessert, a cash bar and a musical presentation of various show tunes spanning their 40 years of performance in Franklin County. The Gala event begins at 5:30 p.m. with cocktails, dinner and performance. \$30 tickets, purchased by June 5th. www.arenacivictheatre.org/gala or call Sondra Radosh: (413) 549-1511.

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

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

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

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

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2. MARMADUKE PG in DTS sound DAILY 6:40 9:00 FRI, SAT, SUN 12:00 3:00
3. SHREK FOREVER AFTER 3D DAILY 6:40 9:00 PG FRI, SAT, SUN 12:00 3:00
4. ROBIN HOOD PG13 DAILY 9:30 FRI, SAT, SUN 3:15
4. IRON MAN 2 PG13 DAILY 6:30 FRI, SAT, SUN 3:15
5. SEX IN THE CITY R DAILY 6:30 9:30 FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 3:15
6. KILLERS PG13 DAILY 6:50 9:20 in DTS sound FRI, SAT, SUN 12:30 3:30
7. GET HIM TO THE GREEK DAILY 6:50 9:20 R in DTS sound FRI, SAT, SUN, MON 12:30 3:30

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Local Nature Notes *June: Things to See, Hear and Do*

BY JEN AUDLEY
TURNERS FALLS - In June, look for:

The new moon on June 12th, and the full moon on June 26th. For the first ten days of the month, look for the orange planet Mars and the blue star Regulus, about equal in brightness and very close to each other in the night sky.

Wild grape leaves. You can make dolmas, or stuffed grape leaves, with the tender new leaves of wild Fox Grapes. Wild edible expert Russ Cohen writes "blanch the leaves in boiling water for 20 minutes, then wrap each leaf around a spoonful of filling and bake for around 45 minutes."

Baby birds. Look for ducklings, goslings, and cygnets near water. These birds can swim, walk, and find their own food right away when they hatch, but their parents still stay close until they can fly. On the other hand, many songbird babies hatch naked, blind and totally dependent. Listen for the high-pitched, shrill sound of them squeaking, and you may be able to find a nest. Stand quietly a safe distance away to see the harried parents deliver tidbits of high-protein food (insects, grubs, caterpillars, worms) to the nestlings. If you watch for a while and the adults don't return, back up! Nervous parents may refuse to visit the nest if you are standing too close.

Birds learning to fly. Young

birds take a while to get the hang of flying. Look for birds taking short flights, making wobbly landings, and delaying take-off until the last possible



Spring brings many hungry mouths to feed.

minute. You might also hear newly fledged birds making begging sounds, and see their parents bring them food.

Lightning bugs, also called fireflies, flashing at dusk in grassy areas. The insects you see in the summer (actually a kind of beetle) have only recently gained their flashy, flight-enabled adult form. They spent their youth as ground-dwelling larva, eating earthworms and slugs! This summer's fireflies will live for only a few months more. The fertilized eggs they leave behind will become the next generation.

The frogs of summer. The sounds of spring peepers and wood frogs have mostly given way to the trill of gray tree frogs,

of the month around 8:25. The sun rises around 5:00 a.m. throughout the month, as we approach and then pass the summer solstice on the morning of June 21. After this date, the amount of daylight we experience begins to decrease a bit each day. June 24th is Midsummer Day – traditionally the halfway point between sowing and harvest for farmers.

LEARN MORE:
Water Under the Bridge Bike Tour
Saturday, June 12th, 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
White bridge, red bridge, green bridge, one way, which way, fishway? Join Discovery Center interpreter Janel Nockleby for a leisurely 90 minute bike tour along the Turners Falls Bike Path highlighting the history of the bridges in Turners Falls and Montague City. Come learn about the many challenges associated with getting over the Connecticut River. Free. Meet at the birdbath outside the main entrance to the Discovery Center. For more information, call 413.863.3221.

Summer Evening Stroll
Thursday, June 17th; 6:30 - 8 p.m.
Enjoy an evening walk along the Canalside Bike Trail in Turners Falls. Take advantage of the extra daylight hours and get some exercise after dinner. Along

the way, we'll explore the historic village of Turners Falls and the watchable wildlife opportunities along the river, including migrating fish and nesting bald eagles. Meet at the parking area for the bike trail on First Street, next to the river at the north end of the trail. Sponsored by Northfield Mountain. Free, but pre-register by calling 800-859-2960.

What's Happening with Fish in the Connecticut River?
Thursday, June 17; 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Hatchery manager Mickey Novak will talk about the change in population numbers of Atlantic salmon, shad, blueback herring and striped bass in the Connecticut. Free; Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls.

Sunset - Moonrise Kayak
Friday, June 25th; 5:30 - 9 p.m.
Float into the sunset and almost full moon on a leisurely 5 1/2 mile paddle from Riverview to Barton Cove sponsored by Northfield Mountain. Travel past sites rich in cultural and natural history as we enjoy quotes from past river lovers, adventurers, and log drivers who have had a connection to this stretch of the Connecticut. We'll stop along the way to enjoy our own brown bag dinners. For ages 12 and older. \$5 with own kayak; \$30 with kayak rental. Pre-register by calling 800-859-2960.

Strawberries. One of our region's earliest cultivated fruits, many local strawberry plants will bear fruit in June. Look for them at farm stands, farmer's markets, and grocery stores near you!

The sunset, right now at about 8:15 p.m., and by the end

ERVING from pg 5
afraid to be working in the building by themselves.

"It's eerie here when we're here all by ourselves," said Boyden. "If we're in our offices, we don't always hear the [front] door open. A lot of people stop here to use the bathroom."

Boyden asked the board to consider spending money from \$10,000 set aside six years ago to improve security at the town hall. She proposed installing a security camera that would allow workers to view the front door on their computer screens. She also proposed keeping the door locked at hours when workers are by themselves in

the building, and after 5 p.m., and to install a buzzer system to allow workers to buzz people in.

"I was with you all the way up to the buzzer," said board chair Andrew Goodwin. "There will be a lot of pushback," he said, from residents used to being able to walk freely in and out of town hall when department staff hold office hours.

Hackett agreed to work up a security plan for town hall with police chief Chris Blair, and bring it back to the full board for consideration.

Town clerk Richard Peabody said the town was proud to have received attention from Boston news media for being the first

town in the state to have achieved a 100% rate of return for census forms for the 2010 federal census. But he said there was more to the story than the Boston Globe picked up.

"I think what they're really saying is, 'Everything we mailed out to zip code 01344 came back.'"

But as residents know, many of the census forms for Erving came through Turners Falls or Millers Falls zip codes, giving rise to concern that Erving's population would be undercounted in the census.

Newton said he knew of cases where residents called to try to straighten out the zip code

confusion, with uncertain results. Nevertheless, he said, "We'll take the accolades whether we deserve them or not."

The Erving recreation commission met with the selectboard to update them on the summer park program, and other programs. Field trips are planned to the butterfly museum in Deerfield, the Pratt Museum in Amherst, hiking trails on Northfield Mountain, and Laurel Lake, among other destinations. Chair Rebecca Leclerc said it was not too late for more children to sign up, by calling 413-522-0401.



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