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# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 9 - NO. 36

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JUNE 9, 2011

## Turners Falls Graduates 56



BLANCHETTE PHOTO

The Turners Falls High School graduating class of 2011 applaud as their principal, Donna Fitzpatrick, opened the ceremonies on Friday, June 3rd.

**BY ELLEN BLANCHETTE** - Class of 2011 Turners Falls High School graduates entered the room to cheers and applause, with the band playing "Pomp and Circumstance" fulfilling the ceremonial requirements of the day. Each graduate entered in turn, walking slowly in time to the music, some shy, some nervous, but all smiling broadly at the joyous sound of celebration.

Dressed in gowns of blue for men, white for women, all with a spray of flowers pinned to their shoulders, the 56 graduates strode in a wide circle around the high school gymnasium packed with family, friends, fellow classmates, teachers and school staff, up on the bleachers and in seats on the floor, all there to honor them for their achievement.

Seated in three rows of chairs in front of the podium, the graduates joined in the applause, showing the same spirit of support for everyone who came up and spoke. The band, with a rich horn section, played throughout the ceremonies, led by Lauren Bowlby.

Principal Donna Fitzpatrick opened the proceedings by reminding students that most successful people work hard for what they achieve. Of course, she encouraged them to follow their dreams and keep a positive attitude about whatever they do. She said the three principles of hard work, humility and honesty would guide

them well through their lives. Fitzpatrick defined humility as thinking of yourself less (not to be confused with thinking less of yourself) and respecting each individual you meet, acknowledging your mistakes and not taking yourself too seriously. As for honesty, she referenced Mark Twain in saying that life is much simpler if you just tell the truth.

The main theme of class president Daniel Skarzynski's address to his fellow graduates was to live their lives to the fullest. He said that when people who lived into old age were asked their regrets it was never about things they had done but things they never got to do. "Take some risks and don't be afraid of change," he said, adding that what made a full life was who you share your life with.

Salutatorian Taylor Varilly told her fellow classmates, "Dance in the rain, make every day a holiday not a tragedy."

Valedictorian Erin Casey, at the top of her class and going to Cornell University in the fall to study animal science, said everything the graduates have experienced has prepared them for this moment. She told her classmates, whatever each student's passion or skill, they had grown together as a group. She concluded with a smile, "We are the definition of awesomeness!" This assertion was met with a rousing cheer from everyone in the room.

Newly appointed interim superintendent Nadine Ekstrom began her service to the district by addressing the graduating class of 2011. Ekstrom may be new to her position, but she is no stranger to the district, having served previously as Gill-Montague's special education director from 2008 - 2010.

She began by commending them on their "hard work, dedication and perseverance." Noting the successes of the graduating class, Ekstrom said that of the 56 graduates, 89% would be entering college in the fall, attending Harvard, Cornell, Rensselaer, Skidmore, University of Rhode Island, Springfield College, Castleton State, University of the Pacific, Bay Path, Western New England College, Keene State, Salem State, Vermont Technical Institute, University of Massachusetts, University of New Hampshire, University of New Haven, University of Maine, Framingham State, Lincoln Technical Institute and Greenfield Community College. Five percent will be entering the workforce and 3% will be going into the military. She told the students, "Although this seems to be the end of a process, it is actually a new beginning in your journey."

With words of encouragement, Ekstrom suggested that when times are hard to remember three things: Trust, Believe and Hope. see GRADS pg 14

## Towns to School Committee: "We Should Not Be Ignored."

**BY DAVID DETMOLD** - "I'd like an explanation," Gill selectboard member Ann Banash told newly re-elected school committee chair Mike Langknecht on Monday.

Banash wanted to know why the Gill-Montague school committee had disregarded a letter from the selectboards of Gill and Montague urging a slower process in picking an interim superintendent for the regional school district.

The letter read, in part, "...the District is at a critical juncture. There are immediate hiring decisions that need to be made (only one administrator is in place for next year) and the Level 4 report must be written and submitted to DESE [the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education]. In addition we believe there needs to be serious discussion now about the future of the District... Last week you accepted the recommendation of the superintendent for an interim superintendent without so much as an

interview with the person who was recommended. We certainly understand the urgency of the situation; however it is your responsibility as school committee members to get the absolute best person to lead the district in this critical time. We don't feel that you have exhausted all the possibilities even in this tight time frame."

The letter, which Banash read aloud to the school committee on May 24th, after receiving the endorsement of all the members of the selectboards of both Montague and Gill, concluded by proposing a hiring committee be formed to search for an interim superintendent, and proposing that the search committee include members of the school committee and representatives of both towns. Selectboard members of both towns indicated a desire to serve on the interim superintendent search committee, the



BLANCHETTE FILE PHOTO

G-M school committee chair Michael Langknecht

letter said.

After hearing this proposal from Banash on the 24th, the school committee immediately proceeded to hire Nadine Ekstrom, former special education director for Gill-Montague, on the recommendation of departing superintendent Carl Ladd.

On Monday, Banash wanted to know why.

Langknecht replied, "It's fair to say Carl [Ladd] did most of the process. He was in a hurry to leave the district - my interpretation. see SCHOOL pg 10

## Turners Blanks St. Jo's 6 - 0

TFHS Girls Softball Advances to W. Mass Division III Semifinal



DETMOLD PHOTO

Emily Mailloux drove in three runs at the bottom of the sixth against St. Joseph's, as Turners clinched the Western Mass Division III quarterfinals on Monday.

**BY DAVID DETMOLD** - The Turners Falls High School girls softball team left most of their bats in the locker room on Monday, June 6th, when they blanked the St. Joseph's Crusaders from Pittsfield 6-0 in the MIAA Division III Western Massachusetts quarterfinals. But strong pitching, good fielding, and a number of lucky breaks gave Turners all the advantage they needed to over-

come a mediocre showing in the batter's box, as the team advanced to the semifinals at UMass against Granby on Thursday, June 9th, at 5:30 p.m.

St. Joseph's nearly got on the scoreboard in the top of the 4th, when Meridith Dezieck hit a solid single over second. Hannah Kibbe bunted to third, and Stephanie French hurled it over to first base, but Dakota Smith Porter could

not hold onto the ball. Kibbe was safe, and Dezieck went to third.

Virginia Goggins followed with another bunt, this time fielded by the catcher, Elysia Ollari, who merely held onto the ball as Dezieck ran right into the tag at home plate. Not content with that performance, Ollari tossed the ball to French, at third, who made the tag on Kibbe, coming see SOFTBALL pg 11



## PETS OF THE WEEK

### Two Fer



### Snookum & Peter

My brother Peter and I (Snookum) are a bonded pair of one-year-old male domestic short hair cats being offered as two-for-one, so we're the cats you want if you're looking to adopt a complete feline situation! We're both super-sweet boys - I'm the one with the greyish patches and black eyeliner on my right eye. We love to play with superballs and we're friendly. We've never lived with kids before but would probably be fine with well-behaved children who know how to interact respectfully with kitties. We're just really nice boys, and we know we will be such wonderful friends for you. Please come meet us, I have a feeling you're going to love us! To find out more about adopting us, please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or via email: info@dpvhs.org.

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## LEVERETT LIBRARY NEWS

### Visit, Book Signing by Leverett Author

Josh Weil, author of *The New Valley*, will speak and sign copies of his book at the Library on Wednesday, June 22nd from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

A Leverett native son, Weil received broad acclaim for *The New Valley*, his first book. "Weil meticulously imagines people and their histories, and presents them as a product of their places. This is perhaps the hard-

est thing for a fiction writer of any age, working in any form, to accomplish....Keep writing novellas, Josh Weil, because you write very good ones." - *The New York Times Sunday Book Review*

For more information or a photograph, visit the author's website at [www.joshweil.com](http://www.joshweil.com). Directions to the library are at [www.leverettlibrary.org](http://www.leverettlibrary.org).

## MONTAGUE LIBRARY NEWS

### Summer Reading Program

BY LINDA HICKMAN

**MONTAGUE** - The Summer Reading Program is quickly approaching. Sign-ups begin the last day of school in Montague, June 21st. This year we are going with the national summer reading program theme, One World, Many Stories. We will be celebrating people, art and animals from around the world. To encourage greater participation, I have visited with every class in the Montague Public Schools in grades K - 5 during the last few weeks. I explained how the Summer Reading Program works, why it is a good idea,

mentioned special programs that will be happening, and showed the children many new books and movies. They were very enthusiastic, and some of them wanted to sign up that day. Summer library schedules will be sent home with all public school children in grades Pre-K - grade 5 close to the end of the school year. More details of the many special events will be forthcoming in future editions of *The Montague Reporter* and will be posted on-line at [montaguepubliclibraries.org](http://montaguepubliclibraries.org) and [montaguema.net](http://montaguema.net). For more information, call 863-3214.

### Nature Notes:

• *Great Falls Discovery Center.* GeoPlus River Walk on Saturday, June 11th, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 pm - Ever want to go on one of those Turners Falls Geowalks but never got around to it? Here's your chance! Steve Winters will lead the geologic rounds in Turners Falls. In addition to snooping under various

shales and sandstones, Steve will also lead a group down to the river to look at rock worn flat by centuries, if not millennia, of water's smoothing action. Most of Steve's walk will be on pavement and sidewalks around Turners Falls (about 2 miles), and the short excursion to the river will involve some minor descent along the river bank (weather and water-levels permitting). Please wear appropriate footwear. Please meet in front of the Great Falls Discovery Center. We will return to Center grounds around 12 noon. (Rain date June 18th).

• *Athol Bird and Nature Club:* Class presentation on Adult and Baby Animals - how are they similar? How are they different? Educator Rachel Roberts will

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

**Grade 6**  
Madelyn Johnson

**Grade 7**  
Tanner Jones

**Grade 8**  
Gage Afanasiew  
Spencer Hubert

## SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES - June 13th - 17th

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

**Monday, June 13th**  
9:00 a.m. Foot Clinic by appointment  
10:00 a.m. Aerobics  
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise  
1:00 p.m. Knitting Circle  
**Tuesday, June 14th**

9:00 a.m. Walking Group  
**Wednesday, June 15th**  
10:00 a.m. Aerobics  
11:00 p.m. Third Wednesday Book Review  
12:45 Bingo  
**Thursday, June 16th**  
9:00 a.m. Tai Chi  
1:00 p.m. Pitch  
**Friday, June 17th**  
10:00 a.m. Aerobics  
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise

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

**Monday, June 13th**  
9:00 a.m. Tai Chi



Gill resident Erin McKehey demonstrates the greenest way to cart a rain barrel home from Town Hall on Sunday.

Rain barrels were a popular item Sunday afternoon at Gill Town Hall, where the Gill Energy Commission distributed 20 rain barrels and hosing kits to residents of Gill, Greenfield and Turners Falls. Several people were put on a waiting list, in hopes of another similar event. The rain barrels were supplied free of charge by the Connecticut River Watershed Council, which obtained them through a collaboration with the Coca Cola plant in Northampton, where they arrive full of that secret syrup and then get rinsed when empty. The hosing kits were purchased and re-sold at modest cost. The unexpectedly sunny weather prompted one new rain barrel owner to predict a dry spell now that he had a rain barrel, but we all know that is unlikely. Whenever the rain comes, those rain barrels will be in place, collecting valuable water for various uses.

## Historic Bridge Facts

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

- Workers remember Gill-Montague Bridge project as "Honey"
- Death took a holiday during the building of the Gill-Montague Bridge. No one was fatally injured while constructing the 100-foot high structure, and only one workman received a major injury.
- Henry Hatch of Northampton received a bodily injury and went into shock when he fell from a staging to the bridge deck some 12 feet below on July 7th, 1938.
- Tragedy often stalks the building of a large bridge. Two men were killed while working on the French King Bridge. Other bridge constructions in the state have killed many more, but to the workmen who risked their lives on a daily basis on the Gill-Montague Bridge, they remember this work as a "honey" job where no lives were lost.
- The men with steel nerves who stand on little platforms catching hot rivets 100 feet or more above the river and its rocky bed, the painter who crawls along narrow beams with a brush and a pot of paint and the inspectors and foremen who hop from truss to beam, all seem to have an unconcerned attitude toward disaster.

More bridge facts next week!

explore those questions on Saturday, June 11th, from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. at the Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main St., Athol. Free and open to the public, this program is geared towards families with young children but has activities all ages can

enjoy. The class includes story time with a featured book and multiple hands-on art and science activity stations. The emphasis will be on local animals. More information is available at [www.millersriver.net](http://www.millersriver.net).

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## Local Briefs

JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

**COMPILED BY DON CLEGG** - Montague Elementary School students will parade down to the Connecticut River on Friday morning, June 10th, about 9:30 a.m. under the banner, "Long Live our River from Source to Sea." The students and staff in grades 1-5 will be walking with a police escort down Unity Street towards the river and Unity Park. The road will be closed during this time. Pre-kindergarten and kindergarteners will be transported by school bus.

Folks are encouraged to line up along the parade route in support. Onlookers at the park will have the chance to watch a performance by students to honor the Connecticut River.

Stop by a **giant indoor tag sale** on Saturday, June 18th, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Our Lady of Czestochowa Church, K Street, in Turners Falls. There will be furniture items along with toys, housewares and much more. For info, call 773-7202.

"My Health Leader" training programs are workshops for volunteers to learn skills in helping others manage ongoing health conditions. Workshops will be held at Franklin County Home Care, on Montague City Road on June 16th, and 17th, 23rd and 24th from 9:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

The workshops will focus on helping older adults to remain active, learn to set personal goals, manage pain, handle stress and make sure there is time for fun in their lives. For more info or regis-

tration contact Lesley Kayan at [1Kayan@fchcc.org](mailto:1Kayan@fchcc.org) or call 773-5555 x 2297.

The Wendell conservation committee will be seeking a new member as of August when Ward Smith will be resigning in anticipation of the birth of a child. Residents who might have interest in serving may call Charles Smith at (978) 544-6933. The Wendell finance committee is also seeking new members, especially younger members; if interested call Michael Idoine at (978) 544-2623.

The first step in volunteering to help build a home with Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity is to attend a one-hour volunteer orientation. PVH will hold an orientation on Saturday, June 18th, at Greenfield Savings Bank, 282 Avenue A in Turners Falls from 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. To attend, sign up via the VolunteerUp at: [www.pioneervalleyhabitat.org](http://www.pioneervalleyhabitat.org).

The **Sixth Annual Family Fish Day** will take place Saturday, June 18th, starting at 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at the Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A, in Turners Falls. There will be lots of free activities for kids, families and grown ups, plus a first time visit of the **Watershed on Wheels Express**, a must see attraction. For more info go to [greatfallsma.org](http://greatfallsma.org) or visit facebook at Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center.

The Franklin County Radio Control Club will hold its first annual **Fathers Day Fun Fly** event on Sunday, June 19th, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at 110

(Gate 4) Industrial Boulevard in Turners Falls.

All ages are welcome to this free event, which will feature a barbecue and a demonstration from national FIA Pattern Flight champion Dean Lampron flying a gasoline powered, 40 pound, 100 inch wing span model plane. Come check out the radio controlled planes, learn to fly real model airplanes or simulators, and if you have your own aircraft and are an AMA member then come and fly! More information at: [www.FRANKLINRC.com](http://www.FRANKLINRC.com)

The Turners Falls **Fishway is still open** through Sunday, June 19th. The Fishway is free and open to the public from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday, located on First Street, just off Avenue A in Turners Falls, within walking distance of the Discovery Center.

Send local briefs to: [reporter-local@montaguema.net](mailto:reporter-local@montaguema.net).

## Water Under the Bridge Music Festival

**BY LISA DAVOL**  
**TURNERS FALLS** - The Brick House's Powertown Music, Turners Falls RiverCulture and Turn it Up! present the second annual Water Under the Bridge Music Festival this weekend, June 10th and 11th, with dozens of bands in the park and in venues throughout Turners Falls. Come hear the best up and coming Valley music, hang out and enjoy the village. The Great Falls Discovery Center is also leading a bike tour of the bridges along the canal and river on Saturday afternoon.

Over 30 bands including: Lux Deluxe, Sun Parade, Bella's Bartok, Una Jensen Band, Daniel Hales and the frost heaves, the Grave, Mountain Interval, Nobody's Fat, Lovely Red Vega, Heather Maloney, Curly Fingers Dupree, and many

more will perform. Also, a Battle of the Bands will take place at the Brick House on Saturday, June 11th, starting at 3:00 p.m.

Venues include the Rendezvous, Burrito Rojo, Brick House, Between the Uprights, Great Falls Discovery Center, Ristorante DiPaolo, 2nd Street Baking Company, and Peskeompskut Park, among others.

The festival is a collaboration of organizations and businesses to celebrate the Gill Montague Bridge reconstruction project and to have fun regardless of the detour and one way signs during construction.

Band descriptions and details can be found at <http://www.waterunderthebridge.info/>. Other questions, please call (413) 230-9910 or find us on facebook.

## Fire Truck Debt Exclusion Vote Saturday

**BY TANYA CUSHMAN LEVERETT** - Registered voters of Leverett are reminded to vote this Saturday, June 11th, at town hall from 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. on a debt exclusion override for the purchase and equipping of a new or used fire engine.

At the annual town meeting on April 30th, the town approved the transfer of \$240,000 from the stabilization fund along with the borrowing of \$135,000, contingent upon the passage of Saturday's debt exclusion override.

A debt exclusion is a vote to exclude debt service payments for a particular capital project from the tax levy limit of 2½%. If approved, the amount excluded is added to the levy limit only

for the life of the debt - it does not permanently affect the levy ceiling.

A new fire truck was not intended to be scheduled for capital spending until FY'13. However, the money that has been spent recently trying to keep the town's 23-year-old Engine #3 in road worthy condition, and the extra money that would be needed now to repair its electrical problems, led to town meeting's decision that it would be financially more prudent to buy a new truck now.

A fire truck study group has been meeting since then to find a new or used fire truck that fits the town's specifications. For more information, please visit the home page of the town website, [leverett.ma.us](http://leverett.ma.us).

The Montague Police Department will hold a

### Bike Auction

Thursday, June 23rd  
at 6:00 p.m.

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# The Montague Reporter

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"The Voice of the Villages"

## Message from the Hopi

It was delightful to attend the all school performance of 'Stories from Around the World' at the Gill Elementary School on Thursday, June 2nd. The natural dell behind the school formed a beautiful backdrop to the plays, songs and dances put on by the elementary school students, and the hundreds of parents from more than three towns who came for dinner and stayed to enjoy the festivities proved that the sense of community which helps to make that small school such a wonderful place to educate youngsters has not been lost in the transition to intra-district choice.

Among the many colorful performances, one stand-out was the reading and pantomime of what the fourth grade called a Hopi Myth. The reading referred to ancient Hopi traditions about worlds that preceded the world we are living in today.

It might be interesting for those who attended the play – and for other readers – to note that to the Hopi these legends are more than myth, but received wisdom from olden times. They believe their tribal teachings, handed down through centuries, are also predictive of days to come.

Call it myth, or call it prophecy, there is still much wisdom to be gleaned from the message Hopi spiritual elder Thomas Banyacya delivered to the General Assembly of the United Nations nineteen years ago. Here, for those who might be interested, is the text of Banyacya's speech that day.

### The Hopi Message to the U.N. General Assembly

Submitted by Thomas Banyacya, Kykyotsmovi, AZ  
December 10th, 1992.

The presentation by Mr. Thomas Banyacya, the final indigenous speaker, was preceded by three shouts by Oren Lyons, Faithkeeper of the Six Nations and first speaker of the day. The shouts were a spiritual announcement to the Great Spirit of the presence of the people assembled and the intention to give a message of spiritual importance.

Banyacya then sprinkled corn meal next to the podium of the General Assembly and delivered

this speech:

"Hopi spiritual leaders had an ancient prophecy that some day world leaders would gather in a Great House of Mica with rules and regulations to solve world problems without war. I am amazed to see the prophecy has come true and here you are today! But only a handful of United Nations delegates are present to hear the *Motee Sinom* (First People) from around the world who spoke here today.

"My name is Banyacya of the Wolf, Fox and Coyote clan and I am a member of the Hopi sovereign nation. Hopi in our language means a peaceful, kind, gentle, truthful people. The traditional Hopi follows the spiritual path that was given to us by *Massau'u*, the Great Spirit. We made a sacred covenant to follow his life plan at all times, which includes the responsibility of taking care of this land and life for his divine purpose.

"We have never made treaties with any foreign nation, including the United States, but for many centuries we have honored this sacred agreement. Our goals are not to gain political control, monetary wealth, nor military power, but rather to pray and to promote the welfare of all living beings and to preserve the world in a natural way. We still have our ancient sacred stone tablets and spiritual religious societies which are the foundations of the Hopi way of life. Our history says our white brother should have retained those same sacred objects and spiritual foundations.

"In 1948, all traditional Hopi spiritual leaders met and spoke of things I felt strongly were of great importance to all people. They selected four interpreters to carry their message, of which I am the only one still living today.

"At that time I was given a sacred prayer feather by the spiritual leaders. I made a commitment to carry the Hopi message of peace and deliver warnings from prophecies known since the time the previous world was destroyed by flood and our ancestors came to this land.

"My mission was also to open the doors of this great House of Mica to native peoples. The elders said to knock four times, and

this commitment was fulfilled when I delivered a letter and the sacred prayer feather I had been given to John Washburn in the Secretary General's office in October, 1991. I am bringing part of the Hopi message to you here today. We have only ten minutes to speak and time is late, so I am making my statement short.

"At the meeting in 1948, Hopi leaders 80, 90, and even 100 years old explained that the creator made the first world in perfect balance, where humans spoke a common language. But humans turned away from moral and spiritual principles. They misused their spiritual powers for selfish purposes. They did not follow nature's rules. Eventually, their world was destroyed by sinking of land and separation of land which you would call major earthquakes. Many died and only a small handful survived.

"Then this handful of peaceful people came into the second world. There they repeated their mistakes and the world was destroyed by freezing which you call the great Ice Age.

"The few survivors entered the third world. That world lasted a long time and as in previous worlds, the people spoke one language. The people invented many machines and conveniences of high technology, some of which have not been seen yet in this age. They even had spiritual powers that they used for good. They gradually turned away from natural laws and pursued only material things, and finally only gambling, while they ridiculed spiritual principles. No one stopped them from this course and the world was destroyed by the great flood that many nations still recall in their ancient history or in their religions.

"The elders said again only a small group escaped and came to this fourth world where we now live. Our world is in terrible shape again even though the Great Spirit gave us different languages and sent us to the four corners of the world and told us to take care of the Earth and all that is in it.

"This Hopi ceremonial rattle represents Mother Earth. The line running around it is a time

"For the Syrian citizens, the new government means new blood."

– Bashar al-Assad, April 16th, 2011



line and indicates that we are in the final days of the prophecy. What have you as individuals, as nations and as the world body been doing to take care of this Earth? In the Earth today, humans poison their own food, water and air with pollution. Many of us including children are left to starve. Many wars are still being fought. Greed and concern for material things is a common disease.

"In this Western hemisphere, our homeland, many original native people are landless, homeless, starving and have no medical help.

"The Hopi knew humans would develop many powerful technologies that would be abused. In this century we have seen the First World War and the Second World War in which the predicted gourd of ashes which you call the atomic bomb fell from the sky with great destruction. Many thousands of people were destroyed in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

"For many years there has been great fear and danger of World War Three. The Hopi believe the Persian Gulf War was the beginning of World War Three but it was stopped and the worst weapons of destruction were not used.

"This is now a time to weigh the choices for our future. We do have a choice. If you, the nations of this Earth create another great war, the Hopi believe we humans will burn ourselves to death with ashes. That's why the spiritual elders stress strongly that the United Nations fully open the door for native spiritual leaders to speak as soon as possible.

"Nature itself does not speak with a voice that we can easily understand. Neither can the animals and birds we are threatening with extinction talk to us. Who in this world can speak for nature and the spiritual energy that creates and flows through all life? In every continent are human beings who are like you but who have not separated

themselves from the land and from nature. It is through their voice that nature can speak to us. You have heard those voices and many messages from the four corners of the world today.

"I have studied comparative religion and I think in your own nations and cultures you have knowledge of the consequences of living out of balance with nature and spirit. The native peoples of the world have seen and spoken to you about the destruction of their lives and homelands, the ruination of nature and the desecration of their sacred sites. It is time the United Nations used its rules to investigate these occurrences and stop them now.

"The Four Corners area of the Hopi is bordered by four sacred mountains. The spiritual center within is a sacred site our prophecies say will have a special purpose in the future for mankind to survive and now should be left in its natural state. All nations must protect this spiritual center.

"The Hopi and all original native people hold the land in balance by prayer, fasting, and performing ceremonies. Our spiritual elders still hold the land in the Western Hemisphere in balance for all living beings including humans. No one should be relocated from their sacred homelands in this Western Hemisphere or anywhere in the world. Acts of forced relocation such as Public Law 93531 in the United States must be repealed.

"The United Nations stands on our native homeland. The United Nations talks about human rights, equality and justice, and yet the native people have never had a real opportunity to speak to this assembly since its establishment until today. It should be the mission of your nations and this assembly to use your power and rules to examine and work to cure the damage people have done to this Earth and to each other. Hopi elders know that was your mission and they wait to see whether you will act on it now.

"Nature, the First People and the spirit of our ancestors are giving you loud warnings. Today, December 10th, 1992, you see increasing floods, more damaging hurricanes, hail storms, cli-

see MESSAGE pg 5

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### U.S. Casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan as of 6/8/11



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**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

**Culture of Complaint**

I have been a strong supporter of former Superintendent Carl Ladd and hope the Gill-Montague Regional School District continues the process of reform he started. We should make this commitment central to hiring a new superintendent, as well as new elementary principals.

However, I voted against the so-called "generous buyout" (*Montague Reporter IX #35*) of Ladd's contract because I felt he should not have left before it expired. We needed him in the transition to the interim superintendent and could have accommodated his need to spend time with his family in June. I also think Ladd leaving a month earlier than planned sends a bad symbolic message at a time of fiscal austerity. It should be stressed, however, that the school committee decision had virtually no budgetary impact: What we are

spending on the "buyout" is precisely what was budgeted.

In truth, Ladd's decision was, in part, influenced by the angry reaction among some staff to his comments in the press criticizing the internal culture of the district. Unfortunately, his decision to leave early only encouraged that culture.

I have no problem with GMRSD staff or anyone else in this community asking questions about a decision like the buyout. But they should be raised openly with the school committee, not through anonymous complaints in the *Montague Reporter*. This is precisely the kind of negative, behind-the-scenes culture of complaint that drives so many people away from the district, including a very good superintendent.

- Jeff Singleton  
Montague

*Jeff Singleton is a member of the Gill-Montague school committee; the opinions expressed here are his own and do not necessarily represent those of any other member of the committee.*

climate changes and earthquakes as our prophecies said would come. Even animals and birds are warning us with strange changes in their behavior such as the beaching of whales. Why do animals act like they know about Earth's problems and most humans act like they know nothing? If we humans do not wake up to the warnings, the great purification will come to destroy this world just as the previous worlds were destroyed."

(Banyacya and Oren Lyons held up a picture of a large rock drawing in Hopiland.)

"This rock drawing shows part of the Hopi prophecy. There are two paths. The first with high technology but separate from natural and spiritual law

leads to these jagged lines representing chaos. The lower path is one that remains in harmony with natural law. Here we see a line that represents a choice like a bridge joining the paths. If we return to spiritual harmony and live from our hearts we can experience a paradise in this world. If we continue only on this upper path, we will come to destruction.

"It's up to all of us, as children of Mother Earth, to clean up this mess before it's too late.

"The elders request that during this International Year for the Worlds Indigenous Peoples, the United Nations keep that door open for spiritual leaders from the four corners of the world to come to speak to you for more than a few minutes, as

**Big Box Abutters File Appeal**

BY DAVID DETMOLD

**GREENFIELD** - Abutters Michael and Melanie Skawski, Ralph and Susan Gordon, Joanna W. and Joanna J. Mass, and Shirley Lowe, filed an appeal in Greenfield Housing Court on Friday, June 3rd, against the planning board of the town of Greenfield and the individual members of the planning board for granting a special permit on May 5th, by a vote of 4-1, to Greenfield Investors Property Development, LLC to build a 135,000-square-foot retail store on the French King Highway. The abutters also sued Greenfield Investors, of Fairfield, CT.

The abutters, all of whom live on Wunsch Road except the Manns, who live on Gill Road, had intended to file their appeal in Springfield Housing Court last Thursday, but the tornado that tore through that city one day earlier shut that building down.

The suit alleges the planning board severally and as a whole acted in an arbitrary and capricious manner and issued the special permit to Greenfield Investors in violation of the Greenfield Municipal Code Zoning Ordinance.

The complaint states that the site of the proposed big box development lies entirely within

a special overlay district Greenfield adopted on September 2nd, 1993. The overlay district guidelines state, "The greater the degree of change proposed, the greater the degree of compliance will be expected."

The guidelines call for development within the corridor "to create an attractive green entryway to Greenfield and promote development which blends into the landscape," as well as development that promotes "an uncluttered character and prevent(s) degradation into a commercial strip."

The abutters allege "the board erred by allowing almost nine acres of asphalt and concrete to clutter what was supposed to be 'an uncluttered character' and 'green entryway' into town that 'reduced the visual impact of the automobile,' and prevented 'degradation to a commercial strip development.'" They state, "The proponent has admitted that the project will increase the pressure for more commercial development along a corridor that was specifically designed to avoid commercial strip development."

The abutters allege "the proposed project involves a massive change in character to the current site, to the neighborhood, and to the whole eastern corridor into Greenfield."

Among other things, the

abutters claim the planning board failed to consider or discuss the recommendations of the Greenfield master plan in issuing a permit for the largest single retail building in Greenfield, and failed to substantiate, as required by the zoning ordinance, that the proposed development will not adversely impact adjacent properties, the neighborhood, the town, or the environment. The abutters allege the board erred in not measuring the impact of the development on the residential value of abutting single family homes, such as theirs. The complaint states further: "The board's action has left Greenfield with a large retail development on the edge of town, which is not pedestrian accessible because of its distant location from the majority of town residents, its lack of connecting sidewalks to the site along Route 2A, and the lack of any funded pedestrian amenities, such as security lighting, road paving and marking, along the proposed Gill Road pedestrian/bikeway."

Further, the complaint alleges the board "erred by allowing the proponent to offer sums of money as a substitute for traffic mitigation."

Thomas Lesser, of Lesser, Newman and Nasser of Northampton, is representing the abutters in their appeal.

soon as possible. The elders also request that eight investigative teams visit the native areas of the world, observe and tell the truth about what is being done, and stop these nations from moving in this self destructive direction.

"If any of you leaders want to learn more about the spiritual vision and power of the elders, I invite you to come out to Hopiland and sit down with our real spiritual leaders in their

sacred kivas where they will reveal the ancient secrets of survival and balance.

"I hope that all members of this assembly that know the spiritual way will not just talk about it, but in order to have real peace and harmony, will really follow what it says across the United Nations wall: 'They shall beat their swords into plowshares and study war no more.' Let's together do that now!"



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NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Montague Welcomes Farmers

BY MATTHEW SMALL Let's face it, it's tough to be a farmer these days. Our farmers face a commercial society in which much agricultural land has been developed for business. They deal with a certain amount of social isolation given that their work keeps them on the land much of the time. It's no wonder that farmers find themselves on the outside looking in when it comes to working with town government.

Most of the towns surrounding Montague have worked to address the issues facing farmers by establishing agricultural commissions, but Montague has not had an active agricultural commission in years - something that is about to change.

At the selectboard meeting on June 6th, at the request of town planner Walter Ramsey, the board voted to appoint five new members to the agricultural commission, members who are "very committed and enthusiastic" Ramsey said.

The renewed interest was sparked by a forum Ramsey called this winter, with a turnout of about 20 interested residents, to discuss ways to support agriculture in Montague, a town blessed with some of the most fertile river bottomland in the world.

Community leaders emerged from that forum, and now Diane Fronckus Flynn, Donna Francis, Bob Mizula, Chip Garbiel and Paul Voiland have been

officially appointed to implement the work plan they have developed with Ramsey's assistance.

The agricultural commission is required to have a majority of members actively engaged in the business of farming or related agricultural endeavors. Montague's newly appointed commission has no problem meeting that threshold - they're all involved in agriculture.

Diane Fronckus-Flynn grows food for her home use, and is a member of the town conservation commission; Donna Francis's family has been farming in Montague since the early 1900s, she is an animal science educator; Bob Mizula has worked for Nourse Farms for the last 25 years; Chip Garbiel has farmed in Montague all his life at Garbiel Farms, and Paul Voiland, in addition to helping maintain a very active farmstand on the corner of Turners Falls Road and Ferry Road, is the father of Red Fire Farm's Ryan Voiland.

The agricultural commission has four major objectives for making Montague a more farm-friendly community. First, they will serve as a promotional platform to get the word out that Montague welcomes farmers, that farming is affordable and can be profitable, and that farms can help draw agricultural tourism for the town. The agricultural commission also plans to take an active role in help-

ing farmers work with the various offices of local government, like the planning board and board of health. They will work with the planning and conservation boards to preserve land for future agricultural use. Finally, the commission will encourage community building and social networking among the farmers of Montague.

The immediate goals of the commission, said Francis, are the publication of a promotional brochure and an effort to organize some type of social function for farm families, possibly working with the Montague Grange.

Ramsey predicted success for the revived Montague agricultural commission. In the past, the effort was hampered by "more of a top down approach" to establishing this type of public resource for farmers in town, he said. But this time, the commission has been built from the grassroots up.

In other news, the selectboard signed off on a contract with Siemens Building Technologies for the first phase of a three-phase energy efficiency improvement plan for town buildings. The first phase will see improvements at town hall, the public safety building and Carnegie Library.

Town hall will see the most extensive upgrades, with new lighting and lighting controls, programmable thermostats, building

School Committee Sets Goals for Leverett Elementary

BY DAVID DETMOLD - The Leverett school committee held a brain storming session to define the future direction of the Leverett Elementary School on Tuesday. The session came in response to Leverett Elementary principal Anne Ross's request for guidance, or as she put it, "a yardstick," in an era of increasing pressure to conform to state and federal education mandates.

"There are really game changing things going to be happening in public education in the United States," said Ross, as national 'common core standards' for public education are adopted in 42 of the 50 states, and new methods of evaluating teachers and administrators are promoted.

"I really need to ask the school committee what your vision is for Leverett Elementary School, as more and more of what we are doing is given to us by the state or other entities."

The school committee was very forthcoming and specific about what they would like to see happening in the future at the 163 student K-6 school.

Dawn Sacks said, "This community really values teaching the whole child. The social and emotional piece is as valuable as the academic. This community really values independent thinking and not having all these standards imposed from the national and state level." Though Sacks allowed that academics were also important, "I

think if you polled this community, they would say not to teach to the test."

Pam Stone said that within the framework of the Massachusetts Core Requirements, "There are really innovative ways to teach science." She referenced the Hitchcock Center's 'place-based learning' initiative, which the Amherst environmental education center's website defines as "learning that is rooted in what is local - the unique history, environment, culture, economy, literature and art of a particular place."

Stone said the Leverett selectboard had advocated for innovative educational programs at the recent joint meeting of school and town boards. She added that Leverett Elementary should continue to "promote the technology we've been working with and getting the students involved in - obviously that is the wave of the future."

Kip Fonsh said he agreed that teaching to the whole child is "vitally important to kids moving toward adolescence and the challenges of middle school." He added, "I'm concerned about our ability to differentiate instruction to the degree to which every child is different."

Fonsh said as the common core curricular standards come into force, he thinks Ross may need support in a number of areas, including curriculum alignment, professional development for staff, and evalu-

ation of staff. He suggested the school might do well to seek a grant writer, to be paid through a percentage of grants awarded, to help bring in the resources to deal with these areas of growing state and federal educational concern.

He also said, "We are decreasing opportunities for kids due to budget cuts. We need to restore programs."

Farshid Hajir, committee chair, said reports back from middle schoolers are supportive of programs the Leverett Elementary maintains, like the 4th, 5th and 6th grade's Adventure Program, where students work on group activities to foster cooperation and problem-solving.

He said, "I place a very high emphasis on academics," and added he was generally supportive of the "big changes happening now in both standards and assessments and the Common Core." Hajir, a math professor at UMass, said the new national standards will "bring a really different way of teaching math than what we've been used to. The old frameworks were a mile wide and an inch deep." The new frameworks will focus on teaching certain skills in depth at each grade level, through "inquiry based activity as opposed to a procedural fluency based activity." He said, "Teachers will need a lot of professional development to adapt to this new way of

see LEVERETT pg 7

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**MONTAGUE from 6**

envelope upgrades, a network controller and a boiler replacement that will cover town hall, the annex and the garage.

The timeline is tight for the town hall boiler replacement, as the contractor needs to order the boiler and wait for it to be delivered.

"If it doesn't get ordered it might not be in by winter," Chris Boutwell said, and that's not the only deadline to worry about. Some of the funding for the project comes from a time sensitive environmental efficiency and conservation block grant (EECB) with deadlines in the immediate future.

Taking into account the EECBG and other sources of funding for the project, the energy efficiency upgrade will cost the town \$30,885 up front and result in \$14,939 in guaranteed annual savings. That means the upgrades are expected to pay for themselves in just over two years. Now that's efficiency!

In other news, the selectboard executed two quit claim deeds for a recently divided parcel of land in the industrial park. Nutrisystems purchased approximately two acres from the town for \$44,000 for the purpose of building a 4,320-square-foot building. The other 1.4-acre parcel was sold to Mayhew Steel, an

abutter, for \$25,000 to be reserved for possible future expansion.

Town clerk Deb Bourbeau received the final signatures approving the boundary descriptions and maps for the recent small adjustments made to the town's six voting precincts as a result of population shifts in the 2010 census. The changes go into effect in January 2012. Residents impacted by the boundary shifts will be notified by the clerk's office to minimize any possible confusion.

Chris Boutwell moved "with regret" to accept the resignation of the current chair and long time member of the planning commis-

sion, Ted Armen. Armen's absence from the board leaves a vacancy; interested residents should contact Walter Ramsey at 863-3200 x 207. Though there are no official requirements for serving on the planning board, residents with surveying or civil engineering skills are strongly encouraged to inquire.

Burrito Rojo, 50 3rd Street, will have outdoor seating (and outdoor beer) during this weekend's Water Under the Bridge downtown music festival. Come grab a brew and some delicious food outdoors at the Rojo on Saturday, June 12th.

The New England Relay sought approval from the select-

board concerning the use of a portion of Route 63 for their upcoming event. Chair Mark Fairbrother pointed out that Route 63 is a state road, not under the jurisdiction of the selectboard, but the Massachusetts Department of Transportation requires towns to sign off on these kinds of events. The approval was granted.

Congratulations to Morning Star Chenven and Moonlight Davis who were appointed to the Montague Cultural Council.

Under the summer every-other-week schedule, the next selectboard meeting will take place on Monday, June 20th.



**LEVERETT from pg 6**

thinking."

Hajir added, "As usual, mandates come from the state without money to pay for a true transition in professional development to the new paradigm."

He predicted, "In the next few years, there is going to be curricular upheaval," and said the school committee needed to develop a long term plan for dealing with that. "We spent \$10,000 on new math text books," recently. "It may behoove us to spend that amount again."

He said, "We have to acknowledge teachers and principals and school committees will have to respond to a lot of new standards. It is important to stay nimble to respond. Unexpected things are going to happen."

Hajir said comparison of MCAS test scores with other nearby schools show that LES students are not doing as well on answering long response questions. He advocated spending more classroom time on teaching math, and quoted a former Pelham school principal who told him, "There's no secret about why we're always #1 or #2 in the state - we spend 90 minutes a day on math." He complimented Susie Chang and Lydia Peterson

and a recent Americorps volunteer for helping the elementary school teachers to integrate lessons students could learn from the new greenhouse across the curriculum.

Fonsh pointed out that professional development funds would need to be carefully targeted in the coming years, as a number of teachers may soon retire.

Community member Sarah Dolven said teachers need to get together to explore best practices with teachers from other schools, and recommended U-28 or "whatever configuration we may have in the future" focus on teachers' ability to do that. She also spoke in favor of "movement - physical movement - whether recess or physical education" to respond to the need many young children have not to stay sedentary for long periods of time as they learn, and also to respond to the national scourge of childhood obesity.

Union-28 superintendent Joan Wickman said, "Thirty years ago, everyone was their own classroom, with their doors closed, teaching what they loved. Kids with creative teachers benefited from that. With the new standards, every kid gets a certain core curriculum." But, she noted,

"The state has been very careful not to tell teachers how to teach. They tell you what to teach and then evaluate."

Wickman said she supported the core curriculum framework, and noted that the project based learning Leverett has excelled at is "hard to evaluate," for teacher effectiveness. "As administrators, not only do we need to support our teachers, we need to rethink professional development and how we do it." She talked about a math coach that had been hired to come in and model the new math curriculum, and work with teachers until they could "really fly on their own." She said the Union would continue to work on effective instruction, whether through integrated curricula or project based learning, and would focus also on the five C's: communication, creativity, collaboration, critical thinking, and concept areas for effective instruction. She said computer literacy might as well be considered a sixth C now.

Wickman noted that in addition to professional development opportunities within each U-28 school, the teachers from all four schools get together four times a year to share best practices, pool resources, and problem solve.

In other news, the Leverett Elementary School will begin a breakfast program for students next fall, at \$1.50 per meal, or at free or reduced price for children who qualify. Wickman said income surveys show that Leverett is close to being required to implement a breakfast program, and Ross said children have been showing up to school hungry and not ready to learn.

The school committee unanimously approved a motion to reduce the amount of money taken from the so-called school choice fund (a revolving fund consisting of money in excess of what it takes to educate students who choice into LES each year from neighboring districts) to support the FY'11 budget. The motion was open ended, as the exact amount of the reduction in school choice funds needed to support a balanced budget is not yet known. But business manager Mike Kociela, after totaling up all line items and estimating expenditures to the end of the fiscal year this month, said he believed the school budget for FY'11 would otherwise end up about \$8,000 - \$10,000 in the black.

The school choice fund presently has a balance of about \$67,000, Hajir said.

Ross noted that the school was able to come out ahead on this year's budget despite having to unexpectedly hire an English Language Learning teacher for \$9,000 midway through the year, and also to support the long absences of two staff members for health reasons.

Asked how she was able to manage this in an era of tighter and tighter budgeting, Ross said she had made it clear to teachers and staff that no unnecessary expenses could be allowed, and some teachers even returned their expense allowances to her unused.

The Union 28 strategic subcommittee will soon make available an online and print format survey to gauge residents' awareness and opinion of Union 28 and its programs. The survey will be ready by fall.

Hajir said a legislative committee he serves on that is looking into the issue of regionalization will probably back away from any call for state legislation to mandate forced regionalization of school districts, in favor of incentives for districts that choose to regionalize. The committee's report is due by the end of the month.



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

## West Gill to Atherton and "Sunrise Hill"

**BY P.H. CROSBY** - It's been a busy week full of short walks, and this will be a busy, short essay.

Heading south on West Gill Road from Center Road, this is a suburban walk. First there's a golf course and then a number of close together houses with carefully tended yards and gardens. You need to watch your dog carefully here, and have those plastic newspaper bags ready. And if you do this walk any time past 6:30 a.m., hang onto your hat or the commuter traffic will sweep you away.

The poet Gerard Manley Hopkins had a concept called "inscape," that I find myself drawing on while on a walk like this, or on any walk where I am feeling a little tired, or where what I am seeing seems too familiar or ordinary. A religious man, Hopkins believed each thing in the universe has its own particular essence, something unique and extraordinary that is there to be looked for, to be seen and appreciated, that has the hand of God in it. He would write in his journal about the "inscape" of a particular sunset, or talk to his friend Robert Bridges about the "inscape" of a line of trees against a certain snowy field. Things like that.

A layperson's way of rephrasing this concept might be: "If I were a photographer, what would

I take a picture of right here, now? What is really special?" That is to say, you don't wait for a traditionally beautiful scene to present itself, or take a picture of the "stock" scene - the waterfall or the mountain - that is readily apparent to all. You look for the hidden, not-so-obvious beauties, the small and 'inconsequential' delights.

There is a scene in the film "American Beauty" where the young couple watch a plastic bag being whipped and whirled by the wind around an alley, in an endless series of utterly mesmerizing flips and flourishes. Hopkins would have been standing there in awe, right along with them.

So what is there on this walk? Lots of celandine, small golden flowers and a three-lobed leaf with lovely scalloped rim. Although "just a weed," I see other gardeners leaving it to grow in their lawns and gardens, liking it as much as I do. And a massive old silver maple - yes, splitting the way they do, and shedding branches here and there all year - but which soon will grow that terrific leaf that turns over in the breeze all summer, rippling silver.

The yarrow is out, stiff white crowns not to be confused (as it was in my mind for years) with Queen Anne's lace, which will arrive later, and has a rounder

hill, which I mentally call Sunrise Hill, because if you step just a little tiny bit, just a few short yards - don't say I said so - into the woods onto private property, you can see the sun rise beautifully through tall white pines. (Kidding aside, probably best to look from the road: I am dealing with a lot of poison ivy

representing the queen in her ruff. We pass the golf course, where a retriever is running in circles, trying to get a tractor to play with her, but the tractor will have none of it, going about its business of grooming turf.

On the right, a neighbor has mowed his lawn right up to the edge of a field of ferns, half shaded by a widely spaced grove of trees, then stopped in a abrupt curved line, from woods to road. What's left unsliced looks delicious, like a big sheet cake with fern frosting. Definitely some inscape here.

And here is a gardener who really knows how to treat a weed, leaving some at strategic intervals among beautifully cultivated plantings. She's left a big furry rosette of mullein, that will shoot up a stalk like the yuccas later, and even one of last year's mullein stalks, brown and dry but still upright, for effect.

Turning right on Atherton Road is where you get your workout, on a steep hill, with a gleam of white lilacs and tufts of escaped purple (scabiosas maybe?) on the right. There is a stand of pink lady slippers halfway up the hill that will be gone soon. I use the excuse to appreciate them to stop to catch my breath.

A rapid fifteen-minute walker can make it just to the top of this



P.H. CROSBY PHOTO

"Sunrise Hill"

er with soft lime mortar. One of the chimneys had been rebuilt using hard setting modern cement mortar, but the other chimneys had bricks just sitting on lime mortar atop each other and could be picked apart by hand, according to Gang construction workers.

The chimneys have multiple flues used to accommodate coal stoves for cooking and heating in earlier days. Nowadays, the building has zoned central heating with a gas-fired forced hot water system supplying baseboard radiators.

According to Douglas Starbuck, in former times it was common practice to have Starbuck Plumbing remove coal heating stoves in the Turners Falls area for storage for the sum-

mer. Starbuck's employees cleaned and repaired the stoves before returning them to use in the fall.

James Gang employees framed the chimney holes in the roof with 2 x 6 planks to support plywood covered with a weather-proof membrane, topped with slate to match the existing roof.

To reach the roof, James Gang employees erected scaffolding and employed a JLG Sky lift platform, operated by Stephen Vaillancort. The crew threw bricks into a trash container raised to the rooftop by a Lull telescoping fork lift.

"We've been on the job for three weeks," job superintendent, James Finnegan Jr, said. "We should have it all wrapped up in another week."

## Chimney Work on 4th Street



JOSEPH A. PARZYCH PHOTO

Employees of James Gang Construction remove rooftop sections of a chimney from a Power Town Apartment building on 4th Street

**BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH**  
**TURNERS FALLS** - A crew from James Gang Masonry Construction Company, Inc. of Munson, MA removed the rooftop sections of five chimneys on the three-story Power Town apartment house on Fourth Street, located opposite the former American House building.

The owners, Hallkeen Properties of Boston, were alerted to the danger posed when a chimney blew down. Brick chimneys are not wind proof, contrary to what you might have been led to believe from the story of the *Three Little Pigs*.

Hallkeen Properties contracted with James Gang Masonry to remove the remaining five chimneys. The bricks of all but one of these chimneys were held togeth-

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*Stories from Around the World at Gill Elementary*

Sarah Studlien, 4th grade, waits for her cue in the class enactment of a Hopi myth. At rear, (left to right) Britney Lambert, Abby Leaf and Lucy Postera, first graders, in the all-school production of 'Stories from Around the World.'

**BY DAVID DETMOLD** - Hundreds of proud family members sat on the sloping lawn to watch Gill Elementary School students perform 'Stories from Around the World' on Thursday, June 2nd, as the sun played dodge ball with storm clouds, and the wind riffled through the sheet music on the waiting stands.

Before the show, parents lined up at a buffet dinner while their kids ran around the playground, shooting hoops, turning cart-wheels, dressed in colorful costumes for the pageant. The piled up dark clouds woven with ribbons of deep blue sky, the startling clarity of the light, and the tall leafy green trees surrounding the playing fields combined to make a spectacular natural backdrop for the event.

Principal Rita Detweiler welcomed the crowd to the students' performance saying, "Thank you all for coming. When you come out to see their events, it means so much to them. It's something they'll remember for a lifetime."

That was certainly true for

Mike Smith, who, after traveling as far away as California, returned to his childhood home in Gill so his kids could attend the same elementary school (and learn from some of the same teachers) he did. Smith recalled acting in an all-school play at Gill Elementary when he was in the fourth grade. "I was an Indian," he remembered, "and I had to balance on four by four in the middle of the stage, with a dream wheel."

Shortly after he related this memory, a hawk flew out of a distant tree, and the sixth graders struck up a xylophone overture, making a lovely lilting melody like a cloud of grasshoppers jumping through a field of glass reeds.

"What a beautiful world we live in," called out teacher Steve Baskowski in a booming voice, as his fourth graders pantomimed the action of a Hopi myth.

"Before this world, the Fourth World, the people were living in the darkness of the Third World," he continued. The Third World,

in Hopi legend, was a world of chaos and unhappiness, and the people were looking for a way out, a hole in the sky, into the Fourth World.

His students jumped for the sky when he told this part of the myth.

Baskowski said the birds tried to show them the way, including the hawk and the mighty eagle, but none could make it until the shriek flew up and out into the Fourth World. Following a Jack in the Beanstalk style narrative tack, Baskowski told how the powerful *Massau'u* instructed the people to follow grandmother spider and climb a hollow reed to reach the hole in the sky to the Fourth World.

The xylophone orchestra played as Baskowski told of the successful journey of the Hopi up to the beauty of the Fourth World.

Baskowski's class stopped there, as the kindergartners, first and second graders sang songs in Spanish and English and danced an African dance.

The second graders acted out a play based on a Korean tale of the Toad Bridegroom, a strange story about a fisherman who lost his livelihood when the lake he fished dried up.

This play featured the immortal line, "Father, have you lost your mind? I would never dream of marrying a toad."

But, when the dutiful daughter followed her father's wishes and married the toad, he turned into a handsome man, and restored the water to the lake, and the fish to the fisherman's nets.

The third graders put their knowledge of astronomy to the test with a choreographed dance called the Rockin' Planets, with the sixth grade providing musical accompaniment, under the expert guidance of Melinda Swanson, who plays a beautiful French Horn when the occasion calls for it.

"What holds up the Solar System's pants?" asked the third grade, in a series of silly astronomical jokes.

"The asteroid belt," of course.

Then, Odysseus' journey to the fabled isle of Circe was acted out by the fifth grade, with an extremely expressive Jack Shearer playing Circe, and a resolute Tanner Ames in the role of the wise Greek king Odysseus.

Everyone loved this fable of men being turned into the animals they most resemble by their charming hostess, whether gluttonous courtiers assuming the guise of pigs, or a vain queen transformed into a preening peacock. But of course, wisdom won out over vanity and in the end Odysseus set the captives free, to wander on in their ten year peregrination toward Syracuse and home.

Expectations had built up like a thundercloud for the sixth graders' play about the fallen hero Greg Mortenson in *Our Three Cups of Tea*. Too much pre-publicity may have con-

tributed to an outburst of nervous giggling in the ranks and some unanticipated ad libbing, but soon enough calmer heads prevailed and the sixth grade students got down to business.

They wound up delivering a very mature piece of their own creation about the difficulty of separating truth from hype in the 24/7 world of gotcha journalism, and discovering some underlying verities along the way. Their play ended with the moral, "I learned that even though people do bad things, there is still good in the world."

The purple cumulus clouds piled high above the plowed farm fields around the little school, nestled against the surrounding blue green hills and distant mountains. The sun found a way through, and poured down in slanting beams, illuminating the countryside as redwing blackbirds chased each other chirruping through the trees.

In Gill, as elsewhere, there is still very much good in the world.

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**SCHOOL** from page 1

He made some effort to leave the district whole on his way out. His recommendation included an individual to take the interim superintendent job. On the night of reorganization [of the school committee, on May 17th] the recommendation was moved, seconded, and approved. I was authorized to go [as school committee chair] negotiate a contract.

I felt we should take the time to interview this person and establish some school committee goals and objectives."

Langknecht continued, "That part about establishing goals and objectives did not happen. As much as there was a process, what he [Carl Ladd] gave us was a good deal. The market for superintendents is very competitive. I won't take the idea on face value that nobody wants to work with us. 'Oh, there's no good candidate out there.' 'Is he friends with Nadine?'"

Langknecht said he checked with sources in the Massachusetts Association of School Committees about the availability of qualified superintendent candidates at this end of the school year, and heard back from MASC director Glenn Koocher that Gill-Montague was lucky to find any candidate at all.

"I did what I could to check things out," Langknecht added.

After Ladd recommended Ekstrom on the 17th of May, "No one else spoke up." Langknecht said, "Without throwing the school committee under the bus, I thought that was unusual."

Langknecht went on to say, "If the recommendation [to hire Ekstrom] wasn't as excellent as it was, I would have halted the process. From my knowledge of working with Nadine and my past history of working with a number of superintendents, it was a good find, and as good a superintendent as we could find."

"Going to a search committee would have taken weeks," he added. "It's a four to five week process at least before you sit down with candidates talking to us. We're in the position where important decisions need to be taken before the end of summer - we've been dealing with Level IV status and state pressure on regionalization. It would have put us in a weak position without an

interim superintendent. There would have been some pressure to force us to reconsider a superintendency union. That weighed into my decision making process, minutely. The tendency to look at us as leaderless would have looked scary."

Langknecht continued, "The second week, when you brought a letter, I thought someone would make a motion. Ladd thought it was a violation [of open meeting law regulations regarding posted agendas]. I was ready to contest that. But there was nothing I could do. I couldn't make the

"I felt this was handled very badly. I hope we will be included in discussion of future superintendents."  
- Ann Banash

motion, being chair."

Langknecht concluded his explanation by stating, "In the absence of someone making a motion, I let it go."

Selectboard member John Ward responded, "You could have led the discussion saying, 'I would entertain the motion...'"

Langknecht said he checked up on the question of open meeting law procedures and found, "I was right. The school committee certainly can vote to put something on the agenda."

Banash said, "These were representatives from both towns," making the proposal for an interim superintendent search committee. "It's done. It's over. I don't think it's the person [hired]; it's the process. In the future, we should not be ignored."

Banash continued, "I felt this was handled very badly. I hope we will be included in discussion of future superintendents. There also needs to be discussion about regionalization."

Langknecht said members of the selectboard "will have the ability to speak" during Ekstrom's evaluation in October.

Banash took him up on this point. "She's been hired as an interim superintendent. You're not talking about a search. Are you considering hiring her as superintendent without a search?"

Langknecht said, "By February, we'll decide whether to go to a search, based on her evaluation."

Ward said, "I would expect a

parallel track. If you wait until February, you will miss viable candidates."

Ward added, "That brings me back to my original concern. The reason the letter went to the school committee, we have had such a divisive school committee, nothing could get done. Now when something easy comes along with the interim superintendent, 'We don't have to fight about it.' If you wait until February you will be pushing the work you were elected to do to the back burner."

Banash added, "Also, you are not even discussing other possibilities. You are not even looking at whether a superintendency union makes any sense. Now, while we don't have a superintendent, it's the time to do that."

Selectboard chair Randy Crochier said, "Also, is she the best candidate? We won't know."

Langknecht said Ekstrom was tapped for interim superintendent not because, "It was easy and otherwise we'd fight," but because the timing was wrong to begin a search for candidates now. He recommended forming a town-school committee to discuss the structure of the district, and said he would bring the selectboard's concerns back to the school committee for further discussion. "We are partners," he said.

But Langknecht said he was not inclined to start a search for a new superintendent now, because, "I'd be concerned it might undermine the authority of the interim superintendent."

Sandy Brown, school committee member from Gill, said,

"I like the idea of having a sub-committee set up now to look at all the angles. We should start now."

Jane Oakes, school committee member from Gill said, "I didn't gather that there wasn't a setting of goals. We came up with a list of questions for Nadine - that was goal setting. That was a process, if brief."

Oakes said it was difficult to respond to the letter from the selectboard once the school committee was already engaged in the process of hiring Ekstrom.

Crochier pointed out that the decision the selectboards were questioning only got set in motion at the meeting on the 17th, one week before they presented their concerns to the school committee.

Banash added that she and Montague selectboard member Pat Allen approached Langknecht directly after the meeting on the 17th to deliver their concerns to him personally, and were told, according to Banash, "Well, we're hiring Nadine."

Oakes said, "I didn't want the idea out there that it was by default. 'Well, there's someone out there and she's here.' We asked questions. I took notes on her answers. It was a very brief process. The whole process was surprising; we were thrust into the middle of it," by Ladd's unexpected resignation.

Wrapping up, Banash said, "We go on from here."

Langknecht responded, "I hope you're not shy."

Banash assured him. "We're not."



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*Gill-Montague Education Fund president Sandy Miner (front right) presented an autographed copy of Turners Falls alum David Brule's book West Along the River to TFHS librarian Diane Hirtle on Wednesday, as Joyce Phillips (left, rear) and Tina Phillips look on. Joyce Phillips said, "This will be a wonderful opportunity for students to discover and learn about their community."*



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# Fournier Press Readied at Montague Treatment Plant

BY DAVID DETMOLD

**MONTAGUE CITY** - The Montague water pollution control facility will soon be shaving something in the neighborhood of 80% to 90% off the weekly hauling fees for removing sludge from the treatment plant on Greenfield Road, once the new Fournier Press is up and running.

That day should come before the middle of July, said wastewater treatment plant supervisor Bob Trombley on a tour of the facility last Friday.

"The total operational cost savings for the year should be on the order of \$150,000," Trombley predicted.

The treatment plant crew has already saved the town about \$40,000 a year on solids handling, due to a change in the biological process by which the plant breaks down the daily inflow. This change, from a conventional waste activated method of handling, to the current extended aeration process, was instituted after the staff got together with Trombley two years ago and added up the pluses and minuses of the extended, 20-day treatment process, and decided to give it a try.

"We tried it and found it had a number of benefits," said Trombley.

Essentially, the microorgan-

isms that work on the inflowing wastewater, "consume themselves" over the course of the extended aeration method, Trombley explained, and thereby reduce the amount of solids that eventually flow into two large, 9,000 gallon sludge storage tanks.

From there, the solids are pumped out weekly to tanker trucks from Wall Trucking, who truck it to solid waste landfills in Fitchburg, or Millbury.

At present, about four to seven truckloads, with 8500-9000 gallons of sludge in each load, leave the plant each week.

But once the Fournier Press gets cranking, that amount should be reduced to approximately one truckload every week and a half to two weeks, Trombley said.

The press, which was delivered last month from Canada, from Thetford Mines south of Quebec City, has been hard mounted to the concrete floor of the solids handling building. The building has had a new extension built onto it to handle the new conveyor system that will load the sludge onto trucks in the loading dock.

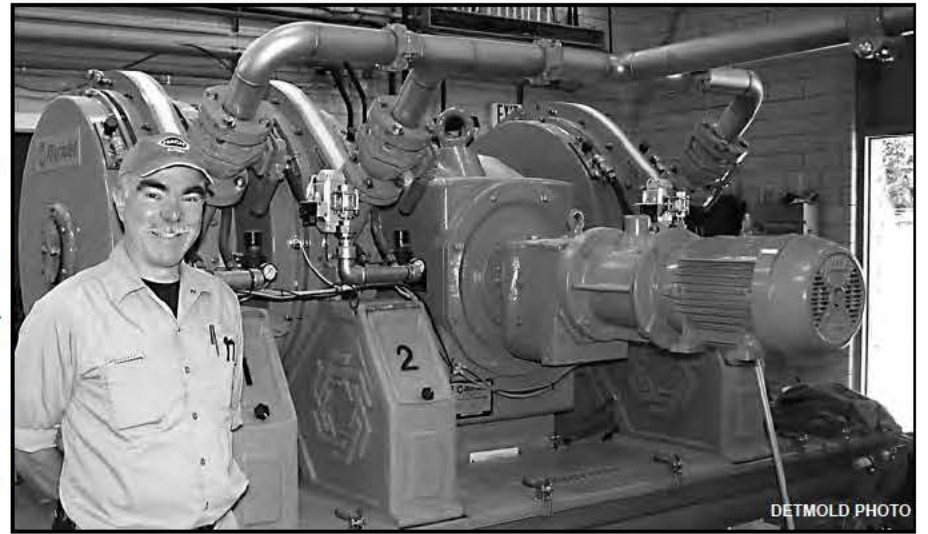
Electricians and contractors from DelRay Construction in Ellington, CT were busy running wire and conduit and adjusting the conveyor system on Friday.

The three closed circular zones in the Fournier press operate to coagulate and dewater the sludge by the process of pneumatic pressure, cycling the sludge slowly round and round over time. A polymer is first added to help separate the water from the solids.

The specialized press cost about \$450,000 to purchase and install, said Trombley, with that money coming from three different sources: a state revolving loan fund, a USDA loan, and a federal grant arranged through the office of Congressman John Olver.

"The Fournier press will allow us to process out unneeded pounds of sludge at the plant," said Trombley. "Currently, we wait for gravity to settle out the solids." But with the Fournier press in operation, "Thick or thin, we can process it out into cake at any time."

The Montague wastewater treatment plant handles about one million gallons of wastewater a day, from all sewered residences in the town of Montague except the village of Millers Falls, where the wastewater flows beneath the Millers River to the Erving side



Wastewater treatment plant supervisor Bob Trombley shows off the new Fournier press.

treatment plant. The Southworth Paper Mill is a major contributor to the waste stream, and the town of Gill also sends sewage beneath the Connecticut River to the Montague treatment plant from Riverside.

Once the wastewater enters the headworks of the plant, where screens remove debris, it is allowed to settle in primary tanks, where 40% - 45% of the solids are removed by the simple process of gravity. Next, the wastewater is pumped to aeration tanks where the biological process of separation occurs, and from there it flows to large secondary clarifiers, where paddle wheels turn slowly, skimming off more water from the solids.

"By the end of the second day, we've removed 96% of what comes in to the plant from the water," said Trombley.

Some of the solids from the secondary clarifiers are returned to the aeration tanks to reseed the biological process. The rest become an expensive side stream to be shipped to the landfill.

Now, the sludge heading out the door by the truckload each week is 4% - 5% solids; the rest is water.

Once the Fournier press is running, Trombley said the sludge will be dewatered to 35% or maybe 40% solids. Neighbors should notice a lessening of obnoxious odor from the accumulating sludge, Trombley added.

Now that this problem has been addressed, the treatment plant is looking to the future, when the Environmental Protection Agency may begin tightening regulations regarding how much nitrogen wastewater treatment plants can release to the rivers. The dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico, covering 6,000 - 7,000 square miles, has been much in the news lately, downstream of the Mississippi, and nitrogen is one of the main causes. A similar problem exists on a

see PLANT page 14

## SOFTBALL from page 1

over from second, for a double play.

Pitcher Emily Mailloux topped it off by fanning the last batter to retire the side.

St. Jo's left runners on in each inning, with nine hits, including a double over York's glove in the third by starting pitcher Chanler Hospot.

Left fielder Brittany York was the lone hitter in the bottom of the fourth for Turners, when she led off the inning with a stand-up double smacked deep into left center field on a 0-1 pitch. But that was the only hit for the home team that inning as four walks and a hit batter brought in three runs to put Turners well in front.

Mailloux grounded out to

third with the bases loaded to end what could not really be called a rally.

Mailloux continued to dominate her opponents from the pitcher's mound, however, with two batters going down swinging in the top of the 5th, to add to her total of eight strike outs for the night.

St. Jo's threatened again in the top of the 6th, after Erica Quallen dropped a lightly hit ball just over the base line in shallow right for a lead off single. After the next batter flied out to deep left field, where York was waiting for it, Mailloux gave up her only walk of the game, before mowing down the next batter down, swinging.

With two out and two on, Marissa Avanzato hit a slow grounder to shortstop Stacy

French, who made the put out at first, but just barely. The infield umpire called the runner safe, but Turners coach Gary Mullins appealed the call, and the home plate umpire agreed with him.

The call was reversed, and the side was retired.

Turners put the icing on the cake in the bottom of the inning, after Sam Caouette popped out and Stacy French went down swinging for the first two outs. Kelsey Waldron, who had flied out to deep left center in her first at bat, and fouled her next attempt back to the catcher, smacked a line drive down the third base line off the fielder's glove, reaching first on an error.

Jenna Costa broke the hitless streak that had held Turners in its sway for the last 14 batters by laying down a neat bunt and

beating the throw to first, for two on, two away.

Smith-Porter, who doubled to left in her first at bat, grounded out in the 3rd, and walked in the 4th, drew another walk now to load the bases.

Then Emily Mailloux got up and put the game entirely out of reach with a long fly ball to center field. The fielder, on a dead run, got her glove on the ball, but couldn't hold onto it.

The official scorer called it in error, but in any case three runs scored and Mailloux wound up on third base with a triumphant smile on her face. York grounded out to end the inning.

After making short work of the Crusaders in the top of the 7th, Turners claimed victory in the quarterfinal 6-0.



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# Wendell Town Meeting Backs Home Rule for Low Carbon Impact Homes



AL MACINTIRE PHOTO

Wendell town moderator Kathy Becker (File Photo)

**BY JOSH HEINEMANN** - By majority voice vote on Tuesday, Wendell town meeting passed an article petitioning the state legislature to allow the town to develop its own bylaws and regulations to permit alternative energy and sanitation systems for homeowners.

The article comes six months after the Wendell board of health turned down an application for a special permit from Jonathan and Susan von Ranson to build a non-electric apartment in their barn. The von Ransons planned to live in the apartment, heat their living space and water with wood, use propane lanterns for light, a hand pump for water, and a composting toilet for waste, in intentional effort to reduce their carbon footprint.

Selectboard member Jeffrey Pooser said if the legislature supports the measure, it would provide the necessary legal

framework to allow the Wendell board of health flexibility to allow homeowners to live in non-electric homes, or homes without hot running water. Local environmentalists have been advocating for the right to live simply, as a means of reducing the use of fossil fuels.

Librarian Rosie Heidkamp called the current state health code "antiquated," in its requirement that all homes be built with electric wiring, septic systems and hot running water.

The article asked: "to see if the town will vote to petition the General Court for special legislation to exempt the town from the provisions of Chapter 111, Section 127A in order to allow the town to develop its own bylaws and regulations to permit alternative energy and sanitation systems for use in owner-occupied residential units, or take any other action in relation thereto."

Contacted Wednesday for comment, representative Steve Kulik (D-Worthington) said he supported the home rule petition, "enthusiastically."

He added, "I look forward to trying to shepherd a piece of legislation through so the town can do what it wants to do as expressed at town meeting."

Kulik said the process from here would involve the town forwarding a copy of the certified vote of town meeting to him, so he could draft legislation reflecting what the town has asked for.

"I am sure Senator Rosenberg will co-sponsor it," he added.

The bill will get assigned to a committee, perhaps the housing committee, for a public hearing, and the town will be welcome to send advocates to speak for the legislation at that hearing. Kulik said the hearing might take until fall to schedule, due to legislators' present focus on the state budget.

Kulik said he would also speak at the public hearing,

"and say why I think it's a good idea. Hopefully, the committee will understand this is a home rule petition. This is what the town wants to do. It's reasonable."

If the committee holding the hearing concurs, the bill will be forwarded to the full House, and if acted on favorably there will move onto the Senate, where Rosenberg would support its passage, Kulik said.

Kulik cautioned, "I do not know if any person or agency or organization might speak in opposition, whether it's the state Department of Health or anyone else. Then certainly the committee that has jurisdiction over this will weigh the pros and cons. It carries great weight with any legislative committee that the town is looking for this right to set reasonable bylaws within its own borders."

Kulik concluded, "I would be optimistic that we would be able to do this, especially with people's growing awareness of low impact living and energy awareness. That's the intent

here. I intend to wholeheartedly support Jonathan and Susan von Ranson in what they want to do. There are various state regulations limiting what they want to do: they err on the side of caution and probably never gave thought to how this could take effect in a rural area."

In spite of beginning half an hour earlier than usual on Monday night, Wendell voters were unable to complete action on the thirty article warrant in one evening.

Finance committee member Jim Slavas noted the change to the condition of Wendell's stabilization account due to the nearly \$650,000 committed to the Swift River School's green repair program for a new roof and boiler. Financing of this project will now leave stabilization with about \$400,000, a good amount considering Wendell's size and in comparison with other Franklin County towns, but low enough to demand caution in depleting the fund further.

see **LOW CARBON** pg 13

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG Threat, Assault, Dumping, Burglary

### Wednesday, 6/1

9:20 a.m. Threatening, harassment on West Mineral Road. Advised of options.

11:25 a.m. Illegal dumping under the power lines at Hatchery Road and Greenfield Road. Investigated.

4:55 p.m. Threatening, harassment on Dell Street. Advised of options.

6:03 p.m. Assault on Avenue A. Services rendered.

7:02 p.m. Assault-related arrest of [redacted] for trespassing.

8:30 p.m. Arrest of [redacted]

[redacted], for domestic assault and battery.

### Thursday, 6/2

1:02 p.m. Arrest of [redacted]

[redacted], for failure to take care in starting, stopping, turning, or backing, failure to stop for police, operating to endanger, marked lanes violations, and subsequent offense of operating a motor vehicle with a revoked license.

7:03 p.m. Threatening, harassment on Burek Drive. Services rendered.

9:25 p.m. Straight warrant arrest of [redacted]

### Friday, 6/3

7:19 a.m. Threatening, harassment on Burek Drive. Advised of options.

10:58 a.m. Unwanted person on Fourth Street. Peace restored.

3:49 p.m. Assault reported at Unity Street. Services rendered.

10:18 p.m. Suspicious auto at Unity Park on First Street. Services rendered.

### Saturday, 6/4

1:10 a.m. Arrest of [redacted], for assault and battery, intimidating a witness, and resisting arrest on Second Street.

2:08 a.m. Assault on Avenue A. Referred to an officer.

6:34 p.m. Neighbor disturbance on Montague

City Road. Peace restored.

### Sunday, 6/5

10:02 p.m. Disturbance, verbal exchange on Avenue A. Advised of options.

### Monday, 6/6

2:58 p.m. Threatening, harassment on Fourth Street. Advised of options.

6:07 p.m. Intoxicated subject reported at Scotty's on Unity Street. Services rendered.

### Tuesday, 6/7

9:18 a.m. Illegal dumping on Fourth Street. Services rendered.

5:42 p.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on West Chestnut Hill Road. Investigated.

6:03 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Franklin Street. Investigated.

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - Q. Is breast cancer the leading cause of cancer death in women?

Breast cancer is second - behind lung cancer - as the leading cause of cancer death in women. The chance of developing invasive breast cancer at some time in a woman's life is about 1 in 8.

There are many risk factors for breast cancer.

The risk rises with age. About 77% of women with breast cancer are older than 50 when they are diagnosed.

Breast cancer risk is higher among women whose close relatives have the disease.

A woman with cancer in one breast is at high risk of developing a new cancer in either of her breasts.

Women who started menstru-

## THE HEALTHY GEEZER: Breast Cancer

ating before age 12 or who went through menopause after age 55 have a slightly higher risk of breast cancer.

Having multiple pregnancies and becoming pregnant at an early age reduces breast cancer risk.

Long-term use of hormone replacement therapy (HRT) after menopause increases your risk of breast cancer.

Drinking alcohol is linked to an increased risk of developing breast cancer.

Obesity is a breast cancer risk, especially for women after menopause.

Evidence is growing that exercise reduces breast cancer risk.

Breast cancer can also strike men. Most men who get breast cancer are white and in their 60s. However, the disease is uncommon in men, representing only 1% of all breast cancers. Because of its rarity, many men aren't aware it exists.

For unknown reasons, the incidence of male breast cancer has been increasing. About 2,000 men in the U.S. are diagnosed with breast cancer annually.

If you have a question, please write to [fred@healthygeezers.com](mailto:fred@healthygeezers.com)

from **LOW CARBON** pg 12

### Orange May Block Alternative Assessment

The article regarding general government, Article 4, proceeded without comment until voters got to the Mahar budget.

The Mahar school committee requested \$350,850 for the town's share of the district's operating budget, but the Wendell finance committee recommended \$311,343, both saying their figure reflected full support of the Mahar budget. How?

The higher figure was derived from Wendell paying in accordance with the statutory method of assessment, which has been followed in the Mahar district since 1995. Lately, the statutory method of assessment has resulted in Wendell paying over \$9,000 per student attending Mahar, while Orange, another member town in the district, pays less than \$6,000 per student.

But this year, by agreement of the Mahar school committee, an alternative method of assessment should be in place, and the lower figure recommended by the Wendell finance committee reflected that lower amount.

Mahar school committee member Dick Baldwin told the meeting since the school committee has approved the alternative assessment method, all that remained was for the four towns in the Mahar region to approve the method as well.

Baldwin said if Wendell approved the higher number, as requested, the town would be refunded the \$39,507 difference once all the member towns had voted.

Finance committee chair Michael Idoine asked if Baldwin had that in writing, and he answered, "in typing," and handed Idoine a printed sheet.

Idoine did not find it convincing.

Paul Costello said that voting the lower amount before all towns had agreed to the alternative assessment method might open the door for Orange town meeting to reduce the total school budget by \$100,000, as the Orange finance committee has requested. It takes three towns to agree on a number to pass the Mahar budget.

Discussion continued around and around, until finally the matter was tabled until the following evening, when Mahar superintendent Michael Baldassarre was able to attend.

Baldassarre said he had been at the Petersham town meeting on Monday evening, and had convinced voters there to approve the alternative assessment method along with their budget request. New Salem has done the same.

Baldassarre asked that Wendell appropriate the higher amount, which would force Orange to accept the full assessment figure. Along with that, he said, Orange would likely accept the alternative assessment method at their town meeting on June 20th, since the alternate method would hold Orange (and indeed the other two towns) harmless, as Baldassarre plans to take the \$39,000 from within the overall school budget to refund Wendell.

According to Baldassarre, that two step process would put Wendell's final payment in line with the alternative assessment method agreed upon by the Mahar school committee, after years of lobbying by Wendell.

The question was finally called, and voters opted to go with the higher number for Mahar, by a hand count of 64 to 6.

That brought the town's omnibus article for general government to a grand total of \$1,934,379.

However, on Wednesday, Baldassarre wrote an email to Slavos that read, "I spoke with [Orange town manager Rich] Kwiatkowski this morning. At this point the Orange finance committee intends to veto the alternative assessment. I am going to ask them to reconsider. I will keep you in the loop of communication."

Article 5 passed unanimously, consolidating the town's continuing debt service on the fire truck, the building construction, the purchase of Fiske Pond, Mahar construction, and the purchase of the town office building property at 9 Morse Village Road for a total of \$142,012, of which \$96,464 will come from stabilization. Article 7 returned \$20,000 from taxation into stabilization. Other money articles added various sums to the reserve fund, the insurance reserve fund, the unemployment compensation fund, and the pension reserve fund.

Article 14, supported by the open space committee, passed by voice vote, appropriating \$750 to hire a consultant to create a plan with community input for a demonstration permaculture food garden on the office building lot, in a steep, undeveloped part of the community garden.

Citizen Morgan Mead objected, saying he did not want anyone telling him how to plant his garden.

Consultant Jonathan Bates will hold a workshop in the town hall on Monday June 13th at 7:00 p.m., and on the afternoon of July 31st there will be a community brainstorm, or charrette, at the town hall to begin the process of planning the permaculture garden.

Voters created a position of facilities engineer, which would maintain the complex, computerized and troubled see **LOW CARBON** pg 16

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

#### Soliciting, Accident, Firearms Recovery

Wednesday, 5/25

3:55 p.m. Suspicious person and motor vehicle on South Cross Road. Salesman door to door. 4:10 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Ben Hale Road. Parties removed. 7:20 p.m. Assisted residence with firearms recovery.

Thursday, 5/26

8:45 p.m. Assisted Erving police with search warrant of residence. 1:10 p.m. Motor vehicle accident at the Main Road and Route 2 inter-

section. No injuries.

Friday, 5/27

9:50 p.m. Officer requested for assistance with firearms issue on Main Road. 9:00 p.m. Assisted Northfield police with an arrest. 8:30 p.m. Located erratic operator of a motor vehicle at the Gill Mobil. Corrected driving behavior.

Saturday, 5/28

11:00 a.m. Assisted Bernardston police with a traffic issue.

12:00 p.m. Responded to Center Road residence for open 911 emergency line, all parties OK.

2:00 p.m. Assisted Environmental Police at boat ramp with a subject.

9:10 p.m. Suspicious person going door to door in Riverside area, Salesman.

9:30 p.m. Security check on building on Grist Mill Road.

Sunday, 5/29

4:40 p.m. Minor motor vehicle accident at boat ramp on French King Highway.

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from GRADS page 1

“Trust that what you have learned from your teachers, parents, family and friends has been a good foundation for success in life. Believe in yourself, believe that when you work hard enough on your goals you can achieve anything. Hope that

what you desire will be achieved by the confidence you hold within yourself.” She said she’d been told that the class of 2011 looks out for one another, supports each other, works hard to achieve their goals and perseveres when things get hard. They learn from their difficul-

ties and have pride in their achievements.

With that, the graduates were applauded and began their procession to be awarded their diplomas, accompanied by the Turners Falls High School band. Awarding diplomas and congratulating graduates were Fitzpatrick, assistant principal William Berton, Ekstrom, and chair of the Gill-Montague

school committee Michael Langknecht. There were smiles, lots of hugs, grads sharing in the moment with each other as they took turns moving each other’s tassels from one side to the other of their mortarboards – and then a party atmosphere ensued.

Ekstrom closed with a quote from an unknown author, “I hope your dreams take you to

the corners of your smiles, to the highest of your hopes, to the windows of your opportunities and to the most special places your heart has ever known.”

High school science teacher Bob Pearlman said to a friend in the crowd he wished the people at the education department could see this, saying, “Those kids had such a great experience.”

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from PLANT page 11

smaller scale in the Long Island Sound, so tightening of regulations for nitrogen released into the Connecticut is likely on the horizon.

Trombley said there are many sources of nitrogen being released into the Connecticut, including farm fertilizers, emissions from Midwest power plants, and runoff from fertilizers on residential lawns. But the wastewater treatment plants are sites the government can control by permit, and so,

in anticipation, Trombley’s crew is monitoring the monthly levels of nitrogen now, hoping to devise an organic process to reduce this aspect of the waste stream too.

A study four years ago said it might cost the town of Montague up to \$4 million dollars to reduce the flow of nitrogen from the treatment plant to acceptable levels. As with the installation of the Fournier press, Trombley said, “New technology may modify that amount somewhat. We’re try-

ing to sidestep a very large expense the town faces if we get regulated in the future.”

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LEVERETT POLICE LOG**

**Accident on Cave Hill Road**  
**Wednesday, 6/1**  
 6:49 p.m. One car accident at Cave Hill Road at the Sawmill River Bridge in No. Leverett. [redacted] lost control of her vehicle and struck the bridge abutment. Minor injury, refused treatment. Vehicle towed. Under investigation.

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Highway Superintendent, P.O. Box 187, Wendell, MA 01379. For more information, call Richard Wilder at (978) 544-3735.

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### TOWN OF WENDELL

#### Request For Proposals Sale of Real Property at 78 Wicket Pond Road, Wendell, MA

The Town of Wendell is seeking proposals for the sale of the Town-owned parcel of land, with improvements thereon, located at 78 Wicket Pond Road, Wendell, MA (the “Property”). The Property consists of approximately 30 acres of land, surrounded on all sides by conservation land, an original farm house dating from the early 1800’s, several outbuildings, and a small barn.

Proposals will be accepted at the Selectboard’s Office, P.O. Box 41, 9 Morse Village Road, Wendell, MA 01379, until 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 13, 2011, at which time and place the proposals will be publicly opened. A site visit will take place on June 25 at 10 a.m.

Questions may be directed to the Town Coordinator and copies of the full RFP may be obtained at the Selectboard’s Office, 9 Morse Village Road, P.O. Box 41, Wendell, MA 01379, or by calling (978) 544-3395.

Minimum proposal price is \$25,000.00.

The successful proposer and the Town shall enter into a purchase and sale agreement substantially similar to the Purchase and Sale Agreement contained in the RFP. The Property will be conveyed subject to a conservation restriction limiting development to one residential dwelling, and restricting the use of the property to residential purposes, agriculture, aquaculture, forestry and outbuildings or structures ancillary to such uses.

The Town of Wendell, acting through its Selectboard, reserves the right to waive any informality, to negotiate any and all non-mandatory contract terms with the successful proposer, to select the proposal deemed in the best interest of the Town, and to reject any or all proposals if it is in the public interest to do so.

Nancy Aldrich, Town Coordinator

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**THURSDAY, JUNE 9th**  
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *The Down and Dirty Drag Show, Watcher*, 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Free Range*, Classic rock and dance music, 8-10 p.m.

Greenfield Energy Park: *Coop Concert Series, featuring Michael Orlen, Tom Carroll, and Small Change*, 6-8 p.m.

**FRIDAY, JUNE 10th and SATURDAY, JUNE 11th**  
All of Turners Falls: *Water Under the Bridge Festival*. Music performances at several venues in town. See listings below and at [waterunderthebridge.info](http://waterunderthebridge.info).

Memorial Hall Theater, Shelburne Falls: *Pothole pictures* presents two documentaries, *Wild View*, about the Connecticut River Valley. Also, *Atacama*, the Flowering Desert, 80 min. total for both films. Meet the filmmaker, director

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*Christian Muñoz-Donoso* from Montague. Music featured before each showing at 7 p.m.: Friday, *Small Change* - acoustic swing, & on Saturday, *Last Night's Fun* - Irish/Celtic music.

**FRIDAY, JUNE 10th and 17th and SATURDAY JUNE 11th & 18th**  
Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Macbeth*, 7 p.m. Also, 2 p.m. show on June 19th.

**FRIDAY, JUNE 10th**  
Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Daniel Hales, and the frost heaves*. at the Great Falls Coffeehouse, offering a mix of indie rock, psychedelic folk. 7 p.m.

Ristorante DiPaolo, Turners Falls: *Larry Klein Trio*, jazz, 6 - 9 p.m.

Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: *Una Jensen*, pop rock singer songwriter, 7 - 8 p.m.

Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: *Pitchfork*, rock, 8 - 9 p.m.

Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: *The Junkyard Dog Variety Show*, with special guests and door prizes, 9 - 10 p.m.

Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: *David Faces North*, rock, 10 - 11 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Nobody's Fat*, funk-jazz, *Mountain Interval*, indie-experimental, 9:30 p.m.

Between the Uprights, Turners Falls: *Curly Fingers Dupree*, rock, blues, funk, r&b, 8:30 - 11:30 p.m.

Extra Point Nightclub, Tuners Falls: *DJ COV*, 10 p.m.

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

Athol YMCA Pool: North Quabbin Films presents *Toy Story 3*, float and enjoy the film, 7 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Richard Chase Group*, Acoustic driven originals, 9-11 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *All day celebration of Mocha Maya's sixth anniversary*.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Kristin Hoffman*, singer, songwriter, with special guest *Elise Hayes*, acoustic pop soul, 8 p.m.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 11th**  
Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *GeoPlus River Walk*, 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Children's series: *Crayfish and aquatic insects*, 10:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. Free.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Water Under the Bridge Bike Tour* along the Canal-side bike path. Learn the history of bridges over the Connecticut River in Turners Falls, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. Free.

Shutesbury Center: *Shutesbury 250th Anniversary Parade*. 3 p.m.

Second Street Baking Company, Turners Falls: *Heather Maloney*, pop, folk singer, songwriter, 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

Turn It Up! Stage in Peskeomskut Park, Turners Falls: *Dakota Roberts*, punk, folk, gypsy, 10 - 1:30 p.m.

Second Street Baking Company, Turners Falls: *Lovely Red Vega*, indie, folk, 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Turn It Up! Stage in Peskeomskut Park, Turners Falls: *Josh Wachtel of Radio Free Earth*, Americana, roots, world and original, 1:45 - 2:15 p.m.

Rendezvous deck, Turners Falls: *Ronald and Adrian Meck*, traditional and contemporary Celtic, 2 - 3 p.m.

Turn It Up! Stage in Peskeomskut Park, Turners Falls: *Heather Maloney*, pop, folk singer, songwriter, 2:30 - 3 p.m.

Rendezvous deck, Turners Falls: *Daniel Hales and the frost heaves*, indie, Americana, 3- 3:45 p.m.



*Lovely Red Vega will play at Second Street Baking Company at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 11th as part of the Water Under the Bridge Music Festival, happening at venues all over Turners Falls on June 10th and 11th.*

Turn It Up! Stage in Peskeomskut Park, Turners Falls: *Green River String Band*, bluegrass, 3:15 - 3:45 p.m.

Turn It Up! Stage in Peskeomskut Park, Turners Falls: *And the Kids and the Pirates*, rock, folk, punk, 4 - 4:45 p.m.

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Teen Battle of the Bands*, anything and everything, Youth under age 25, 1-3 songs. PRIZES! To register, call 413-863-9559. 4 - 6 p.m.

Rendezvous deck, Turners Falls: *Green River String Band*, bluegrass, 4 - 5 p.m.

Turn It Up! Stage in Peskeomskut Park, Turners Falls: *Sun Parade*, indie folk rock, 5 - 5:45 p.m.

Turn It Up! Stage in Peskeomskut Park, Turners Falls: *LuxDeluxe*, indie rock, 6 - 6:45 p.m.

Ristorante DiPaolo, Turners Falls: *Markamusic*, Latin American, 6 - 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Bella's Bartok*, 9:30 p.m.

Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: *Heavy Metal Night featuring: The Grave - Metal, Metal, and More Metal* -9 p.m.

Extra Point Nightclub, Turners Falls: *DJ COV*, 10 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *John Sheldon and Blue Streak*, 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Reprobate Blues Band*, 9-11 p.m.

Leverett Town Hall: *The Veterans Education Project and the Echo Lake Coffeehouse* present an evening of songs and stories of war, performing will be *John Sheldon, Al Miller, Ron and Adrian Meck*. 7:30 p.m.

Memorial Hall Theater  
**POTHOLE PICTURES**

Friday & Saturday  
June 10th & 11th at 7:30 p.m.  
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Montague Director *Christian Munoz*

Music 1/2 hour before movie:  
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Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Adam Bergeron*, classical piano, 1 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Luke Mullholland Band*, classic blues rock, with special guest *Glenn Roth*, innovative finger style guitarist, 7:30 p.m.

**SUNDAY JUNE 12th**  
Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Watershed Poets and Watershed Wildflowers*, 2 - 3:30 p.m. Free.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *John Sheldon*, 9 p.m.

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

Montague Bookmill: *Lovely Red Vega with Carrie Ferguson and the Cherry Street Band*, 8 p.m.

**MONDAY, JUNE 13**  
Wendell Town Hall: *Edible Forest Garden Workshop*, Learn how to create a beautiful, low-maintenance, edible landscape for your home or farm. Presented by Jonathan Bates, Food Forest Farm. 7 - 9 p.m.

**TUESDAY, JUNE 14th**  
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: showing of *Pee-Wee's Big Adventure*. Free.

Gill Commons: *Denise Gendron*, Gill Summer Concert Series, 7 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15th**  
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Quizmaster Chad's Quiz Nite Quiz*, 8 p.m.

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

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

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

Greenfield Energy Park: *Coop Summer Concert Series, Green River String Band, Barry Higgins, Daniel Hales and the frost heaves*. 6-8 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

**SATURDAY, JUNE 18th**  
Millers Falls Rod & Gun Club: *First Annual Mutton & Mead Festival*, traditionally known as a Renaissance Faire, is the first of its kind for Montague and will bring together fun, food, and entertainment with a medieval flair. This will

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be a day for everyone, kids, teens, and adults alike, and dressing up in period costumes will heighten the experience for everyone. See [montaguema.net](http://montaguema.net). 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Canoe Barton Cove*, Join the Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center for an intro to canoe safety, paddling on the Connecticut River and the magic of Barton Cove. Space is limited so registration is encouraged. 413-863-3221. Two trips 1- 2:30 pm and 3- 4:30 pm.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Pat and Tex LaMountain, Americana*, free, 7:30 p.m.

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

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**Friday, 6/10 9 - 11 p.m.**  
Richard Chase Group

**Saturday, 6/11 9 - 11 p.m.**  
The Reprobate Blues Band

**Sunday, 6/12 8 - 10 p.m.**  
John Sheldon

**Thursday, 6/16 1 - 4 p.m.**  
Wailin' Dave Robinson & Tommy Filault

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[waterunderthebridge.info](http://waterunderthebridge.info)

FRI 6/10 9:30 \$5  
*Nobody's Fat* (jazz/funk)  
*Mountain Interval* (indie, rock)

SAT 6/11 \$5  
*Bella's Bartok* (gypsy stomp)

SUN 6/12 8PM FREE  
TNT KARAOKE

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# Misfits Welcome to the Prom in Wendell

**BY DAVID DETMOLD** - This Saturday, dust off your corsages and put on your dancing shoes for the third annual Wendell Misfit Prom.

Organizer Donna Horn said the event is a chance for anyone who didn't like their first prom to have a do-over. Even if you did enjoy your first prom, you won't be turned away.

"You can go any way you like for this prom," promised Horn, who moonlights as a cashier at the Wendell Country Store when

she is not organizing community events for quirky people. "Take a date, take any amount of dates; this is a chance to do it right!"

The all-girl fave band Dedicated to Delilah will be performing live on stage with classics from the 60s, 70s, and 80s, with the surprise addition of Llama Lasagna, described as a theatrical cover band. Fire spinners will perform feats of pyrotechnic amazement on the town common, and the photo booth will be busy snapping

prom photos you wished you had the nerve to take decades ago.

The Samba D. Love-Us Drummers will be rapping out a rock steady beat, and Genevieve Gagnard has promised to pop by for a picture perfect lip synch session. Judges Suzy Polucci, Karen Copeland and Paul Richmond will be scanning the crowd for the most fabulous people in the run-up to crowning this year's prom King and Queen.

"I invented the Misfit Prom," Horn declared proudly. "I wanted to dress up like Princess Barbie. I have a great big pink poofy dress, and there are not nearly enough opportunities to wear a big pink poofy dress in Wendell." Not to mention the tiara.



PHOTO BY PATTI SCUTARI

The amazing Horn sisters. Left: Tina Horn of "Dedicated to Delilah," right, Donna Horn, creator of the Misfits Prom. (Photo taken at the first Wendell Misfits Prom in 2009)

The Misfit Prom starts at 7 p.m. this Saturday, June 11th. Be there, even if you are square.

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SATURDAY:  
TEEN BATTLE OF THE BANDS  
AT THE BRICK HOUSE  
BRIDGE BIKE TOUR

from **LOW CARBON** pg 13 heating systems of the town office building and library. Voters approved taking \$70,000 from stabilization to buy a new dump truck for the highway department and \$15,000 for site work and construction of a new playground next to the library, a process that will use volunteer and professional work. Some money for that project will come from other sources.

In accordance with a 100-year-old state law, the town took its second ballot vote to create a municipal lighting plant, to provide the legal basis for facilitating the delivery of broadband internet access to every house in town through the newly formed municipal collaborative, Wired West.

On Tuesday, moderator Kathy Becker announced that the ballot vote to create a municipal lighting plant carried 60 votes for, 3 against, with one abstention.

After some objection from

people who find the town office building less convenient than the library and the Wendell Country Store, voters approved an article to reduce the number of posting places to one, the enclosed bulletin board at the town office building.

Supporters of the measure, members of town committees, cited the difficulty created by the state open meeting law that requires a full agenda to be posted for every meeting, which has required volunteer board members to drive around town for every meeting. Highway commission chair Harry Williston said the commission gets about one visitor a year. Idoine said the finance committee has had only one visitor in the seven years he has been a member (this time).

The town approved reducing the official number of website committee members from 5 to 3, which would allow the two members who regularly come to meetings to constitute

a quorum.

Voters approved an article that would allow residential customers to participate in the Hampshire Council of Governments aggregated supply of electricity. Many towns and school districts have already participated in the program for municipal buildings, and have saved money every year, if not every month, and with the approval of this article residential customers may soon have the same opportunity, with the further approval of the selectboard and the DPU. Residential electricity customers in Wendell will automatically participate in this program unless they chose to opt out using a stamped envelope and form the Hampshire Council will supply to all customers.

Voters approved zoning bylaw changes to decrease the required distance between a single house, or a duplex, to a town right of way to 35 feet.

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