



Year 3  
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 50¢

# The Montague Reporter

REPORTER@MONTAGUEMA.NET

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

APRIL 14, 2005

## River Rat Race

### A FIRST HAND ACCOUNT

BY JOSH HEINEMANN

**ATHOL - ORANGE** - The first day we picked to get out in the canoe, for strengthening, warm up, and practice was Saturday, April 2nd. It turned out to be a beautiful 35-degree day with rain, heavy at times. That was our Saturday plan, and we went ahead with it anyway, regardless of the weather.

We drove to Orange, and by the side of the river were two young men standing cold, next to their canoe, just off the river and waiting for a ride home. The rain had slowed to a light drizzle, and as we carried our boat to the water I said to them, "What, are you nuts?"

When we reached the water, rain increased again to a good downpour, but we were dressed in wool and rain gear, so we were fine; we paddled upstream until we were tired, and then downstream back to our start. On the way up we passed a lone Canada goose, who casually paddled over to the other side of the stream, some freshly cut and peeled beaver trees, and numerous floating beer cans. On the way back we startled some mallard ducks, and a great blue heron I would not even have seen because my rain hat was pulled so

see RACE pg 8



PHOTO BY MARK DANNENHAUER

The author provides a raccoon's eye view of the River Rat Race and Parade in Athol on Saturday April 9th.

## Bike Path Construction Begins

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH

**TURNERS FALLS** - Warner Brothers, of Sunderland, have begun the long-awaited construction of the bike path, stretching from the former Red Bridge by Unity Park to Depot Street in Montague City. The path will measure 12 feet wide for most of the way, according to Warner Brother's engineer, Paul Gibavic. The course of the path will follow the Connecticut River along Unity Park, go behind the Montague town offices, under the Gill-Montague Bridge, past the Discovery Center, then follow the canal along an abandoned railroad bed by Montague Machine Company to Depot Street.

Eventually, the bike path will continue across Montague City Road and follow the abandoned railroad past the wastewater treatment plant, and cross the Connecticut River over an abandoned railroad bridge. That will be the next segment and a separate contract, still in gestation.

Warner Brothers' two-year contract was supposed to have been started last year, but there were a few problems with the close proximity of the bike path to the canal behind Montague Machine. These have been worked out.



Danny Potralya, operating a Komatsu excavator, loads a Mack dump truck driven by Jim Streeter on the bike path project in Turners Falls.

"The job entails trucks backing up for long distances to remove stripped material and to bring gravel and blacktop in," Gibavic said. "But, with luck, we may complete the project by this fall. Right now, trucks can carry stripped material out and bring gravel back, but when paving, the trucks will have to back up for long distances, one at a time, to haul

asphalt in, then return to the plant empty. It all takes time."

The bike path will most likely attract visitors to Turners Falls and the Discovery Center. And if gasoline prices continue their upward spiral, we may all be using bikes for more than recreation. Bike path, here we come!

## THE EAGLE HAS HATCHED!

BY PAT CARLISLE

**GREAT FALLS** - Good news! Last Saturday, April 9th, at 8 a.m., we got our first peek at this year's eaglet. Only one egg this year, and despite some worries about the eagles' brooding during a late

winter storm, on this fine spring weekend we are treated to the sight of a chick sitting in a half shell. Too wonderful!

We watch a possible first feeding at 3:10 p.m. The baby is wobbly. Close attention all afternoon reveals how attentive the eagle parents are. Another fish



dinner arrives, and at 6:50 p.m. we watch a much stronger eaglet eagerly take small offerings of fresh fish.

We hope all the local eagle watchers are enjoying the amazing program of live eagle activity

from the nest in Barton Cove, available on local access television in several surrounding towns. Readers are also invited to view eagle activity at the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls on Friday and Saturday during the open hours of 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### THEATER REVIEW

## Cat on a Hot Tin Roof

Produced by The Country Players under the direction of Elisa Martin

REVIEWED BY DANIEL BROWN

**TURNERS FALLS** - Boy, and I thought my family was messed up! Long before the term "dysfunctional" entered the popular lexicon,

Tennessee Williams wrote *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* about the seamy underside of life in the clan belonging to the ample Big Daddy Pollitt. Although set in the playwright's namesake state in

1955, had the play been produced in ancient Greece, all the family members would have been stabbing each other through the draperies. They fare little better in see CAT pg 14

BY JEANNE WEINTRAUB

**MONTAGUE CENTER** - All are invited to Welcome in the Spring at the Montague May Celebration! The celebration will take place on Sunday, May 1st at the Montague Center town common from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Festivities will include Maypole dancing, singing of May carols, and Morris dancing. The Juggler Meadow Morris Team, Wake Robbin Morris Team, Hartsbrook Garland Dancers, Guiding Star Clog Morris Team and Johnny Jumpups (children's) Morris Team will all be performing. The celebration commences with a procession down Main Street, in which all are invited to participate, departing from the Montague Center post office at around 10:30 a.m. and arriving at the town green.

The event is free, and participants are asked to bring a blanket and picnic lunch. Call 367-9923 for additional information.

**PET OF THE WEEK****Your New Best Friend****Leon**

Leon is a 11/2-year-old hound mix in need of a good home. He's an outgoing, handsome guy, and a handy size at about 40-50 pounds - not too small, not too huge - so he can go anywhere and do anything! He loves everyone he meets. He would be good with kids over 8. Dog-savvy cats and other dogs are OK too. He would love to be your new best friend! Leon is a Dixie Dog; adoption fee is \$250. To learn more about adopting Leon, please contact the Dakin Animal Shelter in Leverett at 548-9898 or via email at [info@dakinshelter.org](mailto:info@dakinshelter.org).

**Carnegie Library News****Library Book and Craft Sale**

The Friends of the Montague Libraries are looking for craftspeople who may want to set up a table and sell their items at the Friends' Art at the Library event. This event will be held outside on the lawn at the Carnegie Library in Turners Falls on Saturday, May 21st from 1:00 until 4:00 p.m. Participants must bring their

own table and chairs and reserve a space in advance. A fee of \$10.00 will be charged to those who wish to participate. The Friends will also be holding a book sale at this time. To reserve a space, please call the Carnegie Library at 863-3214. A member of the Friends will contact each crafter with further information.

**Spring Arts and Crafts Party at Carnegie Library****BY LINDA HICKMAN**

There will be a Spring Arts and Crafts Party at the Carnegie Library in Turners Falls on Saturday, April 23rd at 2 p.m. Children of all ages and their families are invited to join Bev Whitbeck for a fun, free arts and crafts party. Project choices will include puppets, cards, pop-ups, bookmarks, mobiles, door hangers and princess crowns. This program will feature our Ellison Machines. These presses and dies easily cut out multiple

shapes and letters from construction paper, felt, and anything else that scissors could cut. Hundreds of pre-cut animal, transportation, flower and other plant shapes will be provided. Come see how creative you can be and learn about the amazing versatile Ellison Machines. Teachers and caregivers are also invited, with or without children. Refreshments will be served. For more information, please call 863-3214.

**FACES & PLACES****Bear Moons Photographer**

PARZYCH PHOTO

**BY JOSEPH A PARZYCH**

**GILL** - When Louis Parzych began to walk to his Main Road home in the dark, Sunday, his nephew, Joe M. Parzych, offered him a ride. Louis reluctantly agreed. When the car headlights illuminated a big black bear tearing apart a bird feeder, Louis was not sorry he had accepted the ride. The bear dove into a hemlock hedge but came back to continue eating birdseed. It was not until flashes from a camera startled him that he mooned the photographer with his big black posterior and ran off.

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**April Events at the Great Falls Discovery Center****Through April 16th**

Nature photographer Glenn Corbiere's display of damselflies and dragonflies of the valley will be in the Great Hall through April 16th. At the Great Falls Discovery Center.

**Saturday, April 16th** - Drawing from Nature: 10 a.m. - noon, Annie Chappell, artist and chair of the Friends of the Great Falls Discovery

Center, will demonstrate how to sketch from the wildlife in the exhibits. Please bring a 9x12 firm sketchpad, #2 pencils, and one or two black waterproof pens (Uniball or Micron). Limited to 8 participants, 14 or older. Please call to register.

**Saturday, April 23rd** - Invasive Plant Control: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**Saturday, April 30th** -

Leaping Lily Pads: 11 a.m. Families with young children are invited to join Susan Russo of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service in activities to learn about a frog's life cycle.

Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls. For further information, please call (413) 863-3221.

**SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES April 18th - April 22nd**

**MONTAGUE Senior Center**, 62 Fifth St., Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. Advanced registration at many of our activities is necessary. We need to know how many people will be joining so we can be prepared. A suggested donation of \$1 per exercise class is appreciated. Meal reservations need to be made a day in advance by 11 a.m. Messages can be left on the machine when the center is closed (863-9357). Mealsite Manager is Chris Richer. The center offers a hot noon meal weekdays to any senior. Transportation to the center can be provided. Trip coordinator is Jean Chase. Make trip reservations by calling 772-6356. Payment and menu choice is due three weeks prior to trip. All Hawthorne trips leave from the parking

lot on First Street across from the Police Station.

**Monday, 18th**  
Closed - Patriot's Day  
**Tuesday, 19th**  
9:30 a.m. Tai Chi  
10 a.m. Writing Classes  
1 p.m. Painting Class with Louise Minks, instructor  
**Wednesday, 20th**  
10:15 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
12:45 p.m. Bingo  
**Thursday, 21st**  
1 p.m. Pitch  
**Friday, 22nd**  
9:45 a.m. Aerobics  
11 a.m. PACE Aerobics

**ERVING Senior Center**, 18 Pleasant St., Ervingside (Old Center School, 1st Floor), is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. For information and reservations call Polly Kiely, Senior Center director

at (413) 423-3308. Lunch daily at 11:30 a.m. with reservations a day in advance by 11 a.m. Transportation can be provided for meals, Thursday shopping, or medical necessity by calling Dana Moore at (978) 544-3898.

**Monday, 18th**  
Closed - Patriot's Days  
**Tuesday, 19th**  
9 a.m. Aerobics  
10:15 a.m. Senior Business Meeting  
12:30 p.m. Oil Painting  
**Wednesday, 20th**  
10 a.m. Line Dancing  
12 Noon Bingo  
**Thursday, 21st**  
9 a.m. Aerobics

**WENDELL Senior Center**, located in the town offices on Wendell Depot Rd. Call Kathy Swaim at (978) 544-2020 for info, schedule of events or to coordinate transportation.

**BAKED STUFFED CHICKEN DINNER**

**Saturday, April 16th - 5:15 p.m.**

Fr. Casey Hall  
St. Anne's Church  
6th Street, Turners Falls

Adults: \$9; Children: \$5  
Tickets: 863-2585  
BINGO follows

**"Munch & Muse" Goes to the Movies**

Pick up your copy of the book and movie at the Carnegie Library, then join the discussion on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. for friendly musing and yummy munching.

April 19 - Seabiscuit  
May 17 - Shipping News  
June 21 - A Civil Action

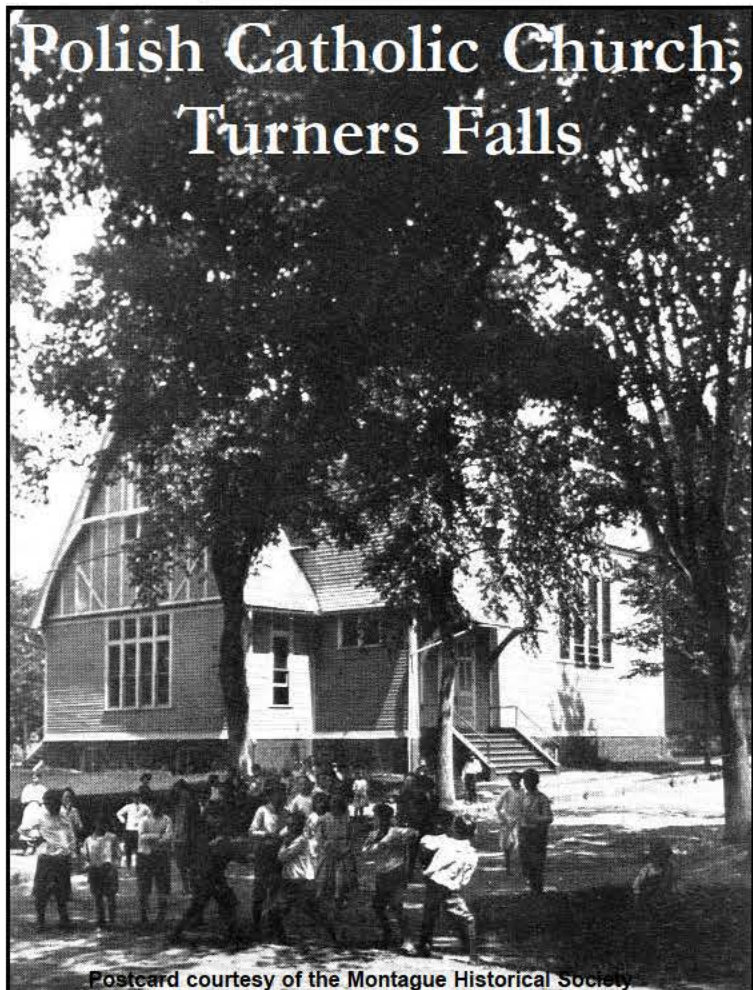
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**POSTCARDS FROM THE PAST**



Postcard courtesy of the Montague Historical Society

Published by Danzinger & Berman, New Haven, CT

This building has an interesting history. It was built in 1884 by the Unitarian Society, at a cost of \$10,000. As the membership dwindled to twelve congregants, they decided to disband and sell the church to the Polish Catholics. The money they got from the sale was used to purchase a tract of land for a playground for the children of Montague.

That land is now Unity Park. It is probably the greatest gift ever given to the town of Montague.

# Peters to Speak at Historical Society

BY LILLIAN FISKE

**MONTAGUE CENTER** - The spring meeting of the Historical Society will be held Thursday, April 21st at 7:00 p.m. at the Great Falls Discovery Center.

Our guest speaker will be Brad Peters whose program will be about the Strathmore Paper Company. Strathmore Paper Company was acquired by International Paper Company, the largest paper company in the world, and its first mill was here in Turners Falls. Peters was publicity director for IP at one time. The meeting is open to the public.

Many of you are aware the Historical Society no longer has space to hold our meetings and store our holdings at the Masonic Hall on Main Street in Montague Center. Due to the merger of the Northfield, Turners Falls and Montague Center lodges, the building has been sold and is being con-

verted into two condominiums. All of our collection has been moved to the East District School in Montague Center. We sincerely hope that new premises, available to the public, can soon be found. Many donations have come in the past six months and are too numerous to list here.

A brief note to introduce you to the new president of our society. Jeff Singleton is a teacher of history at Boston College and lives in Ruby Hemenway's old home on Center Street. You will probably recognize his name as he is in his third year as chairman of the finance committee for the town of Montague.

As the Society now has over 400 vintage post cards, the *Montague Reporter* has agreed to publish some of them in a weekly series. Please check out the Historical Society area on website [www.montague-ma.net](http://www.montague-ma.net).

# Friends of the Montague Reporter Meeting

Get involved in your community newspaper! Come to the next meeting of the Friends of the *Montague Reporter* on **Tuesday, April 19th at 7 p.m.** at the Brick House, first floor.

## Fran's Designer Clothing Sale

Sponsored by The First Congregational Church  
148 L Street  
**9 a.m. to 2 p.m.**  
Brand name clothing for all ages at discount prices.  
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# Public Hearing on Dry Cask Storage at Vermont Yankee

The Vermont legislature is hosting a public hearing on April 14th at 6 p.m., to take place at Brattleboro Union High School Gymnasium on Fairground Road (just off Interstate 91 exit 1).

Entergy has submitted proposed legislation to the Vermont Legislature that would permit "up to 12" dry cask storage canisters filled with high level

nuclear waste to be set on a concrete pad on the banks of the Connecticut River.

The hearing format will allow for members of the public to speak for up to two minutes. The legislature can place stipulations on Entergy's plan, including charging them for each canister and ordering them to empty the waste storage pool and utilize a hardened on-site

waste storage system to increase public safety.

For those who cannot attend the hearing, comments may also be mailed to the Joint Committee on Natural Resources and Energy at 115 State Street, Drawer 33, Montpelier, VT 05633. Comments from citizens living downwind and downstream of the Vernon plant are welcome.

## Turners Falls Fire District Annual Meeting

Tuesday, April 19th, 7 p.m. Hillcrest School Auditorium,  
30 Griswold Street, Turners Falls.  
All District residents are encouraged to attend.

## New Spring Programs at the YMCA in Greenfield

Registration begins April 18 (Members & 20 (Program Associates) for youth & adult programs starting April 25: swimming, gymnastics, youth sports, yoga, strength training & more. Spring into action with great fitness & recreation programs for the whole family!  
Call 773-3646 for information.  
451 Main St. • Greenfield • 773-3646

**DRAFT INFORMATION SESSION**

Find out about the Draft at the **Wendell Town Hall** Sunday, April 17th from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. There will be speakers, open discussion and refreshments. Speakers will talk about the legal rights of draft age people, alternatives to the draft, the current status of the draft and explain what a Conscientious Objector is and give tips on how to develop a C.O. file. This event is co-sponsored by Traprock Peace Center.

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 David Detmold

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**Circulation**  
 Jean Hebden  
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 James Damon  
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**"The Voice of the Villages"**

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 August, 2002

# Earth Week Awareness

Residents of Turners Falls looked out their doors and windows on Tuesday morning to see the students from Sheffield School marching jauntily down the hill - some carrying blue ribbons and many wearing fish hats - accompanied by the high school marching band. What was the occasion, we wondered. The parade wound its way down the Avenue to the Great Falls Discovery Center, in the angle of land between the river and the power canal. The students marched there to celebrate the Connecticut River itself, the historic lifeblood of our community, and to raise environmental awareness in the week leading up to Earth Day, April 22nd. Superintendent Sue Gee was among the educators who

marched with them. She told the students to honor Earth Day every year, to plant trees, to clean up their yards, to observe nature whenever they had the chance, and to take care of our rivers and streams and ponds so they don't get polluted. "Always remember to take care of the Earth," she said. This is good advice for everyone to follow. Many of the parents and curious residents who followed the parade and listened to the speakers glanced over their shoulders at the greening hills above the swiftly flowing river - the greatest river in New England - and seemed to see their beauty with new eyes. Hooray! for the students of Sheffield, for reminding us to honor the Earth.



Teacher Steve Touloumtzis asked the Sheffield students, "Who's responsible for keeping the Earth clean?" "We are!" they replied.

**Poetry Page**  
*invitation for submissions*

The Montague Reporter features a monthly poetry page. Editors Chris Janke and Chris Sawyer-Laucanno warmly welcome our readers to submit poems, (with the name of the poet and title of the poem at the top of each page) for consideration to: [reporter-poems@montague-ma.net](mailto:reporter-poems@montague-ma.net), or to [poems.MontagueReporter](mailto:poems.MontagueReporter@montague-ma.net), 24 Third Street, Turners Falls, MA, 01376.

*The editors reserve the right of final selection for publication.*

**We welcome your letters.**

Letters must be 400 words or less and must be signed. Please include your name, address and phone number to [Montague Reporter](mailto:MontagueReporter@montague-ma.net), 24 3rd Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376.

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WAS LEGAL BUT OOPS,    WAS LEGAL BUT OOPS,    WAS LEGAL BUT OOPS,    WAS LEGAL BUT OOPS,    MED. MARIJUANA NEVER LEGAL

VIOXX    PHEN-PHEN    CELEBREX    EPHEDRIN

IT CAN KILL YOU    IT CAN KILL YOU    IT CAN KILL YOU    IT CAN KILL YOU    NEVER ONCE LETHAL

BORDEAUX '05

MAYBE WE SHOULD FERTILIZE CONGRESS LIKE SQUIBB, PFIZER AND LILY DO!!

HOW BOOT A million MAN ROLL TO WASH. D.C.

**The F.D.A. is looking out for you.**

CARTOON BY DENIS BORDEAUX

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Memo Raises Questions

Regarding Chris Collins' recent "memo" to Montague (*The Recorder*, 4/8/2005): when Collins suddenly gets excited about something that has been going on for over eight months, you have to wonder who's been whispering in his ear. To the thoughtful reader, his outburst raised a number of questions, chief among which is, "why now?" Could it have something to do with the recent article in the *Montague Reporter* revealing that GCTV's Executive

Director's salary - apparently contradicting his earlier assertions to Montague's selectboard - is not only public information but freely available to anyone willing to look? The same article went on to note that figures in the public record indicate that the director received substantial salary and benefit increases in the year after GCTV assumed the Montague local access assignment. Nothing wrong with that, necessarily, which makes the effort to hide it seem

all the more curious. Given his normal relish for probing the underside of local politics, I would have expected Collins to grab at that story with both hands. Instead, he ignored it, and chose to publish a strident attack on people in Montague who have been raising questions. All of this makes a bemused reader wonder: who's behind all this, and what are they so worried about?

- Mike Naughton  
 Millers Falls

## Letter from W. Mass Legislators to Vermont Governor Douglas

Dear Governor Douglas,

As elected representatives of the people of Massachusetts, we urge the Vermont Legislature to effect safe, secure, limited and temporary storage of nuclear waste at the Entergy Nuclear Vermont Yankee power station.

We understand Entergy Nuclear Vermont Yankee proposes legislation to permit unfettered loading and siting of up to 12 Holtec International Hi-Storm spent nuclear fuel storage silos at Vernon, Vermont, very close to the Connecticut River. We understand further that just one of the 68 nuclear fuel assemblies proposed to be stored in each of the silos contains more radioactivity than that released by the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima.

Although the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission expresses confidence in the Holtec storage system's ability to withstand assaults from nature or terrorists, the nature of the materials to be stored - lethal even in small portions and requiring isolation for 10,000 years or more - dictates to any responsible party to proceed with caution. Further, we

understand that the Holtec "dry cask" system is not a trouble-free system and has had problems elsewhere in the United States.

We respectfully request the Vermont Legislature to establish best practices criteria for the movement and storage of spent nuclear waste at Entergy Nuclear Vermont Yankee ensuring:

- That cask radiation emanations are minimized
- That casks are protected from line-of-sight targeting from missiles, ballistics or aircraft
- That casks are protected from assaults with explosives
- That sufficient fuel is moved to dry cask to ensure density of fuel storage in the spent fuel pool is substantially reduced;
- And that dry cask storage is not used to enable license renewal

- Representative Christopher Donelan, 2nd Franklin  
 - Representative Stephen Kulik, 2nd Franklin  
 - Representative Denis Guyer, 2nd Berkshire  
 - Representative Stephen

Brewer, Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire & Franklin  
 - Senator Stanley Rosenberg, Hampshire & Franklin

April 5th, 2005

**American Dead in Iraq**  
 as of 4/13/05

**US FORCES**  
 Casualties in Iraq  
 as of this date  
**1,543**

Wounded in Action **11,664**

Oak Ridge Detachment  
 MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

GUEST EDITORIAL

# Amherst Board Rejects U.S. Use of Torture

**AMHERST, MA & EUGENE, OR** - On Monday evening, April 11th, the Town of Amherst's selectboard voted unanimously to sign on to a letter rejecting U.S. use of torture and inhumane treatment of prisoners, drafted by the Bill of Rights Defense Committee. That same evening, by a vote of 7-1, Eugene's City Council approved a resolution based on the letter. More communities are expected to join Eugene and Amherst in the coming weeks, as the BORDC's grassroots coalition seeks to challenge the Bush Administration's tacit approval of torture and rendition post 9/11.

The letter asks the United States government to affirm that it will not through its own actions, or through others acting on its behalf, engage in any acts of torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment anywhere in the world. The

BORDC asks local government bodies, veterans groups, retired military officers, and national organizations to sign on to its letter because U.S. use of torture places U.S. and allied military forces at greater risk of similar treatment if they are captured. The BORDC plans to deliver the letter to President Bush and all members of Congress in early May.

Nancy Foster, Amherst community member and long-time civil liberties supporter, introduced the letter to the Amherst Select Board. The five-member Board praised Foster and offered their unanimous support for the letter. They plan to send their own copies of the letter to Amherst's Congressional representatives, in addition to endorsing BORDC's letter.

Initially, the Eugene resolution faced a hurdle common among issues of national or

international significance. Hope Marston, a local organizer for the Bill of Rights Defense Committee, reminded the council that "when each of you was sworn into office, you promised to defend the United States Constitution." She went on to describe the many ways in which the U.S. Constitution is clear in its rejection of torture and its commitment to human rights. "We cannot violate our principles just because torture is happening in a far away country to citizens of other countries. Our own principles must be upheld for all the world to see," she said.

Former Attorney Karl Sorg of Eugene, who argued before the Supreme Court in the 1950s, was among the local residents who spoke in favor of the city resolution. Recalling his Army days in Nazi Germany, Sorg said, "I was frightened by fascism then, and

now I see our own country engaging in terrorism."

Gordie Albi, founder of Eugene's Amigos de Los Sobrevivientes (Friends of the Survivors), told the councilors that torture is a local issue because Eugene is home to the first U.S. center that cares for survivors of torture.

Three councilors who initially opposed the resolution eventually found the issue of torture important enough to make an exception, and voted in favor. Other councilors, like Andrea Ortiz were grateful for the opportunity to vote against the use of torture. She said, "If we as leaders of the community can't make a statement about war crimes, I don't know what we can make a statement about." Councilors Betty Taylor and David Kelly echoed her sentiment and gave the resolution their strong support.

The Bill of Rights Defense

Committee invites people nationwide who are outraged that U.S. personnel have engaged in torture to urge their local governments, human rights commissions, and veterans' groups to sign on to its letter opposing torture, and to gather signatures on an anti-torture petition it has cosponsored with the Center for Constitutional Rights. According to BORDC director Nancy Talanian, "The American people are frustrated by the lack of action from both President Bush and Congress in stopping this obvious wrongdoing. We hope our letter and petition together will generate more than a million signatures. People clearly need an outlet for expressing their outrage at U.S. support for and complicity in torture."

For more information, contact the Bill of Rights Defense Committee, 413-582-0110.

# Population Control Depends on Gender Equality

**BY DAVID CAMERON NORTHAMPTON -**

*Uncrowding Eden: Nature, Population, and the Lives of Women.* So goes the title of Robert Engelman's soon-to-be published book - a partial reading and summary of which was presented at Smith College in Northampton on Wednesday night, April 6th. Engelman is affiliated with Population Action International (PAI), an independent advocacy group working to strengthen public awareness and build political and financial support for global population programs. PAI's principal aim is to improve the lives of individual women and their families, while slowing population growth and preserving the environment.

Engelman's presentation was

organized by the Massachusetts Chapter Sierra Club Population Program. He spoke with energy and candor, and avoided the normal formalities of such a topic. He explained his reason for skipping an overview of the current global "mess," saying he imagined everyone in the room would probably agree the world would be better off with less people. Global population, by the way, is now at 6.4 billion. For a little perspective, it took modern *Homo sapiens* until 1960 (about 160,000 years) to populate the Earth with 3 billion people. That number had doubled by the year 2000, in only 40 years - a "blip" on the scale of geologic time.

While many scientists like to make predictions of how global population is likely to grow

over the next few decades, or give estimates on the Earth's "carrying capacity" for human beings, Engelman avoided following suit, insisting "we just don't know." Rather, he focused on what he feels are the root causes of the problem: the conflict between the general good and private interests, and more importantly, gender issues. Engelman suggests the single biggest factor contributing to our current population problem is the subjugation of women - mostly in developing countries - by dominant mates dictating their reproductive practices, or more simply, the lack of access to family planning services and contraceptives. He cites as partial evidence the fact that childlessness among professional or otherwise "liberated" women in

industrialized nations is increasing dramatically, while the population of the world's poorest countries continues to increase at an alarming rate.

Engelman does not subscribe to China's so-called "One-Child" policy. Struggling with what social planners there consider an obvious overpopulation epidemic, the Family Planning Commission of China implemented the One-Child Policy as a solution in 1979. The One-Child Policy states parents in urban settings are limited to having only one child. Parents in rural areas are allowed two children provided the first is a girl. Boys are highly valued in Chinese culture, and this value especially applies to more rural areas. The government enforces this regu-

lation by penalizing families that have more children. Parents with over quota children are fined for each additional birth, their taxes are raised, and they no longer receive free health care. Parents who comply with the One-Child Policy receive money from the government in addition to their free healthcare. The policy has resulted in a current birth rate of 1.8 children per woman. Engelman implied he would rather see the education and liberation of women worldwide as a means to solve the global population problem, recalling the over-arching objectives of his professional endeavor: equal and humane treatment for all women, a stabilization of the global population, and an eventual reconnection with nature.

## Native Garden Project Seeks Donations

The Friends of Wissatinnewag are beginning our fourth year with our Three Sisters Native Garden Project. Planted with indigenous varieties of corn, beans and squash in the traditional Algonkian mound style, these gardens provide opportunities to learn first hand about Native American agricultural practices, while highlighting the importance of protecting biodiversity in food seed. This year we will be adding a

Native American medicinal herb garden.

If you would like to help, we are looking for contributions towards or donations of the following items on our wish list: tractor, brush hog, self propelled wheel driven lawn mower, tarps: 20 x 30 or larger, shovels, rakes, hoes, and miscellaneous garden tools, composted soil, and wheelbarrows.

Contact: Howard Clark, Friends of Wissatinnewag, at 413-772-3743.

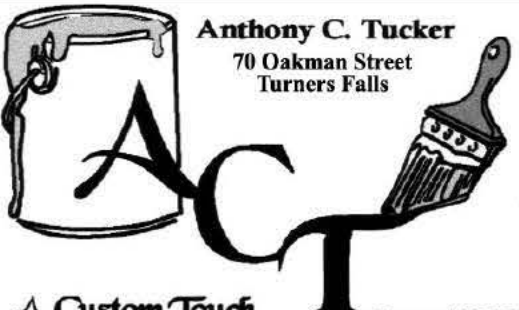
## Montague Elks Install Officers


The Montague Elks Lodge #2521 held its annual installation of officers on Saturday, April 9th. The members invested with office for the Elk year 2005-2006 are: Douglas Brown, Exalted Ruler; Mike Blanchard, Leading Knight; Pamela Lester, Loyal Knight; James Sicard, Lecturing Knight; Ernest L. Brown, Past Exalted Ruler, Secretary; Jason E. Clark, Sr., Past Exalted Ruler, Treasurer; Kevin Hastings, Past Exalted Ruler, 5 year trustee; Steve Saharceski, Tiler; Mike Saharceski, Inner Guard; Teresa Miner, Past Exalted Ruler, Chaplain; JoAnn Greenleaf, Organist.

After the installation, John Grace and his kitchen staff prepared a sumptuous prime rib dinner. Music and dancing followed to the band *MoJo's*.

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## NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

# Sparks Fly on Box Car Sale

**BY IVAN USSACH** - After waiting patiently for 20 minutes while the selectboard moved through its formal agenda, Box Car restaurant property owners Barbara Bumpus and Norma Charbonneau were invited in to speak to the board. And speak they did, giving the board and everyone else present a piece of their minds.

"We can't go anywhere in town without folks talking about us, and giving us looks," Charbonneau began. "I've lived in this town for 20 years," she said, getting angrier by the second, "and this is how I get treated? That's not right."

Whether unable or unwilling to speak further, the two made to leave the meeting room as board members attempted to respond, then stepped back in. This time it was Bumpus who lashed out. "It's all because of what was in the papers," she exclaimed. "You know people are going to believe what they read, no matter whether someone's been lying."

The women were referring to last week's unscheduled visit before the board by Toni Wilson, who currently leases the restaurant with her husband

and is trying to secure funds to purchase the building from the Bumpus and Charbonneau. Wilson had come accompanied by a few townsfolk, including Jeff Dubay, who spoke at length to attempt to find a way for the town to help Wilson secure extra funds to make up the purchase price.

"Jeff has no business getting involved," Bumpus declared, in a heated tone. "It's a conflict of interest, with him being right next door." Dubay owns Freight House Antiques, neighboring the Box Car. Board member Burt Dubay, Jeff Dubay's brother, managed to work in, "He's got a right to come in here before the board and say anything he wants, speak his mind as a citizen, just like anyone else in town."

But that didn't placate the building owners, who, according to Wilson, had said Wilson needed to guarantee she could come up with the purchase price "within days," or else the historic 150-year old former train depot would likely be sold to Dunkin Donuts. Reached after the meeting last week, Bumpus had said they were in "no big rush" to sell and were "trying to

work things out with Toni." Bumpus had referred interested parties to her Greenfield realtor for more information; when contacted, the realtor had said there might be action on the sale "within a few days."

The board had subsequently contacted the Franklin County Community Development Corporation to see if the loan negotiations might be expedited. There had also been discussion last week of the feasibility of the town purchasing some portion of the restaurant property, such as the parking lot, which might be used as dedicated parking for the town center.

Before leaving the meeting in a huff, the owners commented, "Whatever happens now, it's her fault."

Prior to their arrival, the board had briefly discussed the matter. Tom Sharp, the town's administrative coordinator, advised the board he had spoken with business loan administrator Alan Singer at the CDC, who told Sharp he had been away a few days and had already spoken with Wilson. "I'm not sure it's really town business," Sharp told the board, referring to the sale of the property, a view with

which the board seemed to agree. "Preserving the site though, maybe moving the building across the street," continued Sharp, "that might be town business."

## In Other Business

In other business, the board voted to increase the salary of municipal clerk Betsy Sicard from \$12,000 to \$16,000, reflecting a weekly increase of five work hours. Sicard will now be entitled to benefits, as her new work week will exceed 20 hours.

The board received a memo from the town's recreation commission, dated April 7th, signed by all four members. The subject of the memo was "discussion of [a] maintenance position." The memo expressed the commission's concerns about various issues relating to maintenance work in the town parks, and referred to a "lack of communication" between the commission, the selectboard, and the town's department of public works, which is under the authority of the selectboard.

Board chair Andy Tessier said the commission had wanted

the selectboard to take over maintenance of the parks, which it did. "Now they are unhappy," said Tessier. "Maybe they want it back."

Dennis Rindone, chair of the Route 2 Task Force, appeared before the board to update them on progress. He said a June 9th informal public informational meeting has been scheduled. Rindone said the task force had promised to share a lot of the information it collected over several years, and this information will be on the blueprints displayed at the meeting.

Rindone also spoke about the Civil War memorial event scheduled for the weekend before Memorial Day, featuring a parade and Civil War living history encampment in Veterans Memorial Park on May 21st. In addition to 500 marchers, Rindone hopes to see up to 1000 people in attendance. The goal, he said is to "create an old-fashioned Memorial Day, without a lot of vehicles." Buses will be used to shuttle folks around. The public can park anywhere in the village, and at Northeast Utilities and International Paper.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

# Graffiti Artist Awarded Summons

### Thursday 4-7

11:08 a.m. Larceny reported at a Fourth Street address. A container that held money was stolen from an apartment. Report taken.

### Friday 4-8

1:19 a.m. Report of a disturbance on Avenue A. A man was yelling in front of Arnie's. Gone on arrival.

5:41 p.m. After a motor vehicle stop on Industrial Boulevard, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was arrested on a straight warrant and charged with operating a motor vehi-

cle with a suspended license.

7:42 p.m. Report of a domestic disturbance at a Fifth Street residence. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was arrested and charged with assault and battery with a dangerous weapon and assault with intent to murder.

### Saturday 4-9

11:06 a.m. Report of an assault at a Turner Street, Lake Pleasant address. Two men were fighting. Both were advised of court options.

2:16 p.m. Fourteen-year-old juvenile male was summonsed for unauthorized graffiti work in downtown Turners.

### Sunday 4-10

4:05 a.m. Report of a burglar alarm sounding at the Roadhouse in Millers Falls. Male subject summonsed.

5:09 a.m. [REDACTED] was arrested on a straight warrant.

### Monday 4-11

1:15 a.m. Report of a domestic disturbance at a

Second Street address. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was arrested and charged with domestic assault and battery and assault and battery with a dangerous weapon. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was also arrested and charged with domestic assault and battery and assault and battery with a dangerous weapon.

8:15 a.m. Walk-in to station stated he thought the police were looking for him. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was arrested and charged with domestic


assault and battery and breaking and entering to commit a misdemeanor.

### Tuesday 4-12

1:44 a.m. Report of a traffic hazard at the railroad crossing in Lake Pleasant. Train was idling causing the gate to stay down. Called back a few minutes later to say train was moving and all was well.

4:37 a.m. Report of a domestic disturbance at a Central Street address. A 14-year-old male was arrested on a default warrant.

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**NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD**

# Town Hall Dances, Mahar Playing Fields and More on Fiske Pond

**BY JOSH HEINEMANN** - First in front of the selectboard on April 6th were Seal Lamdeleine and Elana Zubulakas, requesting information about renting the town hall to hold freestyle dance events once a month, possibly on second Fridays of the month. They plan to hold the dances from 7 p.m. until 10:30 p.m., starting early for families with children and early bedtimes, and ending later for people without such commitments. Admission would be on a sliding scale, but no one would be turned away.

Board member Christine Heard said, "It would be nice to have dancing in town," but chair Ted Lewis cautioned the pair that the water in the town hall is not drinkable, and the hall's tight tank makes any water use expensive. He suggested they contact the custodian for instructions on how to turn the water on and off, and talk with police Chief Ed Chase for concerns about parking.

Responding to a question by Heard, Lamdeleine and Zubulakas said they would start with tapes and CD's and hope to add a DJ or a live band. Don Chapelle of the conservation commission, waiting in the room, mentioned, "I have a band."

The fee was set based on an expected attendance of 25 people, plus the standard \$25 deposit for cleaning.

Charles Smith, also in attendance awaiting conservation commission business, added the hall has a snake for running wires overhead, and stepladders.

Next, the conservation commission and open space com-

mittee met with the board to discuss the Fiske Pond conservation restriction (CR) and management plan, including layout of the parking lot. Smith told the board he had sent a letter with a sketch of a proposed parking lot, parallel to the road, and far enough back to be screened by a stand of white pines. Melinda Godfrey asked if it would be plowed in winter, for skiers, and Lewis answered the land's administrators would have to talk with the highway commissioners, but it would surely be the last thing plowed.

Start up and annual costs of the Fiske Pond property have not yet been addressed by the town, and board member Dan Keller brought up the issue of the extra cost of increased police presence. Lewis added that Wendell doesn't patrol the roads enough as it is. Mason Phelps said the town had been advised to have a police presence at Fiske Pond, at least in the beginning of the town's ownership of the land.

Smith said the commission had received a check for \$2,500 from the Mount Grace Land Trust for initial costs at Fiske Pond, with \$500 set aside for a sign, and \$1,000 earmarked for parking, and added, "Starting off from scratch, it is good to have some scratch." Chapelle added that Mount Grace might be able to contribute more money to the project, some of which might be used to defray the cost of policing the property and enforcing the CR.

Open space member Ray DiDonato asked whether the telephone poles by the salt shed could be used to block off traffic on the site, and Lewis

referred him to the highway commission, which meets the second Tuesday of the month.

Chapelle said they are setting up a walk through the property on Saturday, April 16th, at 9:00 a.m., and Smith encouraged carpooling to the site.

Looking over the CR and management plan, Heard suggested the hours Fiske Pond would be open to the public - "from dawn to dusk" - are vague, and should be changed to "from sunrise to sunset," which are defined, established times. The board accepted the CR.

Smith said, "We are a long way from a Grand Opening." But Keller replied, "In a sense, the doors are already open." He added that the committees should talk with the police chief, Ed Chase, so the board can put an article on the town meeting warrant asking for money for extra patrolling.

Jim Woodward, and Bette Richard of Wendell, representing Mahar Regional High School, asked the board to put an article on the town meeting warrant to extend the debt limit for the Mahar building project to include construction of new athletic facilities. This project was in the original plans but was cut, along with four other projects, by the architect. The other four have been restored, but the athletic fields have not.

Woodward described the project as the tip of a very successful building renovation that would make the entire facility first quality. It would include engineered drainage, lights for night games, and a synthetic track and field that would require less maintenance than

grass, allows the same cleats, and has been shown to reduce injuries. They are selling \$100 bricks that can be dedicated for the walk, and because of their fundraising the group needs the town's blessing, but does not require money from the town. Richard said she would describe the project at the annual town meeting.

The whole board supported their efforts.

Finance committee members Lee Trousdale and Michael Idoine met the board to discuss raises for town employees, and how to simplify the eleven pay rates the town now uses. Lewis explained some of Wendell's seemingly odd rates of pay by saying that several 2% or 3% raises in past years had produced different pay scales, and that the hazardous jobs of police and firefighters were paid lower because they were essentially volunteer positions, while the custodian and road crew are working jobs. Keller brought up a request for a full-time professional assessor at \$50,000 a year, and requests for raises from other departments were listed. The finance committee met on April 7th, and will continue discussion of town payroll, comparing Wendell with other Franklin County towns.

At an October 2003 special town meeting, Wendell asked the selectboard to request the legislature to pass a bill allowing Neal Feltman to renew the Chapter 61 status of his property on Jennison and New Salem Roads. Feltman had failed to renew his application on time, and an act of the legislature was necessary to renew the protect-

ed status of his land. Idoine, speaking for Feltman, said the original bill was introduced late in the legislative session and failed. The penalty of ten years' back taxes that Feltman would owe is extraordinary, considering that his mistake was one oversight, and Idoine requested that the selectboard send another letter to Representative Kulik and Senator Rosenberg asking them to file a second bill early in this session, so it has a better chance of success. The board agreed to do so.

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich raised the issue of a public water supply, which will be required in the center for all the town buildings. Keller said all the drilled wells in the center are salty, but said he "had a brainstorm," about a piece of property the town owns less than a mile from the center on Cooleyville road. The four-acre lot has never perked because it is wet, but its size assures that a well somewhere in the middle will be the required 150' from any road or building. DEP allows either a deep or shallow well as long as it provides 1900 gallons a day of clean water. He suggested putting an article on the town meeting warrant for an engineering study for the piping and well to bring water from the site to the town buildings in the center.

The town has collected no fee for the Deja Brew pub license. The state ABCC has no set fee, and Lewis suggested \$300, the cost of Wendell's other liquor license, saying, "We have always been the cheapest." Keller and Heard accepted that figure.

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## RACE

continued from pg 1

low over my eyes. In the bow, Katie called out, and I looked up in time to see him.

### Practice two

Our plan was to go out again Sunday, but other things went late, and we skipped it. We both had time Tuesday, April 5th, so out on the river we went. This time we put in at the race start in Athol, paddled upstream to the Tully River, and then up the Tully River until we reached a tree across the stream we did not even try to get past. The Tully River is passable to a canoe only during high water, and I wanted to show it to Katie. We passed a few houses, but it was not far before we lost sight of any human intrusion on the landscape.

We surprised a pair of hooded mergansers and were surprised ourselves when a beaver slapped and dove a few feet from the boat.

We still had some energy when we got back to the Millers River, so we turned upstream there and paddled against the current, using eddies to work upstream, and ferrying from one side to the other. It was not long before we ran out of eddies, and it was all we could do to keep the boat from going downstream when we were in the current. We did that until we started to lose ground to the river, then we floated back to the take out spot and called it good.

### Rat Race Day:

This year my normal race day nervousness was replaced by insanity. We were in the parade, which meant getting down to the Millers River Environmental Center to pick up puppets by 8:30 in the morning, and bringing them up to the start of the parade in the back of my truck. I was to dress up as a raccoon peeking from a decrepit maple tree. After the expected confusion of the start up and some waiting around, the parade started, more fun than you can imagine, but I couldn't see much because I spent a lot of the time inside my tree. I peeked out when I heard kids. At the end of the parade, I stowed my tree puppet on a stand and drove home to load the second canoe onto the truck.

The canoe was on, but not tied down when Katie came down from the house saying something about a brush fire. As faithful readers know, I am a volunteer firefighter here in Wendell. I had just been telling her that once I start to put a boat onto a vehicle, I don't stop for anything else until the boat is tied down and secure, so I continued tying the ropes, debating whether I preferred going to a fire or to the race. The race of course, but conscience finally overcame desire, and I went to the station, and then to the brush fire, thinking, "If this fire takes more than 15 minutes I will end a 28-year string of Rat Races."

My timing was good, and as I pulled up behind the pumper the other firefighters were just repacking hoses to the truck. I checked my watch, saw there

was still time to catch the start, excused myself, and raced home, picked up paddles and dry clothing, and raced to Athol as fast as the stop and go traffic allowed. I made it with 15 minutes to spare. I met some of our posse of five boats, but the others were on the water already. Our posse included:

- Two UMass women, one of whom had never been in a canoe, in a 40-year-old banged up aluminum boat, starting #61.

- Two UMass men in a plastic green boat, starting #115.

- Katie and me in a red Kevlar Sundowner, a sweet boat, starting #116.

- Two PhD's from UMass in a green plastic boat, starting #228. One, a post-doctoral student from China, had never been in a canoe before.

- Two UMass grad students, one our son, and husband of one of the women in the aluminum boat, in a carbon fiber race boat, starting # 271.

The start is insane; boats are lined up on shore, gunwale to gunwale, closer together than they really fit. One person in one boat holds onto a twig on shore, someone in the next boat holds onto the side of the first, and someone in a third boat holds onto the side of the second and so on. One twig maybe the size of a finger is holding five or six, even ten boats in place. A few boats ease forward as the starting time approaches, so boat #120 is two boat lengths in front of us in #116, legally holding the side of #115 who is holding onto something on the shore...I think. The lead boats are out of sight around a bend in

the river.

"Let's try to go out far enough to clear that branch," I say needlessly, uselessly. The cannon goes off, but we are so far back that we see the boats in front of us starting out as the sound travels up the river and reaches us.

Three hundred boats try to fit where there is really room for twenty, and in the first half mile there is seldom enough water between boats to fit in a paddle. We try to dodge boats floating upside down in the water, and especially the heads bobbing near them. I didn't see many this year, but the woman from boat #61 said there were three capsized before the bridge, and a dozen in the first half mile. Last year, just past the bridge, I tried to reach out my paddle to help someone floating, but since I didn't want to clock her one I moved slowly, and we were gone before she could reach my offered paddle.

My strategy in the first mile is to stay clear and hang back when boats are going sideways or when two or three boats are stuck together in front of us. After the first mile there is usually enough room to steer for the best current, and paddle as hard as we can. Still, every now and then boats seem to clump together even though there is open water all around.

"Grab that boat's gunwale," I yell to Katie just after someone pushed their boat forward by shoving off ours; but she doesn't do it. "Grab their stern rope," I yell, but she doesn't do that either, and she says back to me, "Peace."

"Peace my foot! This is a race. And they pushed off us!" But they have gone too far ahead of us by then, and she is too nice a person. Still, it worked out well; in another half mile we passed the same boat rolling, rolling, and I think, dumping; I didn't see because by then we were ahead.

The river bends right, the river bends left, and surely that bank ahead marks the halfway point, but no, it is just another turn. With good training I would be feeling strong still, but instead of training I was doing other things in the weeks leading up to the race, and my arms feel like lead. A friend said to use your torso muscles because they are much larger than your arm muscles, so I am trying that, but my arms still feel like lead.

We are just into the last straightaway where the wind comes straight up the river, and I ask a pair in a blue boat next to us, "Are you number 6?"

They answer back, "Yeah, we suck. This is our first time on the water this year." But no matter how much I try, they pull ahead, and we finish a boat length behind them. Our posse finished as follows:

Boat 61 finished 255, happy and upright.

Boat 115 finished 109.

Boat 116, Katie and I, finished 124. Not bad for a pacifist and an old raccoon.

Boat 228 finished 208, but dumped getting out at the finish line. Glasses were saved.

Boat 271 finished 85.

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**NOTES FROM THE GILL-MONTAGUE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE**

# Keeping an Eye on the Future of Montague Schools

**BY SARAH PEBWORTH**  
**MONTAGUE** - "The baby boomers' children are gone," Superintendent Sue Gee of the Gill-Montague Regional School District noted as she explained dropping enrollment figures to the school committee at Tuesday's meeting, April 12th.

Enrollment projections from the New England School Development Council show a continuing decrease in the Gill-Montague schools since 1997-98, when total enrollment was 1652 (with the exception of 2001-02, when there was a 10-student increase). Enrollment in 2004-05 was 1231, a student loss of 421. Enrollment is projected to drop by at least 30 students a year through 2008-09.

Last year Gill-Montague students left the district to transfer to Four Rivers Charter School, the Franklin County Technical School, or to take advantage of other educational options in the area. "We need to hold onto students we have by offering quality educational programs," Gee said. She cautioned against looking too far

out with the projections, "because the assumptions may change."

Also looking at the district's enrollment, but from a building use perspective, is the elementary study group. The group, charged with reviewing the present configuration of elementary grades in the district and looking into the most effective future configuration, including consolidation or intra-district schools, reported on its findings and its floundering. "We're losing people," Lynne Hubert lamented.

While the study group was to have completed its report by last June, it has taken longer to review the history, survey for

educational values, research effective school configurations, and compile the results, Gee explained.

Based on categories of eval-

schools, two schools, or one school or some number of magnet schools.

Joyce Phillips, school committee chair, reminded the group that even when the committee decides on a configuration it likes, "this does not end with the school committee. It goes to the towns to be approved and to the state."

The group was scheduled to meet again April 13th, with further reporting to the school committee expected to follow.

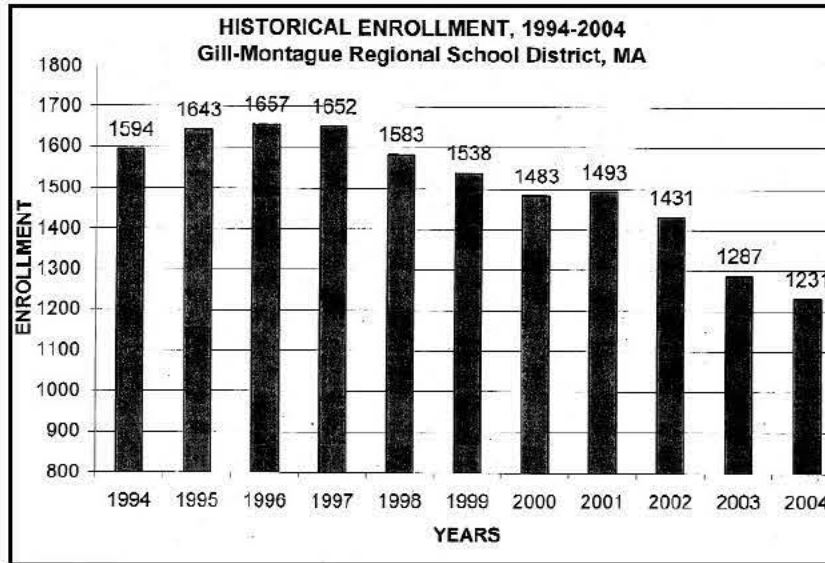
In other business, Martin Espinola, director of grants and technology, presented the five-year district technology plan. Based on survey results,

he said the good news is that a large number of teachers know how to use computers for a variety of tasks. The bad news is that "only 13% of our teachers regularly use technology in their classrooms," he said.

Highlights of the plan include student and parent electronic access to homework assignments, a computer lab designed for foreign language instruction, additional technology coaches, data-based decision making training for staff, and a grade 7-8 computer technology curriculum.

Committee members requested priorities and budget estimates. Gee noted that the committee does not "approve" such reports but "accepts" them, as the district is not always able to carry out, financially, every goal.

In celebration of Unity Day, April 15th, Student Advisory Committee Members Lauren Tela and Ali Urban told committee members there will be pie eating contests, games indoors and out, and a contest involving self portraits displayed in the hall.



uation including school climate, cost effectiveness, staff learning, and research, the group ranked configurations, finding the current configuration was "least effective in view of the group," Mike Langknecht said. The top configurations of those considered include three elementary

## Gala Raises Over \$13,000 for G-M Schools

**STAFF REPORTS** - On Saturday, April 9th, Carol Jacobs, President of the Gill-Montague Education Fund Board of Directors, welcomed

a nearly sold out audience to the Turners Falls High School Theater and the first Gill-Montague Gala.

The Shea Swing Orchestra

opened the family-oriented Gala with "In the Mood," and was joined by Judith Kulp for "Pennsylvania 6-5000, setting the tone for an evening that ful-

filled its promise as a magical musical event. From the sounds of Broadway with Alana Martineau, Patrick McGuire's Elvis, and the King Philip Dixieland Band, to the delight of David Neil with the Ja'Duke Petites: two and three-year-old dancers performing in costume "If I Only Had a Heart" from the Wizard of Oz, the audience was captivated. The range of entertainment continued with Nan Sadoski and the Gill-Montague Recorders, the TFHS Chorus and Jazz Band, the B & O male quartet, students performing selections from "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Pete Parsons' "Caribbean Cruise Piano", Valerie Mosher's "Swingtime", original arrangements by David Weidenfeld's "Mikki" and John Waynelovich's "Route 66", to a moving rendition of "In My Daughter's Eyes" by the Waynelovich's. The Gala brought something for every

generation and fans of every style of music.

As the program drew to a close, Joyce Phillips, a member of the GMEF Board of Directors, took center stage to thank everyone for the many contributions that had made the evening a great success. Acknowledging their co-sponsors, the Greenfield Savings Bank and The Montague Elks, the many tier-givers, advertisers, business and private patrons who had come forward with generous monetary and in-kind contributions, the GMEF, in partnership with Nick Waynelovich, fulfilled its goal. Phillips told the audience, "contributions continue to come in, but as of tonight, GMEF has raised \$13,355. She assured the audience that 100% of the money raised will be used "to invest in excellence as we enrich the educational opportunities available to our children."

## Pool Table Precision Paving

**BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH GILL** - Now that mud season is over, Green River Honda at 1 Main Road in Gill has contracted with Paving by Felton to cover mud-causing dirt

with a coat of smooth clean blacktop.

"We're having the area paved, because when we unload new motorcycles, the tires get all dirty and we have

to wash them," a Green River Honda employee explained.

He did not specify whether those motorcycles were "Dirt Bikes".

Felton's crew used a blacktop paving machine to precisely spread and compact processed gravel. After further compacting the gravel with a vibratory roller, the crew will lay a course of base blacktop, followed by a finish blacktop coat, using the same paver, with the same pool table precision. Maybe the words "Pool Table Precision" should promptly be painted to precede "Paving" on their truck door panels, by a practiced precision painter.



PARZYCH PHOTO

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## NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

# Civil War Veterans Remembered and the Cable Access Debate Revisited

**BY DAVID DETMOLD** - Dennis Rindone, chair of the Erving Memorial Day Planning Committee, came before the Montague selectboard on Monday, April 11th, to invite the people of Montague to join in the grand parade and Civil War living history encampment planned for the weekend before Memorial Day, when Erving will dedicate a monument to its citizens who fought and died in the Civil War. "These veterans have never been publicly honored before," Rindone said.

The committee plans, "an old-fashioned Memorial Day parade, with a lot of people and very few vehicles, and one that shows a lot of respect for our veterans." Erving lost 16 men in the war to free the slaves; their names will be engraved on a memorial stone to be placed in Veterans Memorial Park on the Erving side of Millers Falls.

The parade, which will feature an array of marching bands, including the Sudbury Ancient Fife and Drum Company, the Quaboag Highlanders Pipe-band, the Worcester Fire Department Pipe and Drum Company, and the Turners Falls High School Marching Band, among others, will begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 21st at Highland Park in Millers Falls and proceed over

the bridge to Erving side. Kathleen and Ed Belanger, the parents of Sergeant Gregory Belanger, who died in Iraq on August 27th, 2003 from injuries suffered when an improvised explosive device blew up his vehicle in Al Hallia, will speak to the crowd, Rindone said. The theme of the parade is, the Past Meets the Present.

On Saturday afternoon and evening, the 10th and 25th Massachusetts Regiment encampment will present a living history reenactment in Veterans Memorial Park, for spectators to learn about camp life during the Civil War, including cooking demonstrations, drilling and musketry. There will be fiddlers around the campfires in the evening.

Montague board chair Pat Allen thanked Rindone's committee for including Montague so closely in their plans.

### Arts and Blooms

Eileen Dowd, from Carriage House Designs in Turners Falls, updated the board on plans for an art walk and festival in downtown Turners on the weekend of April 30th - May 1st.

A number of artist studios will be open for visitors that weekend, local restaurants will be featured, the Hallmark Museum of

Contemporary Photography will open with a sale of student prints for tsunami relief, a poetry reading will take place at a new performance gallery behind Suzee's 3rd Street Laundry, the Shea will present Arena Civic Theater's *Arsenic and Old Lace*, and the Brick House has organized the Great Falls Art Fest on the lawn of the Great Falls Discovery Center with more than two dozen arts and craft vendors. The crabapples along the Avenue are expected to turn out in seasonal finery, leading to the 2nd Annual weeklong Crabapple Blossom Festival.

"We'll have a very busy town that weekend," Dowd predicted.

### Local Cable Access RFP

A discussion of the proposed Request for Proposals for a local cable access television provider, prepared by the cable advisory board, led to a lengthy discussion. Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio advised the board of town counsel's opinion that Greenfield Community Television in fact has a binding contract with the town to provide local cable access service to the town for a period of time to run concurrent with the town's contract with ComCast, the cable television provider for Montague. That opinion hinged on the vote of a special town meeting on December 5th, 2001, which Abbondanzio said had urged the selectboard to reconsider their decision to award the assignment of the local cable access station to GCTV, voted on November 19th, 2001. The board reaffirmed the assignment to GCTV on December 17th of 2001. By urging a reconsideration, Abbondanzio said, town meeting had satisfied the legal requirement of town meeting ratifying a binding multi-year contract, in the opinion of counsel.

Board member Patricia Pruitt pointed out that town counsel, an attorney by the name of Hewig affiliated with Koppelman and Page, had stated that he had offered that opinion without ever reading the exact wording of the petitioned article that the special

town meeting had approved. That article read as follows: "We, the undersigned registered voters of the Town of Montague, respectfully request the Selectboard of the Town of Montague [to] extend the contract of Montague Community Cable, Inc. (also known as MCTV) as the community access provider for the Town of Montague (with service provided to Gill and Erving) through 2003." This petitioned article, signed by over 400 voters, was passed with only a handful of dissenting votes by town meeting on December 5th, 2001.

Board member Al Ross said he interpreted the legal opinion as saying the process that the selectboard followed in 2001 was "legally intact." He said, "It went to town meeting, they (the selectboard) were asked to review it again. They did review it again. My concerns are not so much about the legal details as they are about the larger issues."

Pruitt said, "The question of what is the term of the GCTV contract or letter of intent has been a big question." She pointed out that in 2001, selectboard member Sam Lovejoy said the contract "will run parallel with the ComCast agreement, and at another point he said the term is 'up in the air.' But can it continue through subsequent renewals?" of the ComCast contract, Pruitt asked. "It's almost like a contract in perpetuity. It cannot be revisited. It sets no terms for reviewing or terminating or extending it. That makes it a rather unusual contract, at best."

Ross countered, "I disagree on your take. The contract is fairly detailed. It is not defined as in perpetuity." Referring to the *Montague Reporter*, Ross said, "I'm concerned that a newspaper which is part of, or a separate project (of the town's former access provider, MCCI) seems to take partisan stands, whether a newspaper that takes policy stands is an accepted part of a PEG (local access) provider." Ross asked for a legal opinion on that question.

He went on to say, "I have received more documents, more

papers about this cable access issue... We are very fortunate to have a cable provider with relatively few problems. The studio is attractive and available. It works with towns to the north, south, and west of us. The equipment is available. We are also fortunate to have a small group of highly motivated Montague people who are interested in practicing video." Ross urged the producers affiliated with MCTV to get more involved at GCTV's Crocker Studios, and, if necessary, pursue mediation with GCTV to work out any differences they may have.

Pruitt said, "I strongly question whether the Lovejoy board was within its rights to assign GCTV as cable provider "for the term of any future licenses." This appears to remove the possibility of reconsidering the PEG access provider from this board and all subsequent boards as long as subscriber fees are paid. Should we as a selectboard accept counsel Hewig's reading as the final word? If we accept it, where does it leave us with respect to our obligations toward subscribers? How do we reconcile that a major body of local video work has been and continues to be produced by the collaboration of the Brick House and MCCI, albeit using the equipment of GCTV - which is to say the Montague equipment?"

Board chair Pat Allen said she felt it might be advisable to pursue a request for proposals, and to send the board's choice of cable access providers to town meeting again for ratification. She said she would prefer a clear contract to the present letter of intent with GCTV.

Ross said he would like to have counsel examine the exact wording of the special town meeting vote of December 5th, 2001, and determine whether that affects his ruling that GCTV has a binding contract with the town before deciding whether the town should pursue an RFP process. Abbondanzio agreed to forward the wording of the town meeting article to counsel. The board will revisit the issue in two weeks.

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# THE GILL GOURMET

## Cream of Mushroom & Kielbasa Soup

BY JOE PARZYCH

**Ingredients:**

- About 8 oz. of white mushrooms
- ¼ cup of diced onion
- A dollop of olive oil
- One half of a "lite" Hillshire kielbasa ring (1/2 the fat and 1/3 the calories)
- A pint of baby red potatoes, diced
- 8-10 peppercorns, crushed
- Bay leaf
- 1 packet of beef bullion
- 3 tablespoons of corn starch

8 oz. of fat free sour cream

- 1 egg, or 2 egg whites
- 1 tablespoon of vinegar

**Recipe #1**

Slice and brown the mushrooms in a bit of olive oil in a deep frying pan.

Saute diced onion in the same pan until transparent.

Cut the kielbasa into two-inch lengths and toss into the pan, adding bay leaf.

Fill pan with water about half way and bring to a boil, then simmer while you dice the potatoes with skins on

and cook them in a separate.

While hanging around waiting for the potatoes to cook, add bouillon and peppercorns to the first pan.

Dump sour cream into a blender, add cornstarch and egg, blend; gradually adding liquid from frying pan, which I hope you had sense enough to turn off.

Return blended mixture to frying pan, by now filled almost to the brim.

Turn the heat on medium and add vinegar, which will make it creamy, or even foam.

By now, the potatoes

should be ready to drain and add to the creamy mixture, the operative word being "should."

Do not overcook the potatoes; better to be on the al dente side.

**Recipe#2**

If you do not have sour cream, use a half packet of powered skim milk, a pint of water, and about 4 tablespoons of corn starch and 2 tablespoons of vinegar.

You can use regular cider vinegar, but Balsamic vinegar always gives dishes a

distinctive taste, concealing the lack of sour cream.

If the soup is too thick, thin with skim milk or water.

I devised this formula when I once got halfway through making recipe #1 and realized I had no sour cream!

Smacked my forehead at this point, which may have lead me to using a bit too much corn starch. I looked like a rabid dog while eating the finished soup.

It was good, but "creamy," I can tell you.

## Costume Drama

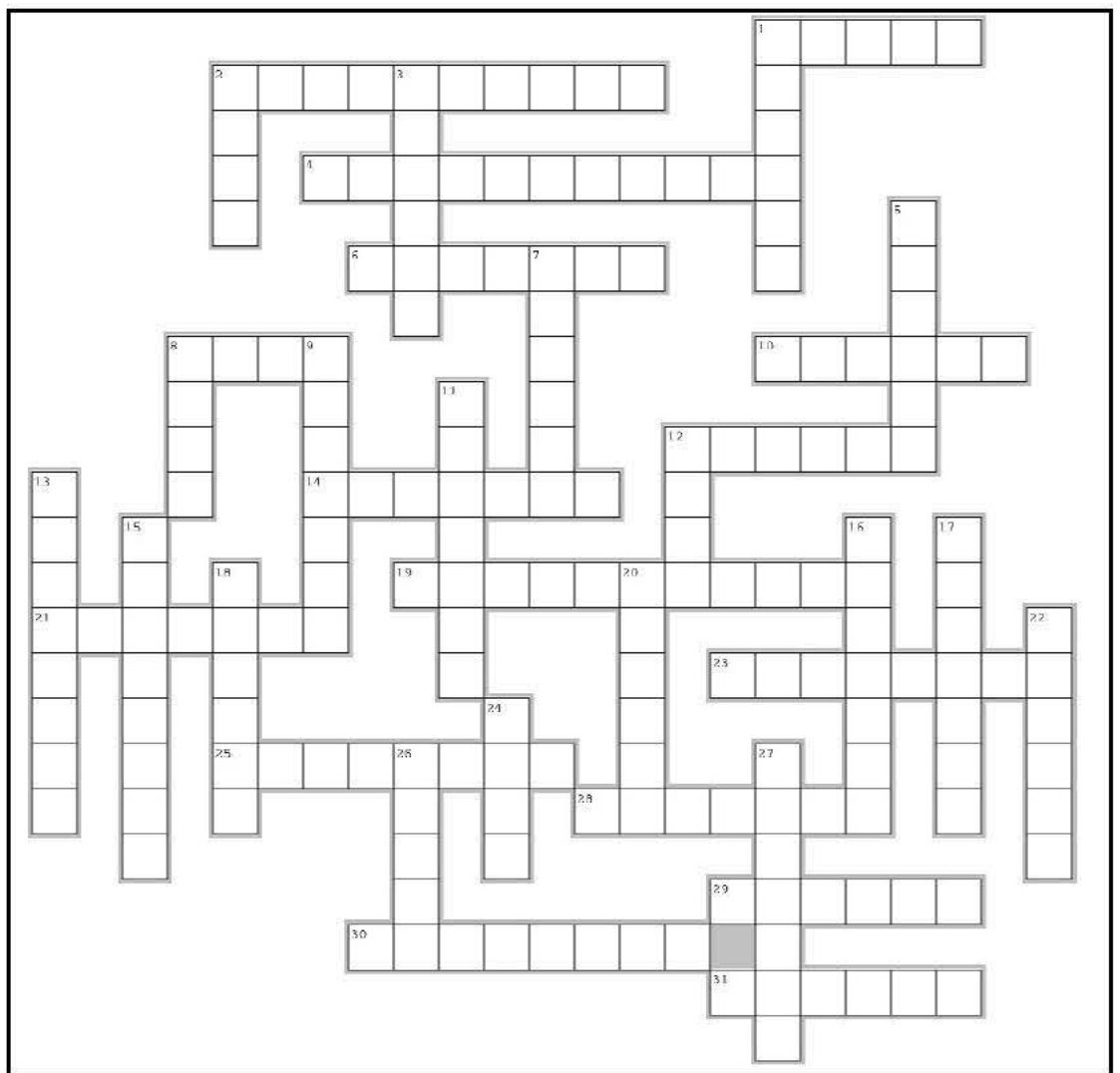
by Bette Black

**Across**

1. Javanese process of coloring cloth using melted wax and dyes.
2. Double stitched technique to enclose raw edges of sheer cloth or lace.
4. Historic era reproduced in a contemporary event with many authentic details.
6. Tightness of bobbin and needle threads in machine-stitching.
8. A fold of cloth stitched to a point.
10. One of the fine wool sheep.
12. Stiff piece inserted within a seam or casing to give added support or fit in a bodice.
14. Trim made from the feathers of the African stork.
19. Revival of the Greek and Roman method of design.
21. Rosette of plaited ribbon worn on a hat.
23. Small ornamented cloth bag.
25. Soft, fine wool made from goat hair.
28. Cloth woven with raised figures, usually in a different color than the background.
29. Pendant ornament made from a tuft of fibers.
30. Non-fraying edge of cloth made from reverse turning of weft threads.
31. Instrument used to draw tape through a hem or series of eyelets.

**Down**


1. Pad or frame worn on the back below the waist to distend skirts.
2. Soft fiber used to make linen.
3. Slackly twisted yarn used in fancy work and embroidery.
5. Fold of bias cloth inserted into a seam as ornament.
7. A deep violet blue.
8. Lightweight canvas-like utility cloth.
9. Finger guard for pushing needle through cloth.
11. French hat.
12. 45-degree angle from cloth grain.
13. Ornamental shirring effect held in place with embroidery stitches.
15. Foppish young Englishman.
16. Long outer cloak for ladies, usually lined with fur.
17. Circular, gathered or pleated length of cloth applied to decorate garment hems.
18. Common plain weave cloth printed on one side.
20. Extremely popular sewing machine brand.
22. Silken fabric with a soft, thick pile.
24. Ornamental button and loop closure.
26. Pressed design in silk, sometimes called "watered".
27. Small, light umbrella used as a sunshade.





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## LEARNING TO FLY FISH Part 4

# Pride of the Deerfield

BY ARIEL JONES

**MONTAGUE** - During July and August, I found myself wanting to go out to a river more and more. A big day came when Tom took me to the Deerfield River, up around Rowe. A completely different river environment again. It was very beautiful and much broader than the Ware and the Swift. And here I first encountered large slippery rocks. So far I had been in soft muddy bottom, spooky weedy bottom and the wildly over-walked lanes of the heavily fished Swift.

I had only fished a few times when we went to the Deerfield. Whatever confidence I had built up began to crumble as I entered the much swifter current and tried to negotiate large and slippery rocks. I quickly learned to keep one foot firmly planted while gingerly trying to place the next one forward. Tom had sent me off in a different direction, towards a large boulder he knew trout held behind.

Dismay and a little panic began to rise within me as it got

deeper and I went further away from Tom. Obviously, he felt more confidence in me than I did. Once again I was in the situation of having to overcome my fear (this time of falling into the cold water and being drowned by my waders) and once again pride pulled me through. Pride can be a useful thing in the right situation.

I was trying to stay in a shallower section, but I couldn't cast far enough to take advantage of the generously offered good spot. At the time, I didn't realize that trout lay behind the boulder. I was flinging my line out all around it. Two other fly fishers were edging near by, clearly wanting a shot at my boulder. This made me feel very self-conscious, for I assumed that anyone else fishing out there was very good at this and I must look like an idiot. While the second assumption was quite true, the first was not, necessarily. I also felt I was wasting a great spot.

**I Climb a Tree**

Focusing so much on myself, of course things went from bad to worse. On one unfortunate cast my fly got caught in the only close tree along the river's bank behind me. For a few moments I just went blank. Then I decided to make my way to the damn tree and try to retrieve my fly. At least I could be in shallower water for a while.

Glancing behind me, I noticed the two new kids on the block edging closer to my boulder. I would have to hurry, but not fall down. When I arrived at the offending tree, I took hold of a low branch and climbed on a boulder. I saw my fly, but couldn't reach it. I had to sort of pull myself up the little bending tree. For this gymnastic feat I needed both hands, so I put my rod between my teeth and prayed no one was watching. I did manage to retrieve my fly, and in fact retrieved some one else's as well. That somehow made me feel better. I really did not want Tom to feel he had to come over and free my line for me.



Tom fishing in the Swift River, early Autumn, 2004.

The two guys had moved in ever closer to my rock. With a renewed air of goofy confidence I went back to my spot as quickly as I could manage and reclaimed my space.

### Satisfaction

Driving back, Tom commented on the two guys crowding me. When I told him that I had felt bad about 'wasting' the spot with my poor efforts, he said that I had every right to fish there. And anyway, he didn't

think they knew all that much about what they were doing either. (Big smile from me.) Then he casually asked me why I was in the tree.

I caught nothing that day, but went home content. I was beginning to sort out the difference between the kind of pride that helps me to get out there and try, and the kind that is constantly distracting and has nothing whatsoever to do with learning to fly fish. Or anything else.

## THE HEALTHY GEEZER

# Getting a Good Night's Sleep

BY FRED CICETTI

**LEONIA, NJ** - Q. Do older people need more sleep?

- *Drowsy in Milwaukee*

A. Seniors need about the same amount of sleep as younger adults - seven to nine hours a night.

Unfortunately, many older adults don't get the sleep they need, because they often have more trouble falling asleep. A study of adults over 65 found that 13 percent of men and 36 percent of women take more than 30 minutes to fall asleep.

Also, older people often sleep less deeply and wake up more often throughout the night, which may be why they may nap more often during the daytime. Nighttime sleep schedules may change with age too. Many older adults tend to get sleepier earlier in the evening and awaken earlier in the morning.

Many people believe that poor sleep is a normal part of aging, but it is not. Sleep patterns change as we age, but disturbed sleep and waking up tired every day are not part of normal aging. If you are having trouble sleeping, see your doctor or a sleep specialist.

Here are some pointers to help you get better sleep:

Go to sleep and wake up at the same time, even on weekends. Sticking to a regular bedtime and wake time schedule helps keep you in sync with your body's circadian clock, a 24-hour internal rhythm affected by sunlight.

Try not to nap too much during the day; you might be less sleepy at night.

Try to exercise at regular times each day. Exercising regularly improves the quality of your nighttime sleep and helps you sleep more soundly.

Try to finish your workout at least three hours



before bedtime.

Try to get some natural light in the afternoon each day.

Be careful about what you eat. Don't drink beverages with

caffeine late in the day. Caffeine is a stimulant and can keep you awake. Also, if you like a snack before bed, a warm beverage and a few crackers may help.

Don't drink alcohol or smoke cigarettes to help you sleep. Even small amounts of alcohol can make it harder to stay asleep. Smoking is dangerous for many reasons, including the hazard of falling asleep with a lit cigarette. Also, the nicotine in cigarettes is a stimulant.

Create a safe and comfortable place to sleep. Make sure there are locks on all doors and smoke alarms on each floor. A lamp that's easy to turn on and a phone by your bed may be helpful. The room should be dark, well ventilated, and as quiet as possible.

Develop a bedtime routine.

Do the same things each night to tell your body that it's time to wind down. Some people watch the evening news, read a book, or soak in a warm bath.

Use your bedroom only for sleeping. After turning off the light, give yourself about 15 minutes to fall asleep. If you are still awake and not drowsy, get out of bed. When you get sleepy, go back to bed.

Try not to worry about your sleep. Some people find that playing mental games is helpful. For example, tell yourself it's five minutes before you have to get up and you're just trying to get a few extra winks.

If you are so tired during the day that you cannot function normally and if this lasts for more than two to three weeks, you should see your family doctor or a sleep disorders specialist.

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# New Sox Hurlers Struggling

BY LEE CARIGNAN

**TURNERS FALLS-** On a day when Matt Clement struggled to get through six innings in Toronto, ex-Red Sox Pedro Martinez pitched a two-hit complete game against the Braves for the Mets. Martinez has looked like the Pedro of old so far this spring, throwing in the mid-90s. The good starts by Martinez, for the Mets, and Derek Lowe, for the Dodgers, along with the struggles of their replacements have Red Sox fans wondering if Theo Epstein has already made his first major mistakes as General Manager.

Epstein had some tough calls to make during the past off-season. No decision was more critical than what to do with starting pitchers Pedro Martinez and Derek Lowe. The

young general manager attempted to sign Pedro, but lost him to the New York Mets who offered Pedro a better contract. Epstein decided not to re-sign Derek Lowe. Lowe pitched masterfully in the post-season but had an ERA above 5 during the regular season. Lowe has pitched well so far this spring for the Dodgers.

Epstein's original plan was to sign Carl Pavano to replace Lowe and to re-sign Pedro Martinez. But the time and energy Epstein spent trying to re-sign Pedro might have cost the Sox, as Pavano decided to sign with the Yankees instead. On top of that, the Red Sox, in the end, lost Pedro to the Mets. Epstein then had to go to with a contingency plan and settled with Matt Clement and Dave Wells.



With Wells (0-2) and Clement (0-0) struggling in their first two starts, the Sox have lost four of their first six games. Clement gave up only three runs and six hits in six innings on Sunday against the Blue Jays, but he continues to make things difficult for himself. He has a problem with control and a history of walking too many batters, and the five walks he gave up in Sunday's game are a case in

point. Clement has two no decisions so far on the season.

Wells has also had problems with his control. He has been leaving pitches out over the plate and has been giving up a lot of hits so far this season. Against the Blue Jays on Saturday, he gave up six runs in 6 1/3 innings, including three consecutive home runs in the third inning. Wells also struggled in his first start against the Yankees, allowing ten hits and four runs in 4 1/3 innings. Wells has an 8.44 ERA so far this season. The Red Sox are hoping this isn't the year that age starts catching up to the 41-year-old pitcher.

It's too early to push the panic button. The Sox pitching staff should be getting a boost this week with the return of Curt Schilling. Schilling strug-

gled in his last start in a minor league game, but he says his ankle feels good and he's ready to give it a go for the Red Sox this week. Schilling will make his debut against the Yankees on Wednesday. The Sox are hoping Schilling can turn things around for their pitching staff with a strong start. Having their ace pitcher back should help the rotation settle down into their roles. Schilling, who has earned his reputation as a workhorse, can give the Red Sox quality innings to help the bullpen out. The Red Sox have not gotten many long starts from their starting pitchers yet. But it may take Schilling a few starts to get back to his old form, so hang tough.

# Farmwife's Journal

BY PATRICIA CROSBY  
APRIL 2005

**GILL** - The naming of cows is something of an art. The traditional Daisy, Lucy, and Clover are acceptable. The whimsical Chard, Winsome, or Comma apparently aren't. There's room for a little creativity along that spectrum, but not much. On this farm, their names are likely to come straight from the herdbook, a registry of Hatch dairy cows 1944-1952. The names are familiar, rich, and robust, like the large, comfortable creatures who own them. Butternut and Buttercup. Bonnie, Sophie, and Mary.

Blossom and Nutmeg, daughters of Flora and Ginger, are the newest additions to our small fold. Born in January and March, respectively, they've

lived at the "home" farm, away from the business farms where their mothers are being milked, since shortly after they were born. Their mothers' milk is delivered to them in huge baby bottles by my husband, my seven-year-old and myself, which they greedily suck dry in about sixty seconds. They're friendly as can be when we've got a full warm bottle in our hands, but the minute it's devoured they lose interest in us. They go back to nudging each other, frisking around the stall, or falling into an abrupt contented sleep in a pile of straw as if they've been doped, which in a sense they have.

Blossom and Nutmeg are Ayrshires, a breed originating in southwest Scotland and distinguished by its particularly fine

milk, its red and white markings, and its marvelous twin arc of noble horns. Robert Hatch, my husband's father, kept a herdbook of Ayrshires he raised on his Breezy Acres farm in Granby from 1947-1952, full of names that show pride, hope, and investment.

There's a certain satisfaction - a feeling of completing a circle - in the small rebuilding of such a herd thirty miles north on the old Snow farm in Gill, close to sixty years later. At the business end of the farm, Flora and Ginger are joined by Dolly, Redwing, and Carol, the last of whom is still a heifer, not slated to calve until next spring. Carol is learning maturity from her older barn and field mates, but would probably rather be part of the ridiculous scene my seven-

year-old and I are watching now, at the home farm. We are letting the two small ones out of the barn for the first time - literally, the first time - since only recently has the snow melted enough to open the gates and clear the paddocks and make that possible. Their first adventure is the sloping floor to the outside. Look, it tilts! The earth is tipping! Once they manage to stagger down the incline, they have the whole world of a small

paddock to contend with and they immediately begin to run, with, however, no sense that the woven wire around them is there and is solid. Only after several comical collisions do they get the knack of running in a circle, kicking their heels and really starting to enjoy themselves. But soon they are comfortably settled down, basking in the April sun and nosing the chickens who wander in their way from the opened coop.

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Both positions are full-time, competitive pay and benefits. Please send your resume, and cover letter to: Green Fields Market, 144 Main Street, Greenfield, MA 01301 Attn.: Lorraine, or apply in person.

**Consulting:** The Brick House Community Resource Center seeks consultants to help youth investigate money making possibilities in hands-on arts skills. Call (413) 863-9576 to receive the full scope of services.

**Can You Sell?** The Montague Reporter is looking for an Advertising Director. Can you help us grow? Display, Business Cards, and Classified Ads. Work by commission. Submit resume and work history: reporterAds@MontagueMA.net or (413) 863-8666.

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**FINDING TREASURES AT THE GILL STORE** - 25% off most items the week of April 18th and 50% off most items the week of April 25th.

**Reporter Classifieds:** \$5 for 20 words per week; .10 per additional word. Call: 413-863-8666

**CAT**

continued from pg 1

Williams' mid-20th century American South.

The action of the play takes place in the space of one day, set to celebrate both Big Daddy's birthday and his negative test result for terminal cancer. But what should be a joyous occasion is merely an excuse for ugly family secrets to come tumbling out of the closet. The happy children, who romp across the stage gleefully shooting each other with toy guns, and the cake and champagne served by smiling servants are mostly forgotten as each member of the household maneuvers to seize what advantage they want from each other. There is little love on display, and what there is appears tainted by fear, possessiveness, and greed. In fact, the relations between the three married couples are downright hostile.

This is not the thespian equivalent of a "date movie," but it is one heck of a play. When told before curtain time that it would run nearly three hours, I doubted I would survive, despite two intermissions and generous amounts of coffee and sweets at the concession stand. I was pleasantly surprised to find myself enthralled throughout the performance, the most daring I've seen offered by The Country Players.

The success of "Cat" rests on

the uniform excellence of the cast, who play their parts in one claustrophobic bedroom. Set in three acts, the first is carried almost solely by a bravura turn by Heather Abbott as Maggie, the Cat. Completely loose in her character, Abbott conveys hurt, malice, and survival skills that cut through the granite demeanor of her alcoholic husband, Brick. Brick (a fine study in slow burn by Albert Clement), a washed up sports announcer, refuses to sleep with his wife, thus keeping her childless and at risk of losing Big Daddy's inheritance to her coniving in-laws, Gooper and Mae (this is a play with great names), who have five children of their own, referred to by Maggie as "those no-neck monsters".

But Brick apparently had a former love, a high school football pal named Skipper who, although deceased, is as much a member of the cast as the others. Was Brick sexually involved with him and thus incapable of loving his wife? Is Brick deliberately drinking himself to death to hide his pain and guilt? Will the frustrated Maggie make good on her threat of adultery? These were taboo topics in 1955, and the scene where Maggie tries to draw out the truth from Brick is frightening in its slowly building volcanic intensity.

The second act is carried by Big Daddy himself, played with ruthless gusto by David Peck.

He dominates the stage both physically and charismatically. Big Daddy, who is no fool, has nothing but contempt for most of his kin but allows his tenderness to come out with Brick. He knows Brick is destroying himself, but he cannot understand why. Big Daddy and Brick weave a curious interplay of vulnerability and suspicion that leads the drama to an unexpected turn, setting up the final act. Here, all are present, the siblings and their spouses as sly as foxes, while the town doctor and priest hem and haw around a truth the audience probably caught from the beginning. There is no happy ending here. Instead, the denouement is framed by the apt word "mendacity," one of Big Daddy's favorite locutions.

Not surprisingly, the play contains adult language and situations, most of which jolted audiences five decades ago, but which might seem moderate to us jaded folks today. Still, this is a play for grown-ups, and it provides mature rewards.

*Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* will be playing at the Shea Theater in Turners Falls on Friday and Saturday, April 15th and 16th. Tickets are \$12 general admission and \$10 for students and seniors. Tickets are available at World Eye Bookstore in Greenfield and at the Shea Theater box office on the night of the shows. For more information, call 863-2281, ext. 1.

**LEGAL NOTICE**

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 138, General Laws, as amended, the Inhabitants of the Town of Montague are hereby notified that bellybowl Restaurant, LLC, d/b/a, bellybowl Restaurant, LLC, Michele Fournier - LeMay as manager, has applied for a Wines and Malt Beverages Liquor License (Restaurant). The premise is located at 104 Fourth Street, Turners Falls, MA, consisting of commercial first floor, two apartments above (2nd and 3rd floor), front of building two entrances - one for apartments, one handicap entrance for commercial business, two entrances on side of building for commercial business. Outdoor seating is available in landscaped, fenced in area on L Street side of building.

Date and place of hearing: Monday, April 25, 2005, at 8 p.m. at the Town Hall, Selectman's Meeting Room, One Avenue A, Turners Falls.

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**Art Opening at GCC Downtown Center**

Chris Nelson of Leverett will exhibit *Pastoral Pastels* at the Greenfield Community College Downtown Center, 270 Main St., Greenfield, from April 11th to May 27th, Monday through Friday 9 - 5 pm. The opening reception will be held on Friday, April 15th, 6 - 8 p.m., with music provided by Holly Havis and Cynthia Thomas. As winner of the first place prize in the fifth annual Great River Art Exhibition at the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls in June, 2004, Nelson was awarded this one-person show. Nelson's art, both in pastel and photography, is inspired by the sheep and lambs who graze in her meadow and by the creatures great and small that inhabit the Pioneer Valley.

**Bowling Fun Night**

**Sunday, April 17th  
5-7 p.m. or 7-9 p.m.**  
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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

**THURSDAY, APRIL 14TH**  
The Community Coalition For Teens will host the 14th Annual Youth Conference "Speak Up or Stand Back. Take a Chance and Be Heard" from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Great Falls Middle School in Turners Falls. The Conflict Resolution Theater Group from the Franklin County Technical School will provide the opening entertainment.

**THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, APRIL 14TH & 15TH**  
"Books Are Fun" Book Fair Sponsored by the Gift Shop at Franklin Medical Center. Top quality hardcover books in all categories, including best sellers, children's books, cookbooks and more. In the Franklin Medical Center Lobby, 164 High St., Greenfield. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**FRIDAY, APRIL 15TH**  
Third Friday at the Falls featuring art openings, live music, food, special events and artisan demonstrations. Held throughout Shelburne Falls. 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Third Friday Contra Dance with *Tomczak Productions*, Guiding Star Grange Hall, 401 Chapman St., Greenfield. 8:00 p.m. to midnight. (802) 387-9380.

**FRIDAY AND SATURDAY APRIL 15TH & 16TH**  
The Country Players present *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* Performances at the Shea Theater, 71 Avenue A, Turners Falls. 8:00 p.m. (413) 863-2281.

Media Arts Cafe features the film *Annie Hall*, directed by Woody Allen. Rated PG. The film chronicles the ups and downs of obsessive, neurotic NY comedian Alvy Singer's relationship with Midwest ditz, Annie Hall, played by Diane Keaton. \$10 general admission,

\$8 seniors, \$6.50 students. Ticket price includes beverage. Comfortable couches and cafe table seating. State-of-the-art audio/video system. One show at 7:30 p.m. each evening. Located in the Green Trees Gallery, 105 Main St., Northfield. (413) 367-2736.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 16TH**  
4th Annual *Groovin' in the Grass Music Benefit* for the Sports for Life Foundation featuring *Roomful of Blues & Mark Nomad* and *Trailer Park*. Bring your own lawn chairs, blankets and dancing shoes. No outside food or beverages. Held in the Dome at Indoor Action Sports Arena, 1385 Bernardston Road, Greenfield. Doors open at 5:00 p.m. (413) 772-8665 x 101.

**9th Annual A Cappella Festival** featuring Dartmouth *Aires*, Middlebury *Dissipated 8's*, MIT *Logarhythms*, Nfld. Mt-Hermon *Hogapellas*, and Smith College *Smiffenpoofs*. Sponsored by the United Way of Franklin County. Greenfield High School Auditorium, Lenox Ave., Greenfield. 7:30 p.m. (413) 772-216.

**Coffee & Soul**  
Lori McKenna and Amy Rigby perform at All Souls Unitarian-Universalist Church, 399 Main St., Greenfield. 7:30 p.m. (413) 773-5018.

Third Saturday Contra Dance with *Blue Sky*, Guiding Star Grange Hall, 401 Chapman St., Greenfield. 8:00 to 11:30 p.m. (413) 774-2830.

**TUESDAY, APRIL 19TH**  
The Munch and Muse book discussion group will meet at the Carnegie Library at 7 p.m. to discuss *Seabiscuit*; both the book and the movie will be available to check out. Program is free and open to all.

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20TH**  
Spring 2005 Series Mid-Week Music featuring Dick Hurlburt, clarinet and tenor sax & Gene Clark, piano. Music features jazz standards. All Souls Church, 399 Main St., Greenfield. 12:15 to 12:45 p.m. (413) 773-5018.

**WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY, APRIL 20TH & 21ST**  
**GCC presents an evening of drama and comedy**  
Two one act plays directed and performed by GCC students. First the drama *Overtones*

directed by Penney Hulten Roberts. Next is Christopher Durang's hilarious comedy *The Actors Nightmare* directed by Vivian Reed. The show begins at 7:00 p.m. at the GCC tv studio in the main campus building. Tickets are \$5, call 775-1278 for more info.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 23RD**  
**VUSI MAHLASELA**  
THE VOICE OF SOUTH AFRICAN FREEDOM 7:30 p.m. at Memorial Hall. Vusi has been nominated for Best Male Vocalist in South Africa, and is described by Dave Matthews, as "the Woody Guthrie or Bob Dylan of South Africa." During the struggle against apartheid, Vusi was an activist and voice for freedom, culminating in his powerful performances at Nelson Mandela's 1994 inauguration and in the documentary film, *Amandla! Shelburne Falls!* \$15 advance / \$18 day of show / under 18 half price!

**THURSDAY, APRIL 21ST**  
Poet's Seat Speakers Toastmasters Club Meeting, a public speaking educational club. Toastmasters can help anyone become a better speaker, listener, and develop leadership skills. In the Social Room at the YMCA, 451 Main St., Greenfield. 7:00 p.m. (413) 774-2208 or 773-1978.

Papermaking in Montague, presented by the Montague Historical Society and featuring Brad Peters, former public relations director of International Paper Company. 7:00 p.m. at the Great Falls Discovery Center, Avenue A, Turners Falls.

**SUNDAY, APRIL 24TH**  
First Parish of Northfield Concert Series features *Bernadette!* (Bernadette Wiemer) who likes "doing wild and crazy things with a dulcimer" not to mention the guitar or whatever obscure instrument has crossed her path. A rich voice and a wild wit, Bernadette serves up a contemporary folk style that blends Celtic, country swing, and the blues; all of it laced with witty, irreverent, self-deprecating humor about life, love, nutty families, cookie addictions, and more. Free concert at 3:00 p.m. Donations accepted. First Parish, 72 Main Street, Northfield. Info: 498-5957.



Pictured: Amy Rigby

**SATURDAY, APRIL 30TH**  
Open Mic for musicians and writers of all ages at the Gathering Place coffee house, 7:00 to 10:30 p.m. Also card and board games, mah-jongg lessons, hot (fair trade) coffee, snacks and great company in the Webster Room of First Parish, 72 Main Street, Northfield (use side entrance on Parker Street), tell them Mo sent you. Info: 498-5957.

Randal Bays will perform at the Wendell Full Moon Coffee House at 8 p.m. Open mic at 7:30 p.m. In the historic Town Hall on the common in Wendell Center.

## GREAT FALLS ART FEST

Sponsored by The Brick House Community Resource Center. This event is taking place in cooperation and conjunction with three other events: the opening of the Hallmark Museum of Contemporary Photography on Avenue A, the April 30-May 1 Arts and Blooms studio walk around Turners Falls artist studios, and the April 30-May 8 Crabapple Blossom Festival put on by the Montague Libraries. Held on the grounds of the Great Falls Discovery Center, Avenue A, Turners Falls. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (413) 863-9576.

## Hot Spot Teen Center

**Monday** - Ongoing Digital Arts Project, 3 to 5 p.m.  
**Tue. & Wed.** - Ongoing Music Project, 3 to 5 p.m.  
**Thursday** - Technology Drop-in hours, 3 to 5 p.m. and Movie Night, 6 to 8 p.m.  
**Friday, April 15th** - Drop in hours, 3 to 5 p.m.  
**Saturday, April 16th** - ACT Stavros Community Service Project, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., call Jen for info at 863-3548  
**Monday, April 18th** - Experience Madness Film Festival at Mount Holyoke, 5 to 9 p.m.  
**Tuesday, April 19th and Thursday, April 21st** - Open Recording Studio Time, 1 to 6 p.m.  
**Wednesday, April 20th** - Al Souza Exhibit: Selected Puzzle Works at UMASS, 1 to 5 p.m.  
**Friday, April 22nd** - Community Earth Day Celebration in Hawley, 3 to 8 p.m.

These programs are free (except some skate trips) and open to local teens. Some require permission slips. For more info about any of these events or programs please call **Jared at 863-9559**.

Hot Spot Teen Center is in The Brick House Community Center 24 Third St, Turners Falls

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- ROBOTS PG  
DAILY 6:45  
MATINEE SAT, SUN, & WED 12:00 2:15 4:30
- THE RING 2 PG13  
DAILY 9:00
- FEVERPITCH PG13 in DTS sound  
DAILY 6:00 9:00  
MATINEE SAT, SUN, & WED 12:00 3:00
- PACHER PG  
DAILY 6:00 9:00  
MATINEE SAT, SUN, & WED 12:00 3:00
- GUESS WHO PG13  
DAILY 6:15 9:15  
MATINEE SAT, SUN, & WED 12:15 3:15
- SEN CITY R  
DAILY 6:15 9:15  
MATINEE SAT, SUN, & WED 12:15 3:15
- THE AMITYVILLE HORROR R in DTS sound  
DAILY 6:30 9:30  
MATINEE SAT, SUN, & WED 12:30 3:30
- SAHARA PG13 in DTS sound  
DAILY 6:30 9:30  
MATINEE SAT, SUN, & WED 12:30 3:30

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**Answers to last week's crossword puzzle "Sail, ho!"**

ACROSS	51 ELMO
1 TILLER	52 PURSER
2 SWASHBUCKLER	53 THEBOUNTY
6 BINNACLE	54 SCURVY
7 BALLAST	55 BARQUE
8 YAW	DOWN
10 HELM	1 TRIREME
11 PORT	3 BOSUNPIPE
12 POOP	4 LANYARD
14 MERCHANTMAN	5 CARRONADE
16 FORECASTLE	7 BELAY
17 STEERAGE	9 WINDJAMMER
18 SEACHEST	13 SHOAL
19 WARDROOM	15 NELSON
20 JOLLYROGER	17 STARBOARD
25 LOG	21 LUFF
26 HEAD	22 YACHT
27 TAFFRAIL	23 FRIGATE
29 SCHOONER	24 SLOOP
32 CUTTER	28 COXSWAIN
33 POLARIS	30 SCUPPER
36 AMIDSHIP	31 KEDGE
37 NEAP	34 ORLOP
40 COPPER	35 PITCH
41 RUDDER	38 POWDERMONKEY
42 SPANKER	39 DREADNOUGHT
44 BRIGANTINE	41 RIGGING
47 BOOM	42 STEVEDORE
48 HOLYSTONE	43 BOWSPRIT
49 WINDWARD	45 RATLINES
50 LEEWARD	46 WEEVIL

Mabel Zobel  
By  
Sandra Facto

WITH AGE IT TAKES SO LITTLE TO ENTERTAIN US OLD FOLK'S!!!

**OFF THE BEATEN TRACK**

# Under the Spell of *Strix Varia*

BY FLORE

**MONTAGUE CENTER** - At the sound of such a name, you might think you were under the spell of some celebrity, coming out of La Scala, after dinner! Assurance!

Better known as the Barred Owl, she or he can sing arias in the most modular half-tone. "Who cooks for yoo? Who cooks for yoo, oowl?"

You would need the voice of a Caruso or Callas to imitate their intriguing sounds.

Wouldn't you know, they welcome the dialogue, answering back.

We had an impromptu visit of such beauty. A real spring miracle, just imagine, in the full daylight. Wouldn't you, too, spend the rest of the afternoon in awe watching this elegant visitor?

Such beauty, its coloring of soft hues of grays blended so well with the birch trees. We could have missed it, such an unreal sight.

The crisscrosses of white, grayish brown on their chest, though, make them at once identifiable.

In addition, their circular moon faces, which they move so gracefully in slow motion, are another trait of their personality.

Barred owls can reach the glorious age of 68, according to the Farmer's Almanac! With a wing span of four feet, a body length of two feet, these soft feathered birds weigh a mere two pounds when mature.

Further descriptive assets? Notice the color of their eyes, unlike others in the Owl Clan: deep mahogany. They also have an intricate inner eyelid which screens the glaring sunlight. Built in sunglasses, quoi!

Their eyes, unlike other birds', are frontal, giving them unique perception for shooting like an arrow, on the prey... Owls get a good grip on their catch, be it bugs, lizards, even fish, squirrels or... other owls... brrr... they are fierce hunters,

with a gargantuan appetite.

A sedentary bird, the female lays from two to three eggs, using the same nest each time. It will take 40 days for the young ones to learn to fly.

In the meantime, as adventurous as our youngsters, they crawl, sit on a branch, observing the world below!

Another interesting factor, the couple stay devoted, together, on their square mile territory, all year around.

Just use common sense, if you should chance to encounter one of these predators. Steer clear of their paths!

Tempting as the attraction may be, keep your distance, as they keep theirs.

You will require, even, a special permit from the govern-



PHOTO BY FLORE

Barred Owl in the back yard

ment to own a pet owl, or owl feathers: this is a sacred bird!

Admire their flight, soaring across the wooded lands!

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# Look! the Shadbush Blooms

BY FRAN HEMOND

**MONTAGUE CENTER** - Last year the shadbush on the cliffs just north of the canal at Canada Hill must have blossomed briefly and lost their flowers even sooner than usual, for I missed them. They look down on the back way to Greenfield, where huge trucks are maneuvered by skilled operators into the narrow drives of the canalside mills, and where one's attention is

best placed on the sharp curve at the other end of the bridge. Local wisdom says the bushes bloom as the shad come up the river. The poetic call

them Shadblow, possibly picturing the drooping flowers blowing in a spring wind, the green leaves just starting to show. Against the background of the dark cliffs, the misty

hybrid bred to cater to the wishes of man, they bloom at their own pleasure.

Here on the pond there is a lovely shadbush that once a year blossoms for a very few days and softens the gravelly drive, the fence and the buildings. One year its day of glory was finally caught on film, a mere reminder not to miss its glory days, and



white trees give grace and life to a somber hill. Briefly. If the weather is too warm or too breezy to suit them, the transient flowers do not last. No

to enjoy all of the fabulous spring - blossoming trees, some even more colorful, that make this time of year a special delight.

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