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ELUSIVE BOBCATS

in Massachusetts

Page 9



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The Montague Reporter

YEAR 8 - NO. 33

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MAY 20, 2010

Boutwell, Crochier Win Seats on Selectboard in Montague and Gill; Montague Taps Oakes for School Committee, Overturning the Vote in Gill for Brown



DETMOLD PHOTO

Chris Boutwell

BY DAVID DETMOLD - In town and school district elections on Monday, apathy reigned, with only 17.5% of the voters turning out under sunny skies to cast ballots in Montague, and 22% in Gill.

In Montague, 976 of the town's 5,794 voters went to the polls to hand a three year seat on the selectboard to board of health chair Chris Boutwell. Boutwell, a Democrat, easily defeated two challengers with 581 votes to

193 for newcomer Rachel Roy, (R) and 150 for Margaret Pyfrom (D).

Town clerk Deb Bourbeau swamped her rival Michael Henry 881 - 60 to retain the elected position of town clerk for another three years.

Bourbeau was the top vote getter townwide.

In Gill, out of 1046 eligible voters, 233 turned up to vote, or about 22%. Board of health member Randy Crochier unseated incumbent Nancy



DETMOLD PHOTO

Randy Crochier

Griswold in a race for a three-year seat on the selectboard, by a vote of 161 to 71.

Fifty seven percent of Gill voters favored incumbent Sandy Brown over challenger Jane Oakes for a three year seat on the Gill-Montague regional school committee, by a vote of 130 to 99. But fifty eight percent of Montague voters picked Jane Oakes, by a vote of 528 to 376 for Sandy Brown, to represent the town of Gill on the regional school committee.

Due to the disproportionate size of the electorate in Montague compared to the smaller number of voters in Gill, Montague voters in effect picked Gill's new school committee representative for them.

Running unopposed, Joyce Phillips of Turners Falls got 816 total votes for another three year term from Montague on the school com-

see VOTE pg 7

Town Asked to Take Over Care of North Leverett Cemeteries



DETMOLD PHOTO

Arnold Glazier, president of the North Leverett Cemetery Association

BY DAVID DETMOLD - Arnold Glazier would like the town of Leverett to take over care and maintenance of the cemeteries on the north side of town.

Glazier, who has presided over the North Leverett Cemetery Association since 1984, told the selectboard on Tuesday, May 11th, "It's getting to the point where the town's going to have to run the cemeteries. We've been doing it since 1916. We've got five up in the north end of town. One's hiding in the bushes.

"There are eight of ten of us in the association," continued Glazier. "But nobody wants to continue on. My brother's mixed up in it. He can't hardly get around. I'm in about the same sit-

uation myself."

Board member Julie Shively asked Glazier if he could provide the board with a written description of the responsibilities and cemeteries under the association's care.

He brought with him a scrolled up blueprint of the Plainview Cemetery, on North Leverett Road, which Glazier said was the only cemetery in the north part of town with plots available for new burials.

Regarding the demand for new burials in North Leverett, Glazier said, "It amounts to about five burials a year."

Other cemeteries under the association's care are those locat-

see LEVERETT pg 11

Murray Takes the Bully Pulpit

BY MARK HUDYMA

GILL-MONTAGUE - His message was simple: "No student should ever wake up and be afraid to go to school."

Ever.

That's the message that Lt. Governor Tim Murray brought to Turners Falls High School on May 6th, where he discussed the new anti-bullying law signed into law by

Governor Deval Patrick two days earlier. The law increases anti-bullying education in student handbooks and classroom instruction, establishes new rules for reporting incidents of bullying, and provides training for adults in schools on how to identify, prevent, and manage incidents of bullying.

Murray was accompanied by local officials, including Greenfield Mayor Bill Martin, and state legislators, including Christopher Donelan, D-Orange.

In discussing bullying and harassment in schools - a poignant moment for many when he mentioned the death of 15-year-old Phoebe Prince, who committed suicide in January after being bullied at her high school in South Hadley - Murray talked about the need for individual respect.

However, he said, schools "need to let police and district attorneys take action when intervention fails."

One question that emerged as Murray opened the meeting to a questions and answers was

see BULLY pg 14



Lieutenant Governor Tim Murray



DETMOLD PHOTO

Turners Shuts Out Mohawk 15 - 0

The Turners Falls girls softball team handed coach Gary Mullins a high scoring birthday present, shutting out Mohawk Regional on a drizzly Wednesday afternoon behind the strength of Emily Mailloux's pitching arm. Katie Rinaldi homered, Dakota Smith-Porter tripled, and Hannah Bellows hit two doubles as the Turners girls hammered their way to a record of 8 wins and 3 losses in league play so far this year.

Above, Elysia Ollari is

thrown out at the plate, in one of the few instances where Mohawk stopped their visitors from scoring.

The Turners junior varsity softball team also trounced Mohawk 26 - 7 Wednesday, with starting pitcher Haley Ozdarski turning in an impressive performance. Tanisha Sanders relieved Ozdarski in the 3rd with the bases loaded and one away, struck out the next batter and retired the side on a line drive down first to Ozdarski.

PET OF THE WEEK**My Good Side****Lucky**

My name is Lucky and I'm a two-year-old male domestic short hair cat in need of a good home. I'm social, I like hanging out with humans, and I'll let you know if you're not paying enough attention to me. I've lived with older kids and a dog. I get on okay with female cats but not other males; just make sure to introduce us right. I do sometimes play rough, so you'll have to teach me manners. That should be just fine – the right person for me will know how to work with a boy of my talents and temperament. For more information on adopting me, please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at 413-548-9898 or via email: info@dpvhs.org.

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Local Subscription Rates:
\$20 for 6 months

CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS**Last Homeschooler Session Until Fall**

BY LINDA HICKMAN

TURNERS FALLS - On Wednesday, May 26th at 1:15 p.m., the Carnegie Library Springtime for Homeschoolers Program will be on fish, with an emphasis on the local spring fish migration with Children's

Librarian Linda Hickman. The series runs through May, and will resume in the fall. The Homeschool programs are for all ages, free, and no registration is required. For more information, call 863-3214.

ERVING LIBRARY NEWS**Upcoming Summer Programs**

The Erving Public Library is "going green" this summer with free high-interest programs that will provide entertainment and educational opportunities throughout the season.

There will be eight story hours for children, including two

Swaps, an opportunity to swap books, DVDs, Sports Equipment, Tools, and more. Erving Library will be hosting Animal Invaders - a traveling program of the Boston Museum of Science and singer and storyteller, Mary Jo Maichack sponsored by the Erving Cultural Council.



"music and movement" sessions sponsored by the Erving Community Network for Children. Author Emily Chetkowski will visit with her live animal characters, Mabel and Bert; Her books include *Mabel Takes a Ferry* and *Mabel Takes a Paddle*.

The library is taking recycling to the max, and will hold Sunday

To encourage adult learning, the library has invited Amy Donovan to speak on worm composting, Roger Tetreault to share his hiking adventures on the Appalachian Trail and

Janis McDuffy, from the State Archives to share her expertise on tracing your family history.

Erving Public Library is located at 17 Moore Street. (413) 423-3348 and is now open Sunday, 1 to 4 p.m., Monday and Thursday, 1 to 7 p.m., Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The latest newsletter is online at <http://ervingpubliclibrary.wordpress.com>

As You Read It at Senior Center

The Gill Montague Senior Center Writing Group will be presenting "As You Read It" at the Montague Senior Center on Sunday, May 23rd, at 3:00 p.m. Members of the group will read selections from their written memoirs.

Writers' works have been published in *Yankee Magazine*, the *Montague Reporter*, and in the book *In Our Own Words*

edited by Anna Viadero. Joe Parzych, author of *Jep's Place: Hope Faith and Other Disasters*, is a published member of the group and will read some of his recent works. Other members of the Writers' Group are Rosalie Bolton, Estelle Cade, Lillian Fiske, Frances Hemond, Dorothy Hmieleski and Harry Stafursky. The group is led by Laura

FACES & PLACES**Getting Ready for Memorial Day**

Lindsay Whiteman (left) and Catherine Bezio, of the Erving Girls Scout Troop #4005, helped place flags by the headstones of veterans at the Highland Cemetery in Millers Falls on Sunday morning, in preparation for Memorial Day

WENDELL LIBRARY NEWS**French Conversation, T-Shirt Printing**

A French Conversation Group meets at the library on Thursday, May 20th at 7:30 p.m. There is no fee for this program. Drop in on this newly formed French immersion group that meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month.

The idea is to create an enjoyable, hour long language immersion environment in which all agree to communicate solely in French. Contact Jim Dunn for details 978 544-7896

The Library's Teens and Tweens Program is offering a workshop on T-Shirt Printing on Sunday, May 23rd from 3:30 to

5:30 p.m. There is no fee for this program.

Trace or draw designs to be painted onto a T-shirt or other fabric item using freezer paper stencils. No artistic skills required. Youth ages 10 to 19, from any town, are invited to bring a T-shirt, pair of pants, bags or other fabric to print on.

Some fabric will be available to make patches. The Library opens at 2:00 p.m. The T-Shirt Printing workshop for teens begins at 3:30 p.m.

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Grade 7

Tyler Charboneau

Grade 8

Kenneth Sroka
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SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES – May 23rd to 28th

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

There are still a few seats left on the June 23rd trip to Pickety Place & Anheuser-Busch.

Sunday, May 23rd

3:00 p.m. "As You Read It" Readings from the Senior Center Writing Group

Monday, May 24th

10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise

1:00 p.m. Knitting Circle
Tuesday, May 25th

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

Wednesday, May 26th

10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics
10:30 a.m. Health Screenings
12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday, May 27th

10:00 a.m. Tai Chi
1:00 p.m. Pitch
3:30 p.m. Fire District Info Session

Friday, May 28th

10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
1:00 p.m. Scrabble
1:00 p.m. Writing Group

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

Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity.

Monday, May 24th

9:00 a.m. Exercise
12:00 p.m. Pitch

Tuesday, May 25th

9:00 a.m. Aerobics
12:30 p.m. Painting

Wednesday, May 26th

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
12:00 p.m. Bingo

Thursday, May 27th

8:45 a.m. Aerobics
Friday, May 28th

9:00 a.m. Bowling
11:30 a.m. LUNCH - Cold Plate.

Monday, May 31st

CLOSED - MEMORIAL DAY

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

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Local Briefs

JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

COMPILED BY

DON CLEGG – More than 120 people visited the Great Falls Discovery Center on May 15th to join in the Center's first ever bilingual program, celebrating migrating birds. Visitors were greeted at the Great Hall entrance in both English and Spanish as Latino music played in the background.

In the courtyard, more than 40 very sturdy birdhouses were assembled by excited children of all ages alongside some helpful and happy parents. In the Great

Thursday, May 27th, from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. All donations should be clean and saleable. Please no books, clothes or hard to get rid of electronics. For more info call 367-2184 or 367-2280.

The Montague town nurse will offer **free H1N1 vaccinations** prior to the start of the Montague and Gill town meetings. Montague's annual town meeting will be held on Saturday, June 5th, at Turners Falls High School starting at 8:00 a.m. and Gill's annual town meeting will be held on Monday, June 21st, at the

the MBA at www.montaguebusinessassociation.com, or call (413) 522-7727 for more information.

The **Wendell Community Garden** will hold a plant swap on the town common on Sunday, May 23rd from 10 a.m. to noon.

Send brief items to reporter-local@montaguema.net

Montague Center Farmers Market

On May 18th, The Montague selectboard approved a request by Olivia Sears to set up a farmers market on the village common on Monday afternoons, from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., through October. Sears said the new farmers market, which will start on May 24th, is timed to coincide with the operating hours of the Montague Center library. New vendors are encouraged to call 413-367-9746; no set up fee will be charged.

Web Design Workshop

TURNERS FALLS – Turners Falls Women's Resource Center announces the third offering of the popular Bridge to Success program Web Design workshop. This free, four week workshop for beginners starts Friday, May 21st and will run from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. at 41 3rd Street in Turners Falls, with childcare provided.

Minimal computer knowledge is needed to get you started in designing and launching your own blog-based web page, said program coordinator Christine Diani. For more information, call 413-863-2455.

Historical Society Presents Same Old Blues



Dennis Shapson (l) and Jon Lawless bring musical history to life at Moores Corners on May 27th

LEVERETT – The Leverett Historical Society is proud to present an evening of musical history with Same Old Blues, Thursday, May 27th, at 7:30 p.m. at the Moore's Corner Schoolhouse Museum in North

Leverett (diagonally across from the Village Co-op on North Leverett Road).

Dennis Shapson (guitar), Jon Lawless (Harmonica), and Alan Kurtz (Washboard and Bones) are local musicians who play authentic Ragtime Country Blues from the 1920s and 1930s, featuring works of Blind Blake, Blind Boy Fuller, and Mississippi John Hurt among others. This highly syncopated acoustic music is also known as Piedmont Blues or East Coast Blues.

This musical history night is free; all are welcome; donations will be graciously accepted at the door. For more information call Dawn at 367-9562.



Muy bien, muchachas! Wendy Bogusz and her daughters (l-r) Hailey and Hannah build a bluebird house at the bilingual migration celebration at the Great Falls Discovery Center on Saturday.

Hall, children were cutting, gluing, and coloring their own sets of bird wings. Afterwards, children could be found flying about the grounds of the Discovery Center.

Bird migration signs posted on the grounds of the center and directions for assembling birdhouses and wings were written out in English and in Spanish. Materials and food for this fun event was provided by the Friends of the Great Falls Discovery in what is sure to become a yearly event.

The Montague Historical Society will hold its **annual tag sale** at the Montague Grange, on the village common, on Saturday, May 29th from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Donations for the sale may be brought to the Grange on

town hall, starting at 6:00 p.m. If you have any questions, please call town nurse Billie Gammel at 863-3200 x107 or email nurse@montague-ma.gov

The **Montague Business Association** is looking for a graphic designer to develop a membership brochure. Interested designers can contact

Town of Gill Memorial Day Services

The town of Gill will hold their annual Memorial Day services on Sunday, May 30th, beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the First Congregational Church of Gill. Gary Bourbeau presiding.

Following Church services, the group will walk across Main road to the veterans' monuments. There, in honor of thirteen veterans buried in Gill cemeteries who lost their lives while serving our country, a rose ceremony will be held. A rose for each of the thirteen will be received by a Gold Star Family member, or placed on a wreath in front of the monuments. All are welcome.

New flags and a small geranium will be placed at each veteran's grave site on Friday, May 28th by the Memorial committee and members of the Marine Corp League.

NET ENERGY

Friday, May 21st, 7:30 p.m. Wendell Town Hall

Have you ever thought about how much energy it takes to make solar panels and wind turbines, and how much energy they will generate for us over their lifetime? If yes, there is an opportunity to explore what is called "Net Energy" or "Energy Return On Investment" (EROI) with a leading expert and author in this field.

David Murphy, professor at SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Rochester, NY, and co-author of *What Is the Minimum EROI a Sustainable Society Must Have?*

Organized by the Wendell Energy Task Force, co-sponsored by: Greening Greenfield Energy Committee & North Quabbin Energy.

Montague Center Memorial Observance

BY ANN FISK – A Memorial Day Service will be held on the village common in Montague Center on Sunday, May 30th.

This ceremony will begin at 11:15 a.m., sponsored by the Montague Center Firemen's Association.

Everyone is invited to attend as we

honor our local veterans.

The Montague Grange began this tradition 56 years ago with the placing of a large granite stone in the center of the green, dedicated to all Montague Veterans. Byron Klaus is the sole remaining member from the committee that placed the stone.

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In Support of a Municipally Owned Fiber Optic Network

BY ROBBIE LEPPZER

WENDELL - On Monday, May 24th at 7 p.m. at the Wendell Library, Reva Reck of WiredWest will present an informational presentation about exciting new developments in bringing high-speed internet broadband service to Wendell and other unserved communities in Western Massachusetts.

WiredWest Communications, a community broadband network representing citizens in more than 45 towns in Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden and Hampshire counties, has studied how to make high-speed internet access available to every household and business in our rural towns, and has concluded that a universally accessible, municipally-owned fiber optic network, open to all providers, is the best solution.

Wendell residents will vote on an article at our annual town meeting on June 15th which requests that our town selectboard consider entering into an agreement with other western Massachusetts towns to create a jointly-owned municipal entity. This entity will fully develop the business and economic model, secure appropriate financing through private or public sources, contract the design, construction and operation of the network, and own the network assets - all under the supervision of the participating towns. The network will be managed in the interests of our towns' citizens and will be fiscally responsible, transparent, and financially self-sustaining. A fundamental goal of the joint entity will be to structure the financing in such a way that towns will not incur debt burden by capitalizing the network through private or public loans

and grants.

WiredWest believes that network services should be made available within member towns to every home and business in town that wants service. No other provider is committed to this objective. Alternative systems such as DSL, cable and wireless cannot ensure universal availability. Moreover, our municipally-owned network will be an open network, which will allow multiple providers to offer an array of services and content for subscribers at competitive prices.

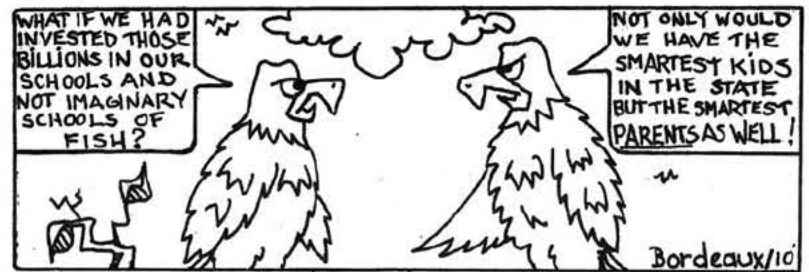
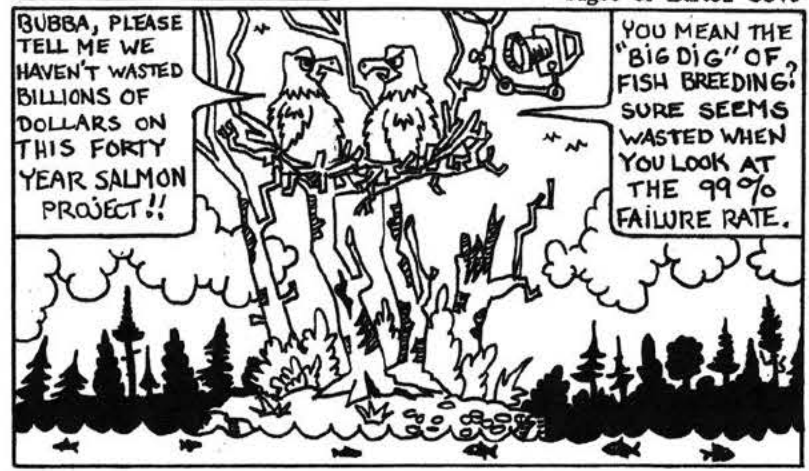
The following is the text of the town meeting warrant article: "To see if the town will vote to enter into immediate discussions with other Western Massachusetts municipalities with the intent of entering an inter-municipal agreement, by and through the Select Board, pursuant to Chapter 40, Section 4A of the Massachusetts General Laws, for the purpose of establishing a universal, open access, financially self-sustaining communication system for the provision of broadband service, including high-speed Internet access, telephone and cable television to the residents, businesses and institutions of these municipalities; or act in relation thereto."

Over the past three weeks, all 23 town meetings addressing the issue have passed the article - all but one town unanimously - and the Egremont selectboard has also chosen to join. There are 21 more town meetings that will be voting on the issue over the next five weeks.

According to Scott Jenssen, chair of the Monterey selectboard, "The WiredWest initiative would be game-changing - not only for each town and

BUBBA and CARMINE

sages of Barton Cove



DENIS BORDEAUX CARTOON

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Remembering My Homelessness

I remember my homelessness, as if in a dream. Yet when I was homeless, home felt like a dream.

When I was homeless, I lost sight of the fact that having a home was my right as a person. I walked into the public library one day and the librarian asked me if I had found an apartment yet. I said, "No, I haven't."

"Have you looked in the newspaper?" she asked.

I said, "No, I haven't." The she walked me over to the newspaper rack, spread the local paper open, and together we looked at the apartment

rental section.

That night I went to look at one of the apartments listed. I was stunned when the landlady offered me the apartment immediately. I had been homeless for five weeks and had not once looked in the want ads. Thinking back, I wonder how it was I could have become so out of touch with the right to have my own place.

I moved in the next day, and I stayed in that tiny, studio apartment that ate up most of my disability income for a year. Living in poverty was a step out of homelessness. Finally, on January 30th, 2006,

I moved into the subsidized apartment where I now live.

One year after moving into my subsidized apartment, I finally was able to bring myself to move storage items into the basement. Though I had left homelessness behind two years before, I still had to overcome the desire to keep all my things near me.

Thank god for that caring librarian! I needed her help when I wasn't mindful enough to help myself, because I was too preoccupied with the business of survival.

- S. Quickchange
Turners Falls

its citizens, but for the region as a whole."

Representatives from towns that opt to participate will form the initial governing board of WiredWest. Once all towns have had the opportunity to vote, the first meeting of the organization will be convened and pressing issues of governance and inter-municipal agreements will be addressed, most likely by the end of June.

For more detailed background information about the Wired West community broadband initiative and town meeting article, download this two page PDF file: www.turningtide.com/pdfs/WiredWest-TownMeetingInfo.pdf, or visit the Wired West website: <http://wired-west.net>

Robbie Leppzer is the chair of the Wendell Broadband Committee.

Why Not Give Bi-Directional Traffic on G-M Bridge a Try?

A few weeks back, a letter to the editor asked why the Massachusetts Department of Transportation will not allow bi-directional traffic during reconstruction of the Gill-Montague Bridge. I am wondering the same thing.

I have had the opportunity to observe the amount of traffic that travels over the bridge at various times. It appears to me that the volume of traffic over that bridge is not as high as the Mass DoT would like us to believe. Bi-directional traffic seems to work on the General Pierce Bridge, with

similar traffic. Why is the Mass DoT not willing to try this approach on the G-M Bridge?

Where are the traffic studies? Citizens of Montague, Gill and beyond will be inconvenienced and forced to spend more on gas for four years. They would be more willing to accept the inconvenience if Mass DoT provided some data to justify the decision not to allow bi-directional traffic during reconstruction of the bridge.

Does the state know how many vehicles travel from Turners Falls to Route 2 from 8 - 12 a.m. or from 4 - 7 p.m.? Are the traffic surveys up to date?

I am one of many concerned citizens who would like to know why the upcoming Gill-Montague Bridge construction project cannot accommodate bi-directional traffic across the bridge, especially after work ends for the day or on weekends. It may work; it may not. Why not give it a try?

- Christopher Lemoine
Turners Falls

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MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Fournier Press Approved for Treatment Plant

BY BILL DRAKE

MONTAGUE - On Tuesday night, the Montague selectboard reorganized with newly elected board member Chris Boutwell joining Mark Fairbrother to support long time member Patricia Allen as the new selectboard chair.

The selectboard approved the last contract for the combined sewer overflow (CSO) project at the wastewater treatment facility, to purchase and install a Fournier rotary press designed to dewater sludge, as a means of reducing the ongoing operating cost of trucking and disposal of solids from the treatment plant.

Bob Trombley, water pollu-

tion control facility superintendent, and Paul Gilbert of Camp Dresser McKee, the town's engineering consultant for the combined sewer overflow project and treatment plant upgrades, met with the selectboard to discuss the cost of the press and the remaining work in Contract #3.

Originally, the cost estimate for the final contract was in the neighborhood of \$1.4 million, to purchase and install the Fournier press, and to build an extension on the WPCF garage to handle the expanded sludge container. However, the money available to complete the project, \$970,000 from a federal state and tribal assistance (STAG) grant, com-

bined with \$137,000 left over from the previous CSO contract was not enough to cover the estimated costs.

"There were some concerns along the way," said Trombley, "that we didn't have the amount to do the project, even with the STAG grant."

Trombley worked with Gilbert to reduce the cost estimate.

"We knew that \$1.4 wouldn't work," said Gilbert, "so we put our heads together, and we got together with Fournier [the manufacturer of press]."

Together, Trombley, Gilbert and representatives from Fournier looked at the town's hours of intended operation for

the press, the annual volume of sludge and made a final decision based on those variables, reducing the estimated cost of the project to about \$1.1 million. A big advantage was Fournier's ability to size the press for different capacities.

"It's unique for a machine of that nature," said Gilbert.

The bidding for a general contractor to install the Fournier press will take place starting July 15th, the bid will be awarded August 1st. The press installation will begin in the winter. During the fall, Trombley hopes to replace the roof on the operations building.

"There are four or five leaks as

we speak," said Trombley.

The highway department also released a list of surplus equipment available for purchase. A Hewlett Packard Lazer Jet 4 printer is available, along with an assortment of electric motors, overload relays, bearings, seals, drive belts, conveyor belt edging kits as well as two air compressors with 80 gallon tanks.

**THANK YOU
VOTERS OF GILL
AND MONTAGUE
FOR ELECTING ME TO
THE GILL-MONTAGUE
REGIONAL SCHOOL
COMMITTEE
- Jane Oakes**

NOTES FROM THE GILL-MONTAGUE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monosson Elected Chair of Gill-Montague School Committee

BY ELLEN BLANCHETTE

The Gill-Montague school committee met on Tuesday, the day after town elections, and elected Emily Monosson of Montague as the committee's new chair.

Joyce Phillips ran the meeting, with former school committee chair Michael Langknecht seated to her right. Jeff Singleton of Montague asked why the committee had to meet so soon after the election to elect new officers. Phillips answered the regional agreement stipulates the committee meet within 72 hours of elections to reorganize and elect new officers.

Singleton suggested the committee consider changing that approach in the future, saying the selectboard rotates the chair in order to avoid "high stakes" competition.

Phillips asked for nominations for chair. Kristen Boyle nominated Phillips, with a second by Jen Waldron. Emily Monosson of Montague was nominated by Sorrel Hatch, with a second by Marje Levenson.

Following tradition, Phillips asked Monosson to share with the committee why she would like to serve as chair.

Monosson said she had mixed feelings about the nomination, being fairly new to the school committee, elected only a year ago. She said she knew there were several members with more experience and so, if she were to serve, she would like her role to be one of meeting facilitator, with the members of the committee sharing decision making about building the agenda and acting on it.

"I will look to the committee to run it as a committee," Monosson said.

Phillips responded she didn't know quite "how that works, to just be a facilitator, not the chair; it's never happened that way before."

Asked if she really wanted to take on that role, Monosson said if it could be done that way, with her acting as a facilitator, she would be willing to do it; if not she wasn't sure. "If we worked as a committee... I've been on committees where the chair is really working for the committee and does the committee's work. Which means they bring things to the chair and the chair just facilitates the meeting. If it can be worked that way, I wouldn't mind

giving it a try."

Hatch, clarifying to the committee why she nominated Monosson as chair, said in working with her this past year she'd found Monosson to be "really open-minded, diligent, hard working... making balanced judgments and good decisions. Having her as a chair or facilitator would be a good thing. I'm really grateful she's willing to do it."

Phillips then offered a prepared statement of why she would like to serve as chair, and why she felt she was most qualified to fill the position. Referencing her 16 years of experience on the school committee, Phillips said she's served with pride, energy and vision. During that time she attended many of the Massachusetts Association of School Committee professional development training programs in school policy, law, mandates, and budgeting.

She said, "I believe I could use this knowledge and experience to lead our committee forward in many ways." She said she felt the school committee should take an active role in implementing the superintendent's strategic vision

in partnership to educate the whole child. She spoke of working collaboratively with the community on the budget while making sure that cuts are not destructive to the education of the children in the district.

"I believe we're all in this together, the schools, the community and the state."


Boyle, supporting her nomination, talked of Phillips' understanding of the policies and laws governing the committee's actions, her depth of knowledge, her support of the district and her hard work on the Gill-Montague Education Fund.

The first round of voting ended in a tie, with Hatch, Langknecht, Levenson and Singleton voting for Monosson, and Boyle, Oakes, Phillips and Waldron supporting Phillips. Monosson abstained.

On the second vote, Monosson voted for herself, making the choice to accept the position with that vote.

There was a little back and forth between Langknecht and Phillips, who had served as chair and vice chair of the committee last year. The tension between see **SCHOOL** pg 13

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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Tornado Money Finally Arrives, Holes Remain in Many Town Boards

BY JOSH HEINEMANN - Almost four years after a tornado tore through Wendell State Forest, downing trees in a wide swath across the horseshoe of Wickett Pond Road, threading a path of destruction around the Marion Herrick homestead, lifting shingles off roofs, damaging the historic schoolhouse that would have been renovated into the town's new library near the common, and trapping a goat, rescued unscathed, in the collapse of a shed in the center of town, the state of Massachusetts finally came through with prom-

ised funds to reimburse the town for tornado cleanup and deposited \$150,000 into Wendell's bank account.

The money was placed in a special miscellaneous revenue account. The first \$38,000 will be used to pay back neighboring towns that offered mutual aid and have not been repaid for their manpower or equipment expenses since July of 2006. After that, there may be restrictions on how the money is spent, beyond reimbursing town departments for expenses derived from the tornado

cleanup.

Those departments have made suggestions, such as purchasing a chipper and a bucket truck for the highway department. The purchase price, use, and maintenance of that equipment might be shared with other towns in a regional agreement. A tank repair for the fire department tanker, uniform house numbers to help emergency service, household two-way radios and other suggestions made after a severe 2008 ice storm caused widespread power outages in town are all items on the wish list.

Selectboard member Dan Keller said he had sent a quick thank you note to state representative Steve Kulik, who had asked Wendell officials to bug him each month until the tornado money actually arrived.

Todd Soucie is moving from town, and leaving his positions as assessor and school committee representative. The board of assessors will be left with no legal assessor until Ted Lewis and recently elected assessor Stephen Broll take the test in August.

The town has a one year vacancy on the board of assessors, as well as vacancies on the library trustees, planning board, and school committee.

The selectboard meeting on May 12th opened with the reorganization of the selectboard. Christine Heard was elected for a second term as selectboard chair by unanimous consent.

The selectboard held a scheduled public hearing for the first revisions to the town's personnel policy since the 1980's, attended by treasurer Carolyn Manley, and highway commission chair Harry Williston, who authored the revisions, and by highway superintendent David Bak. The revisions are not complete, but the selectboard approved the first proposed changes by unanimous vote.

Under the new policy, one hour of sick time will be accrued

for every 26 hours worked up to 80 hours, or ten regular days.

Bak asked for a clarification of pay for holidays, an issue made more complicated because the road crew works five eight hour days in winter and four ten hour days in the summer.

As approved, the town will pay road workers for summer holidays and expect them to make up the two extra hours during the week.

There was a second public hearing, this one requested by Adrian Montagano, concerning the building permit he had for working on his own house. He was unsure of the status of that permit after he sold the unfinished house to Doug Arey and Mark Bergeron, even after attempts to get an answer from building inspector Phil Delorey. Bergeron did not attend the hearing, but the other parties did, along with neighbors Rosie Heidkamp, and Sally Alley Muffin Stiffin. Heard reminded those present that comments needed to be polite, and addressed to the selectboard rather than to the parties involved.

Montagano began by saying he wanted to transfer the building permit to the new owners, and that after some effort he still was not certain he had accomplished that goal.

Delorey remained mostly silent, other than to say the new owners were allowed to work off the old permit, and if they had any questions they should call him.

Montagano said he was glad to hear that answer, but had been unsure of that fact prior to the meeting.

Keller reported on the briefing he attended with finance committee chair Michael Idoine given by town counsel, Kopelman and Paige, and led by the firm's head, Len Kopelman. He said there is a state law that allows the selectboard to suspend a license for nonpayment of taxes after a town meeting vote accepts the law. Discussion of

that law in the past has been contentious, and it was voted down.

Also at that briefing, Kopelman said it makes no sense to elect a treasurer or tax collector who take extra training as part of their jobs, and could be replaced in an election by an untrained person. Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich offered the opinion that no town that has switched money management positions from elected to appointed posts appears to have regretted that choice.

Keller said that Montague attorney Sam Lovejoy works for the state Department of Land Acquisition, and told him that the Wolfe property the town bought in 1988 and transferred to the state Department of Fish and Wildlife was poorly surveyed at the time. Lovejoy said he has been struggling to get the boundaries defined. The property needs a new and accurate survey, and then a corrective deed written.

Aldrich said the highway department had dug a trench for the gas line to run from the tanks to the generator at the library, but the crew from Amerigas said the trench needed to be 2" deeper so they could put a bed of sand under the gas line. The highway crew was ready to deepen the trench, and Amerigas should come and complete the installation of the generator within a week.

Todd Soucie is moving from town, and leaving his positions as assessor and school committee representative. The board of assessors will be left with no legal assessor until Ted Lewis and recently elected assessor Stephen Broll take the test in August.

The town has a one year vacancy on the board of assessors, as well as vacancies on the library trustees, planning board, and school committee.

National Grid made a proposal to Swift River School to pay 75% of the cost of replacing incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs. The school would pay \$5,000 and National Grid \$15,000 for the upgrade.

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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Fire Chief Requests Reserve Fund Transfer

BY DAVID DETMOLD - Almon Bud Meatley, Erving fire chief, and captain Phil Wonkka, came to the selectboard meeting on Thursday, May 13th, looking a bit battle weary after fighting a three day forest fire that tore through at least 25 acres of Erving State Forest the previous weekend.

The fire chief asked the selectboard to seek a \$13,000 transfer from the finance committee reserve fund to pay salaries for the call firefighters who fought the blaze, known as the Bear Loop Fire.

Meatley and Wonkka also asked the board to consider establishing an emergency response fund, initially seeded with \$50,000 from stabilization, to be used by Erving police, firefighters and emergency responders to deal with unexpected events, like the ice storm that knocked out power two winters ago, or recent forest fires.

"We've had three forest fires in May already," said Meatley, "two of them going at the same time."

More than two dozen communities sent firefighters to attack the Bear Loop Fire, which started on state forest land when a bolt of lightning struck an oak tree Thursday night, May 6th, Meatley said.

He said a system of fire ponds established in the state forest by former Erving fire chief Bill Care many years ago to provide a water supply for such an emergency functioned just as Care had planned. "It worked perfectly," said Meatley.

Meatley said the blaze came within eight or nine thousand feet of homes on Swamp Road and High Street. "We scratched a line around it for two days, for twenty hours," to contain the blaze, which started at 400 feet of elevation and climbed to 1600 feet before it was finally extinguished.

The selectboard will discuss the fire department's transfer request with the finance committee, and consider the further request to establish an emergency response fund. Newly elected selectboard member Eugene Klepadlo recused himself from the discussion, as he is a member of the fire department.

In other news, the selectboard reorganized before the annual town meeting on Wednesday, May 5th, electing Andrew Goodwin as chair. On May 13th, Goodwin tentatively tapped the gavel on the selectboard table, calling the meeting to order.

"I've always wanted to do that," Goodwin remarked.

Former planning board chair

Jeff Dubay, defeated for re-election and denied a seat on the selectboard by Klepadlo in the town election of May 3rd, came before the board to discuss three items, and was graciously received.

He asked the board to consider renegotiating a three year contract with Erving Paper Mill for treating sludge from haulers at the town owned, paper mill operated wastewater treatment plant in Erving Center. The paper mill filed for bankruptcy last year, and has recently laid off more workers, mainly maintenance and accounting workers.

Administrative coordinator Tom Sharp said the town took in about \$130,000 a year from the contract with Erving Industries' ERSECO subsidiary, as the town's share of profits from third party waste from private haulers processed at the treatment facility.

Dubay said the town should do, "Anything we can to help," the mill during its financial reorganization. If the mill were to close, the town would be forced to spend millions on retrofitting the treatment plant to handle the small volume of waste from Erving Center households that would remain to be handled by the oversized treatment facility.

"For a hundred years they've

been paying good wages, \$20 an hour nowadays; that's good money around here," said Dubay.

Goodwin said, "I'd be open to have [Erving Industries president and CEO] Morris Housen come in and have that discussion with the board."

Dubay also asked the board to go about the business of replanting shade trees that have been lost over the years on the side of town roads. "Church Street, North Street, they were all tunnels of maple trees in the past. They're all gone now," said Dubay.

On another matter, he asked the board to set up a committee to look into the future of the former Usher Mill complex, and volunteered to serve on such a committee if the board sets one up.

Dubay said the \$500,000 town meeting set aside to demolish and clean up the derelict mill would be insufficient to the task. "But you can still build if you leave the foundations," he said. He added the town would be wise to try to salvage the 90 foot square boiler room building and adjacent water tower, as historic properties, to form the nucleus of future development on the site.

Above all, Dubay said, the town should negotiate with present owner, Patriot Environmental of Worcester, to

try to purchase the property, rather than to pursue further legal action and the recovery of liens after the planned demolition of fire damaged or decaying buildings on the site.

The board also approved an action plan to qualify the town for Green Communities designation, which would put Erving in line to apply for annual state grants for energy conservation and renewable energy production. But the board made it clear they did not favor adopting the voluntary addition to the building code known as the energy stretch code, as part of the action plan.

GILL VOTERS: Thank You for Your Support! - Randy Crochier

LIVE IN MONTAGUE? EST. 1754 www.MontagueMA.net local gossip, news & business listings

VOTES from page 1



Jane Oakes

mittee, and Marje Levenson of Lake Pleasant got 597 total votes for another three year term from Montague.

In Montague, write in candidates still have to be contacted by the town clerk to see if they are willing to fill seats on town meeting in five of the six precincts. Only Precinct 1 (Montague Center) fielded a full slate of town meeting reps. There were no contests for town meeting in any precinct.

In Gill, Bill Draper accepted a one year term on the library trustees, after receiving six write in votes.

Montague decided to forego assessing taxes on farm animals and equipment in the only referendum of the day, by a vote of 628 to 231.



Computer Science Day at GCC May 24th

GREENFIELD - Computer Science Day is a great opportunity for high school students to think about future directions and to learn about Greenfield Community College. The event includes hands-on classroom workshops, demonstrations of computer applications in various fields, professional and student speakers and more.

This event takes place Monday, May 24th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at GCC main campus at One College Drive in Greenfield. (413) 775-1458 for information.

Whitaker Certified as Breast Patient Navigator

GREENFIELD - Kim Whitaker, RN, of Turners Falls, a nurse at Baystate Medical Practices - Greenfield Surgery, has earned certification as a breast patient navigator, following a two-part certification training. A breast patient navigator assists breast cancer patients with the continuum of their care, from the day of an abnormal mammography reading through cancer treatment and follow-up. The navigator is the "go-to" person for the patient, to answer questions about the course of diagnosis and treatment, to identify and work through possible barriers to care.

"I hope to help breast cancer

patients go through their diagnosis and treatment as smoothly as possible," Whitaker explained. "It's a stressful time for women, and my goal is to help relieve that stress by being a single source they can go to for help with any questions or issues - so they don't have to be constantly trying to figure out next steps, whom they need to contact when, where to go for additional information - anything they need to help ease them through this process."

For more information on using breast patient navigator services, contact Whitaker at Baystate Medical Practices - Greenfield Surgery, 413-773-2743.

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Help for Haiti Now



PARZYCH PHOTO

(L-r) Chaplain Janice Labas, from Hospice of St. Joseph and Jill Griffin, emergency room physician from Mercy Hospital discussed the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Haiti on Wednesday at the Farren.

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH
MONTAGUE CITY - Dr. Jill Griffin, emergency room physician at Mercy Hospital in Springfield, and Mariaelena Garcia, founder of the Amherst-based Haitian Relief Drive, gave a heart wrenching account and slide show of horrific injuries of Haitian earthquake victims on Wednesday afternoon at the cafeteria of the Farren Care Center.

Since most of the Haitian buildings were made of substandard concrete, on January 12th when the devastating 7.0 magnitude earthquake struck near the capital of Port au Prince, the collapsing buildings crushed peoples' limbs, resulting in compound fractures. The protruding bones were often covered with dirt. With the tropical climate, the victims' injuries soon became terribly infected.

Griffin, who flew to Haiti

three days later instead of taking her annual vacation, worked in trauma relief as a radiologist, when not tending the wounded. Limbs of the injured that would have been easily saved under normal circumstances were often amputated after the earthquake in Haiti. Unwrapping a simple bandage often resulted in the skin coming off with the dressing because of advanced infection.

Amputations continued around the clock. "Doctors amputated twenty limbs each eight hour shift," Griffin said. "It was Civil War-era medical practice."

The Israelis brought in an inflatable field hospital. Tent hospitals were set up. The Haitians stayed outside. They didn't want to stay in

any building for fear they would collapse in the aftershocks. Over a quarter million people died in the quake and the immediate aftermath.

Shriners Hospital in Springfield offered free medical care for a number of children with fractured limbs. Private plane owners, like Mike Kittredge, flew patients from Haiti free of charge.

"The number of patients was limited, so it was a lot like winning the lottery," Griffin said. "Only children who had parents were eligible. Orphans were not permitted to leave the country."

Chaplain Janice Labas, representing the Hospice of St Joseph and Help for Haiti Now, has been spending time in Haiti since the earthquake. "Every major religious organization sent help, as well as personnel, to Haiti," Labas said.

Garcia, founder of the Amherst-based Haitian Relief Drive, spoke of the decades of exploitation Haitians have endured. In the slide show, Haitians were breaking up concrete buildings with hammers and carrying off rubble in wheel barrows or in large containers on their heads.

"Liquid infant formula is

sorely needed," Garcia said. "There are pregnant women and young mothers who cannot breast feed because of malnutrition."

The speakers pointed out that grassroot relief efforts are often more effective than those of some of the large relief organizations with large overhead because the material gathered is sent in a shipping container and followed up in Haiti with direct distribution to people who in need.

The wish list includes baby bottles, liquid baby formula, Pedisure, baby and toddler food,

Ensure or liquid nutrition, new socks, toothbrushes, clothespins, shoes in good condition, children's clothes, Imodium, new and unopened painkiller Tylenol, rope, soap, toothpaste and hand sanitizer. Money is always welcome to defray the cost of shipping and transporting to the final destination.

To donate materials or money, contact mgarcia@jonesrealtors.com or phone 413-222-1001.

Or contact Jill Griffin, MD at helpforhaitinow@gmail.com or call 413-348-2569.



GRIFFIN PHOTO

Lucey Kim, RN holds an infant survivor of the earthquake in Haiti

Artist's Talk

GREAT FALLS - Drawing upon the historic settlement origins of Turners Falls, earlier known as the "Great Falls," where Native Americans gathered to harvest the bounty of spring shad and salmon runs in the river, native salmon inspired the idea for this bike rack design. Come to the Great Hall of the Great Falls Discovery Center on Sunday, May 23rd, from 1 - 3 p.m. to hear the bike rack's creator, Annaliese Bischoff, speak about the process of creating the piece as well as some of her other creative projects. The bike rack is located on Avenue A between the Shea Theater and Jay K's and will be a permanent rack and public art installation on the Avenue A streetscape.



Annaliese Bischoff's bike rack on Avenue A

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Bobcats in Massachusetts

BY DAVID DETMOLD

ATHOL - What's the difference between a lynx and a bobcat?

The answer to this and many other questions were provided to a standing room only crowd of more than 70 wildlife enthusiasts at the Millers River Environmental Center by Massachusetts Fish and Wildlife's furbearer biologist Laura Hajduk, on Wednesday night, May 12th.

Hajduk said lynx do not range this far south of Canada, for one thing, while Massachusetts sports a bobcat population of at least 1000 - 1200 cats. But where the species do overlap, as in Maine, the differences between lynx (*lynx canadensis*) and bobcat (*lynx rufus*) are not that hard to spot.

There are spots, for one thing, on a bobcat's fur, where spots can often (but not always) be seen, especially on the legs. A bobcat's fur tends to be tawny, lynx fur is usually gray and without pattern. Lynx have longer legs than bobcats, and wide, padded feet adapted for walking on snow; bobcats have daintier paws. Lynx have thick ruffed fur on their cheeks that can look almost like a mane, whereas bobcats, even in Maine, don't have manes. Lynx have long tufts of fur at the end of their ears; the tufts of bobcats' ears are much less pronounced.

Bobcats used to be regarded as a nuisance. There was a bounty placed on their hides in Massachusetts from 1921 to 1968. Hunters are still allowed to hunt bobcat in Massachusetts, but the season is restricted to December 20th to March 8th, with bobcat hunting allowed only in Western and Central Massachusetts. Using dogs to hunt bobcats is illegal in the state.

Bobcats are presently the only species hunted in Massachusetts under a quota - no more than 50 bobcats may be taken each season - although the practicality of maintaining the quota is under discussion.

Because bobcats are so elusive and so shy of human contact, Hajduk said hunters typically manage to take about half the quota of bobcat in Massachusetts each season.

Now, Hajduk said, bobcat are acknowledged as the top predator in Massachusetts, occupying a valuable ecological niche.

A questioner asked whether Mass Fish and Wildlife gives

credence to reports that mountain lions have made their way back into the state. Hajduk replied that only once, in 1997, when scat found in the Quabbin Reservoir was positively determined to be from a mountain lion, have Mass Fish and Wildlife biologists been able to confirm a report of mountain lions in the state. She said if the bigger cats were present, evidence in the form of photos and road kill would soon confirm their presence in Massachusetts.

So for now, anyway, bobcats are the top predator in the state.

What features distinguish a bobcat from a large house cat, or a feral cat?

Hajduk said most people who manage to see a bobcat in the wild see them from behind, as they are running away. Is it happens, this is the best vantage point to view their most telltale characteristics: the black stripes alternating with white on their short, bobbed tail, and the white spots that stand out against the black fur on the back of their ears.

However, Hajduk said, don't expect a bobcat's tail to always be short and 'bobbed'; a bobcat's tail can be up to nine inches long.

Bobcats are larger than most housecats, weighing in between 15 - 35 pounds, with the males at the upper end of that range and females at the lower. The further north in their range bobcats are found (they range throughout the United States) the heavier they tend to be.

Hajduk said a 76-pound male was found in Maine not long ago, a fact that elicited whistles from the crowd.

Bobcats have thick, typically white undercoats. Like all lynx species, bobcats have 28 teeth, with prominent canines. They are not delicate eaters. They tend to rend and tear their prey. They eat fast, and swallow their meat without chewing; they have no molars. Rabbits should watch out when bobcats are nearby. In deep winter, bobcats have been known to take down deer when no other prey is handy.

Bobcats are active all year round, and hunt mainly at dawn and dusk, when their prey is most active.

When you see bobcat tracks in the snow, you will not notice claw marks. Bobcats have claws, of course, but keep them retracted when not in use. Bobcats typically leave round, not oval tracks, with asymmetrical pads about two to two and a half inch-

es in length, with the front tracks placed on top of the hind tracks, more or less.

Like tom cats, bobcats are polygamous, mating from February to March, and then wandering off to let the females provide sole care of the young. Litters range from one to four kits, with two the norm. Some say the mating cry of a bobcat in heat resembles a woman scream-

ing in the woods, not a sound you hear every day.

The kittens are weaned at two months, and spend the summer months with mom, before dispersing to find their own home ranges.

Males are solitary on their range; not so females. Males will overlap with multiple females on home ranges, but the males avoid each other. The males' range up to 200 square kilometers; females generally are comfortable keeping within 30 - 90 square kilometers.

Bobcats favor unfragmented forested areas, but can also be found in swampy areas, bogs, brushy land, and ledge. When rabbits and hares aren't around, they'll eat mice and birds. (In this tendency, they are hard to distinguish from house cats.)

There may be more than 1200 bobcats in Massachusetts, but in all of 2007, Mass Fish and Wildlife received only 24 reports of bobcat sightings. Bobcats see you before you see them, and they know how to make themselves scarce.

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Energy Committees Share Strategy

BY DAVID DETMOLD
MONTAGUE CITY - In all probability, Montague and Greenfield will be among three dozen communities in the state of Massachusetts competing for the first round of state Department of Energy Resources grants available for towns that qualify for Green Community funding, from a pot of \$7 million. The grant funding will assist towns in targeted energy conservation efforts to reduce municipal energy use.

If the first round of funding were to be divided equally among the 36 cities and towns that have applied for Green Community designation, each could expect to receive nearly \$200,000. But the grants are competitive, and though all Green Community towns can expect to receive some grant funding in the first round of awards to be announced at the end of May, some towns will

undoubtedly receive more funding than others.

That, in sum, is what Pat Smith, a planner for the Franklin Regional Council of Governments told town committee representatives from eight Franklin County towns at a meeting at the Franklin County Home Care Corporation's headquarters at the Farren Hospital on Tuesday night, as part of a wide ranging strategy session to discuss ways to bring in more funding to assist the towns' energy conservation efforts.

Montague energy committee representative Sally Pick said her committee will be applying for funding to improve energy efficiency at the town's wastewater treatment plant, and to provide an energy management system at the town's two elementary school buildings, Sheffield and Hillcrest.

Two more rounds of DOER energy conservation grants are expected beginning in the fall of 2010, though towns that receive first round funding this spring will receive lower priority for follow-up grants.

Pending legislation in the Massachusetts legislature may soon enable cities and towns throughout the Commonwealth to finance energy improvements in private homes through a financing system known as PACE, which stands for Property Assessed Clean Energy. Already passed in New York, Connecticut, and 15 other states, PACE financing will allow a town to create a fund to give

loans to private property owners, who then repay the loan through an assessment on their property taxes over 20 years. The property tax surcharge remains with the property regardless of sale until the load is paid off.

By this method, private homeowners are able to finance long range energy saving measures, like replacing inefficient boilers or insulating their homes, or even installing photovoltaic panels on the rooftops, and amortize the financing over decades, even though they may sell their homes within that span of time, explained Chris Mason, chair of the Montague energy committee.

Administration of the PACE program, if the legislature approves it as expected this session, may be coordinated by the FRCOG, although individual towns would have to fund the revolving loan program for their residents separately, through bond issues, grant funding, or other methods.

The committee representatives agreed to send a letter jointly to all Franklin County banks and credit unions encouraging local lenders to establish programs to provide energy efficiency mortgages. Committee members will visit the lenders in person to press for making such mortgages (which recognize the long term cost savings from energy efficiency improvements as a form of homeowner income in determining mortgage eligibility) available in Franklin County, as they are elsewhere in the country.

Bring the War Dollars Home

BY DAVID DETMOLD
MONTAGUE - According to the website maintained by the National Priorities Project, a non-profit research institute in Northampton, taxpayers in Montague, Massachusetts will pay \$26.4 million for their share of the cost, to date, of total Iraq and Afghanistan war spending since 2001.

For the same amount of money, the National Priorities Project (www.nationalpriorities.org) estimates, 7,918 people could have been provided with health care for one year, or 518 public safety officers could have been hired, or 92 affordable housing units constructed, 41,191 homes could have been provided with renewable electricity, or 378 elementary school teachers hired for one year.

Elliot Tarry, 63, a massage therapist in Montague, gathered enough signatures to place an opinion question on the annual town meeting warrant in Montague on Saturday, June 5th. Modeled on a similar resolution that passed in Portland, ME and is under consideration now by the Northampton city council, Tarry said the resolution will ask Montague town meeting to do two things.

If approved, the resolution will direct the town of Montague to hold a forum for dialogue on the subject of the cost of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq to the taxpayers of

Montague, and how the spending for war impacts town services and departmental budgets.


The resolution also asks the town to advise congressman John Olver and senators Kerry and Brown to vote against any more appropriations to continue the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and to oppose increasing troop levels in those conflicts.

"The thrust of the resolution is to defund war and fund human services," said Tarry. He said congressman Barney Frank has begun an effort to cut the defense budget by 25% and redirect those resources to meeting human needs.

"The states and municipalities are strapped budgetarily, yet we are nation building and spending billions on infrastructure in other countries," he said.

Incidentally, the National Priorities Project estimates the total cost of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq will top one trillion dollars as of May 30th, the day before Memorial Day.

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG
Arson Attempted in Millers Falls

Thursday, 5/13
 9:47 a.m. Burglary / breaking and entering on Millers Falls Road. Report taken.
 9:33 p.m. Suspicious situation on Gill Montague Bridge. Investigated.

Friday, 5/14
 11:03 p.m. Trespassing at Unity Park. Dispersed gathering.

Saturday, 5/15
 6:43 a.m. Vandalism at Thomas Memorial Country Club. Report taken.
 3:37 p.m. Domestic disturbance at a

Millers Falls Road address. Peace restored.
 7:15 p.m. Arson attempt at Grand Avenue address in Millers Falls. Investigated.

Sunday, 5/16
 3:11 a.m. Pedestrian accident at Southworth on Canal Street. Report taken.
 8:38 a.m. Domestic disturbance on K Street. Services rendered.
 8:42 p.m. Domestic disturbance on G Street. Services rendered.

Turners Falls Annual Memorial Day Parade
Monday, May 31st, 10:00 a.m.

Parade starts at 2nd Street parking lot and proceeds down Avenue A to the veterans memorial.

All servicemen and service-women are invited to join us in the parade. There will be special speakers and wreath placing ceremonies.

Come join us in honoring our veterans.

Townwide Ambulance Informational Meetings

MONTAGUE - The Turners Falls Fire Department Prudential Committee will hold a series of informational meetings on their proposal to start a townwide ambulance service for the town of Montague. The meetings will offer an opportunity for the public to pose questions and get answers about the plan.

The informational meetings will be held:


- Tuesday, May 25th at 6:30 p.m. in Montague Center at the Grange Hall
- Wednesday, May 26th at 6:30 p.m. in Lake Pleasant (at the Spiritual Alliance Hall)
- Thursday, May 27th at 3:30 p.m. at the Gill-Montague senior center in Turners Falls
- and Thursday, June 3rd at 6:00 p.m. at the Millers Falls Library

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LEVERETT from pg 1

ed on Jackson Hill Road, Rattlesnake Gutter Road, East Chestnut Hill, and the one "hidden in the bushes" on Skerry Road, where the Gardner family plots are located, off North Leverett Road between Moores Corners and Lake Wyola.

Glazier said when he took over the association, "Kids were begging to mow the grass for \$5 an hour." The cost of mowing has gone up to \$35 an hour now, he said.

The association has money in a bank account, but at those prices, Glazier said, "The money won't last long."

"We need someone to look after the burials," continued Glazier. "I used to do the digging by hand. I didn't like it. Then I bought my own backhoe."

He added, "The folks that paid for mowing paid for perpetual care. You want to see a funny looking cemetery, you should see one that's mowed here and not there."

Chair Rich Brazeau wondered whether the responsibility to care for cemeteries would logically fall to the new facilities manager position, a joint position shared with the elementary school in the person of John Kuczek, approved at that same meeting of the selectboard.

Brazeau said a town meeting vote would be needed to take over responsibility for maintaining the cemeteries on the north side of town. He also wondered how the association that cares for cemeteries in the rest of Leverett was getting along.

Reached by phone after the meeting, Edith Field, whose husband Carlyle is president of the Leverett Cemetery Association said their association is doing just fine. The Leverett Cemetery Association cares for the cemeteries on Depot Road, the North Cemetery near the elementary school, the newly created just-for-cremation New North Cemetery, also on Montague Road, the East Leverett Cemetery on Cemetery Road (near the transfer station), the Mount Toby Cemetery, on Route 63 just south of the intersection of Montague Road, and a small family plot used by the Wiley family to the

west of Route 63 at the town line with Amherst and Sunderland. Their association has about eight trustees, including some representatives of the younger generation, and a young man who does all the mowing and trimming around the stones, Field said.

Shively asked Glazier if the North Leverett Cemetery Association would be able to continue its activities until the matter could be discussed at the next town meeting.

Glazier replied, "My wife thinks I'm done with it now. But I guess so." He added, "We'll have a cremation this Saturday. Olie LaClaire has passed on." As he got to his feet, Glazier continued, "If I got paid for every hour I spent there... You want to see money waving away, take down a few trees."

"Take care," said Brazeau.

"I'll try to," said Glazier.

Nagy Questions Town Meeting Quorum

Steve Nagy, a resident of Teewaddle Hill Road who had been among the opponents of a town meeting warrant article on April 24th calling on the U.S. Congress to lift the ban preventing cleared Guantanamo detainees from living in the United States, and welcoming such detainees to live in Leverett if that ban is lifted, wrote the selectboard asking for clarification on a number of points.

Specifically, Nagy asked if a warrant article is voted on by less than the number of residents required for a town meeting quorum, is the vote valid. He also asked what the consequences are if the town moderator ignores a call for a quorum or a motion to suspend the meeting.

On April 24th, the resolution concerning Guantanamo detainees, initiated by citizen petition, was the last item on the town meeting agenda, and by the time it was brought up, the quorum of 70 citizens that had been present earlier in the meeting was no longer present in the room. At one point, Nagy called for a quorum and deliberation on the motion was halted while residents were called in from other parts of the elementary school building and grounds, and even from a house down the road, until

70 voters were again present in the room.

But shortly after discussion on the resolution got started, a call came in for volunteer firefighters to respond to a bicycle-car accident at the intersection of Route 63 and Montague Road, and two members of the fire department got up and left the meeting to respond to the call with the blessing of moderator Gary Gruber, who then allowed discussion to continue.

After the question was called, Nagy again demanded a count of the quorum, but Gruber would not recognize his point of order a second time. The vote was taken, and passed by majority.

The selectboard responded to Nagy in writing. In part, their reply stated: "The moderator is guided by *Town Meeting Time*, the primary source for New England town meetings. It outlines "Robert's Rules of Order" and provides extensive guidance.

"Copies of the town bylaws are available in the town clerk's office (we do not have a town charter). Chapter 41-1B is the section of the town's bylaw governing quorums for Leverett's town meetings. It states: 'The quorum necessary for the initiation of Annual Town Meeting business or Town Meetings considering bylaw changes or bond issues shall be at least 5% of the registered voters and the quorum necessary for any other town meeting business shall be at least 2.5% of the registered voters on the active voter list of the town'.

"We established, based on the most recent voter list, the quorum for initiation of the annual town meeting was 70. Once we had completed business related to bylaw changes or bond issues, the quorum to be met was 35.

"It is possible, even with a quorum present, that the vote will not equal the quorum because all voters have the option to abstain from any vote. Therefore, the vote total may not be a determinant in assessing the quorum."

Selectboard member Peter d'Errico proposed putting citizen initiated warrant articles to a town meeting day referendum in the future, to avoid the problem of trying to maintain a quorum for opinion questions to the end of town meeting. D'Errico's propo-

posal would have voters cast paper ballots on the opinion questions throughout the day at a ballot box set up at the back of the hall, rather than hold open discussion and a vote on the questions on town meeting floor, with the rest of the warrant.

In Other News

The selectboard heard from Siemens Building Technologies representative Roland Butzke about the planned replacement of the two existing forced hot air furnaces in town hall with two fuel efficient gas furnaces. With expected fuel savings of about \$2,000 a year at current prices, the payback for the replacement would be too lengthy to include in the town's energy performance contract with Siemens for upgrades to town buildings, if not for a \$150,000 grant to defray the cost from the state Department of Energy Resources.

A larger hot water line will be installed at town hall to bring hot water to the first floor kitchen and bathroom, to correct the problem of having to wait a very long time for hot water at the tap.

The selectboard asked Butzke to get them figures for what it would cost to replace lighting fixtures at all town buildings with more efficient models, and what the town could expect in rebates from the utility company if they do switch to newer, more efficient lighting units.

The board will have to find up to \$146,000 from stabilization or from town meeting authorization to finance the energy upgrades, which will pay for themselves with savings guaranteed by Siemens in utility bills, over time.



The town wells committee, examining the best methods for the town to resolve the dilemma of private wells in the Teewaddle Hill - Cushman Road area of town, which have been found to be in the path of a plume of contamination emanating from the town's former landfill. Some houses in that area have been supplied with bottled water and ongoing testing at town expense, as a stop gap measure.

Brazeau said it would cost the town about \$900,000 to hook up the affected houses to a water

line from Amherst. He said negotiations are ongoing to determine whether an area of private land, away from the contaminated plume of groundwater, could be purchased and permitted to allow private wells to be installed, and then hooked up to each affected household. Some community development block grant funds may be available to help pay for that solution.

Brazeau said the committee was considering proposing zoning changes to the town's bylaws to prohibit future building in that area.



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BY EMILY MONOSSON
MONTAGUE CENTER -
"Ask for a cone, save the environment," proclaimed the sign at the local Creamery.

The girls asked for a cup anyway, to catch the drippings of the oversized soft serve cones.

"Guess we're not saving the environment today," said one, dipping her plastic spoon into the Styrofoam cup.

Styrofoam is one incarnation of polystyrene plastic - more affectionately known as "#6" - or the plastic we can't recycle. Polystyrene also forms the black casing of my home computer, my bicycle helmet, the foamed polystyrene clamshell we were offered to carry home the remainders from a local restaurant and the countless little white Styrofoam pellets degraded from sheets of weathered insulation I spent the weekend picking from the weeds at the local junkyard-turned-conservation-land along with a handful of diligent volunteers.

While collecting the little white bits from the earth, I imagined how each year some portion of those beads, along with larger rafts of insulation,

THE NEIGHBORHOOD TOXICOLOGIST

What Do I Do with Polystyrene?

are blown or washed into the bordering Sawmill River, some journeying only as far as the local swimming hole, while others make their way to the Connecticut River and beyond.

I imagined their journey as a perverse version of Dr. Seuss's McElligot's Pool, where you never know what exotic species might make their way from the deep ocean to a backyard pond. Only these bits of polystyrene were making the trip in reverse, as if following some primal plastic impulse.

This isn't fanciful fiction. Just this year scientists confirmed the presence of a plastic "patch" of our own in the North Atlantic, the evil twin of the infamous North Pacific trash gyre - a region known for its accumulation of plastic from soccer balls to microscopic bits of Styrofoam.

Captain Charles Moore, an adventurer, environmentalist and researcher credited with discovering the North Pacific patch once commented on the return of plastic to the oceans and its consumption by marine life in an article for Natural History Magazine.

"Ironically," wrote Moore, "the debris is re-entering the oceans whence it came; the ancient plankton that once floated on Earth's primordial sea gave rise to the petroleum now being transformed into plastic polymers. That exhumed life, our 'civilized plankton,' is, in effect, competing with its natural counterparts, as well as with those life-forms that directly or

indirectly feed on them."

Research by Moore and others now shows that plastics in the ocean can accumulate toxicants long banned like PCBs and DDTs. There is some concern that once ingested, contaminated plastics might release these chemicals, along with other chemicals used for plastics production including colorants, fire retardants and plasticizers, into their host.

Someday there may be no need to shrink-wrap seafood.

Like other plastics, polystyrene - the base material for Styrofoam or foamed polystyrene clamshell food containers, microwavable cups (think cup-o-noodles), plastic plates and coffee cups - is a polymer, a chemical chain of repeating units, like beads on a string. In this case the beads or monomers are styrene. Produced naturally by plants and animals, styrene - like many chemicals - is relatively non-toxic in small amounts. And like many chemicals, natural production is dwarfed by human production (at least in localized concentrations) which in the case of styrene tops 13 billion pounds a year in the US alone. The majority of that is used to produce polystyrene.

While polystyrene might not appear on the top ten list for toxic chemicals, it is made from benzene. Over 50% of all benzene, produced from oil, is eventually turned into styrene.

Sweet smelling benzene is nasty stuff. Just a whiff brings me back to organic chemistry

lab in college. We used the stuff without a care until the day it was officially deemed a carcinogen - and then we didn't. That was in 1979.

In a strange case of collective heads-in-sand, benzene was known to cause cancer since the 1920s. (We can thank industry along with federal regulators for that small lapse.) Benzene is now one of the few industrial chemicals officially listed as a known human carcinogen. It causes leukemia, and industry workers are most at risk.

So what happens to all that polystyrene? The EPA estimated that in 2007, nearly three billion pounds of polystyrene was used in the production of disposable goods, including foamed polystyrene plastic plates, cups, egg cartons, and packaging peanuts. Aside from the packaging peanuts we might bring to a UPS store for reuse, polystyrene has a recycling rate estimated at a mere 0.8%. Most will end up in a landfill. At worst, it ends up in our local streams, rivers and oceans.

When it does, according to new research by Katsuhiko Saido and colleagues from the Nihon University, in Chiba, Japan, it will not only degrade more rapidly than it would on land (under certain marine conditions) but it will also release toxicants including a small amount of bisphenol A, notoriously linked with polycarbonate plastics, and styrene which brings us back to - d'oh!

The good news is that like most other plastics, technically polystyrene foam is recyclable. In fact, it can be recycled back

into many of the products from which it came - plates, clamshells, egg cartons and insulation, or into less desirable "dead end" products like lightweight concrete. The bad news is that the process isn't cost effective, at least in the US - and so it isn't all that popular.

Then there are the more creative uses for this problem plastic. Some, like Cass Phillips, writer and co-owner of Kamuela Greenhouse/Specialty Orchids in Waimea, HI have considered turning the environmental blight into beauty. With USDA grant funding, Phillips is currently testing the utility of various locally collected and processed recycled plastics as a growth medium additive with an eye to providing a durable low cost product for the Hawaiian orchid industry. When asked about foamed polystyrene, she responded:

"I found that a certain type of orchid, *miltoniopsis* (aka the pansy orchid), grew fastest and largest in straight granulated polystyrene foam, in a trial that included three controls (cinder, coconut fiber and orchid bark)..... What truly stunned me is that the pansy orchids went into their bloom cycle two to three months before any other sample."

There could be several reasons for the accelerated growth. One might suppose improved water retention could be a factor, but the ground polystyrene foam dried out almost instantly. That leaves us pondering other possibilities, including one that could be considered insidious: the release of growth-inducing chemicals. Sorting out the dif-

see POLYSTYRENE pg 13

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JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ – *Q. I have Meniere's disease and I was wondering if you have any suggestions for what I should do during an attack.*

Meniere's disease is an inner-ear disorder that produces a group of symptoms including vertigo, a spinning sensation that can lead to nausea and vomiting. Meniere's usually occurs in only one ear.

If you have an attack, lie still on a firm surface and stare at a stationary object. Wait for the vertigo to subside and get up slowly. Then go take a nap. Don't drink during an attack because you will probably vomit. If you can't drink without vomiting for more than a day, call a doctor.

The disease was named after

THE HEALTHY GEEZER: Meniere's Disease

French physician Prosper Ménière who first described it in 1861. Meniere's main symptoms are:

- Attacks of vertigo without warning that last 20 minutes to more than two hours.
- Permanent hearing loss that is suffered by most people with Meniere's.
- Tinnitus, which is a ringing, buzzing, roaring, whistling or hissing sound in your ear.
- A feeling of fullness or pressure in the ear.

Attacks can come as often as daily or as little as once a year. An attack can be a combination of multiple symptoms.

The cause of Meniere's disease isn't known. It seems to be the result of the abnormal volume or composition of fluid in the inner ear. However, researchers are uncertain about what causes the changes in the fluid. There is speculation that it may be caused viral infections of the inner ear, head injury, a hereditary predisposition, and allergy. Meniere's is not contagious.

There is no cure for Meniere's, but you can find relief by reducing body fluid with diuretic medicines and a change in diet. Drugs that treat vertigo and nausea are helpful, too. If Meniere's disease is severe, it may have to be treated with surgery.

The following are some changes you can make in your lifestyle to help with Meniere's:

- Eat approximately the same amount of food at each meal to regulate body fluids. You may also eat five or six smaller meals instead of three meals a day.
- Salt can increase fluid

retention. Try to consume no more than 1,000 to 1,500 milligrams of sodium daily.

- Avoid monosodium glutamate (MSG). Prepackaged food products and some Asian foods include MSG, a type of sodium.
- Stay away from the caffeine in coffee, tea and some soft drinks. Caffeine can make symptoms worse.
- Nicotine can make Meniere's symptoms worse, too. Quit smoking.

Part of the inner ear is a labyrinth lined with hair-like sensors that react to moving fluid. These sensors send infor-

mation about body movement to the brain. The fluid and sensors tell us the direction and speed of our movements and they help us maintain balance.

If you experience symptoms of Meniere's, see a physician for a diagnosis. Meniere's symptoms can be caused by other diseases such as stroke, brain tumor, Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis or cardiovascular disease.

Unpredictable attacks of vertigo from Meniere's can be crippling. They can increase your risk of falling, having a car accident and getting depressed and anxious.

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

POLYSTYRENE from pg 12 ferences will require further analysis, but in the meantime Phillips has found herself wondering about the wisdom of schools using Styrofoam plates in their lunch programs, and the consequences of slurping down cups-o-soup from Styrofoam tubs.

Of course the best way to keep this ubiquitous plastic from polluting the oceans and clogging the landfills is to reduce use (according to the American Chemistry Council, the PS industry has been in decline for the past four years, though they give no reason), and close the recycling loop. More immediately, I'm sure there'll be many more opportunities to pick Styrofoam from newly acquired conservation land, and for those rare occasions when I can't

clean my plate while dining at one of the local eateries, I've begun asking for foil or cardboard for the leftovers.

From our Franklin County Waste District's "What Do I Do With..." (http://www.franklin-countywastedistrict.org/what_do_i_do_with.html)

There are no local outlets for recycling polystyrene. Foam blocks, like the packaging typically used to secure electronics or appliances in shipping, are called "expanded polystyrene molders" or EPS. Clean, uncontaminated EPS packaging can be mailed to: Tegrant Corporation 29 Park Road Putnam, CT 06260 (Foodservice items are NOT accepted -- only foam block packaging. The consumer is responsible for the shipping fees.)



SCHOOL from pg 5

them was evident as Phillips suggested an effort had been made behind the scenes to prevent her from becoming chair again this year, and Langknecht suggesting this was "the pot calling the kettle black" and mentioning several issues where he felt Phillips had worked against him. Phillips responded by attempting to clarify her actions and denying Langknecht's accusations. The other members listened in silence.

Monosson suggested she and Phillips work as co-chairs, but Phillips said she was uncertain how that arrangement would work. Superintendent Carl Ladd, who had been quiet during these

proceedings, said the regional agreement requires the school committee to elect a chair and a vice chair.

In a subsequent vote, Phillips was elected vice-chair, and with no dissension Kristen Boyle was re-elected as secretary and Sorrel Hatch was re-elected treasurer. No action was taken on Phillips' suggestion to reinstate some subcommittees to assist in more detailed examination of issues for which there is little time in regular school committee meetings.

In other matters, Karl Dziura, president of the Gill-Montague Education Association, informed the committee there was another round of federal Race to the Top

(RTTT) grant applications coming due, with school districts asked to state their positions on whether they would participate or not. Dziura said he had heard that Mitchell Chester, Massachusetts Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, was considering not participating in the grant process this time. Dziura added that the Education Association was also discussing reconsidering their position with regards to the Race to the Top initiative.

The next regular school committee meeting will be held on May 25th, at 7:00 p.m. at the Turners Falls High School.



Alice Urban Receives Public Service Award

MIDDLEBURY, VT - Alice Urban, the *Montague Reporter's* former 'High School Highlights' correspondent and a student at Middlebury College, has received the prestigious Bonnie McCardell Public Service Award.

Urban, a 2008 graduate of Turners Falls High School, was recognized for her work with the Community Friends mentoring program. She is a coordinator of the organization and mentors an 11-year-old girl. In addition, Urban co-founded and co-directs the Sense of Place program, an

initiative that introduces children in the program to various aspects of Vermont life - history, government and agriculture - to help instill understanding and pride in their Vermont heritage and propel them into community involvement and service.

Urban has written and received grants for the Sense of Place and Community Friends programs.


The daughter of Corinne Urban of Millers Falls and the late Mark Urban, is a College Scholar, Dean's List student, pho-

tographer for the college newspaper and literary magazine, a life-guard and a swim instructor.



Ali Urban

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GO GREEN FAMILY

Episode 12: Facebook Greetings

BY JEANNE WEINTRAUB-MASON

MONTAGUE CENTER – The first thing Alex Tinker noticed when he logged onto the family computer was a surprise: an email from Facebook saying “You have a message from Jayden Bartlett.” The message read:

“Hey alex-noticed ur tshirt at the reception. Im a big fan of the dumpster divers. Do u know when theyr touring the valley?Btw hows the competition going? My dad has turned us all into

vegetarians but its ok- hes an awesome cook.”

Alex smiled as he realized that the writer was the hot chick from the Go Green reception. He hammered out a quick email response:

“Thats funny-my mom turned all of us into locavores. This week she has me driving all ovr Franklin County 2 get food from farmers.”

A minute later, Jayden’s response appeared: “Whats a locavore?”

“A person who eats local food. Like this

week we hav asparagus & spinach coming out of r ears bc thats whats in season. No white sugar, only honey & maple syrup & potatoes all the time.”

“Do you guys get 2 eat meat?”

“R freezer is full of grass-fed beef & venison so we hav beef stew like every other day. And we hav r own chickens. We even eat emu burgers-for real!”

“Huh? Whats emu?”

“Bird like an ostrich. We r buying

meat from this emu farm near us. Its supposed 2 be healthy bc it has less fat.”

Alex thought back on all the farms he’d visited the past two weeks to pick up food. There were the bags of greens and goat cheese from from Laughing Dog Farm up the road, emu meat from the Songline Emu Farm, milk from Sunbrite Farm in Bernardston, pickles from the Montague Pickle Company, and beef from Hager Brothers’ in Colrain. Actually, it had been kind of cool meeting all these people—even though they all wanted to talk his ear off about their little farms and businesses. Then Jayden’s response appeared:

“Cool. Do u know when the dumpster divers hav their next gig in the Valley?”

“They r part of the lineup for wildwaffle folk-punk music festival in brattleboro next month. Me & my buddy Jim will be there. Wanna come?”

“Yes! Bfn”

Jayden walked away from the computer and into the kitchen, where her dad was preparing pesto pasta. “So Dad— where do we go to get local food?”

Continued next issue.

Key to text/email abbreviations: U: you; R=are/our; BC=because; 2=two/to; BFN=bye for now

Missed an episode? Want to learn more about the Go Green families? Visit www.montaguema.net.

BULLY from pg 1
how the bill would aid investigators to fight a phenomenon that now takes place largely on-line. Murray did not answer the question exactly, but said a number of laws had been updated for the digital age.

Then came a critical question from the Kara McLaughlin, a member of the Gill Montague community school partnership. “Is there going to be funding?” she asked.

“It’s meant to be about the

atmosphere we are trying to create... and the tone we are taking about bullying,” answered Murray.

Approached later, McLaughlin said she hopes the state will back the new anti-bullying law with funding. “If we’re on the ‘cutting edge’ with a 15 and 20 hour position in the high school and middle school, imagine what we could do with full time positions, or even multiple positions,” she said.

Students at Turners Falls

High School said they are not worried by bullying. Sam Letcher, a sophomore, said there is no noticeable bullying in the school. Mary Morris, also a sophomore, said that while bullying is present, the events are isolated, and tend to be more subtle, like rumors and gossip.

Some faced verbal harassment, and felt there was nobody in the administration that could be approached about the incident. Troy Langknecht, a freshman, said

there is occasional bullying, but there are teachers who are easily approachable to talk to about bullying. Lucas Foley, a senior, said there is some bullying in our school, but it is rare, and takes the form of cliques and ostracizing.

Students interviewed at the Great Falls Middle School said they had encountered bullying in one form or another at their school. Jacob Lackey, in 6th grade, said bullying has diminished in recent years, and has become less physical “pushing

around” and more gossip and rumors. Henry Kilanski and Devon Rehorka, both in 6th grade, have both joined the fight against bullying in their school, joining organizations such as “Bully Busters” and the peer mediators.

They believe there are incidents of behavior that might be termed bullying and harassment at their school, but that it is largely “social bullying” based around personal relationships, teasing, and even sexual harassment. They said there is also occasional physical bullying, but it is rare. Many of the students interviewed feel as though the school could be doing more to stop bullying, and that not enough attention has been brought to this issue in the past.

The Bully Busters have been using skits and theater to show bullying situations and ways to help prevent the situations, or ways to deal with them as they arise.

Mark Hudyma is a sophomore at the Turners Falls High School.



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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG
Assault and Battery with a Weapon
Tuesday, 5/11
3:25 p.m. Report of hay bales in area of Route 2 East bypass. Found same moved to the shoulder of the road.
8:20 p.m. Report of altercation at an Old State Road address. Arrested [redacted] for assault and battery with a dangerous weapon and aggravated assault and battery. Criminal citation issued to [redacted] for domestic assault and battery.
Friday, 5/14
6:56 p.m. Criminal citation issued to [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle with a revoked registration, suspended license, no insurance, no inspection and no registration in possession.
7:01 p.m. Report of a suicidal female at bridge. Located same, transported to Baystate Franklin Medical Center.
Saturday, 5/15
12:30 a.m. Suspicious activity at Christina’s Restaurant. Found to be owners working. All set.
Sunday, 5/16
9:40 a.m. Suspicious activity and vehicle at Old Cemetery off of Old State Road. Checked same and moved along.
11:20 p.m. Report of a bonfire at a Gunn Street residence. Fire extinguished.
Monday, 5/17
8:17 p.m. Reported brush fire on High Street. Assisted fire department with directing traffic.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



THURSDAY, MAY 20th

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Songbirds of the Northeast* a 90-minute power point presentation featuring both recordings and photographs of our native and introduced songbirds. Habitat, migration, diets, life cycles, and survival strategies are also explored. Handouts with information about bird clubs, nature centers, recommended books and websites, and instructions on attracting songbirds are made available at the conclusion of the program. 7 to 8:30 p.m.

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

FRIDAY, MAY 21st

Understanding Net Energy: how its availability shaped our world and what its decline means for the future, slide show and talk by David Murphy, 7:30 - 9 p.m., town hall, Wendell. David Murphy, SUNY School of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse NY, is a nationally recognized expert on net energy and its economic effects. Info: Jonathan von Ranson, (978) 544-3758.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Cabinet*, a mix of bluegrass with a rockin' good time attitude. The six piece band from Scranton Wilkes-Barre features

eclectic instrumentation, including a fiddle, mandolin, and upright bass. 9:30 p.m. www.cabinetmusic.com.

Kevin Burke & Cal Scott perform at Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls, 8 p.m. Kevin Burke is one of the commanding presences in Irish music today. 2002 recipient of the National Heritage



The CABINET, May 21, 9:30 pm performs at Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls. www.cabinetmusic.com

Fellowship award from The National Endowment for the Arts. Cal Scott, guitarist, multi-instrumentalist and composer whose professional credentials span traditional Irish to bluegrass to jazz. \$18 advance / \$20 at door / \$12 students.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Josh Levangie*, singing all your favorite Johnny Cash tunes and many more, 9 to 11 p.m.

Montague Bookmill, Montague: *A Ghost Quartet*, 8 p.m., \$10. The Valley's own pan-poetic jazz band! Come out and dance your backside off!

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Lenny's Lounge*. Lenny Zarcone croons 50s & 60s gems, 7:30 p.m. no cover.

Christina's Tavern, Erving: *The Reprobate Band*, 7 to 11 p.m.

Millers Pub, Millers Falls: Karaoke with Dirty John, 659-3391.

SATURDAY, MAY 22nd
Valley Idol, Jr., an a cappella singing competition for students 8 to 17 years old at The Shea Theater. Finals 9:30 a.m. Admission: \$5. www.theshea.org.

The Shea Theater's Fifth Annual *Valley Idol* Grand Finale, 8 p.m. www.theshea.org Admission: \$12.

Wendell Full Moon Coffee House: *Haymakers-Rani Arbo & Mark Erelli*. A rare duo performance. (Last weeks listing had the wrong date)

7:30 p.m. \$8 - \$15 (978) 544-5557, www.wendellfullmoon.org.

Memorial Hall Theater, Shelburne Falls: *A Night At The Opera*, the Marx Bros. film with live entertainment at 7 p.m. \$6.

JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: *Seven Mile Line*, high energy bluegrass quintet, 7 to 9 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Blame it on Tina*, Jen Spingla, Bob Rosser & of course...Tina Horn, will keep you happy with their amazing sound, 9 to 11 p.m.

Montague Bookmill, Montague: *The Rub Wrongways Caravan of Stars* w/ a reading by Matthew Latkiewicz, and music by Dennis Crommett. A collaborative group of songwriters, musicians, and singers who all work together in an effort to make the most of their music. 8 p.m., \$8.

www.rubwrongways.com/caravanofstars.html.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Benefit for Round Here Cafe. 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, MAY 22nd & 23rd
First Annual Visioning Bear Circle Intertribal Peace & Justice Pau Wau. Sat, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sun, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Grand Entry at noon both days. Camp Lion Knoll, Oak Hill Road, Leyden. Suggested donation \$5. Children free. No alcohol allowed. (413) 772-0871 x104 or strongoak@necwit.org.

SUNDAY, MAY 23rd
Plant Swap, on the common, near the gazebo, Wendell. 10 a.m. to noon. Bring extra plants, divisions, starts, whatever you have to swap. Besides swapping, if you have plants you can donate to the Community Garden's Walking Garden, please bring them!

Public Art Bike Rack Celebration at the Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls. Annaliese Birschoff will speak about the process of creating her salmon bike rack design and some of her other creative projects. The rack is on Ave A between the Shea Theater and Jay K's and is a permanent rack and public art installation. 1 to 3 p.m.

The Amandla Chorus Spring Concert held at Temple Israel, Greenfield, 7 p.m. Songs of justice, freedom, and celebration from around the world, sung in Zulu, Hebrew, Spanish, French, Japanese, and English.



Kevin Burke & Cal Scott perform at Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls, 8 p.m. "Long renowned as one of the smoothest and technically proficient fiddlers in the Celtic music pantheon." - Sing Out Magazine

Features the premiere of a work written by MacDougall in honor of the Kenyan Nobel Prize recipient, Wangari Maathai, who was the first African woman to receive the prestigious award. \$5 - \$20 sliding scale. (413) 773-8655; www.amandlachorus.org.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 26th

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

THURSDAY, MAY 27th

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Larry Kopp*, country & city blues guitar with vocals, 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *BirdSwing's fullmoon Dinner Date Night* and open jam session, 7:30 p.m., free.

ONGOING

On display at the Great Falls Discovery Center: *Wildlife And Nature Photography* by Jennifer Nefedov thru May 31st.

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3. **HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON 3D**
DAILY 7:00 9:30 PG
FRI, SAT, SUN 12:00 3:00
4. **DATE NIGHT** PG13
DAILY 6:40 9:20
FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 2:15
5. **LETTERS TO JULIET**
DAILY 6:40 9:20 PG
FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 3:15
6. **MACGRUBER**
DAILY 6:30 9:00 R in DTS sound
FRI, SAT, SUN 12:30 3:30
7. **ROBIN HOOD**
DAILY 6:30 9:30 PG13 in DTS sound
FRI, SAT, SUN 12:30 3:30

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The Road Less Traveled

Biennial a Bust; Dix a Must!



Portrait of the Dancer Anita Berber, 1925 by Otto Dix

RICHARD ANDERSEN & DIANE LYN

NEW YORK - Not much good has been said about any of the seventy-five Biennial exhibits presented by the Whitney Museum of American Art since 1932.

Perhaps because the purpose of the Biennial is to present the ways art is shaped by the time in which it is created, the same can be said about the current edition, which runs through May 30th: not much of what's here seems to be very good. The museum's decision to exhibit a greatest hits collection from past Biennials seems to underscore this point. If you can't find something in the current exhibit to please or at least engage you in some way, there may be something from a past Biennial that, though it may not have been considered much good when it first appeared, is considered very good now: A painting by Edward Hopper,

say, or another reincarnation of Cindy Sherman by Cindy Sherman.

There's always something shocking in each Biennial, as if shocking is an important part of what it means to be contemporary. Top honors this year go to Nina Berman whose collection of seventeen photographs of former USMC "Ty," whose face has been re-arranged by an improvised explosive device, are so painful as to be almost impossible to look at.

Eight photographs of burned women Stephanie Sinclair has collected under the title "Self-Immolation in Afghanistan: A Cry for Help" offer a critical policy analysis. Only these women have not tried to set themselves on fire. Innocent victims, they've been brought to the point of charring by American bombs. The cry for help is theirs; the self-immolation is ours.

Almost any painting, sculpture, or video installation would seem tame when compared with Berman's and Sinclair's hard-hitting photographs, but most of this year's cross section of contemporary art seems especially bland, shallow, and forgettable. A sad reflection on who we are - if you believe we are our art.

Many times more engaging than the Biennial and running until August 30th is the first North American retrospective of Otto Dix at the Neue Galerie. Dix, perhaps more than any other artist, has defined the decadent images that appear in our mind's eye when we think of Germany between the two world wars. Even if you've

never seen one of his drawings or paintings, you are familiar with the influence of his work. Recall, if you will, the Broadway musical hit *Cabaret* with Liza Minelli or *Threepenny Opera* by Berthold Brecht and Kurt Weill or any tune taken on by Marlene Dietrich.

Like Berman and Sinclair, Dix's work reflects the social and political climate of his day. His drawings after three years in the trenches during World War I call to mind Francisco Goya's "Disasters of War," but what separates Dix from Goya is the way the former juxtaposes war's horror with its ordinary routines. The effect can sometimes be almost humorous in a sardonic sort of way.

Dix's reputation as the premier German artist during the Weimar Republic rests not on his representations of war, however, but on his portraits of friends, mentors, poets, and fellow artists. The iconic image of the dancer Anita Berber is an especially dramatic work within this genre, done almost totally in shades of brilliant, passionate, even warning-like shades of red. The self-destructive Berber died before she was thirty.

Dix could be as unflattering with himself as he was with others. His early works portray him as an emotionally detached, objective observer of his time, even when his subjects were scandalous nudes. By the 1930s, however, he seems to become increasingly more engaged on an emotional level, even when he is hiding his social criticism behind allegory or historical allusion. His "Seven Deadly Sins," for example, depicts Adolf Hitler as Envy - a representation that contributed to Dix's losing his professorship in Dresden and having his work selected for the Nazis' infamous Degenerate Art exhibition of 1937.

Instead of fleeing Germany, as did so many of the other artists whose works appeared in the *Entartete Kunst* exhibit, Dix remained loyal to his country,

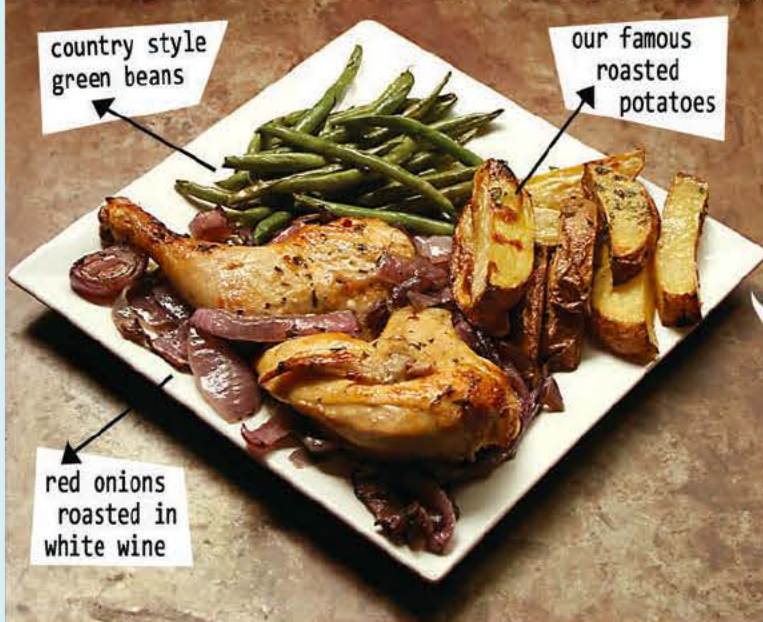
served on the Western Front in World War II, and was captured by the French in 1945. Nor did he take advantage of any opportunity to leave Dresden after the communist takeover.

What the critic Paul Ferdinand Schmidt wrote on the occasion of Dix's 1926 retrospective in Berlin is true of the artist's work today: "Dix comes along like a natural disaster: outrageous, inexplicably devastating, like the explosion of a volcano."



Portrait of the Laryngologist Dr. Mayer-Hermann, 1926, by Otto Dix

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