

THE PLAY'S THE THING

Gill Sixth Graders Catch Greg Mortenson in the Act in – "Our Three Cups of Tea"



Page 9

MONTAGUE CITY MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER **TURNERS FALLS** LAKE PLEASANT lontaque K 75¢ also serving Erving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell YEAR 9 - NO. 34

REPORTER@MONTAGUEMA.NET

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MAY 26, 2011



Student Council representative Katie Kuklewicz looks on as Nadine Ekstrom answers questions from the school committee Tuesday night.

ELLEN BLANCHETTE Over objections from the town of Gill, the Gill-Montague school committee agreed Tuesday night to proceed with contract negotiations to hire the district's former special education director Nadine Ekstrom as interim superintendent for the Gill Montague Regional School District (GMRSD).

The committee interviewed Ekstrom Tuesday, acting on the recommendation of departing superintendent Carl Ladd, who announced earlier this month that he would be leaving the district as of June 30th.

Ladd had intended to fill the soon to be vacant principal positions at the two district elementary schools before he left, and also to complete an accelerated achievement plan in order to comply with DESE requirements in a timely manner, and to hire a project manager to oversee the turnaround plan.

Last week, Ladd said he could take care of these tasks before he left. But this week, Ladd said he would

have preferred more flexibility in selecting his own administrative staff when he took over the district two years ago, and so decided it would be better to allow Ekstrom to have the final say in hiring principals and other staff, since she will be the one who will be working with them.

Acting upon his request and pending successful contract negotiations with Ekstrom, the school committee agreed Tuesday to let Ladd step down at the end of this week, May see EKSTROM pg 11

was willing to step forward to challenge Banash this time around. So for the benefit of voters who gave her an undisputed mandate for another three years, here in her own words is what Banash considers the main items on the agenda for her coming term, as she works with her colleagues, and other town and school departments to get them accomplished.

"The three top priorities for the next three years are, first, keeping services intact in town. The budget continues to be a challenge. We are trying to do more with less, but we still need

ed foods."

Price's research also revealed that, as more cultures shifted to a Western, modemized diet, their health suffered.

Inspired by Price's research, Rosenberg made an arrangement with an Amherst restaurant owner to use the kitchen from 4:30 to 6:00 each morning. In the first summer, he produced 800 jars of dill pickles.



BY DAVID DETMOLD GILL - Preserving town services, selling the Mariamante property, and plotting a sustainable path forward for the Gill-Montague Regional School District. If she had the chance to debate an opponent, Ann Banash, who easily won re-election for another three year term on the Gill selectboard last week, would have made those the top three priorities on her campaign platform.

But after six successive terms, and seven years on the finance committee before that, no opponent



Ann Banash was re-elected last week, running unopposed, for a seventh consecutive term on the Gill Selectboard.

to provide service for the first refusal on the land, taxpayers."

Number two, said Banash, "Do something with the Mariamante Land," the twelve acre parcel the town purchased in 2004, for \$245,000. (Since then, the town has paid down \$301,379 on the loans for Mariamante, with the principal of \$190,200 remaining.)

In 2004, the selectboard acted to head off a potential 60 unit development on that parcel, fearing the cost to town services would far exceed the property taxes from the development. But after exercising the right of polling residents about best use of the parcel and settling on light industry or commercial development, the town has since been constrained by the presumed archeological significance of the land to regional Native American tribes, including the Narragansetts and the Wampanoags.

Tribal leaders believe ancient burials have been documented on this property, and would like the land preserved like any other burial site. They cite state law Chapter 114; Section see TERM pg 12

Real Pickles Turns Ten, Banking on the suc-Powered by the Sun



cess of the newly developed Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture (CISA) Buy Campaign, Local Rosenberg and Holland relocated to Western

Turners Strong Arms Pioneer 15-0 Extending Undeafeted Streak

Addie Holland and Dan Rosenberg, owners of Real Pickles

BY KATE FITZGERALD

GREENFIELD - Local entrepreneurs Dan Rosenberg and Addie Rose Holland, of Montague, are celebrating a decade of pickling locally grown vegetables today as their business, Greenfield-based Real Pickles, turns ten.

Rosenberg and Holland are also commemorating the tenth anniversary by "flipping the switch" on their production facility's brand new solar power system, a move they say compliments their social values and commitment to sustainable operation.

Mass from Boston in the late 1990s to start a food business.

"We were noticing there was more of a focus on buying local [in Western Mass] than there was in Boston," Holland said this week. "It seemed like a good

move to start a food business with those values in this area."

Rosenberg has long been interested in local and regional food systems, but his interest in pickling vegetables took off when he came across the work of Weston Price, a medical researcher who studied indigenous diets around the globe in the early part of the 1900s.

"He found all of these incredibly healthy people eating indigenous diets around the world," Rosenberg said. "One of the commonalities between all of these indigenous diets was raw, ferment-

Rosenberg then rented a space in Greenfield, across the street from the current Real Pickles location. A few years later, he and Holland purchased the building at 311 Wells Street, where Real Pickles has been operating ever since.

Currently, Real Pickles offers a wide variety of organic pickled vegetables, including Dill Pickles, Garlic Dill Pickles (a 2011 Good Food Award winner), Sauerkraut, Ginger Carrots, Organic Beets, and Tomatillo Hot Sauce. Their products are found on menus of local restaurants, including the Lady Killigrew in Montague and the Wagon Wheel in Gill.

In addition to promoting health and dietary awareness, Real Pickles serves as a model of a sustainable local food system. The vegetables found in any Real Pickles product are grown at local farms,

see PICKLES pg 11



Emily Mailloux in the wind-up Wednesday night against Pioneer. The top ranked Western Mass Division III TFHS girls softball team, plays their last regular season game tonight against Taconic, before heading to post-season play.

BY DAVID DETMOLD - The Mercy Rule (sometimes called the Slaughter Rule) came into effect after five innings of relentless batting practice against the hapless Pioneer Panthers. The Turners Falls girls softball squad extended their undefeated streak to 19

see SOFTBALL pg 11

PET OF THE WEEK

Social Butterfly



Barbara

My name is Barbara and I'm a one-year-old female longhair cat in need of a good home. I am a super-duper social butterfly. I adore people. If you look at my profile filled out by my former family, the words "playful, affectionate, friendly and talkative" will jump out at you.

I love human companionship, and I will return all the love you give to me with complete and utter joy. I must say I also want to be your best kitty friend, so the ideal home for me will have me as your only cat. (That said, with a slow introduction, cats will usually get along, so if you have other cats, my Dakin friends can teach you how to do a slow introduction to make it more likely we will get along -as long as the rest are okay that I'm the Queen, of course.) To find out more about adopting me, please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society 413-548-9898 at or via email:info@dpvhs.org.

TLES

Week of May 30th

in Montague

& CANS!

MONTAGUE LIBRARY NEWS Summer Hours at Carnegie Library

BY LINDA HICKMAN TURNERS FALLS - The Carnegie Library in Turners Falls has switched to the summer schedule. The library will be closed on Saturdays until after Labor Day weekend. The weekday hours remain the same. It is open Monday - Wednesday, 1 - 8 pm., Thursday 1 - 5 p.m., and Friday 10 a.m. - 5 pm. The

branch libraries keep the same schedule year round. The Montague Center Library is open Monday and Wednesday, 2 - 5 and 6 - 8 p.m. The Millers Falls Library is open Tuesday and Thursday, 2-5 and 6-8 p.m. Books and movies may be renewed at any time at www.cwmars.org. For more information, call 863-3214.

CASINO NIGHT AT TFHS

BY MARK HUDYMA - On Thursday, June 9th, from 6:00 to 9:00 p m., the Turners Falls High School gym will be taking on the guise of a high rolling casino as Casino Night comes to town.

The event will feature blackjack, roulette, and other traditional casino games, as well as more contemporary games like Deal or No Deal. There will also be a host of carnival games available, and a lucky haul of chips will earn players tickets to the raffle, featuring gift certificates and merchandise from many local businesses, including the Country Creemee, Richardson's Candy Kitchen, Bernardston Farmer's Supply, and Ristorante DiPaolo.

The proceeds from the night will support the Leadership and Community Service class and their projects like "Surviving Middle School," which helps middle school students cope with stress and social issues.

The Casino Night is the newest in a line of collaborative

BOOK and BAKE SALE

(also Pachysandra & Bat Guano)

Saturday, May 28th

(Rain Date Sunday, May 29th,

rain or shine)

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Cushman Library

28 Church St., Bernardston

(413) 648-5402

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efforts between Leadership and Community Service and other classes in the school.

Leadership and Community Service is a class taught by Heather Batchelor, focusing on the development of ties between the community and the school.

Casino night was organized primarily by the students of the class, but was envisioned and suggested by Donna Fowler as a project for her statistics class. The concept blossomed into a project for many other classes as well, including Marketing, and Manufacturing and Woodworking.

Senior Julie Thompson said she feels as though the project will be an empowering experience for her and the rest of the Leadership and Community Service class. "People look up to us," Thompson said. "It makes us feel like leaders."

Mark Hudyma is a junior at TFHS.

Great Falls Middle School

Students of the Week

Grade 6

Grade 8

Justin Giguere

<u>SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES – May 23rd - 27th</u>



Free Speech on the French King Highway

Historic Bridge Facts

PROVIDED BY ED GREGORY, OF GREENFIELD - from documents relating to the original construction of the suspension bridge between Turners and Greenfield in 1871.

The "White" (Lower Suspension) Bridge is absorbing the effects of daily travel. This account is documented.

There is much trouble from trotting horses on the bridge and the selectmen of both towns are considering measures for preventing the injurious practice and as a last resort will close the bridge until such time as the towns take action. "They have built a good bridge, and intend to take care of it."

Both towns appropriated money to maintain the bridge at necessary intervals, but a little stir was occasioned by the final acceptance.

The following is an actual account pertaining to the maintenance of the Lower Suspension Bridge as entered in the Town of Montague Annual Report for year ending 1878-1879.

- · Painting and repairs Suspension Bridge
- · Chas. Allen counsel for Suspension Bridge
- S. T. Field counsel for Suspension Bridge
- 125.00 Estimated Necessary Appropriations 500.00

On September 9, 1872 the Gazette and Courier wrote: "The County Commissioners held their regular session at Franklin Hall Tuesday. The road and bridge as petitioned by John Russell and others were accepted and ordered to be recorded."

Thus was chronicled the building of the first Turners Falls Bridge in the 1870s.

More bridge facts next week!

\$ 370.96

15.00

Correction:

Due to an editing error, we incorrectly named Pat Allen as the chair of the Montague Capital Improvements Committee, in the front page article in Volume IX #32 (Allen's Run for Fifth Selectboard Term Draws

8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics

10:30 a.m. Brown Bag

Wednesday, June 1st

12:30 p.m. Painting

Pressure Clinic

Clinic

12:30 p m. Bingo

Thursday, June 2nd

No Opposition). Allen is a member of that committee; Greg Garrison is now the chair.

Also, in last week's Leverett Greenhouse story, the amount of the grant from the People's Bank was given inaccurately as \$7800. The correct amount was \$7590. We regret these errors.





The Montague Reporter

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 Tuesday served through Thursday at noon. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11:00 a.m. The meal site manager is Kerry Togneri. All fitness classes are supported Wednesday, June 1st 10:00 a m. Aerobics 12:45 Bingo Thursday, June 2nd 9:00 a m. Tai Chi 10:30 a m. Brown Bag 1:00 pm. Pitch Friday, June 3rd 10:00 a m. Aerobics 10:45 a m. Chair Exercise 1:00 p m. Transitions for Seniors

Emily Watrous Alyson Kilanski Grade 7 Nadia Hasan

May 26, 2011

Published weekly on Thursday. (Every other week in July and August. Wednesday paper fourth week of November. No paper last week of December.) PHONE (413) 863-8666 reporter@montaguema.net Postmaster: Send address changes to The Montague Reporter 58 4th Street Turners Falls, MA 01376 Advertising and copy deadline is Tuesday at NOON.

This newspaper shall not be liable for errors in advertisements, but will print without charge that part of the advertisement in which an error occurred. The publishers reserve the right to refuse advertising for any reason and to alter copy or graphics to conform to standards of the newspaper, such as they are. Local Subscription Rates: \$20 for 1/2 Year

by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted. Council on Aging director is Roberta Potter. • Sign up now for June **3rd "Transitions for Seniors"** talk presented by Hospice of Franklin County staff. Reservations are now being taken for our July 24th trip to Warren's Lobster House and the Broadway musical Hairspray. For more information, to make meal reservations, or to sign up for programs call (413) 863-9357. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open.

Monday, May 30th

Senior Center Closed for Memorial Day Tuesday, May 31st 9:00 a m. Walking Group 1:00 p.m. Canasta Lessons

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

Monday, May 30th

Senior Center closed for Memorial Day Tuesday, May 31st

8:45 a.m. Aerobics Friday, June 3rd 9:00 a.m. Bowling 11:30 a.m. Lunch - Call the Center for details **LEVERETT** Senior Activities • Take-It-Easy (Chair) Yoga -Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m. at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$4.00 (first

class free). • Senior Lunch - Fridays, 12:00. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation. • For more information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022, extension 5 or coa@leverett ma.us.

WENDELL Senior Center is located at 2 Lockes Village Road. Call Nancy Spittle, (978) 544-6760 for hours and upcoming programs. Call the Center if you need a ride.







COMPILED BY DON CLEGG - The 35th Annual Gas **Engine Show and Flea Market** will be held on Memorial Day weekend, from May 27th through May 29th at the junction of I-91 and Route 10 in Bernardston. The food booths will open on Friday the 27th at 11:30 a m. and there will be an auction on Friday evening at 6:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday's festivities include breakfast from 6:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., with the flea market and engine show starting at 9:00 a.m. There will also be a ham and bean supper on Saturday from 5:00 p m. to 7:00 p m. All proceeds to benefit United Church of Bernardston.

Hope & Olive Restaurant will host a **Soup and Games Night benefit** at 44 Hope Street in Greenfield on Monday, June 6th, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The self-serve soups are delicious and the atmosphere playful, so please join in the fun and festive evening. There is no charge, but donations are encouraged. Each month benefits a different cause; June's will be maintaining the grounds at the Energy Park in Greenfield.

Can you wrestle a computer mouse with one hand tied behind your back? Do you know where your shift keys are? Can you type with at least two fingers? If you can do this and are not intimidated by blinking cursors or colorful graphics, the **Wendell website committee** wants you. The website committee is looking for 'tech buddies,' community volumteers to help town officials who

are not very tech savvy with updating information on the town website. This would mostly involve transcribing meeting agendas and minutes, posting announcements for hearings, updating the calendar for committee and board meetings, and similar tasks, activities that should take no more than an hour or so a week. Even if you don't have a computer or internet access at home, the library is open four days a week with computers and wireless internet available. If you are interested, contact: websitecommittee@wendellmass.us.

The Streetscape Adopt-a-Planter Program along Avenue A in downtown Turners Falls is looking for volunteers. There is currently one planter up for adoption, plus there is need for someone to help with the general coordinating of this wonderful program. This could just be a once in a lifetime, not-to-be missed opportunity. Please call Anne at 863-2730 for more information.

On Saturday, June 4th, at 10:30 a.m. in the community room of Greenfield Savings Bank, 282 Avenue A, in Turners, go back in time with Dee Dee Mares from **Songline Emu Farm** to the Jurassic Age and witness a modern day dinosaur! Learn how this ancient dinosaur descendant can help with aches, pains and scars! Seating is limited so please call Linda or Kerri at 413-863-4316. Refreshments will be served.

Send local briefs to: reporterlocal@montaguema.net.





Roseann Martoccia, director of Franklin County Home Care, congratulates Linda Ackerman, (left) branch manager at Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls. She was first to start and first to finish the walk again!

Food Forest Farm

BY ANNA VIADERO

MONTAGUE CITY — The Meals on Wheels Walkathon was a huge success again this year, thanks to many and varied community partnerships. At least \$78,000 was raised, although many receipts have yet to be counted. This is up from the grand total of \$75,000 raised in 2010.

BY MARIANNE SUNDELL

WENDELL - Permaculture

expert Jonathon Bates from

Holyoke will give a presentation

on his Food Forest Farm

approach to low-maintenance.

sustainable food systems on the

evening of Monday, June 13th at

the town hall. His talk is spon-

sored by the open space commit-

tee, the local food coordinator

and energy committee and the

At the annual town meeting

on Monday, June 6th, the open

space committee will request

funds to hire Bates to create a

design for a small garden near

the community garden on the

town office site. The garden

would provide a plan for stew-

ardship of this section of town

property, provide an educational

model for the community, and

help supply food for Good

Neighbors and other Wendell

community garden committee.

The Franklin County Home Care Corporation spring appeal was dedicated to Meals on Wheels, adding \$14,200 to the total.

Fifty businesses, led by Fallon Community Health Plan, Greenfield Savings Bank, Greenfield Cooperative Bank, Yankee Candle, Rodney Hunt Company, Bete Fog Nozzle, the Rice Family, Athol Orange Rotary, and People's United Bank as well as 335 walkers supported the walk, with 56 teams of walkers.

Prize winners included: Ellie Parody of Greenfield for Oldest Walker; Kobe Wiggins of Greenfield for Youngest Walker; Baystate Franklin Medical Center walk team for Best Costume; Orange Mealer Wheelers for greatest team fundraising (\$7391); and Beatrice Bower of Athol for greatest individual fundraiser (\$2200)!

Innovative approaches to fundraising for Meals on Wheels this year included a cookbook sale by World Eye Bookshop in Greenfield, a mid-winter BBQ at Orange Senior Center, a month long fundraiser by Food City in Turners Falls and proceeds from the Big Cheese 5-K in Athol.

For more info, go to: www.fchcc.org.



This project would include a half-day workshop, known as a charrette, to provide an opportunity for community members to share their ideas about the permaculture garden. Following the charrette, we hope to create a committee to help plant, maintain and fundraise for the garden. Folks interested in helping with the project are encouraged to attend the event on June 13th.





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		Technical
Circulation	Founded by	Administrator
Contraction of the second s	r Evans Harry Brandt David Detmold	Michael Muller

Tritium in Our River

BY ALAN EMOND

COLRAIN - There was a day when a human being could walk the planet barefoot and not worry but for a splinter. There was a time when a person could jump into nearly any cold running water for a soothing dip. Time was when you might lick a rain drop from a leaf with no fear. Once upon a time a walk for fresh air meant a meander outside, not a day in a climate controlled building.

Those days of innocence had their perils: plagues, fire, famine, and war. Most of these were short lived and did not render parts of the planet uninhabitable for a century or longer.

But the consequences of our activities have caught up with each and every one of us, from one end of the planet to the other. Our unwillingness to limit our numbers in spite of our abilities to increase longevity, and the lack of commitment to any real sacrifice of assumed comforts has put such a strain on this planet as to erode the basic comforts that were our birthright.

In particular, our gorging demand for affordable power to run every form of electrical appliance holds us prisoner to a radioactive master.

The recent events at Entergy Vermont Yankee and many other aging nuclear plants across this country and around the world are witness to our willingness to play Russian roulette with our very lives, and the lives of children yet unborn.

When I first heard of the latest round of incidents at Vermont Yankee - transformer fire, cooling tower collapse, leaking pipes - I wasn't that concerned. I've carried my share of pet causes, including saving the planet from irreversible nuclear disaster, but my heart had been callused by the multitude of accidents over the 39 years the Vernon reactor has been operating. With each incident, appeared a public relations statement certifying its insignificance from Vermont Yankee spokesmen.

a specific risk. Tritium is a low energy radioactive form of hydrogen with one proton and two neutrons. It has a shelf life of one hundred and twenty years. Its low energy and hydrogen composition make it very difficult to detect or measure using the current liquid scintillation counting system. Estimates are that existing tritium is detected only thirty percent of the time.

Tritium is a health risk if ingested, inhaled, or absorbed through the skin. Whether or not the Entergy Corp. Vermont Yankee is telling the truth or bending vocabulary about the source of the radioactive leaks, there are facts which no reasonable person should deny.

It has been established that there have been and still are leaks of tritium at Vermont Yankee. Tritium is radioactive and should not be released into the environment. Since the tritium is confirmed in test wells on the Vermont Yankee site, one can deduce that with its hundred and twenty year life span, tritium will be in the ground water near the site for a long time. All ground water travels to the sea, and from Vernon, the Connecticut River is the route this tritium will travel.

Given a choice between drinking water from the Connecticut River below the atomic plant or spending a day in a ten acre enclosure with a mountain lion, I'd jump in with the lion. At least I would have had the choice.

It is sad that the little Vermont country town of Vernon embraced the coming of this nuclear plant 40 years ago as a chance for good schools, roads, and low taxes, only to possibly lose these values to one and one quarter lifetimes of radiation pollution. At least they had a choice.

What about all the farmers and home owners downstream and across the river from the plant? What of all those who purchase produce from organic and conventional farms that irrigate their massive fields Recent leaks of the isotope with river water? You won't see tritium. It won't glow in the



THE EDITOR LETTERS TO

A Greenhouse Coordinator would be **Ineligible for CPA Funds**

I read your article, Leverett Seeks Best Utilization of Greenhouse, in last week's issue. I chair the Leverett Community Preservation Committee (CPC); however, the CPC has not met since the article appeared and I am writing only for myself.

I am writing to clarify some points, as I think the article could lead some to think a group had applied to the CPC for funding and been denied. The article states, "It failed in an effort to secure Community Preservation Act (CPA) funding for a paid individual to handle teaching duties in the greenhouse and coordinate the proposed adjacent community garden." CPC did not receive such an application, nor did it reject it.

I was asked, at a chance encounter in the library, whether CPA funds could be used to pay a salary for a greenhouse manager. The Community Preservation Act (CPA) is very specific, requiring that funds can only be used for the acquisition, creation, or preservation of open space, historic resources, community housing, and recreation. While recreation may include the acquisition or creation of community gardens, a lawsuit brought and decided after the legislation was passed has determined that the law is interpreted to mean that such activities may only be funded with CPA funds if the land on which they take place was purchased with CPA funds, which the school grounds were not.

Pending legislation may change this in the future, but at the moment, such use is not permitted. Furthermore, neither the present law nor the pending legislation would permit use of CPA funds for ongoing support of recreational projects.

Leverett has been able to accomplish a number of beneficial projects for our community. It is not my intent, nor that of the CPC, to stifle any of the many wonderful projects initiated by the creative and energetic members of our town. However, not every effort, no matter how positive, is eligible for CPA funding.

> - Laurel Kahn Leverett

Keep an Open Mind on Horace Mann

I read with great interest the district. editorial in last week's Reporter

I know I'm not alone in remembering back four years ago when a Horace Mann charter school proposal went before the school committee for use in the closing Montague Center school building.

Think what would have hap-

posal had been accepted. The district could have avoided hundreds of thousands of dollars lost to school choice, and the ongoing cost of maintenance of an empty school building would have been lifted off of Montague's shoulders!

I urge the school committee to think openly and creatively about the Horace Mann prospect, and to consider all the educational and financial benefits it could bring to our district.

tritium at Vermont Yankee pose

also lure new students into the pened four years ago if that pro-

dark. No inspector is going to stop its passage to market.

about the unfortunate departure

of GMRSD superintendent Carl

Ladd. Renewed talk of an in-dis-

trict Horace Mann charter school

is an exciting prospect with great

potential to not only stop the

bleeding of school choice but

How long will we allow large corporations, their money and the government regulators who enable them to tell us it will be OK? What will they do for us when the land we live on and eat from is contaminated? Will they buy our homes when they lose all value? Can they save you or those close to you if you become ill from radiation induced diseases like cancer or leukemia?

In this case there is no more later or wait and see. It is time for us to write letters, make phone calls, attend public forums, and exercise our rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Sure this means more work and effort, but isn't your life and well being and the lives of those you love as important as the job that pays your bills?

Ultimately we are the pedestal this country and all its business stands on: we deserve relief from toxic pollution. The land we walk, the water we drink, the air we breathe, our children, our homes and our dreams should never be held hostage for a corporation's greed.

- Joanna Frankel Gill

U.S. Casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan as of 5/25/11



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58 4 Name: Address:	th Street, Turners	Falls, MA 01376		
Town:	State:	Zip:		

& MORE LETTERS **Turtles Crossing!**

According the to Massachusetts Department of Transportation and Mass Wildlife, many species of turtles will be attempting to cross

the roads from Wednesday, May 25th to Tuesday, 31st, May especially near wetlands These are usually

pregnant females

looking for nesting sites.

If you see a turtle on the road or approaching a road, help it across in the direction it is going. Carry it just a few inches off the ground so it will not be injured if it falls. Never lift any turtle by its tail, including a snapping turtle, as this would likely injure its spine.

Unless you're experienced at

moving snapping turtles, the best thing to do is to direct traf- of the Leverett Elementary fic around them while they make their way to safety. If a ing efforts. Your first greenhouse snapper must be moved, get it article by Liz Carter (MR IX

to like Then can either drag it to safety or lift

rear end of its

shell.

Eastern Box Turtle

If you see a box turtle, please don't take it home. They are being given so much of the credvery rare now, and must be it for the greenhouse initiative -allowed to reproduce in the and it made for a colorful lead wild.

fic for your own safety.

Greenhouse Made Possible by Work of Many

Thank you for your coverage School greenhouse and gardenbite #16: Leverett Elementary will something get a Greenhouse) gave a nice a overview of what we're hoping broomstick to accomplish at L.E.S. And, or the handle while we are grateful for the of a shovel. continuing coverage, there were vou several inaccuracies in last week's article by Jonathan von Ranson that we'd like to address.

From the start, the greenit a few inch- house has only been possible es by the because of the goodwill of many volunteer stakeholders in the town, school, and community. While we were flattered by it gives the impression that the Above all, be aware of traf- hard work that has gone into this

from so many quarters was, in some way, secondary. That is the last impression we would hope readers would take away; if anything, the real story of this greenhouse is one of remarkable cooperation and joint effort not a case of "one person's conviction."

To our knowledge, the greenhouse is not an "issue" with local gardeners – there has been absolutely no feedback to that end. The community has been nothing but supportive.

While the article focused on the connection to the proposed community garden put forth by the town, we are a separate entity. There was one meeting last fall with the selectboard to discuss the possibility of combining a position for a greenhouse and community garden coordinator. CPA funds were never

sought for this effort. Nor has there been any conflict with the library over placement of the greenhouse or gardens.

Our volunteer greenhouse crew (currently numbering over a dozen) will meet this summer to prepare the greenhouse for the coming school year. Whether they will be preparing the beds for growing salad greens for the cafeteria, or for classroom use has yet to be determined. We are awaiting further feedback from the L.E.S. teachers advising us on how they'd like to use it. And, of course, we embrace the idea that the community could use the greenhouse when the school is not in session.

Regardless, the possibilities abound.

Breathe • Stretch • Relax

- T. Susan Chang Lydia Peterson Leverett

- Mary Thomas Wendell

Running Up the River

This is the year to visit the fish lowed in good order. ladder and cheer the anadromous fish on, as they swim their way up the river where they were born, to produce a new generation that will return to the Atlantic Ocean for the major part of their lives. From May 14th to June 19th, Wednesday through Sunday, 9 a m. to 5 p.m., the Turners Falls Fish Ladder is open so that we can see the shad, lampreys and other fish through the underwater viewing windows as they swim from lower to higher pools making their way over the dam.

Shad and salmon struggled up the waterfalls via natural pools in earlier times, but manmade dams left no pools to help them along.

In the 1900s, Robert E. Barrett, president of the Holyoke Water Power Company, helped the fish along by having his linemen carry buckets of fish from the base below the dam to the river upstream, and send them on their way up river. It was not a popular assignment.

He sent more enthusiastic men out to find out about fish ladders on the Columbia River, where salmon is a major business. And Holyoke had the first fish ladder in the East. Turners Falls fol-

The guides at the fishway are

happy to answer your questions, and point out which fish is passfish run fit your experience.

Connecticut River by Middlehaddam, CT. It was a sight to remember, a silver fish run that I was fortunate to have witnessed and never really appreciated. I was just out with a friend. And this year, I checked the word anadromous with my good old Webster Dictionary (ana: upward; dromous: running) and further discovered that there are fish that live in fresh water and go to the salty ocean to spawn (catadromous - running - cata: down).

This year's run started in speedy water, perhaps a bit cloudy, but with good numbers of fish coming through at Holyoke and headed north to see us.

> - Fran Hemond Montague Center

On Saturday, June 25th, from 1 - 8 p.m., a No Nukes party and potluck will be held at the town hall and common in Wendell. This will offer an opportunity ing by in the viewing windows. for members of the Clamshell Some of us find we are not well Alliance, past and present, to versed in identification, and their gather and reconnect, and for information and stories make the new folks interested in helping to create a world safe from the This year, I was reminded that threat of nuclear calamity to get in the mid-1900s, I saw a shad involved. Plans for non-violent run one moonlit night on the action will be discussed between 3:00 - 5:30 p.m.

> The event is sponsored by the Wendell conservation commis

sion, and co-sponsored by the Clamshell Legacy and Antinuclear Mobilization (info@clamshellalliance.org), Citizens Awareness the (nukebusters.org), Network, Safe & Green (safeandgreencampaign.org) Green Mountain Post Films (gmpfilms.com); Western Mass AFSC (westernmassafsc.org); Traprock Center Peace and Justice* for (traprock.info); and the Solar Rollers. For more info call Sharon (978) 544-8822 or Tom (978) 544-3911

Mutton & Mead Medieval Festival COME, Drink and be Merry! See the JOUST! Taste the Food! Play the Games! Browse the Market! Meet Robin Hood and his Merry Men! www.MuttonAndMead.com at the Millers Falls R&G, 210 Turners Falls Road, TF

A fundraiser for the Montague Grange and the Foodbank of Western Mass.

Calling all Clams: No Nukes Party in Wendell

Classes at The Brick House 3rd Street, Turners Falls 6 Tuesdays at 7 p.m. **Beginners Classes Start May 31st** \$60 / 6-week session Other classes in formation. Register by calling (413) 773-3830 or email ivanuss@hotmail.com ORGANIC

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NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD Third Community Garden Approved in Turners Falls



Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio, in a hard hat designed by Turners Falls' Barbara Milot. The Hard Hat Auction is coming to the Shea on June 25th.

SMALL MATTHEW Green thumbs scored another small victory in downtown Turners Falls as the selectboard voted to approve the use of a plot of town owned land near the former Williams Way in Unity Park as a new community garden space on Monday. The two existing community gardens in Turners Falls are currently full to capacity with waiting lists.

Parks and recreation director Jon Dobosz and a small group of local gardeners came before the selectboard to present the plans for the new space. Chair Mark Fairbrother said he was under the impression the garden was going to be built on top of a paved area and would require special drainage, but the maps presented to

the board showed the proposed area as a patch of ground recently cleared of debris to the west of Williams Way by the department of public works.

Town planner Walter Ramsey said though the area was not paved, it was at one time used as an industrial right of way, and town administrator Frank Abbondanzio mentioned some previous soil testing had revealed petroleum in the area.

But don't worry. Dawn Montague, who coordinates one of the downtown's two existing community gardens, the garden on L Street and 3rd Street, said plans for the new space include raised beds, to address both drainage and soil quality issues.

Plans for the additional garden have already been approved by the parks and recreation commission and the conservation commission, as a good interim use for the space, before pending improvements to Unity Park get underway.

The town approved use of the space for a community garden for the nominal fee of \$1.00 per year.

Industrial Discharge Permit

The second in a series of three industrial discharge permits was approved by the selectboard on the recommendation of Robert Trombley, the superintendent of the Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF). Similar to the recently renewed permit for Australis, the permit for Southworth Co. allows for a certain amount of industrial waste to be pumped to the WPCF for treatment. Trombley made various alterations to the existing agreement for this renewal, including the reduction of the total amount of waste that can be pumped into the treatment facility to a more reasonable limit of 8,000 pounds per day, down from over 10,000 pounds.

This change is important, explained Trombley, because under the previous permit Southworth was legally able to overburden the treatment facility with a volume of waste see MONTAGUE pg 10

a Tour of Erving Paper Mill **BY KATIE NOLAN** -The Erving selectboard toured the 100-year-old Erving Paper Mill on Monday, to get an inside look at operations at the mill, which has been operating under Chapter 11 bankruptcy since April of 2009.

Erving Industries' chief executive officer Morris Housen, chief financial officer Denis Emmett, general manager Tom Newton, and papermaker Michael McAuliffe led the tour, with members of the town conservation commission joining the selectboard.

Housen said, "We want to remove any mystery" about the plant and "open up some more dialogue."

The mill executives invited the selectboard to tour the plant in March, in the midst of protracted discussions over the revenue sharing agreement for the wastewater treatment plant that serves the paper mill and residences in Erving center. At the March 21st selectboard meeting, plant executives said they wanted the town to see how the mill is coping with hard economic times.

Erving Paper Mill subsidiary Erseco operates the town-owned Erving Center water treatment plant that treats wastes from Erving Paper Mill, Erving Center residents, and fee-paying 'third party' septage haulers. The town pays Erseco \$1

per year to treat the Erving residential wastes, and has been receiving approximately \$150,000 annually from Erseco as its contracted share of third party fees

NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

The Selectboard Takes

In December 2010, the selectboard agreed to forgive one year's worth of revenue-sharing payments and to renew the existing contract for three years, starting in fiscal year 2012. The town's offer was rejected by Erseco in a letter dated December 16th. The original revenue sharing agreement was extended through the end of FY'11.

Newton described the process of making paper from recycled paper beginning with the purchase of the raw material of mixed office waste paper. Newton remarked waste paper, "is a global commodity. We compete with China and India for it." Because waste paper is in demand, he said it is becoming more expensive and contains more nonpaper debris, such as computer disks, glass, and metal parts from copiers.

The waste paper is sorted in screened baskets to remove debris, staples, bits of plastic and other contaminants. The sorted paper is then cleaned, deinked, and made into watery slurry. The slurry is pressed to remove water and form a sheet. Byproducts remaining in the water after fibers are separated are removed at

the wastewater treatment plant. A steam process is used for "creping" the paper - making it softer and more absorbent and providing bulkiness and stretch to the paper.

The visitors walked past giant sorting and machines. shredding banks of noisy rollers several stories high, and pressing machines dripping water into floor drains below. Ear protectors were essential in parts of the plant. In some areas, the floor was wet with spray from the pressing machines.

The newest papermaking machine dates from 1972. One of the papermaking machines still uses components from a 1920 machine, retrofitted with a fiberoptic drive.

Housen remarked that visitors familiar with paper mills compliment Erving Paper Mill on the cleanliness of its operation. Both he and Newton stressed safety is an important value at the mill.

Newton said the plant works 24 hours per day, almost 365 days per year, closing only for a few major holidays, and it employs approximately 120 workers.

According to Newton, the plant has received Green Seal certification, because they bleach without using chlorine and use 100% recycled paper. Green Seal is an inde-

see ERVING pg 10





NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Legal Counsel Hired

BY DAVID DETMOLD -Much of the Leverett school committee's meeting on Tuesday took place in executive session.

Afterwards, chair Farshid Hajir said the committee had agreed to hire legal counsel Fred Dupere on retainer for \$400 a month, "because we think it is a better financial deal than to pay an hourly rate. We have some legal costs coming up, and we are also in negotiations. We have an uptick in need for legal assistance," Hajir explained.

Additionally, the committee had a brief update from regional school committee representative Kip Fonsh on the proposal to change the start time of the regional school (which currently begins at 7:45 a m. and ends at 2:20 pm.). Due to the need to coordinate bus service, a change in the start time for the regional school would necessitate a change to the start time for the elementary school, which currently starts at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 3:00 pm.

The Leverett school committee declined to take a position on the proposal until a community survey could be conducted, in order to find out what the towns-

fire truck committee, charged

with purchasing a new engine to

replace the 23-year-old Engine #3

for the town of Leverett, met with

the selectboard on Tuesday in an

effort to narrow down the choice.

ended, the selectboard and the

committee seemed to have

reached consensus. The right fire

truck for Leverett is waiting 1228

By the time their meeting

NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Choosing a New Fire Truck

BY DAVID DETMOLD - The miles away at the Rosenbauer

people think about the two options under consideration. The BY DAVID DETMOLD - The a new fire engine for the town, first option would simply switch the start times of the elementary and regional schools, on the theory that middle school and high schoolers need to sleep later than elementary school children. The second option would advance start times for both schools by half an hour.

That survey will be available on the school's website, and will be included in Friday's school newsletter.

Hajir also said, "We're looking forward to our joint meeting on May 31st with the selectboard, finance committee, and education study committee to talk about the budget outlook and history, Union 28 benefits, and also the request from the selectboard for the LSC to undertake a study of Union 28 central office efficiency."

Also at that meeting will be an update from the study committee about educational options for Leverett students. The selectboard has already been discussing alternatives to the present U-28 structure. The public is invited to attend

manufacturing plant in Lyons,

South Dakota. Now, how to get

the board the committee had

received estimates from four dif-

ferent fire engine manufacturers,

but for the price - \$313,000 - the

demonstration model Rosenbauer

has on site in Lyons (an '09

Firefighter Stewart Olson told

out there to visually inspect it.

Gill selectboard announced on Monday that the Northfield Mount Hermon School, which consolidated its Northfield campus to Gill in 2005, will increase its annual gift in lieu of taxes to the town this year. For the last 25 years, NMH has given the town of Gill \$10,000 annually, to be used to supplement the needs of the police and fire departments. This year, NMH will give Gill \$20,000. Next year, the school will give the town \$25,000.

"Fantastic, fantastic, very good news," said selectboard member Ann Banash, welcoming the infusion of an extra \$10,000 to this year's extremely tight budget.

Banash said she and town administrative assistant Ray Purington negotiated the increase with NMH's chief financial officer and treasurer Rick Wood and business manager Jim Poulsen when they met with them at the school in April.

'One of the arguments we made was looking at what the other schools do," said Banash, who noted that NMH does pay "a significant amount of taxes" to the town for faculty housing it owns along Main Road. Even so, the doubling of the annual gift brings NMH much closer to what "Deerfield Academy does for the same amount of students," Banash said.

Police and fire responses to incidents at NMH over the years represent a percentage of the town emergency departments' call volume; the school's annual gift directed toward these departments recognized the coverage Gill provides.

In recent years, the selectboard see LEVERETT page 11 has also lobbied NMH to pay for but this conversation has been inconclusive, and will likely remain so until the school hires a new head to replace Thomas Sturtevant, who is leaving NMH shortly, at the end of the present academic year.

As to the increase in the annual payment to the town, Banash said, "We should think what we should do with this largess. We've used it in the past mostly for the fire department, for matching grants, and it has come in very handy. This much more could offset the needs of various departments, for hose for the fire department, or to offset the purchase of a new [police] cruiser."

She added, "We have an additional \$10,000 this year we weren't counting on. We don't know if they'll be able to continue that after next year."

After building two new dormi-

tories, along with an admissions building and new \$29 million arts center on the Gill campus, NMH wrapped up a capital campaign last year that topped out at \$88 million, and reported an endowment fund this spring of \$225 million.

In other news, Steve Hussey, see GILL page 14





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NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD Northfield Mount Hermon **Increases Annual Payments to Town**





BY STEVE DAMON

8

GILL - Seay Minor converted the family vehicle into a refrigerator on wheels in order to keep his sprouts at a stable 33 degrees Fahrenheit. Not only does the van now transport Seay and his wife Becky, with children Rachael (age 6), EmmaRae (age 8), and Ethan (age 10), it delivers sprouts throughout Western New England.

Seay speaks like an elder when he states his vision: "to work with my family." He was brought up in a family of three generations of "phone guys" and had worked for Verizon for ten years and "truly enjoyed" his job. But he found he was getting home only long enough to eat supper and get the kids ready for bed. He prayed that his vision would shift from the past family to his present children-filled family.

At this time, about two years ago, he received a letter through Grace Church in Turners Falls, from his friends the Madderns:

The Family with the Cool Van Phil and Suzie. (For Gill newcomers - Phil and Suzie are as close as Gill comes to local celebri-Phil Maddern served on the selectboard for many years, while

street from town hall as the proprietress of the Gill Store.) Phil had been feeling ill at the end of 2006 and knew he needed to sell the business he had started in 1990 - the Gill Greenery. He had started the sprout business as Suzie recalls, "Because no one else was growing sprouts at the time!" Seay prayed more and decided this was the business that would lead him to his vision.

Every morning that I visit the Gill Greenery I see the same scene: Becky is sitting at the kitchen table with three studious children (the Minor children are all home-schooled) and Seav wanders from desk to sprouthouse to desk to sprout-house. There is the smell of breakfast wafting in the air.

Today was a tad different. Mom and the kids were still doing schoolwork: math for the girls, while Ethan was practicing his adverbs. The big change was Dad was sitting down. I made a farmer sit!



Farm Neighbors

Sprouts take center stage at the Gill Greenery.

Seay doesn't consider himself a farmer, as this whole agriculture thing is new to him; it's only been two years. He does, however, speak like a farmer. He speaks of plumbing problems, bacteria (as sprouts are eaten unwashed and uncooked, bacteria is monitored constantly), yields, and weather. He is slowly learning to enjoy growing sprouts.

"As much as I do love sprouts now, I didn't get into this for the love of sprouts. I wanted to be with my family."

He still consults Phil, who on occasion goes with him on deliveries.

"I ask Phil many questions that seem silly."

ask him a question like 'So, we pull the weeds out of the garden so the vegetables can grow better?" Phil, the mentor, will reply with knowledge of 25 years on the farm.

Actually, at the Gill Greenery, the sprouts are grown hydroponically. So, unlike most farmers, the Minor family doesn't get their hands dirty. They get their hands wet, instead!

Becky and the kids

help grow and package the greens. The kids also get to go on deliveries with Seay. "The customers love seeing the kids!"

"We home school the kids," said Seay. "I really respect the area schools, but (this may sound selfish), I want as much contact with my kids as I can get. Regardless of the income, I want to live life with my kids."

The Minor children have quite the role model. "Not many dads get to take their kids to work with them." As if this family nucleus is sturdy enough, Becky's mom, Brenda, comes up from Shutesbury to help with the weekly harvest.

That harvest yields 400 Just to get Phil riled, Seay will pounds of sprouts per week. The

sprouts are delivered from Northampton to Lee to Williamstown; Putney, VT; Hinsdale, NH; and everywhere in between.

Just in Gill, a sprout lover can find Gill Greenery sprouts at the Wagon Wheel, Gill Tavern, and NMH dining hall. During the summer, Green Fields Market also sells blueberries and blackberries from the Minors. Their farm also features many kinds of fruits and vegetables grown primarily for the family. Last fall when the Gill agricultural commission conducted its "Veggies to Veterans" program, the Gill Greenery donated sprouts and squash.

Phil Maddern told me, "I've taught Seay all I know; now, he's on his own." But I'm sure he can still ask Phil's advice anytime he wants, just as the Minor children do with their dad. All he has to do is telephone, email, or drive to the Maddern's place in his mobile refrigerator.

Steve Damon is the chairperson of the Gill agricultural commission. His monthly column for the Montague Reporter (Farm Neighbors) features Gill's agricultural personalities. So far, the column has featured Bill Burnham, Gary Stevens, the Dargis Family, Dave Balise, now the Minors, and in June ...?

We'll just have to wait and see.

EVEN WAYS TO WALK Fifth in a Series of Walks around West Gill

Hoe Shop Road to the Town Forest

BY P.H. CROSBY

Don't ever assume you're alone in the woods.

I meet people all the time in the woods here and elsewhere, or find signs they've been there. Other nature walkers, quietly listening to birds or examining leaves and woodland flowers. Hunters, archers, trackers.

Sheepish teenage couples. (Once even a sheepish adult couple.) At other times of year, cross-country skiers and snowshoe-hikers. Once in a great while - too infrequently - a little hut or pine cone castle that suggests a child has been playing there.

It can be startling to come around the corner of a path, lost in a reverse of sun-

dappled leaves, trilling tree frogs, and the scent of damp earth and pine, and find someone just as startled, binoculars in hand.

Once, elsewhere, I ran into a man in pajamas just out for a smoke. I was on public property; he was at the edge of his backyard. The early spring lack of shrubs just suddenly made us aware of one another.

To me, there's something sat-

isfying about knowing all these other people are out there enjoying the woods, without most people even knowing they are there.

Much of Massachusetts' 'wilderness'- much of New England's for that matter - is a lot less remote than you might think. Hiking in New Hampshire a few decades ago, after trekking for hours alone, I would sometimes plant my sleeping bag just any old where in the woods if it got

> too dark, only to wake in the morning to the sound of slamming car doors, lawn mowers and busy suburban life 50 yards away.

Trail Granby to Northfield, I despaired one night of ever finding the lean-to indicated on my map. Finally, with dimming flashlight batteries, I set up my tent in the dark in a clear grassy space I thought was the edge of a big meadow. I put my head out of the tent in the morning to a body of water and two environmental police. I had placed my tent right on the banks of Ruggles Pond in Wendell State Forest. Darn lucky I didn't fall in.

Walk Five is a woods walk, and it starts the same as always at the intersection of Center and West Gill, where you head west on Hoe Shop. The coltsfoot has gone by and the horsetail fern is scraggly. Now its banks of lemon-lime spurge that line the roadway, and pockets of spotted cranesbill - that violet, bellshaped (in the morning at least)

see WALK pg 16



OMESPUN By Andy's



Can You Believe those Gill Sixth Graders?



Owen Ortiz playing Greg Mortenson in the Gill Sixth Grade's production of Our Three Cups of Tea

BY DAVID DETMOLD - "Hi, I'm Greg Mortenson, and this is how I started building schools in Pakistan," said Owen Ortiz, a tall, articulate sixth grader in Joanne Flagg's class at Gill Elementary School.

But could Owen be lying?

No, he's just acting a part, and maybe, like the character he is portraying, exaggerating a bit.

Greg Mortenson, the famous author of Three Cups of Tea - and other stories - was widely regarded as a hero for building up to 171 schools in war torn areas of Afghanistan and Pakistan, after a nearly disastrous attempt in 1993 to scale the world's second tallest mountain, K2, found him stumbling into the Pakistani village of Korphe, where children scrawled their lessons in the dirt.

But allegations this year,

beginning with a 60 Minutes report in April that Mortenson was using much of the money raised through his Central Asia Institute for personal gain and hopping private jets between book signings have tarnished his reputation.

Flagg's students, like students around the world, were inspired by Mortenson's book. They were working on developing a play based on Three Cups of Tea when news of Mortenson's alleged fabrications and improprieties broke.

That's when, in director Court Dorsey eyes, things began to get interesting.

Dorsey, hired to work with Flagg's students, with money from the Quintus Allen Trust, has helped the Gill sixth graders chronicle their own trust and dis-

illusionment in Mortenson, who many of the students said a d h inspired them to believe an individual can make a difference in the world, before the 60 Minutes story broke. Since then, some students in Flagg's class have stood up for Mortenson, and questioned the accuracy of the allegations against him. Others have called him a liar, and a disappointment.

They have done research in law books, read websites and news accounts, and examined the difference between objective facts and blogged opinion, and all the gradations in between.

And in the end they have written their own original play, based on their classroom's journey separating fact from fiction as they follow Mortenson on a pedagogical journey to the war-torn ends of the earth and back again. Their teacher, Joanne Flagg, has become a leading character in their play. So has Court Dorsey. (So, in fact, has this writer, and his red sneakers.)

The play will be put on as part of a school-wide presentation of Stories from around the World on Thursday, June 2nd, at 1:30 p.m. and again at 6:30 p m. (Rain date is Wednesday, June 8th at the same times.)

The play will take place in the great outdoors, like the prototypical Pakistani village school in Mortenson's first book, in the playing fields behind Gill Elementary, on Boyle Road, for any and all to watch.

On May 25th, Dorsey was putting his actors (including a young lady named Bryn Kruzlic, playing the part of the director, who had Dorsey's matter-of-fact and slightly sardonic style down, well, to a 'T') through their paces in a setting guaranteed to test the mettle of a lesser auteur. As the sun shone brightly for the first time in eight days, children ran up to their real teacher and begged permission to go to the bathroom or get a drink of water, while the real Dorsey struggled to get the blocking straight and coach his remaining charges to

project! He used words like "Cheat," teaching them to turn towards the imagined audience when delivering a line to people to their rear on the imagined stage. He used words like "Artistic License." He encouraged them to be free with their



Jeff Sak, Gill-Montague groundskeeper, helped the students learn to PROJECT!

ad lib as they went along.

reading, and

All these directions seemed oddly of a piece with the subject matter, a tarnished hero accused of cheating, taking artistic license, and making stuff up as he went along.

"It all started with a simple promise to Haji Ali, Korphe's chief," intoned Ortiz loudly.

But not quite loud enough to be heard over the sound of Jeff Sak, the Gill-Montague grounds maintenance man, who drove by on his huge lawn mower every few minutes, drowning out all dialogue.

"Again!" shouted Dorsey.

"It all started with a simple promise to Haji Ali, Korphe's chief," called out Ortiz, even louder. "After that promise, I went back to the USA to earn money for the school in Korphe. When I earned enough money, I went to Rawalpindi and bought the supplies for Korphe's school... After that school, I've built many more."

Or did he?

Join the crowd on June 2nd and you will find, if not the truth, at least a measure of enlightenment, as the sixth graders of Gill Elementary present Our Three Cups of Tea.



"We were so excited to do the play, and then, 'Bam!" 60 Minutes ruined it." - Jake Wallenius-Duda





"For me, it's less interesting to talk about the book than what it's like for you to try to sort it out. That, to me, is beroic." -Bryn Kruzlic, playing director Court Dorsey





as a technician.



10

Г РНОТО

Mike Farrick, in October 2009

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GILL - Michael B. Farrick, 54, a native of Montague and former Gill resident, died Saturday (5-14-11) at Linda Manor Nursing Facility in Northampton, following a prolonged battle with cancer.

He was born to Alice (Tibbetts) and Anthony Farrick on August 19th, 1956, and was educated in Montague Public graduated Schools, from Turners Falls High School in the Class of 1974, where he was a member of the school chorus, the Madrigals and the National Honor Society.

Mike was employed by the

ERVING from page 6

pendent nonprofit that audits, evaluates and certifies products and services using sustainability criteria.

After returning to Erving town hall, the selectboard voted to name the secondary road created for the new senior center as Care Drive, in memory of Pearl and Bill Care, who contributed much to the town as volunteers and in official town positions. Senior center building committee member Jacquelyn Boyden said the building committee had selected "Town of Erving Council on Aging Senior - Community Activity Center" as the name for the facility.

The selectboard signed change orders worth approximately \$9000 for the senior center building project. Changes included an exterior grease trap, electrical connections, sink faucets, and addition-

D.V.M.

al

tele-

phone

jacks.

Goodwin

requisitions come to the selectboard with a summary of reasons for the changes.

Erving Paper Company for 18

years, later for the Cumberland

Farms Corporation as a store

manager in Greenfield, Turners

Falls and Amherst, and by sev-

eral local computer companies

member for the town of

Montague and was a founding

member of the board of direc-

tors for Montague Community

Cable Incorporated (MCTV).

Mike was an invaluable com-

puter technician for the start-up

of the Montague Reporter,

assisting the paper as a volun-

teer for many years, while the

He served as a town meeting

Fire chief Bud Meattey asked the selectboard by letter and in person to consider giving the 2003 Ford Expedition the police department is replacing to the fire department for an incident command vehicle.

In the letter, Meattey wrote the incident command vehicle would also be used to travel to meetings and trainings, and to tow the offroad Gator.

Meattey asked that the vehicle be housed at the chief's residence and be used by the chief to commute to work, in order to allow the chief to "respond without any delay to incidents." Gas costs for commuting would be paid by the chief.

Selectboard chair Andrew Goodwin recommended that Meattey consider the request further, saying, "It will end up being a problem," and, "It could be your worst nightmare." Hackett told Meattey, "That vehicle is not in the best condition."

asked The selectboard asked Meattey to collect more information about the availability of surplus state vehicles and return to discuss the need for an incident command vehicle at a later meet-

ing.

Carol

Klepadlo, a lieutenant on the fire department, recused himself from the discussion.

paper relied entirely on handed

down computers to stay in print.

bered by his wife, the former

Greenfield and their children:

Mathew Farrick and his wife

Amanda and their children,

Isabelle and Ian, of Orange,

Christopher Farrick of Ashfield,

Melissa Mackey and her hus-

band Troy and their children,

Maya and Layne, of Greenfield.

Additionally, he leaves his par-

ents, Anthony Farrick of

Hatfield and Alice Farrick of

Turners Falls, as well as his sib-

lings: Anthony Farrick II of

Ann

Mike is lovingly remem-

Washer

of

Geoff Rogers, regional servicdirector for Hampshire es Council of Governments, informed the selectboard that Hampshire Power is interested in becoming the electricity distributor for residential and small business customers in Erving. The town has been buying electricity from Hampshire Power for approximately four years, to supply town buildings. Administrative coordinator Tom Sharp said, "We

Power to distribute electricity to residents, and 18 have approved it

switch to Hampshire Power as power distributor for town residents and small businesses be considered at the next annual town meeting.

The selectboard accepted resignations from the Council on Aging from Dot Black, Ed Black, and Patricia Russell.

Greenfield, Mary Anne Bauer and her husband Thomas of Gill Alene Farrick and of Greenfield, as well as several nieces and nephews.

Private services were to be followed by cremation with Mike's ashes to be scattered on the family farm in Gill. Expressions of affection in the form of charitable contributions are encouraged to MCTV, 34 2nd Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376 or to the Turners Falls High School, in care of the Music and Performing Arts Programs, 35 Crocker Avenue, Turners Falls, MA 01376.

MONTAGUE from page 6

greater than the treatment plant could handle.

After verifying that the management at Southworth had no problems with the proposed changes, the selectboard voted unanimously to approve the maximum five-year extension of the discharge permit.

Roundup

Before voting to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing real estate transactions concerning the industrial park, board member Pat Allen mentioned she had stopped by Wilsons Department Store in Greenfield to see the many creatively altered hard hats that will be auctioned in support of RiverCulture on June 25th at the Shea Theater (tickets go on sale this week).

A report on the status of the Railroad Salvage building is expected at the next select-

The selectboard's summer schedule of biweekly meetings is now in effect; the next regularly scheduled selectboard meeting will take place on Monday, June 6th, at





Robert J. Sagor,



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renew the contract because it's saving us money." Rogers told the selectboard that 20 Franklin County towns have voted on using Hampshire

Goodwin recommended a

board meeting.

7 p.m.



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PICKLES from page 1 such as Red Fire Farm in Granby and Atlas Farm in Deerfield.

"Part of our commitment from the beginning has been to only buy our vegetables from within the Northeast, as locally as possible," Rosenberg stated. "We only sell our finished product within the Northeast, which is a pretty unconventional thing for a business to do. We decided we really want to

EKSTROM from page 1

27th, and have Ekstrom take over then as interim superintendent, to allow her time to review his choices for principals for the Gill and Montague elementary schools, and make the final decision on hiring.

Ann Banash of the Gill selectboard spoke to the school committee prior to Ekstrom's interview. She read a statement on behalf of the Gill selectboard, asking the school committee to "take a step back" and create a search committee to select an interim superintendent. The statement pointed to the transitional state of the district, the importance of having an experienced person serve as interim superintendent, the need to hire two principals, the need to turn around the district from Level 4 'Needs Improvement' status and

promote this idea of local and regional food systems, and we wanted to try to be an example of what that might look like."

inviting the public to Real Pickles at 4:30 p.m. today, May 26th, to dance, try their various products, and learn about solar power and sustainable food systems as they celebrate ten years of operation in Western Massachusetts.

meet the expectations of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) as reasons why selecting the right candidate to take Ladd's place was such a critical choice.

Chair Michael Langknecht made an effort to add the issue of delaying Ekstrom's hiring to the agenda so it could be discussed that night, but Ladd and others said doing so would violate the 48-hour agenda item rule under the open meeting law.

The school committee was able to discuss the matter after they adjourned to executive session. They then resumed in open session and discussed their decisions in public.

In an on Wednesday, Ladd explained his reasoning in recommending Ekstrom to the post, and why he believed she was the best candi-

SOFTBALL from page 1 games, mopping up Pioneer 15 to nothin'.

It was a picture perfect night Rosenberg and Holland are for a ball game under the lights at Turners. The game began with a salute to departing seniors Kelsey Waldron (2nd base), Elysia Ollari (center field) and pitcher Emily Mailloux.

Mailloux looked strong and focused on the mound, fanning batters and forcing them to jam ground balls to the right side of

Ladd said typically a district hires a retired or semi-retired administrator to serve as interim superintendent. Their job would be to "pat elementary school students on the head and make sure the place doesn't fall apart." (In other words, just keep things going until a permanent superintendent is hired.) But, Ladd said, "That's not what the district needs. We need somebody energetic and committed, and Nadine has those qualities in spades." Therefore, he said he felt the school committee had made an excellent choice.

Challenged on the question of her lack of experience as a superintendent, Ekstrom said she was the person in charge when her superintendent at the Quabbin school district was not available. She has studied extensively to prepare for the position, well beyond what was required

the field, all the while grinning her trademark Cheshire Cat grin.

After Jenna Costa lined over 2nd, scoring one, and Dakota Smith Porter followed up with a long smash to right, driving in two more in the third, Turners came to bat in the fourth with a 3-0 lead. Ollari drew a walk, Sam Couette laid down an excellent bunt, and then Stacy French got under a change-up and lofted it 200 feet, over the left center field fence.

"I think this team has hit more

for licensing. While at Gill-Montague, she filled many administrative duties. She also pointed out that her position in special education had required her to use data in tracking students' progress, so she was ahead of most in understanding how to use data, one of the things DESE has cited the district for needing improvement.

Ekstrom said she has worked on the teacher evaluation process, and assisted in improving curriculum alignment. She emphasized several times the importance of "working as a team," calling herself "very organized and task oriented." Of her management style, she answered, "Transformational." She said there is a time to be collegial, a time to be authoritarian, and she could be both. She said she liked the idea of the coffee chats Ladd had started, to gain home runs than any other team they've ever had," George Bush was saying (and he's been around a while) as Mailloux came to the plate with two on and one out. He had barely gotten the words out of his mouth before Mailloux knocked it out of the park with a long drive over the right center field fence.

After that it was downhill all the way for Pioneer. Thank goodness for the Mercy M Rule.

feedback from parents in the district, and would be interested in continuing that process. Of the compact with the towns and state, she said, "I think the compact is a great step – I definitely would want to continue it - it's a great vision."

The statements from school committee members to Ekstrom at the end of the interview were positive. Marje Levenson said, on the subject of her lack of experience as a superintendent, that perhaps it wasn't such a bad thing. She liked the idea of someone who "could grow in the job with us."

Jennifer Waldron said, "Any work I've done with you has been really good."

Kristin Boyle said of Ekstrom in a phone interview on Wednesday, "Her excitement for education is contagious."

vering regarding the appeal of the ZBA's denial of a special permit for a gravel pit operation on Roberta Bryant's land on Route 63. While not commenting on the appeal directly, Roberts said Bryant had met recently with the board of assessors, and come to an agreement with them that one acre of land where Roberts has an interest in expanding gravel mining operations is not, in fact, being held under Chapter 61-B protection. The assessors letter to this effect has been sent to town counsel for review, and Roberts asked the selectboard assistance in releasing that letter. The selectboard agreed to speak to town counsel on that matter.

If one acre of the land in dispute is not currently held in Chapter 61-B, this may affect the building inspector's cease and desist order that halted gravel pit operations on the entire five acres in question earlier this year, Roberts said.

LEVERETT from page 7

model with about 12,000 miles on it) is the best deal. It comes equipped with high/low pressure pumps, to allow firefighters flexibility in fighting certain kinds of interior fires, and brush fires. The high pressure pump can also be used in combination with foam to attack car fires. None of the other makes had this option.

The Rosenbauer comes with "really nice lighting," said Olson, and "a remote control



nozzle on the front fender," along with a "one button push priming system," all attractive features.

Administrative assistant Margie McGinnis cautioned the town could not contract to buy the demo engine without first going out to formal bid (the figures the committee received are only informal estimates). The town also needs to pass a debt exclusion vote, for \$135,000, on Saturday, June 11th (the vote will be held between 8 a m. -1pm. at town hall) in order to secure the remaining funds needed to make the purchase. The balance will come from stabilization, as authorized by the April 30th town meeting.

While it is possible another town will snap up the demonstration Rosenbauer (the price dropped \$12,000 recently)before Leverett, the selectboard authorized McGinnis to write to the manufacturer right away, saying

the town is seriously interested in buying it.

Meanwhile, Olson and fellow committee members Ricky Roberts and Marty Moore said someone from their committee would need to go out to South Dakota to view the fire truck before an eventual purchase. Which budget line item will provide for those plane tickets? Stay tuned.

Third Police Cruiser

In other news, the board deliberated on the advisability of allowing the police department to keep the old cruiser for department use, once the new cruiser authorized at town meeting is purchased. That will give the department three cruisers. and increase maintenance costs for the vehicles over time.

Current practice has been for the police to turn over their old cruisers to fire chief John Moruzzi, to use for inspections and fire department business.

The selectboard acknowledged that if they go with the police chief's request to keep the third, older cruiser, then the vehicle Moruzzi is using now may need to be replaced with another used vehicle, before another police cruiser becomes available - an extra, but perhaps not too significant cost.

The selectboard agreed to allow the police's chief request on a trial basis, but only on condition that the police department can stretch the life span of their cruisers, to remain within the capital plan's parameters for replacing the cruisers. The town currently expects to buy a cruiser every four years. With three cruisers, they will each need to last twelve years, an unlikely life expectancy, all agreed. **Gravel Pit**

Ricky Roberts stayed behind after the fire truck committee's report to talk to the selectboard about the ongoing legal maneu-

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interview date for the job.



TERM from page 1

17 that enjoins towns to protect land "known or suspected" of containing the burial site of one or more Native Americans. Tribal leaders believe at least a dozen burials are historically documented in an unusual spoke pattern on or near the Mariamante property, and have employed advanced ground penetrating radar in an attempt to show that many more burials were located there.

The selectboard has offered to sell the land to the tribes, or to a buyer designated by the tribes, as long as "the town is made whole," as Banash put it.

"Certainly, the tribes are looking for a solution. We're looking for a solution. There are a couple of things we want to talk to them about," said Banash, who added, "This thing started under me, and before I leave, I want it done.

Banash said communication with the tribes has been good.

"Certainly in this economy, they're having trouble finding someone to purchase the land. But we can't continue to just wait. There may be a compromise."

She added, "The land trust has



been talking to them. That door is already open to them. We may be looking at some sort of historical preservation money. It would have to be a combination of that, with tribal preservation money."

She acknowledged, "The tribes have a lot on their plates. We need to push them forward."

Finally, top priority three: "The schools."

Banash called on the school committee, in a letter endorsed by her colleagues on the selectboard this week, to "step back, and immediately appoint a committee consisting of representatives of the school committee and the towns," to interview and hire a new superintendent.

Banash was responding to the school committee's decision last week to pursue the recommendation of departing Gill-Montague superintendent Carl Ladd to hire former G-M special education director Nadine Ekstrom as interim superintendent, to take his place at the helm of the district schools on July 1st. Banash pointed out in her letter that Ekstrom has never been a school principal before, much less a school superintendent, and the district is going to need experienced hands at the helm as it tries to emerge Level "needs IV from improvement" status.

Banash said, "We think we need an administrator who can guide the district through some strategic planning and really have some meaningful discussions about regionalization. The problem has been, in the county we have superintendents who have been in the job a long time. So when you talk about regionalization, the question immediately comes up, 'Who gets the job, and who leaves?' We have the opportunity here to at least have a discussion here with other towns, or other

districts, and we need to have that conversation."

She added, "I don't think at this point that someone with no experience is what we need, and I don't think the school committee has exhausted all the possibilities."

The school committee heard her out on that point on Tuesday. Then they decided to hire Ekstrom.

Banash is under no illusion that Gill could easily pull up stakes and leave Montague to join another district. "Not only would we have to buy into another district – one that has done their building – plus we're obligated for the next 16 or 17 years to pay for our building," she said, referring to the Turners Falls High School renovation.

For the town of Gill, "Leaving the district isn't the best solution financially, but that doesn't mean that both Gill and Montague can't do something together."

She suggested Gill and Montague could keep their own elementary schools and high school, but still affiliate with another district for central office support, for example, and for other resources.

Well then, could a regional approach work for consolidating police or highway services with neighboring towns?

"I'd like to think so, but I doubt that is reality. Some of the issue is control: 'who is going to have the police station in their town, and what are the cars going to say?' But when we talk about it, Gill is the smallest town, between Bernardston, Northfield and Erving, and if the police station ends up in Bernardston, then the feeling is: 'Gill's not being covered.' So, no, as much as I think that we could [regionalize some town services] unless the whole county could come together and come up with a larger regional approach, I don't think that's going to happen."

Back to priority one. "That's part of the challenge," said Banash. "How do we keep at least two full time officers, and how do we keep the town of Gill safe? Police departments are like an insurance policy. When you need them, no one wants to worry, 'When are the cops coming?"

Speaking of police stations, did you know the town of Gill's used to be located in the basement of the Riverside School building on Route 2? "That was back in the days of a station wagon, a shot gun, and one part-timer," recalled MCTV cameraman Rick Smith at the selectboard meeting on Monday.

Asked what she thought the future held for the Riverside Municipal Building, Banash said, "It was my idea to sell it, but the town was pretty clear they don't want to do that." That was the overwhelming vote of town meeting in 2009.

At this month's town meeting, the Riverside Municipal Building study committee reported back to the town about what to do with the building, and Banash noted, "They're going to recommend putting it on the Historic Register. If we can do that, there might be some historic preservation grants to retrofit the building."

Meanwhile, the town will continue working with the current tenant, the Four Winds School, as long as the independent middle school is more or less able to pay for the building's operating costs.

If that lease does not continue, Banash said it would be complicated to rent the building. "The historical commission is in the building too, and we have no other place to put that. So it would be difficult to put doctors' offices in there."

Banash touched on a number of other topics, expressing satisfaction that Northfield Mount Hermon has decided to increase their annual gift in lieu of taxes to the town from \$10,000 to \$20,000 this year, after she and town administrative assistant Ray Purington went to talk to the private school's chief financial officer last month. The subject of NMH helping the town to buy a new fire truck did not come up at that meeting, and may be on hold for now.

Banash wonders whether the town of Gill should even be in the market for a third engine, given the number of calls the fire department handles, the number of firefighters available in town to answer those calls, and the mutual aid agreements with neighboring towns.

"I know our trucks are antiques, and I know our men do a fine job," she said, "but do we really need three trucks? They've said they'd never go to full alarm fire by themselves."

Banash said if the Big Box store planned for the French King Highway in Greenfield does eventually get built, it might spur more commercial development along the Route 2 corridor in Gill, taking advantage of new commercial zoning there. "We can't keep this [town budget] on the backs of the taxpayers forever," she said.

And she spoke positively about the work of the town's newly energized agricultural commission, recently expanded from five to seven members.

"That's getting us back to the roots of what Gill is – our agricultural base. The potential of our town forest, and the work people want to do there is great. Preserving the rural nature of Gill is really important.

That's yet another priority for her seventh term.



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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - Q. . I'm 68 years old and I've been diagnosed with Peyronie's disease. How common is this?

Peyronie's (pay-roh-neez) disease is the development of abnormal scar tissue inside the penis. The scarring bends the penis and may make an erection painful. Peyronie's can make sex difficult or impossible.

A flat plate of benign scar tissue - known as a plaque forms on the top or bottom side of the penis inside a membrane called the "tunica albuginea." Peyronie's disease runs in families. It is not contagious.

There have been many surveys done to determine the prevalence of Peyronie's.

THE HEALTHY GEEZER: **Peyronie's Disease**

Estimates range from less than 1 percent to 23 percent of men have Peyronie's. Researchers suspect that we will never know the truth about the disease because men are reluctant to discuss it. Many in health research believe the problem may be more common than any statistics demonstrate.

An age range of 18 to 80 has been reported, but most men who report suffering from Peyronie's are between 45 and 60. Almost all those affected are Caucasians. The disease is most common in northern Europeans.

Peyronie's disease is difficult to treat. It has been called "the doctor's nightmare". Most everything about it varies from man to man.

A French surgeon, François de la Peyronie, first described the disease in 1743. Prior to Peyronie's description of the disease, it was classified as a form of impotence.

Many researchers believe that, in some cases, the scarring develops following trauma that causes bleeding inside the

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Safe Found, Illegal Dumping, Assault advised of incident and

Tuesday, 5/17 8:00 p.m. Assisted leash law. Montague police with 9:05 a.m. Second loose 2:33 p.m. Suspicious large safe found on the dog found on Swamp person on River Road. Road.

Wednesday, 5/18 at Box Car Restaurant. Checked same, was gone Road. Same removed. on arrival.

reported on North on the railing of the Street ripping up trash. French King Bridge. Spoke with owners and Checked same. Subject battery.

bank of the Millers Road in trash. Spoke River on East Mineral with owners as well. Advised of incident and leash law. 8:33 a.m. Report of sus- 11:00 p.m. Report of reported at French King picious person in vehicle illegal dumping of Highway

household trash on River 4:30 p.m. Report of issued to 8:35 a.m. Loose dog intoxicated male sitting

Friday, 5/20

gone.

Checked same. Report taken. Monday, 5/23

8:35 p.m. Disturbance residence. Male/female domestic. Criminal application

for assault and

penis. Aging causes diminished elasticity, and this might increase the risk of injury. However, most cases develop slowly and with no known trauma

There is no convincing evidence proving that any treatment other than surgery is universally effective. Because some patients improve without treatment, medical experts suggest waiting a year or longer before having surgery.

There are three basic surgical procedures for Peyronie's disease. One surgery removes or cuts the plaque and attaches a patch of skin, vein, or material made from animal organs. This method may correct a deformity, but some patients may experience numbness and an inability to achieve an erection.

Another technique involves removing or pinching a piece of the tunica albuginea opposite the plaque; this corrects the bend. This method is less likely to cause numbness or erectile dysfunction.

A third option is to implant a

device that makes the penis more rigid. In some cases, an implant will straighten the penis. If the implant does not straighten the penis, implantation is combined with one of the other surgical procedures.

Most types of surgery are effective. However, because of possible complications, most doctors prefer to perform surgery only on the small number of men with curvature severe enough to prevent sexual intercourse.

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

Transitions for Seniors Caring and Giving

BY ROBERTA POTTER

GILL-MONTAGUE - As we age, and as our loved ones age, there is need to explore and discuss the many life transitions encountered as seniors. Psychologist Erik Erikson described the later life stages characterized by the virtues of caring and wisdom. The aging years offer opportunity to reflect upon our experience, yet these years also present challenges and choices, especially when one is actively providing care to another.

The Transitions for Seniors Program, presented by staff from Hospice of Franklin County, offers the opportunity to address life planning topics for seniors, such as changes in health, mobility, family roles, finances, housing and support systems. This program is currently offered at senior centers in Bernardston, Shelburne, and Northfield.

Many who attend are simply older or aging residents who want to learn more about a range of topics. Some are active caregivers (for whom the grant is intended). Some caregivers program is funded in part by a attend with their spouses or

older parents, and some come alone. For those in the latter group of individuals, it offers opportunity to share frustrations and look to others as a practical and emotional support.

Initial programs include presentations by local experts in a specific field. As the group evolves, programs will be geared toward conversation and sharing of experience. Sample programs include, but are not limited to:

The Necessary Difficult Conversation: Talking with your doctor about your wishes Change. Loss and

Bereavement · Caring for Others / Caring for

Self · What you should know about legal and financial issues

· Medicare, the Affordable Care Act, and You: 2011 Information · Plan Ahead: Learn about community and other long term care options for now and the future · Five Wishes, EOL, Health Care Proxv

· Life Stories: How Our Experiences Shape Us

The Transitions for Seniors grant from Franklin County Home Care Corporation and the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs.

On June 3rd, at 1:00 pm., the Gill-Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street in Turners Falls, will hold an initial exploratory session to determine interest in a support group series for seniors beginning some time this summer. After an initial information session, and depending upon the interest of the participants, the group will continue to meet twice monthly on Friday afternoons.

The group can accommodate from six to twelve participants. Please call 863-4500 if you would like to attend the information session.

LAWN SALE Turners Falls Congregational Church 148 L Street Saturday, May 28th 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. 3 Tier Marble Stand * Microwave * Full-sized Door w/ Hardware * Lamps ' TVs * Clothing * Drapes * Floral Baskets * Many Treasures Free Coffee









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director of the Four Winds School, an independent middle school renting space in the town's Riverside Municipal Building, came before the board to discuss the possibility of renewing the school's lease, which runs out next month.

Hussey said the enrollment at Four Winds has dropped from 13 students three years ago to just seven this year. He is now working as a volunteer, and the school is open only three days a week, mainly to serve the needs of home schooled students who want to be able to access some formal class time with other students, without turning to a mainstream school. Hussey said his research has indicated this is a niche with growth potential for Four Winds, but only time will tell.

The board agreed to continue leasing space at the Municipal Building to Hussey for \$500 a month for July and August, and Hussey said he would be willing to up the rent to \$575 a month to better cover the building's operating expenses come September, if enrollment allows the school to stay open for another academic year.

"My greatest goal is to go right back to \$850 a month [the rent Hussey paid three years ago, when enrollment was better]. Let's hope something wonderful happens this summer."

The board discussed accessing a basement room at the Riverside building to permanently store recreation department equipment, which is presently scattered among commission members' houses. Hussey said he was amenable to that arrangement.

Based on the findings of a recent energy audit, through Western Electric Mass Company, the board gave the go ahead to install occupancy sensors and energy efficient lights at the Slate Library, the fire department, and the Riverside Municipal Building. The cost of those improvements should be paid for within two years through the resulting energy savings in those buildings.

The board approved short term borrowing to finance the Siemens Building Technologies

energy performance contract to replace the boiler at the Gill Elementary School, and other energy improvements there. The town will borrow \$110,000 from the Greenfield Coop Bank, at 1.01% interest, for the next six months, as a bridge to longer term financing for the town's \$121,000 share of the \$271,000 project (the remainder to be paid by a \$150,000 state grant). The work should be underway this summer.

Tim Storrow was appointed to the open space committee; Janet Masucci to the energy commission; and Dick French to the Riverside Municipal Building study committee.

After last week's town election, the board reorganized, electing Randy Crochier as chair.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG Fraud, Gang Disturbance, Break In

Wednesday, 5/18 5:51 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Coolidge Avenue. Investigated. 7:10 p.m. Arrest of

for assault and battery. Thursday, 5/19 8:40 a.m. Illegal dumping Bridge. Report taken. on Ferry Road. Services rendered.

4:09 p.m. Arrest of

for assault and battery with a dangerous weapon (wall and table) and disorderly conduct, and arrest of

, for assault and battery, disorderly contact, and trespassing. Friday, 5/20 9:55 a.m. Fraud at Monday, 5/23 Hillside Plastics on I:48 a.m. Suspicious per-Millers Falls Road. Referred to an officer. 9:56 a.m. Assault and battery on L Street. Advised of options. Saturday, 5/21

auto at the Country Creemee on Millers Falls Road. Investigated. 2:37 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Millers Falls Road. Services rendered. 3:41 p.m. Suspicious other on Gill-Montague 8:47 p.m. Fight on G Fourth Street. Services rendered. 8:56 p.m. Officer wanted at the Country Creemee on Millers Falls Road. Services rendered. Services rendered.

Sunday, 5/22 bance at Creemee on Millers Falls Road. Services rendered. Hillcrest options. at son Elementary School on Griswold Street. Area business check complete. 1:00 p.m. Domestic disturbance on East Main Street.

12:45 a.m. Suspicious Street. Report taken. 5:07 p.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on Lake Pleasant Road. Report taken. 7:19 p.m. Burglary, break ing and entering on Third

Street. Investigated. 7:41 p.m. Environmental, dumping on illegal Street. Investigated.

Tuesday, 5/24 6:24 a.m. Threatening, harassment on Randall Road. Report taken.

9:28 p.m. Suspicious 10:28 a.m. Illegal dumpother at Unity Park. ing on Bridge Street. Referred to other agency. 10:41 a.m. Automobile 10:44 p.m. Gang distur- accident on Third Street Country at Canal Street. Referred to other agency.

5:05 p.m. Threatening, harassment on Seventh Street. Advised of

8:20 p.m. Default warrant arrest of on Third



Fatality in One Car Accident

BY DAVID DETMOLD **TURNERS FALLS - Robert** Rivet, 72, of Grove Street in Turners Falls, a custodian for the Greenfield police department, was pronounced dead on the scene of a one car accident on Tuesday morning.

Rivet, driving a red Jeep Cherokee, proceeding west on 3rd Street from the traffic light at Avenue A at about 30 miles an

hour, failed to make the turn onto Canal and proceeded down the embankment. The car landed upside down, hanging over the canal.

Mike Deziell, of 76 Avenue A, was getting out of his car on 3rd Street in front of the Moltenbrey when he saw Rivet drive by. "He went absolutely straight over the bank, as if there was a road there. No brake lights. It was surreal."



14



EVERY WEDNESDAY

Great Falls Farmers Market, Turners Falls: Great Falls Farmers Market located at Avenue A and Second Street.

EVERY THURSDAY NIGHT

Between the Uprights, 23 Avenue A, Turners Falls: Acoustic open mic, every Thursday night, Dan, Kip and Shultzy from Curly Fingers DuPree host. All are welcome. Instruments pro-vided or bring your own. 8:30 - 11:30 p.m.

EVERY FRIDAY AND SATURDAY NIGHT

Montague Inn: TNT Karaoke.

EVERY SUNDAY

Thrive Project, 37 Third Street, Turners Falls: Franklin County Drawing Posse, an informal drawing group led by Anja Schutz. All skill levels more than welcome. 1 - 4 p.m.

NOW THROUGH JUNE

Wendell Free Library: exhibition of recent paintings by Heather K. Lenz, these ten oil paintings present the viewer with an unusual combination of beautiful, rich imagery and stimulating content focused on transformation, regeneration and growth.

THROUGH SUNDAY, JUNE 5th

Hallmark Gallery, Turners Falls: I Was Stories of War and There: Homecoming.

THURSDAY, MAY 26th

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Francie & Lillian Jones (folk/pop) and The Feel, 8:30 p.m. Free.

Deja Brew, Wendell: Larry Kopp, country and city blues guitar and vocal, 8-10 p.m.

Energy Greenfield Park: Coop Concerts 2011 Summer Series Devlin Miles, Roland Lapierre, and the Falltown String Band. Bring a blanket, lawn chairs, food, and drinks, 6-8 p.m.

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BROWN RICE SALAD



FRIDAY, MAY 27th

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Mo Ambesa (hip hop, jazz, reggae), 9:30 D.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: Ottomatic Slim, Chicago-style blues band, 9 - 11 p.m.

Arts Block Café, 289 Main Street, Greenfield: Leah Randazzo Group, 8 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: Prana, rock, 8 p.m.

Moore's Corner Schoolhouse, North Leverett: Music of the Gaslight Era (1890-1920), the Leverett Historical Society presents an evening of musical history with local musician John Root. The audience will learn how America's ethnic and racial diversity created unique musical styles. Everyone is invited to sing along. 7 - 8 p.m.

Bookmill: Montague Lonesome Brothers, solo and together, Jim Armenti & Ray Mason will both be performing solo sets followed by the two of them performing a Lonesome Brothers set. 8 p.m.

Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: OFC and Flaming Dragons of Middle Earth, 8 -11 p.m

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: Heavy Metal Showcase, 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 28th

Deja Brew, Wendell: Nobody's Fat, jazz trio, 9 - 11 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: Andrea Paquin, singer, songwriter, with special guest Coretta Sellars, acoustic rock, 7:30 p.m.

Montague Bookmill: Fancy Trash and Goldwater Trio, 8 p.m.

Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: Zydeco Connection, 8 - 11 p.m.

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

SUNDAY, MAY 29th

The Barnes Gallery, Leverett: Artists reception for The Sirens, an art exhibit by three talented female artists from 3-5 p.m., visit leverettcrafts.org, Leverett Crafts and Arts (LCA), 13 Montague Rd. Show runs through June 26rh.

Deja Brew, Wendell: Memorial Day Bar-B-Q & Reggae Fest with Rhythm, Inc., Outdoor B-B-Q from 5 p.m. and Reggae following from 8:30-10:30 p.m.

several venues in town.

FRIDAY, JUNE 10th and 17th and SATURDAY JUNE 11th & 18th

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Macbeth, 7 p.m. Also, 2 p.m. show on June 19th.

FRIDAY, JUNE 10th

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Daniel hales, and the frost heaves at the Great Falls Coffeehouse, offering unusual music that mixes indie rock, psychedelic folk, and a few other genres into an eclectic hybrid. Joining Daniel (guitar, sitar, harmonica, and lead vocals) are James Lowe (bass, kazoo, and vocals, Charlie Conant



Elise Hayes (left) and Kristin Hoffmann play at Mocha Maya's at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, June 10th.

THURSDAY, JUNE 2nd

June 2nd, 6 - 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Fall Town String Band, 7:30 p.m. Free.

Deja Brew, Wendell: The Relics, Brian Mallet and Lefty Cullen playing all your favorite oldies from the 50's & 60's, 8-10 p.m.

Greenfield Energy Park: Coop Concert Series, Sue Kranz, Joe Graveline, Boys of the Landfill. Bring a blanket, lawn chairs, food and drinks, 6 - 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 3rd Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Uncle Hal (old-timey), 9:30 p.m. Free.

Deja Brew, Wendell: The Ellingtones, 9-11 p.m.

Arts Block Café, Greenfield: Caravan of Thieves, with special guest Heather Maloney, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 4th Deja Brew, Wendell: The Equalites, Reggae Fantastico! 9-11 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Damon Reeves and the Love Thieves, rock, 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, JUNE 5th Deja Brew, Wendell: Pamela Means, Contemporary Originals & Jazz Standards, 8-10 p.m.

TUESDAY, JUNE 7th

Gill Commons: Summer concert series, Amandla Chorus, Vocal Music from Around the World, 7 p.m.

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

(guitar, dobro, and vocals), Ivan Ussach (drums, percussion, and vocals), and Emily Breines (violin and vocals), 7 p.m.

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

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: Kristin Hoffmann with special guest Elise Hayes, 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 11th

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: GeoPlus River Walk, 9:30 a.m. -12 p.m.

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

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Water Under the Bridge Bike Tour along the Canal-side bike path. Learn about the history of bridges over the Connecticut River in Turners Falls, coordinated in partnership with Turners Falls Riverculture for the Water Under the Bridge music festival, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. Free.

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

THE BRICK HOUSE COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER

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SUNDAY JUNE 12th

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Watershed Poets and Watershed Wildflowers, 2 - 3:30 p.m. Free.

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







THURS 5/26 8:30 FREE FRANCIE & LILIAN JONES THE FEEL (folk/pop/indie)

FRI 5/27 9:30 \$5 Mo Ambesa (hip hop, jazz, reggae)



440 Greenfield Rd, Montague MA 7 Days / 8am - 11pm (at least) (413)367-9666

MONDAY, MAY 30th Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Open Mic with Dada Dino, 8 p.m. Free.

Deja Brew, Wendell: 2nd Annual Memorial Day Outdoor Poetry Festival. Bring a lawn chair or blanket, order some food and/or drink, relax and enjoy the afternoon, 1-4 p.m.

TUESDAY, MAY 31st

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

FRIDAY, JUNE 10th and SATURDAY, JUNE 11th All of Turners Falls: Water Under the Bridge Festival. Music performances at



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Orange town administrator Rich Kwiatkowski (1) and Leo Parent (r) hand Tina Cote an award for providing free FRTA bus service for veterans.

from WALK page 8

16

flower with the distinctive, jagged-edged five-lobed leaf. Also lots of ugly burdock, one of those rank-looking and hardto-dig-out weeds you don't want to let get into your garden. It would definitely fall into the category of weeds my little nineteenth-century book on describes perennials as "vicious, pernicious, obnoxious and thoroughly bad."

Ferns are shooting up everywhere now, far too many varieties to count. I have tried to master just a few of them. Ostrich fern, because of the way it opens up, like an ostrich plume. Lacy maidenhair fern. The flat-leaved wood fern. Lots of bracken, the fern that branches like a three-cornered hat, that a Northfield Mountain guide once told me was a natural repellent that could actually be put on as a sort of hat, to keep bugs away. Once in a while, trudging along the road in the heat of summer with mosquitoes buzzing, I'll get really desperate and try it, but I have to remember to take it off quickly when I hear a car coming.

I stop briefly at the grave-

yard and happen to see buttercups. Most years, the haiku prompted by something my farmer husband once said has proved to be quite true:

How does he know that? After the buttercups bloom You will see fireflies. Not yet, so far, this year.

In this walk, instead of going left at the fork to Bascom Hollow, stay right on Hoe Shop, pass by a private driveway, and look for a small wooded lane immediately on your right. This is a narrow wooded entrance, bound on both sides by private property, to the Gill Town Forest.

There is no trash in these woods. None. Sometimes my heart will sink when I think I've found some, but it will only be the white torches of new growth on the end of a pine branch, or a mass of aquacolored lichen on a log. There are carefully-kept fences as you approach Hastings land, fences that would never be messed with if you saw how much time and work it takes to maintain them every year.

Underfoot is a starry white flower, (goldthread?) and something with dark green BY LEE WICKS

TURNERS FALLS - In a time of tight budgets it isn't easy to find a way to provide a new and much needed service for veterans, but Tina Cote, an administrator at the Franklin Regional Transit Authority did just that. Looking to find a way to show appreciation to the men and women who have served their country, she initiated free transportation for veterans on any of Franklin County's fixed bus routes. It turns out that Franklin County is the only county in the state to provide this service.

On Thursday, May 19th, at a

leaves and a red berry (maybe partridgeberry). The first "wet spot" of the town forest isn't far away, to be followed by another, larger wet spot you can walk around if you have more time, and finally Otter Pond itself.

The wood thrush is playing its flute, a haunting multi-part melody even I - not very knowledgeable about birds have come to recognize.

Look carefully near any grove of hemlocks you pass. You will probably find small piles of deer dung. They use those groves as their bedrooms. Of course this is tick-city now, too, and you have to be careful. Stick to the paths, brush against branches as little as possible, and examine yourself carefully when you get home.

It is actually kind of hard to get infected by a tick, a doctor told me last year. (Brace yourself, this is graphic). He claimed they have to bite you, ingest your blood, swell up, and then regurgitate it back into your system before there's even a chance you'll catch Lyme. This takes a while, and usually you find them and remove them before they have a chance to complete their repast.

meeting of the Franklin County Regional Transit Authority held at the community room of the Greenfield Savings Bank, Leo Parent, Veterans Services Officer for Franklin County, surprised Cote with a citation signed by Coleman Nee, secretary of the Department of Veterans Services for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, recognizing her dedication to the veteran community.

"I just wanted to find a way to show appreciation for all these men and women have done in service to their country," Cote said. "Since empty seats on the busses are common, the service incurs no cost. Veterans simply show a photo ID and board."

Looking delighted by an opportunity to recognize a colleague, Leo Parent said, "Tina is a hard worker, one of the best. Sometimes I feel she is not recognized or appreciated for all the work she does for the FRTA and the community. Tina and the staff work very hard every day, taking care of those in need. In these hard times they all go beyond the call of duty and should all be commended for what they do."

spent far more than fifteen minutes on this walk today. It is one where you could spend hours, and there are hours more of faint walking paths here, slowly and quietly being tended by patient Gill volunteers. If

you come, leave your dog at

home or at least keep it close

to you on the path, so it does-

n't scare away or destroy the

very things you come to see.

Don't pick anything that there

are very few of. But do take a

deep breath and stand in

silence a minute and thank the

powers that be that there are



The Gill Town Forest

still places like this on this poor troubled planet.

Four huge Canada geese pass very low, well under the treeline, honking forlornly, as I head back down the road toward home.

They are apparently as sad as I am to be leaving the woods.

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