



SPECIAL ELECTION COVERAGE
from Mexico
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CONCERN FOR 2ND CHICK
EAGLE WATCH!
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LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS GILL ERVING WENDELL

Year 4
 No. 28

50¢

The Montague Reporter

REPORTER@MONTAGUEMA.NET

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

APRIL 20, 2006

Australian Fish Making a Splash in Turners Falls

BY PATRICK RENNICK

In the back of the Australis indoor aqua-farm, located in the industrial park in Turners Falls, tanks 20 feet wide and two stories high stretch to the ceiling. Each tank holds more than 150,000 gallons of water, each one nearly as large as the main tank at the New England Aquarium in Boston. At Australis, there are ten tanks this size. Inside those tanks, tens of thousands of fish born in Australia and raised here in the largest fish farm in America dart past; their golden scales and red eyes glimmering.

They are called Barramundi and they are one of the most popular table fish in Australia. With a natural buttery taste, this native favorite used to be available to Americans only as an expensive import. But if Joshua Goldman has his way they will soon be just as popular in American kitchens.

Barramundi are catadromous, living in fresh-



PATRICK RENNICK PHOTO

Josh Goldman holds a Barramundi at the soon-to-expand Australis fish farm on Industrial Boulevard.

water but moving to salt-water to breed, opposite of New England shad or Atlantic salmon. Barramundi are rich in omega-3 fatty acids, and raised in their controlled environment in Turners Falls, they are also free of hormones, antibiotics, mercury, colorants, and contaminants.

The Turners Falls office of Australis is furnished with photographs of the northern Australian coast. Head back through the double doors and you feel like you've been transported to the climate of that very location. Humid, salty air is the byproduct of the carefully

see FISH pg 12

Equi's Spanish Garden Changing Hands

BY PATRICK RENNICK

MILLERS FALLS - David Frendenburgh and Mark Jackson came before the Montague selectboard on Tuesday, April 18th, representing Crystal Springs Investments, LLC in a proposed liquor license transfer from owners Ed and Janice Hartwell of Equi's Spanish Gardens in Millers Falls. The new owners plan to transform the Spanish Gardens into a bar and grill with lunch menu, named Miller's Pub.

"The property is beautiful and we are glad that someone is enterprising," said selectboard chair Allen Ross. "But, we want to stress that this is just the transfer of a liquor license. Additional steps must go through the proper channels."

"I look forward to having a beer there," added selectboard member Patricia Pruitt. The board approved the transfer.

On March 28th, Frendenburgh, of Belcher-

ness partner, Ed Tolzдор of Wendell, came before the Montague Zoning Board of Appeals with plans to renovate the upper story of the Spanish Garden building, once well known in the area for its spring dance floor, into four apartments. That initial request was withdrawn, as the partners lacked a satisfactory parking plan for that number of apartments.

Abbondanzio has continued to look into a complaint filed by a Millers Falls resident regarding the glare of streetlights at

certain intersections, including Bangs Street. After checking accident reports from the last two years Abbondanzio has determined that there was no significant connection to the lighting fixtures.

"It is of course possible that minor incidents have occurred that were not reported," said Abbondanzio. "If there is a real problem for some people we could fix some of the lights for \$70 a cover. Otherwise the lights will all begin to

see POLICY pg 9



Equi's Spanish Gardens, the grand old building and long-time watering hole on Main Street in Millers Falls

Gill Town Meeting Put off until June 12th

BY DAVID DETMOLD

The Gill selectboard struggled to cut an extra \$179,000 from the approximately \$2.5 million '07 operating budget on Wednesday, April 19th, to bring the total budget in under the town's levy limit, but the going was rough. Even if the assessors' request for \$65,000 for new software and a professional revaluation of all town property were removed from the omnibus and recommended as a separate article, to be paid for by a debt exclusion override, the board was still eyeing an excess of more than \$125,000. Final figures for state aid are not due for some time, and a possible boost in regional transportation funding or state aid for the schools might help matters by shaving the \$1.2 million assessment for Gill's share of

the regional school budget.

Looking at these figures, the board decided to put off the annual town meeting until Monday, June 12th. A special town meeting to arrange needed transfers to allow the police and highway department to get through their '06 budgets, which have been strained by the rising price of fuel and utilities, will be held on May 1st, at which time the board plans to open the annual town meeting, and call for it to be continued until June 12th. A pre-town meeting to go over the finalized budget figures, and to gather public comment on a 19 article warrant, including a proposed noise ordinance and the establishment of an agricultural commission, will be held on June 5th, tentatively.

Wendell's Oldest Citizen Honored by Matching Gift to the Library

BY MARGO CULLEY

The Friends of the Wendell Free Library has announced the receipt of a matching gift to honor Wendell's oldest citizen and long-time library trustee, Marion Herrick. Last July, the town of Wendell was awarded nearly a million dollars by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners to build a new library, one of only seven towns in the state to be awarded library construction grants for this year. Within a week of the award of the grant, Wendell citizens, in a town meeting attended by over 100 people, voted unanimously to approve additional funds and



Marion Harrison Herrick, c. 1935

municipal borrowing to support the new library. The Friends of the Library has begun a capital campaign to raise additional funds.

As part of this campaign, retired Smith College Professor of Psychology Dilman Doland of Easthampton, who like Mrs. Herrick is from Maquoketa, Iowa, and who was her student in high school and junior college, has pledged to match gifts given to the Friends of the Library in support of the Herrick Fund up to a maximum of \$25,000. The meeting room in the new Wendell library will be named for Mrs. Herrick.

see HONORED pg 10

PET OF THE WEEK**He's a Wonder****Thunder**

Thunder is a two-year-old Coonhound in need of a good home. If you're a hound fan then Thunder is the dog for you! He is a handsome guy - very chunky looking for a Coonhound. He is good with other dogs, but no kitties please! With his teenage enthusiasm he would be a good match for homes with children over eight years of age. He was obtained as a puppy and has lived outdoors only - not indoors where a dog wants to be! He would love to find a new home to join as a full family member. As with all hounds, he needs either leash walking or a fenced yard - once that powerful hound nose kicks in, he'd be off! Come visit this handsome guy today. For more information on adopting Thunder please contact the Dakin Animal Shelter in Leverett at 548-9898 or via email at info@dakinshelter.org.

Spring 2006 Quilt Show

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
23 Long Avenue, Greenfield
April 28th & 29th
10 am - 4 pm
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LIBRARY NEWS**Bad Art Sale**

The Montague Public Libraries are soliciting examples of Bad Art for a show to be held on April 29th on the lawn of the Carnegie Library in Turners Falls, in conjunction with "What's Blooming at the Library?" a Library Spectacular including Live Music, Free Refreshments, a Used Book Sale and displays of Children's work from library programs.

What is bad art? Well, just as beauty is in the eye of the beholder, so is tackiness, and tacky covers a broad area of velvet Elvis paintings, homemade art that is perhaps a little garish or crooked, those gift items that you can't even hang in your garage because they are so wrong, sculptures that flattened out or melted along the way. You get the picture.

Items for inclusion in the Bad

Art Show can be dropped off at the Carnegie Library in Turners Falls, or at the Millers Falls or Montague Center branches, any time prior to April 27th. If for some reason you want your item returned after the show, please include your name and telephone number along with your artwork. All items not claimed after the show, or submitted anonymously, will be distributed among the local thrift stores, if they will take them.

Best of all, there will be a contest for the worst bad art, with prizes awarded. So make sure to come on the 29th and vote for your favorites! If you have questions about your particular white elephant, please call Barbara Stewart at (413) 367-9132; e-mail stew@library.umass.edu. Thanks for participating in this fun event!



PHOTO BY STEVE COBB

Kathy Arce works in her plot at the Great Falls Community Garden.

BY SUZETTE SNOW COBB
GREAT FALLS - Signs of spring were clearly visible on Saturday, April 15th on the corner of 3rd and L Streets. Fifteen people spent the morning and early afternoon cleaning up and readying the Great Falls Community Garden site for planting. Some neighbors were new community garden participants, some were returning from past years, and some were just interested in lending a hand in community spirit. This is the 9th season the community gar-

den has gone through its metamorphosis with the aid of its human neighbors. The Great Falls Community Garden members would like to thank Blue Sky of Colrain for his delivery of pine chips and Bill Llewelyn of Northfield for the donation of composted manure. Much appreciation goes to Chief Ray Zukowski for arranging the latter to be delivered. There may still be one plot available in the garden; if you are interested in gardening this season, call Steve or Suzette at 863-9026.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES April 24th - 28th

MONTAGUE Senior Center, 62 Fifth St., Turners Falls, is open Mon. - Fri. from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. Make meal reservations 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. Special trip coordinator is Jean Chase. Make trip reservations by calling 772-6356. Payment and menu choice is due three weeks prior to trip.

Monday, 24th
10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11:30 a.m. PACE Aerobics
Tuesday, 25th

9:30 a.m. Aerobics
Wednesday, 26th
10:15 a.m. Senior Aerobics
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, 27th
1 p.m. Pitch
Friday, 28th
10:15 a.m. Senior 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 11:00 a.m. Transportation can be provided for meals, Thursday shop-

FACES & PLACES
Carey Named Elk of the Month

PHOTO: PAM LESTER

The Montague Elks Lodge #2521, 1 Elks Avenue in Turners Falls, held a lodge meeting on Thursday, April 6th in which Michael Blanchard, Exalted Ruler, presented John Carey with Elk of the Month award for March for all of his contributions to make the lodge kitchen and the St. Patrick's Day dinner a shiny success. Thank you, John, and the luck of the Irish to you! Pictured above: John Carey, left, and Michael Blanchard, Exalted Ruler.

Crabapple Blossom Festival in Turners Falls

Sat. 4/29 - Downtown Spring Cleanup- 9 am - noon - Begins at the Great Falls Discovery Center.

What's Bloomin' at the Carnegie Library- 1 - 4 pm, includes Used Book Sale to benefit the Friends of the Montague Public Libraries

Bad Art Show- Enter your worst or vote for the "winner"

Bilingual Family Concert- 2 pm with Tom and Laurie on the library lawn (inside if rain).

Sun. 4/30 - 5K Fun Run/Walk- 11 am Begins at Peskeomskut Park

Tues. 5/2 - Historical Walking Tour- 6 pm with Sue SanSoucie. Starts at Discovery Center.

Wed. 5/3 - Great Falls Farmers Market Opening Day- 3 - 6 pm Peskeomskut Park

Downtown Trees Walking Tour- 6 pm with Alan Snow, Forest Health Expert for the Department of Conservation and Recreation. Starts at Carnegie Library

Thurs. 5/4 - Important Birding Areas of Massachusetts - 7 pm with Wayne Petersen of Mass. Audubon, at Discovery Center

Fri. 5/5 - Cinco de Mayo Children's Festival - 10 am - noon at Peskeomskut Park, includes Bilingual Family Concert with Tom and Laurie - 10 am (Discovery Center if rain).

Sat. 5/6 - Grapevines, Trees and Shrubs: What Do These Things

Mean for Birds? 1 - 2 pm at Discovery Center

Sun. 5/7 - Fun Bike Rides- 1 pm, 12 mile and 6 mile routes, featuring completed sections of the Turners Falls Bike Path. Begins at trail start at Unity Park. Led by Dave Carr of Basically Bicycles.

Poetry Reading- 4 pm at Brick House

On-going- Historical Walking Tour Booklets available at Discovery Center & Carnegie Library. Maps available featuring participants, restaurants, and crabapple tree locations. For more information: contact the Carnegie Library, 201 Ave. A, 863-3214

Turners Falls Downtown Spring Clean Up Saturday, April 29.

Meet at the Great Falls Discovery Center Great Hall 9 a.m. There will be a short safety discussion and then we will get to work. Tenders of planters along Ave A are also invited and will be given updated planting information. If possible, please bring gloves, rakes, brooms and water. Clean up is part of the Crabapple Blossom Festival We plan to work until at least noon. For more info call the Brick House, 863-9576 or Carnegie Library, 863-3214.

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9:45 a.m. Library
12 Noon Pitch
Tuesday, 25th
9 a.m. Aerobics
12:30 p.m. Oil Painting
Wednesday, 26th
9:30 a.m. Line Dancing
12 Noon Bingo
Thursday, 27th
9 a.m. Aerobics
12:30 p.m. Shopping - Orange

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.

EAGLE WATCH

Watching and Hoping for the Newest Chick

BY PATRICIA CARLISLE
GREAT FALLS - We were happy to see the eggs in our Barton Cove nest this year, and now we have two eaglets. Those of us who watch closely are concerned that our second chick has not appeared to take



and healthy must and will survive.

We are hopeful both chicks will survive and thrive, and we are thankful for the Eagle Cam glimpse of nature MCTV, Channel 17, in conjunction with NU, provides.

Whatever happens in the Eagle nest this year, remember to celebrate the healthy chick or chicks as we watch until fledge time, when they leave our nest for a long healthy life.

food well when offered, and appears very small and weak. But this morning, Thursday, the chick appears to be doing better,

and seems to be asking for food. We will continue to watch and hope for a happy outcome. Nature is wisest and the strong

and seems to be asking for food. We will continue to watch and hope for a happy outcome. Nature is wisest and the strong

Hit & Run Competition/Baseball League

The Montague Parks & Recreation department is partnering with the Newt Guilbault/Cal Ripken Baseball League to present this national competition sponsored by Major League Baseball and a national soft drink company, encouraging youngsters from the ages of 7 - 14 to showcase their pitch-

ing, hitting and running abilities. This is a free event, to be held Saturday April 22nd at noon (rain date: Sunday, April 23rd at noon), at Unity Park in Turners Falls. Boys and girls compete together within four age groups; 7-8, 9-10, 11-12, 13-14. Age is determined by a deadline date of July 17th, 2006. Proof of age is

required for all levels of participation. Winners move on to sectional competition. National finals will be held during Major League Baseball's All-Star Week in Detroit, Michigan (July 11th - 14th). To receive registration information, contact Montague Parks and Recreation Office at 863-3216. Register now!

Leverett's Charcoal Industry; an Historical Program

BY DAWN WARD

On Thursday, April 27th, at 7:30 p.m., at the Moore's Corner Schoolhouse on North Leverett Road, the Leverett Historical Society presents: "A Smoldering Issue: Leverett's Charcoal Industry," (second in the series on industrial Leverett).

North Leverett Road is off of Route 63 in Montague. Travel approximately three miles east until diagonally across from the Village Coop.

The public is invited to hear about the history of a once booming industry in Leverett: the making of charcoal.

Learn about how and why charcoal was produced, and its demise.

A short business meeting will precede the program at 7:00 p.m.

All are invited and welcomed. For more information, call 367-9562.

Clay Program at Turners Falls High School Expanded

BY KAREN STINCHFIELD

Thanks to an extension of the Brick House Community Resource Center's portion of the Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), the collaboration between the Turners Falls High School Art Department and the Brick House can continue.

Donna McGee, a local clay artist who has partnered with TFHS art teacher Mary Forrest during two prior semesters, will again be instructing students in the design and production of tiles as part of the Great Falls Tile

Project. McGee and Forrest plan to expand on the techniques they have already taught the students, which include casting 3-D tiles using student-made plaster molds and painting tiles with glazes.

An exciting addition to this semester's program is an after-school workshop series with McGee, entitled 'Working with Clay'. The students will help choose the direction of study during the eight workshop periods. McGee is open to what the students want to learn and do, and any TFHS student is welcome to

take part in this free workshop series, whether they have previous clay experience or not. The meeting times for this workshop series are April 24th, 26th, 28th, May 2nd, 4th, 8th, 10th, 12th, from 2:45 to 4:30 p.m. McGee is aware that, with busy schedules, students may not be able to make every class, so as long as participants can make at least half of the classes, they will still be able to participate.

For more information on this program, please call Karen Stinchfield or Nancy Emond at the Brick House, 863-9576.

Psychic Fair in Lake Pleasant

The National Spiritual Alliance will sponsor a Psychic Fair from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday (April 29th) at Thompson Temple across from the post office in Lake Pleasant.

Divination methods include astrology, I-Ching, palm reading, vibration connection, and tarot cards.

Consultation is with a medium of choice.

Events at the Discovery Center

FRIDAY, APRIL 21ST

Jump Salmon Jump! Salmon and her fishy friends also return to our streams in the spring. How do they know where to go? Play some "fishy" games and sing some "fishy" songs. 11 a.m.

Call 413/584-6788,

FRIDAY, APRIL 28TH

Frogs and Friends, Dawn Marvin Ward of "Growing up with Nature" presents: "Spring Friends" series for preschoolers and their caregivers. Each hour-long program includes stories, songs, games, and hands-on activities. Take a close-up look at a 'pond' and learn about many. Spring creatures that have 'two lives'! 11-12 a.m. Held at the Great Falls Discovery Center, 413-863-3221.

SATURDAY, APRIL 22ND

Celebrate Earth Day!!! "Leave-No-Trace": What does it take to build a fire and put one out? What makes spring the most dangerous time for forest fires in Massachusetts? Learn the answers and more as we build our own fire and try simple hearth cooking. Dress for the weather. Heavy rain cancels. For children ages 10 up and their families or caregivers, 1 p.m. Questions?

Programs are free. Great Falls Discovery Center 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls 413.863.3221 www.greatfallsma.org

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Founded by
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August, 2002

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Let the Montague Reporter Shine - Subscribe Now!

BY WESLEY BLIXT

When I was young and David Detmold was younger, we talked about assembling an energetic and committed group of folks to start a community newspaper in Franklin County.

The idea was to create a paper that would embody an approach to journalism that differed substantially from the approach that characterized the area's limited selection of dailies and weeklies - personal and lively without being glib or smarmy; probing without being invasive; daring without being pointedly offensive; sensitive to the needs of readers without pandering to the readership; responsive to the needs of the community without being beholden to its political and commercial powers - in short, a newspaper that would truly serve the interests of the community, that would become a tool for its diverse aspirations and a forum for its diverse opinions.

It was an approach to community journalism that seemed quite novel and yet very much rooted in a tradition of local American journalism that is older than the nation

itself.

What we were talking about, of course, was the paper you are now reading. I didn't know it at the time, but what David was working toward was the *Montague Reporter*.

At the time, I was busy covering the news for one of the dailies and David was busy quietly making the news, with a curious blend of moxie, integrity and commitment that he tends to bring to almost everything he does. The big difference between us is that I kept talking about it and David went ahead and did it. Three years later, he is still doing it.

And doing it.

The fact that he continues to do it is nothing less than a miracle. It is a true testament to David's rare commitment and that of the small group of community journalists who join him every week in publishing the *Montague Reporter*.

Yes, there is a tiny staff. There is a slightly larger group of supporters, who gather now and again to help out and cheer the process on. And there is an even wider and growing group that can, perhaps,

most accurately be described as "engaged readers-and-sometimes contributors/writers/reporters."

This critical mass of support is wonderful and it appears to be growing. That's the good news. The bad news is that David Detmold continues to shoulder most of the responsibilities, from editorial vision to distribution, largely without compensation. That's right - he volunteers all that time and energy. The worse news is that circulation has essentially leveled.

That's where we come in, the newly-formed board of directors of the *Montague Reporter*. We hope that is where you, the readers, come in. Our job is to press upon you all the things that David is both too busy to and too modest to press upon you.

Our job is to remind you that this paper is a marvelous and highly unusual community resource. It is a community resource that needs and deserves continued growth in support. It is a resource that will not survive unless you, the good citizens of Montague, Gill, Erving and Wendell step up and support it with your subscriptions, your ad dollars, your word-of-mouth and your active engagement.

You hold in your hands a light in the darkness, a challenge to the shadow of cynicism, separation, uncertainty and powerlessness that haunts our civic life. Let it shine.

- Wesley Blixt and the board of directors of the *Montague Reporter*

David Brule

Patricia Crosby

Veronica Phaneuf

Chris Sawyer-Laucanno

Jonathan von Ranson

Remembering Chernobyl

As noted in the April issue of National Geographic, this is the twentieth anniversary of the catastrophic accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in northern Ukraine. Due to human error, the Number Four reactor exploded on April 26th, 1986 releasing over 400 times more radioactivity than was released at Hiroshima. The initial explosion rained radioactive material to the west of the reactor, and then, as the reactor burned out of control, winds swept the clouds north. The destroyed hulk burned for ten days, contaminating tens of thousands of square miles, and drove close to a million people from their homes.

The two most pervasive radionuclides from Chernobyl, Cesium 137 and Strontium 90, will remain in the environment for decades. These releases triggered an epidemic of thyroid cancer,

leukemia and genetic damage.

Health and clean-up costs from the Chernobyl accident are estimated to have cost hundreds of billions of dollars and have still not been completed. Many thousands of square miles are still contaminated and uninhabitable. The radioactive remains of reactor Number Four continues to smolder beneath the sarcophagus, a decaying concrete and steel crypt that now threatens to collapse. Within this decaying shelter an estimated 200 tons of nuclear fuel remain and continue to threaten the surrounding environment with dangerous levels of radioactivity.

This nuclear nightmare created by a simple human error must stand as a warning. There is no remedy for this accident. And there is no safe way to store the high level radioactive waste for the tens of thousands of years it will

take to decay.

For these reasons I advocate closing down Vermont Yankee, a 34-year-old reactor that threatens the health and safety of all New England. In its place I envision communities developing conservation to decrease our energy needs and developing local, clean, affordable, safe and sustainable energy. For that reason, I am initiating a three-day water only fast. I will be in front of the Wells Fountain on Main Street in Brattleboro, which is less than 10 miles from Vermont Yankee on April 25th, 26th and 27th from 10:00 a.m. until 4 p.m. and invite anyone to join me.

- Hattie Nestel
Athol

American Dead in Iraq as of 4/19/06



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BORDEAUX WHINE BY DENIS BORDEAUX '06



LETTERS TO



THE EDITOR

Eggstravagant Thanks

The Montague Parks & Recreation Department and Parks & Recreation Commission would like to thank the well over 200 children and parents from throughout Franklin County who attended our Peter Cottontail EGGstravaganza. The hunt was held on Saturday, April 15th at Unity Park in Turners Falls, where children were given the task of finding over 3,000 eggs placed throughout the park. Parents also eggshibited a lot of spirit by joining their kids in egg decorating, face painting, a bake sale, and pictures with Peter

Cottontail. It is apparent that this will be a great tradition for years to come.

We would also like to thank the Montague Elks, Hillside Plastics, New England Extrusion, Sheffield Elementary PTO, Greenfield Savings Bank, Equi's Candy Store, and Boy Scout Troop #6 for their support, and the Easter Bunny for setting aside time from his busy schedule to be present.

- Jon Dobosz
Montague Parks & Recreation Dept.

Gill Brush Fire Contained

DAVID DETMOLD GILL - A downed tree on utility wires sparked a brush fire on the side of Main Road, a hundred yards north of the intersection with Boyle Road on Wednesday afternoon. The call came around 4:45, according to officer Doug Kaczmarczyk, and fire chief Gene Beaubien happened to be at the station when the call came in.

"When I came up, the lines were just starting to smoke. By the time I parked and walked back to the scene, a 'fireball' came off the wires" and set the verge of the road on fire, Beaubien said. "I thought it would burn right up the hillside, with conditions as dry as they are."

But quick work by eight volunteer firefighters, who had the first pumper at the scene within



Gill firefighters knock down a brush fire Wednesday on Main Road

ten minutes, extinguished the fire before it got out of hand. Some trees were blackened, and the fire had burned nearly as far as the intersection by the time firefighters arrived. With the assistance of the Gill police, who blocked Main Road at the top of the hill and detoured traffic around Boyle Road, and the Gill highway department, the fire was knocked down and extinguished by 5:15 p.m.

Dan Gavin, WMECo line superintendent, was on the scene by 5 o'clock, to assure the firefighters that power in the lines had been tripped when the tree fell, and that it was safe for them to work beneath them. Gavin said electricity was off as far as Dole Road, until the tree could be removed from where it had fallen on the power line.

We welcome your letters.

The Montague Reporter

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GUEST EDITORIAL

Why I Voted Against the Airport Improvement Project

BY MIKE NAUGHTON

MILLERS FALLS - On balance, I think that it's best that Montague remains in the airport business for the next twenty years or so. I also believe that the runway needs extensive repairs, and based on what we know today the most cost effective (read "cheapest") way for that to happen is to move ahead with the proposed airport improvement plan. So why did I vote against the Capital Improvements Committee's recommendation of this project?

The first reason, anachronistic as it may sound, was a sense of duty. For the past several years, I have voted in favor of funding the planning necessary for this project to move forward, while at the same time making clear every time that my support for planning was not the same as support for the project itself. I said more than once that I would not feel comfortable supporting the project unless there were a thorough discussion of the costs and benefits of the airport as well as how it fits in to long term plans for the town. Other members of the CIC, along with selectboard members and others, agreed that this discussion was necessary, but -- for reasons I don't fully understand - it has not happened. As recently as last August, when the subject was raised, the CIC declined to pursue it, based on the assurance that nothing was likely to happen during this fiscal year.

To make a long story short, of course, events proved otherwise, and in March I found myself facing a vote on the project itself. Given my previous statements, I did not see how I could support it, but it was not an easy vote. In the past few months, I have learned a good deal about the justifica-

tions for this proposal, but this process has produced a number of conflicting results.

On the one hand, I have gained a great deal of respect for the airport commission and the airport manager, who I think are truly trying to work for the interests of Montague as they see it. They found themselves in the very difficult position of having to admit that some of the things they have been telling the town and its representatives for years are simply not true, and I think they have handled themselves extremely well under the circumstances.

But the things they admitted were disturbing. One was that the option of simply refurbishing the existing runway - long cited as one choice that would qualify for the customary federal and state reimbursements - is simply off the table. Over the years, a number of people have commented to me that while they had reservations about extending the runway, they didn't see a problem with fixing the existing one, and the choice between those options seemed likely to spark a real debate. At the eleventh hour, we were told that this debate will never happen because the question is moot. The FAA will only fund a runway extension.

Also disturbing was the admission that even with this project the airport is unlikely to bring any significant economic benefit to the town. The best we can hope for is a gain of perhaps thirty thousand dollars a year over the operating budget (ignoring capital costs), and that's only for the short term and only if everything goes right. Again, for years we've been told that having a viable airport would bring significant economic benefits, but now the airport commission and airport

manager are no longer willing to make that claim.

On the first issue, I think Joe Janikas made some compelling points in his article a few weeks ago, and I won't rehash them except to say that I think the ideal option at this point would be to pursue a waiver of the runway length requirement from the FAA for the reasons he suggested. Unfortunately, I don't think there's any chance of that happening, and I think that's too bad.

The second admission simply reinforces my conviction that the airport does not now and never will provide any real economic benefits to the town of Montague. I never did believe the claims that an improved airport would somehow spark a bonanza, and now it turns out that pretty much no one else does either. Even the current projections of self-sufficiency or small revenue surplus are based on best-case scenarios for both revenues and expenses. Personally, I'm more pessimistic - I think that expenses will likely rise faster than projected, due to everything from security and safety concerns to the increased activity that the improvements hope to encourage. If the town stays in the airport business, I think we are looking at tying up hundreds of acres of land and thousands of dollars of tax money simply to permit a few people to enjoy their hobby. For a town that has perennial trouble finding the funds for its other operating needs, I don't see how this makes any sense.

I said at the outset that I believe that Montague needs to keep the airport open for the next twenty years or so, but I think we need to seriously consider what should happen after that. My own feeling is that the best plan for the town would be

to close it down and convert it to a variety of uses, ranging from industrial development to open space or nature preserve. This may not be easy - I've heard the arguments against it - but it might not be as hard as we've been led to believe. The counter arguments have had a way of changing over time, and they are made by people who basically want to keep the airport open. I don't believe this option has yet been fully explored.

But I also don't think it's worthwhile looking into something like that unless most of the town thinks it's a good idea. In my opinion the biggest problem with the current situation is that we simply don't know how people feel about the airport. I know from personal experience that some are in favor and some are against it, but that doesn't tell me how the majority feels. I'm very disappointed that we are forced to make a decision on a major project there without having had any chance to take the town's pulse on this question. Whatever the decision on

May 6th, I think our municipal leaders should plan to provide some forum at which people can express their opinions. I think there are various possibilities for a format, but I'd suggest that a warrant article (or several articles) brought before a special town meeting might be appropriate. This could be preceded by plenty of time for public forums and citizen comment, so that everyone can have their say. If the result is a vote endorsing the airport, then that's fine with me, but if it isn't then I think we can start looking into what our options are. Either way, I think we'll all be better off.

Mike Naughton has been a Montague resident since 1974 and is a past member of the Finance Committee. He currently serves on the Capital Improvements Committee and as a town meeting member. He can be reached at mjnaught@crocker.com or by looking in the telephone book. The opinions expressed here are his own and are not necessarily shared by anyone else in town government.

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GUEST EDITORIAL

Rising Tide in Mexico

With the debate about illegal immigration from Mexico cresting and hundreds of thousands of Hispanics and their allies marching in the streets of American cities, Chuck Collins provides a timely look at conditions in Mexico, and the possibility that a populist presidential candidate may change the economic conditions that are fueling the exodus.

BY CHUCK COLLINS

OAXACA - In the southern state of Oaxaca, Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, or "AMLO," as he is affectionately known across Mexico, is approaching the podium to speak to 13,000 supporters. But first, he must be cleansed. A short medicine woman, wearing the traditional Mixtec dress, swats him with green branches and perfumes

him with copal incense. Lopez Obrador stands respectfully still with his eyes closed while assembled crowds howl with delight.

The Mexican presidential election is in full swing, and Lopez Obrador is one of three major candidates running for the office. Barring the possibility of massive electoral fraud, external meddling or assassination, AMLO will likely become the next president of Mexico.

But these are not unthinkable 'what ifs.' In 1988, by all accounts, massive fraud denied candidate Cuauhtemoc Cardenas the presidency. And in 1994, the popular leading candidate Luis Donaldo Colosio was gunned down in the streets of Tijuana in



Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador

a murder that has never been solved.

Mexicans are all too aware of the seamy history of direct or covert U.S. involvement in shaping or overturning the outcome of elections throughout Latin America. President Bush, in advance of last week's Cancun summit meeting, met with Mexican journalists and pledged that the United States would not be involved in the Mexican election and would work with the choice of the Mexican people. But U.S. progressives should remain vigilant. It's been many decades since a leftist president was tolerated on our southern border.

Mexicans go to the polls on July 2nd to elect their next president to a constitutionally mandated single six-year term, along with 628 members of Congress. Six years ago voters elected Vicente Fox, the first president in 71 years who was not from the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), Mexico's traditional ruling party. The 2000 election was largely free of irregularities, thanks in large part to Mexico's independent and well-resourced Federal Election Institute.

Fox, who ran as the candi-

date of the conservative National Action Party, or PAN, as it is called in Spanish, remains personally popular.

While his legislative agenda has been thwarted in the PRI dominated legislature, Mexicans give him credit for serving honorably and not personally looting the treasury, as many of his predecessors have.

Fox has vocally supported Bush administration free trade policies such as the proposed Free Trade Area of the Americas -- earning the accusation of being a "lapdog of empire" from Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez. At the same time, Fox has distanced himself from U.S. policies in Iraq and been openly critical of U.S. immigration policy and proposals to build a wall along the U.S.- Mexican border.

Running for president as the nominee on the PAN ticket is 44-year-old Felipe Calderon, who served in Fox's cabinet as energy secretary. Calderon's candidacy has sputtered, and he recently removed his top campaign staff and changed his campaign slogan for the third time.

The PRI candidate is Roberto Madrazo, a long-time fixture of national politics. Madrazo grew up in the governor's mansion in the oil-rich gulf state of Tabasco, where his father also served as governor and later as PRI party president, positions his son would later hold. Madrazo inherits the remarkable PRI political machinery, with its legendary get-out-the-vote and steal-the-vote capacity. While claiming that he represents a reformed and chastened PRI, his campaign has been hampered by lackluster cam-

paing and tainted by his reputation for bullying and arm-twisting.

Mexicans wonder out loud about how Madrazo could be so rich after two generations of public service. Internet savvy Mexicans have been circulating the Google Earth coordinates (19 14' 22.79" N, 99 10' 16.50" W) to view Madrazo's 14,000-square-foot home on a 3.6-acre estate overlooking Mexico City, one of five houses and multiple sports cars that Madrazo reported on his financial disclosure statements.

Madrazo's wealth is a startling contrast to austere Lopez Obrador, a widower who lives in a modest apartment and who drove his own compact car to work when he served as mayor of Mexico City, the continent's largest metropolis. While Madrazo grew up in a life of privilege, AMLO is the son of a shopkeeper who worked in his youth as an advocate for indigenous groups in Tabasco. In the 1980s, he led efforts to successfully force the oil industry to pay reparations for damaging indigenous lands.

Polls show Lopez Obrador opening up a lead over his rival candidates. A mid-March poll conducted by El Universal showed Obrador as the preference of 36 percent of voters, with Calderon at 27 percent and Madrazo at 14 percent.

Meanwhile Subcommander Marcos, the visible leader of the Zapatista rebellion in the state of Chiapas, has launched the "other campaign."

He is traveling to all the states of Mexico to raise issues left out of the main campaigns. He accuses the three major party candidates of being all the same -- and predicts Lopez Obrador will be unable to fulfill

see MEXICO pg 7

MCTV Schedule

Channel 17

Friday, April 21

Eagle All Day From 6:00 AM
7:00 PM GMEF GALA Interview
7:30 PM Montague Update
8:30 PM From the Discovery Center

Saturday, April 22

Eagle All Day From 6:00 AM
7:00 PM GMRSD School Committee Meeting 4/11/06
9:00 PM GMEF Gala Interview
9:30 PM Montague Update
10:30 PM From the MCTV Archives

Sunday, April 23

Eagle All Day From 6:00 AM
7:00 PM Montague Selectboard Meeting 4/18/06
9:00 PM Montague Update
10:00 PM From the Discovery Center
11:30 PM From the MCTV Archives

Monday, April 24

Eagle All Day From 6:00 AM

7:00 PM Montague Selectboard LIVE

9:30 PM GMEF Gala Interview
10:00 PM From the MCTV Archives

Tuesday, April 25

Eagle All Day From 6:00 AM
7:00 PM GMRSD Meeting LIVE
9:30 PM Montague Special Town Meeting 3/23/06

Wednesday, April 26

Eagle All Day From 6:00 AM
7:00 PM Montague Selectboard 4/24/06
9:30 PM Montague Update
10:30 PM From the MCTV Archives

Thursday, April 27

Eagle All Day From 6:00 AM
7:00 PM GMRSD Meeting 4/25/06
9:30 PM GaiaVision 10:30 PM Brick House TV

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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL-NEW SALEM SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Swift River Seeks 8% Budget Hike

BY DOUG TURNER

NEW SALEM - A recent public hearing on the Swift River School budget for fiscal year 2007 was, as the wise Yogi once said, "Deja vu all over again."

Once again there was the "bare bones" reference regarding the level of service the school wished to maintain, the same language used in last year's overview, repeated by retiring superintendent Linda Driscoll in her presentation to the school committee on April 6th.

Once again there are no increases in staffing.

Once again there was reference to the rising costs of energy and insurance.

However, this year there are a few changes.

The \$1,581,991 budget

includes an 8% increase of \$116,658.

In past years the school has been able to rely on a hefty helping of district reserve assistance. This year the recommendation is that no more than \$40,000 be deducted from revolving accounts, in order to keep some money on hand for operating costs. A \$20,000 "Pot Hole" grant awarded earlier this year helped to boost that figure.

The overview warns that the district reserve contribution could drop as low as \$15,000 in future years, without some other sources of revenue.

A \$14,000 deficit is predicted in school choice support, though that amount too could change, since it relies upon student enrollment.

Chapter 70 funding has

increased by about \$28,000 over last year, however it's still \$114,000 less than the state gave to the school in 2003.

The school's enrollment has decreased by 25 students since 2003, but "inflation, energy costs and insurance have increased immeasurably. Therefore over the last four years many cuts in personnel as well as other budget lines have been made."

Despite the increase, the 2007 budget is still \$1,857 less than the school's 2003 budget.

Though there is no addition of staff at the school, cost of living allowance (COLA) and step increases, and compensation, including health insurance and retirement, account for more than \$108,000 of the total budget growth.

The state mandated minimum contribution for both New Salem and Wendell has been reduced, New Salem's by \$17,346, from \$352,618 to \$335,572 and Wendell's by \$23,700 from \$225,610 to \$201,910.

But the school will require additional contributions from both towns, totaling \$388,078.

With New Salem having 58.7% of the student enrollment it puts the town's share of the additional funding at \$227,802. New Salem's total contribution this year will be \$68,984 above the town's contribution last year of \$494,090.

Wendell's 41.3% works out to an additional \$160,276, a \$28,552 increase over the town's total contribution of \$333,634 in 2006.

The district has negotiated for a one-time five-year extension with Kuzmekus Transportation for bus service. The cost to New Salem is \$91,940, and Wendell will pay \$129,900.

A joint committee to study the Swift River School funding formula, in the contract between the two towns, will meet Thursday, April 20th at 7 p.m. at the school. Local state representative Stephen Kulik (D-Worthington) is scheduled to attend.

Kulik has been pushing the state legislature for 100% reimbursement of transportation costs for regional schools.

The next meeting of the New Salem/Wendell School Committee is Thursday, May 4th at 7 p.m.

MEXICO

continued from pg 6 his promises.

U.S. analysts want to cast Lopez Obrador as part of the leftist tide sweeping Latin America, with the recent election of Evo Morales in Bolivia and Michelle Bachelet in Chile. But Lopez Obrador quickly dismisses any comparisons to trends or leaders in other countries. His role model, as he cautiously points out, is Mexico's beloved Benito Juarez, the Zapotec Indian from humble origins who as president unified the country during a time of external aggression and repelled French invaders in 1867.

Lopez Obrador's outsider and independent status was confirmed in April 2005 when national legislators from the PRI and PAN tried to prevent him from running, on a minor legal matter. But their tactic backfired as millions of Mexicans took to the streets to support AMLO, forcing opposition party leaders to back off. AMLO has polled as the presidential front-runner ever since.

Unlike the other two candi-

dates, AMLO's campaign doesn't bus in banner-waving supporters, and provide free food and t-shirts to bolster his campaign appearances. His popularity is rooted in his plainspoken commitment to address the growing inequalities of Mexican society. His campaign slogan, "For the Good of All, First the Poor," powerfully connects with the half of Mexico's population who live in poverty and feel forgotten.

From the outside, Mexico appears to have had a decade of stability. But the reality is that poverty and insecurity are rising. Real wages have plummeted, and many communities in rural Mexico are now ghost towns after being devastated by the loss of 2 million agricultural jobs. Mexican farmers, after NAFTA, are unable to compete with the imports flowing in from subsidized U.S. farmers, particularly in corn.

A Lopez Obrador presidency would likely lead to some significant changes in U.S. - Mexican relations. For instance, AMLO would not, like President Fox, carry the banner of U.S. free

trade policies at meetings throughout Latin America. In fact, one of AMLO's "50 promises" calls for a renegotiation of the provisions of the 1994 North American Free Trade Agreement which deal with the importation of corn and beans.

AMLO would also reverse the drift, initiated under President Fox, of privatizing the public sector and opening up Mexican oil production to foreign investment. AMLO has made some business leaders nervous by his proposal to make public the beneficiaries of the 1994 bank bailout.

As Lopez Obrador stays in the lead, the attacks from other campaigns are turning more vicious. Both Madrazo and Calderon attack AMLO as an authoritarian and messianic populist. Calderon told a recent rally that Lopez Obrador was an enemy of foreign investment. "I'm the one who can make an economy grow," Calderon claimed. "All he knows how to do is chase jobs away."

Calderon's campaign has recently been running television spots to link Lopez Obrador to the left revolutionary politics of

Venezuela's President Chavez. The ads show clips of both Chavez and AMLO criticizing President Fox and imply they are working together. AMLO denounces these ads, pointing out that he has never met or spoken with Chavez. We should expect the attacks to increase and should be vigilant for signs of U.S. involvement. After all, the stakes for U.S. corporate elites are high.

If there is a tide sweeping Latin America, it involves citizens electing leaders who will no

longer subordinate the health and economic security of their people to a Washington-driven corporate free trade agenda. Mexico is about to join their ranks.

Chuck Collins is the co-author of "Economic Apartheid in America: A Primer on Economic Inequality and Insecurity" (New Press). He is a former resident of Turners Falls. Collins lives in Oaxaca, Mexico, and is covering the Mexican election.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Correction and Clarification

I'm writing to correct and clarify information from your article last week titled "Elementary Study Group Discussed."

First, the correction. You reported that, "The [random sample, community survey] data showed that the most widely favored configuration would be a one-school model with full consolidation" when, in fact, the survey didn't address that question. (The highest ranked configuration in the survey was "K-6", without specifying the number of schools.) The survey found that a "Three Elementary School" model - two in Montague, one in Gill - was the most popular by a 30% margin - while the "One School" model was the 3rd highest ranked alternative, behind the "Two School" model. The results of the subsequent matrix application exercise also rated the "Three School" model as the best, a full four times as advantageous as the "One School" alternative, which came in 2nd. Never in this process was the "One School" model favored above all others.

As for the clarifications, there were a couple of "sound bites" in Patrick's

report that might mislead your readers.

The first clarification pertains to Patrick's report that one school committee member suggested that "the central theme of education" was lost in the study because cost effectiveness was valued as highly as educational concerns. While the quote was completely accurate, that school committee member was absolutely wrong. In the first evaluation, cost effectiveness was one of six general criteria categories. While, one on one, each category was regarded as equal in importance to the others, only one category dealt with "finances" while there were five categories that pertained strictly to "educational issues": School climate; School Quality; Quality of Education; Staff Learning Community and; Research.

The second clarification deals with the possible misconception that there wasn't significant public participation in the process: "I had understood that public involvement was important here, when and where will this happen?" (Jeanne Weintraub, Montague Center resident). As I understood her question, Jeanne was refer-

ring specifically to the matrix development and application phase of the process and not the process as a whole (correct me if I'm wrong, Jeanne). Indeed, the ESG had no fewer than 16 members from the local communities. For that matter, Jeanne herself, while not a member of the ESG, was always welcome at our meetings and, like all attendees, was encouraged to participate fully, which, to her credit, she did! Furthermore, the first six months of ESG meetings were videotaped and televised on the local public access channel for the expressed purpose of facilitating public participation.

This is a monumentally complicated process that, as indicated above, has eluded school committee members and the public, alike. Rather, I commend *the Reporter* - and its reporters - for filling the information void left by the "mainstream" media and for giving me the opportunity to address the community directly on an issue of such monumental impact.

- Mike Langknecht,
GMRSD School
Committee, past Co-
Chair of the ESG

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Vehicles Containing Youths

Wednesday, 4-12

9:10 p.m. Suspicious motor vehicle in the vacant Bar-B-Que business lot. Officer advised same to move along out to the area.

Thursday 4-13

1:08 a.m. Breaking and entering to a Main Road business. Officer sent to scene secured the business, and report taken. Matter is under investigation

10:45 a.m. Officer checked the area of the Gill - Montague bridge for a report of illegal dumping of trash and tires. No such items found in the area.

Friday 4-14

4:15 a.m. Officer called out to the Mountain Road area for a reported campfire. An officer was requested by the fire department, as the fire was illegally set by youths.

10:20 a.m. Officer called to a Main Road residence for a reported out of control brush fire. Resident was advised of his options to put out the fire.

12:30 p.m. Report of a female thrown out of a moving vehicle on Route 10. Officers from Erving, Gill,

Northfield, and Bernardston responded. No arrests made, as victim did not want any reports filed. Medical attention also refused.

Saturday 4-15

2:15 p.m. Mutual aid to Montague, 23 L Street for a reported fight in progress. Fight was verbal, no action required.

2:45 p.m. Called to a French King Highway residence for a reported out of control brush fire. Fire department notified of same.

10:10 p.m. To Riverside area residence for a reported break and entering. Officer sent and incident is under investigation.

11:20 p.m. Report of a large bonfire in field off of Pisgah Mountain Road. Unable to locate fire or subjects.

Sunday 4-16

12:55 a.m. French King Highway residence reported loud noise. Officer was sent, problem resolved.

1:40 a.m. To French King Bridge area to assist Erving with two motor vehicles, containing youths. All parties sent on their way.

2:00 p.m. Report of a

dead deer on Route 2 near the long rest stop. Officers left message for Mass Highway to remove same.

Monday 4-17

1:30 p.m. Medical assist on Lyons Hill Road.

10:40 a.m. Report of a past breaking and entering at a Myrtle Street residence. Under investigation.

4:10 p.m. Oven fire at a North Cross Road residence. Officer arrived and shut down the circuit breaker. Fire department arrived and took care of the rest.

Tuesday 4-18

12:40 a.m. Observed narcotics violation inside of a vehicle off of Turners Falls Road, under investigation

1:35 p.m. Reported cows and horses loose on West Gill Road. Officer sent; no animals present on arrival. Searched entire length of road.

3:29 p.m. Assisted Erving police with juvenile issue on French King Highway near the bowling alley.

4:40 p.m. Received report of a damaged windshield from a golf ball on West Gill Road, report taken.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Bench Warrant

Friday 4-14

5:26 p.m. [redacted] was arrested at the Exxon on 3rd Street on a default warrant.

Saturday 4-15

4:15 a.m. Report of a suspicious car on Highland Street.

[redacted] was arrested and charged with marked lanes violations, speeding, and operating under the influence of liquor.

3:30 p.m. After a motor vehicle stop on South High Street, [redacted] was arrested on a default warrant.

Sunday 4-16

10:47 p.m. Report of an unwanted person at an Avenue A address. Subject placed in protective custody.

Monday 4-17

7:38 p.m. Walk-in to station reported a domestic disturbance at an L Street address. [redacted] was arrest-

ed and charged with assault and battery and vandalizing property.

Tuesday 4-18

7:05 p.m. Report of a larceny at a Central Street address. Solar lights were stolen. Report taken.

8:00 p.m. Report of a larceny at McCarthy Funeral Home on Prospect Street. A bench was stolen. Caller advised that an officer had found several benches in the road and had moved them to the sidewalk. One of the benches could be theirs.

Meeting for Residents of Precinct 4
Wednesday, April 26, 6 - 8 p.m.
Great Falls Discovery Center,
Great Hall

Meet your precinct and town meeting members. Voice general concerns or talk to Mike Sweeney of the Airport Commission about proposed airport runway expansion.

Free and open to the general public.
For info, contact Anne Jemas at 863-2730.

Wild Edible Plants of Massachusetts
Montague Center School
Tuesday, April 25
7:00 to 8:30.

Free and open to the public
This program is supported in part by a grant from the Montague Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

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Lady Killigrew For Sale as Founders Move On

BY KATHLEEN LITCHFIELD
MONTAGUE CENTER -

WANTED: Someone who loves Montague, knows the Bookmill and wants to own a thriving small business in a beautiful historic building with a scenic view.

Finding the right people to purchase the Lady Killigrew Café is important to Matthew Latkiewicz, 27, and Sarah Reid, 30, who founded the popular European-style café inside the Montague Bookmill complex two and a half years ago. They are ready to move on.

"We're not closing," said Latkiewicz. We want the Lady Killigrew to continue, and it will continue. Personally, Sarah and I never wanted to be long-term restaurant owners. We opened the café not because we had a dream about owning a restaurant but because we loved this old building and we loved the com-

munity," said Latkiewicz. "We felt the community could really benefit from this type of food service and we were in a position to do it. Now that the café is financially sound, stable and seemingly popular, it seemed like a good time to pass the baton."

The Lady Killigrew Café is listed with Mark Abramson of Benchmark & Pratt Real Estate and is on the market for \$78,000. No potential buyers have yet expressed interest. Until a suitable buyer is found, Latkiewicz and Reid plan to continue operating the café, offering their delicious array of panini sandwich-



Matthew Latkiewicz and Sarah Reid, founders of the Lady Killigrew Café

es, salads and lunch and dinner offerings (highlighting local ingredients), as well as beer and wine.

"We love this community. We're young. We live in town and we plan to stay, and hopefully hang out at the Lady Killigrew Café," said Latkiewicz, who grew up in Texas and London, and now plans to return to his writing, perhaps penning a mem-

oir about establishing the Lady Killigrew Café. He might even start an antique letterpress business with a friend.

"There are a lot of things we put on hold to do this," he said.

Reid, who grew up in Amherst and owns a house in Montague, plans to spend more time with her 12-year-old son, as the restaurant schedule can be challenging at times to family life, Latkiewicz explained.

The two met shortly after Latkiewicz graduated from Hampshire College and moved to Montague Center in order to work at the Bookmill. "I was just smitten; it was so beautiful, and it had a spirit in it that was interesting, artistic and vibrant. This place has been part of my life

ever since," he said.

The most rewarding thing about running the café for the young couple, partners in business and in life, has been the supportive community that quickly formed around the café.

"It's been an honor to be part of the Bookmill, as well as the small business community in Franklin County," said Latkiewicz, who is thrilled to be a member of that revitalized village life.

Reid shared similar thoughts. "The overwhelming sense of appreciation and true love of what we have created (is most rewarding)," she said. "It's amazing that our vision was something that a lot of people could also love."

Potential buyers interested in the Lady Killigrew Café should contact Abramson at 413-774-1220.

POLICY

continued from pg 1

dim after 600-700 hours of use."

The selectboard has adopted a new tag sale policy for Montague. It is no longer necessary to apply for permits in person at town hall, and the fee for permits has been waived, but permits are still required, and can be obtained by phone by calling the selectboard office at 863-3200 x 201. Permits for tag sales must be obtained by 3:00 p.m. on the Friday prior to the tag sale. Applicants will be asked to provide their names as well as the dates and locations of all tag sales, and the Montague police will be provided with a master list each week. A maximum of three tag sales are allowed per calendar year for each household or organization. Each tag sale can last for a maximum of three days. While there are no fees for the permits, failure to follow the new guidelines will result

in a \$10 fine for the first offense, and \$20 for each additional offense.

Construction at Peskeomskut Park will cause a change in venue for the annual Farmers Market sometime this season. Opening day, May 3rd, will be held as usual at Peskeomskut Park, across 6th Street from the post office in Turners Falls. Coordinator Suzette Snow-Cobb requested permission to move the market once construction starts at the park, which is due to be completely renovated, with new walkways and plantings, a tot lot, and a band shell this year. Sometime in May or June, the Farmers Market will move to its original location, on the corner of 2nd and Avenue A, (in front of the old Cumberland Farms building) for the remainder of the season. The market will run every Wednesday until October and will feature a variety of farm fresh

produce in season, annuals and perennials, grass-fed local beef, maple products, and baked goods for sale. New vendors are encouraged to call Suzette at 863-9206.

"We would like to have music once a month at the Farmers Market this year," said Snow-Cobb.

Veronica Phaneuf of Montague Center and Barbara Stewart of Lake Pleasant were recently added to the multi-purpose facility committee. John Zellmann of Turners Falls was added to the police station committee. Karla Bourdeaux was appointed to the Gill-Montague Council on Aging, from three applicants.

"All three looked to be highly useful to the committee," said selectboard member Pat Allen.

The annual town meeting is scheduled for Saturday, May 6th, at the Turners Falls High School Auditorium. A special town meeting will precede the annual at 8:30 a.m.

Town of Erving Water Bills Due by May 15th

BY MARGARET SULLIVAN
ERVING - Water bills for the period of October, 2005 through March, 2006 were mailed on April 13th, 2006 and are due by May 15th, 2006.

Any homeowner in Erving who

receives public water but did not receive a water bill, should contact the Water Collector's office at 413-422-2800, ext. 114. Office hours are Monday and Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The office will also be open Monday evenings from 6 to 8:30 p.m. now through May 15th when bills are due.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Hot Pursuit

Thursday 4-13

12:20 a.m. Assisted Montague police in pursuit of a motorcycle on Millers Falls Road. Motorcycle crashed on Pratt Street into guardrail. Subject fled into woods on foot. Assisted Montague police with K-9 search of nearby woods. Subject not located. Handled by Montague police.

Friday 4-14

10:09 p.m. After a motor vehicle stop on Route 2, a criminal application was issued to [redacted] for speeding, failure to inspect, and operating after suspension.

Saturday 4-15

2:00 p.m. Assisted Montague police with domestic disturbance on L Street in Turners.

2:45 p.m. Assisted Gill police with out of control brush fire on French King Highway. Fire department on scene.

Monday 4-17

10:45 a.m. Officer spoke with youths on Pratt Street riding bikes without helmets.

Tuesday 4-18

3:29 p.m. Report of a runaway in the area of the Smokin' Hippo. Youth located and returned.

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Turners Falls High School Third Quarter Honor Roll

GRADE 12

First Honors

Kara Banash
Colby Bergeron
Christopher Bourbeau
Tyler Deruiter
Matthew Felton
Vera Foley
Peter Griswold
Ian Herzig
Kimberly Lastowski
Stacy Leveille
Maxwell Mcauliffe
Adam McCarthy
Sara Mulligan
Allison Murphy
Brianna Pecor
Anna Perry
Liya Samokhina
Nicole Siano
Anna Truckey
Nathan Underwood

Katelin Bailey

Michael Bartos
Shanna Clark
Nichelle Cocco
Nicole Couture
Michelle Dame
Julianna Felton
Alysia Galbraith
Richard Gallagher
Benjamin Garber
Jason Grimard
Jenna Lapachinski
Daniel Leveille
Jesse Lucas
Raymond Perkins
Julianne Rosewarne
William Shattuck IV
Valeriya Shumilova
Christopher Sicard
Lauren Tela
Haley Trenholm
Lauryn Zellmann

GRADE 10

First Honors

Alix Ackerman
Lara Ames
Katie Christenson
Abbey Daniel-Green
Amanda Golembeski
Stephanie Joly
Colby Lavin
Corey Leveille
Amber Marion

Kyle Pelis

Grade 10

Third Honors

Charles Peterson
Eliza Santiago-Gingras
Devin Smith
Alexander Stevens
Jeffrey Tela
Courtney Wells

GRADE 9

First Honors

Amy Baxter
David Bennett
Samuel Colton
Theodore Dunbar
Nadezhda Filobokova
Joshua Gammon
Jodi Hallett
Nicholas Imbimbo
Cherie-Lee Nash
Charlotte Parody
Sara Pease
Olga Samokhina
Nicholas Skarzynski
Jeremiah Wawrzyniak
Lindsey Wilson
Samantha Wondoloski

GRADE 9

Second Honors

Emma Banning
Leah Booker
Julianna Coyle
Adam Felton
Alan Fish
Kimberlee Fritz
Christopher Humphrey
Susanna Khasonova
Angela Marguet
Kimberly Nelson

GRADE 9

Third Honors

Joseph Auger
Benjamin Banash
Brandon Breault
Ashley Costa
Nicole Dubay
Joseph Gaida
Tranae Gallagher
Amber Henry
Erin Kelley
Amanda Lovett
Ethan Reipold
Erika Romashka
Shelby Sayer
Chad Thome
Kevin Wegiel
Thomas Willard

GRADE 12

Second Honors

Christine Annear
Melissa Arial
Ryenne Beaulieu
Nathan Davies
Emily Lapean
Bryce Mainville
Carleigh Niedzwiedz
Abigail O'Gara
Katelyn Otto
Kenneth Pleasant
Kyle Powling
Rebecca Rollins
Travis St. Peter

GRADE 11

Second Honors

Krista Bascom
Rebec Bonnette-Souther
James Deputy
Elizabeth Downer
Elizabeth Giknis
Chelsea Isles
Lauren Sena
Christopher Seymour
Samantha Willard

GRADE 11

Third Honors

Katlin Bassett
Adam Bastarache
Kayleigh Cummings
Timothy Dowd
Anne Fish
Mitchell Guevin
Chris Krzykowski
Katelyn Mailloux
Scott Rau
Aimee Shattuck
Ashleigh St. Peter
Timothy Stockwell

GRADE 12

Third Honors

Julie Avery
Jessica Bednarski
Allen Cloutier
Megan Mclaughlin
Julio Ruiz
Joseph Therien
Colin York

GRADE 11

FIRST HONORS

Laura Babij

HONORED

continued from pg 1

Marion (Harrison) Herrick, 96, was born and raised in Maquoketa, a farming center in the eastern part of Iowa. Her father and his brother John owned a furniture store and funeral parlor that had been founded by Marion's great-grandfather in 1851. Marion earned her B.A. in history at Cornell College, a

and became an ardent patron and supporter of the Wendell Free Library. She became a trustee of the library in the late 1960s, a position she held for 25 years, when she became the first and

tions for the library grew out of her life-long commitment to education. No task was too large or too small for her to tackle as evidenced in the town report of 1977 which records she 'beauti-



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARGO CULLEY

Marion Herrick and Dilman J. Doland, on Mrs. H's birthday 2003

small liberal arts college in Mount Vernon, IA. She went on to get a Master's Degree at the University of Iowa. She then taught history at Maquoketa High School and Junior College. She resigned in 1947 to marry Louis Herrick who had been her French professor at Cornell College. He had grown up in Western Massachusetts, was a graduate of Amherst College, and wanted to return to the area when he retired. Marion was happy to oblige. They settled in Wendell in the 1940s where Marion embraced her new life as a New Englander with an enthusiasm she has never lost.

Living in one of the oldest houses in town (built in the 1780s) on the edge of the Wendell State Forest, Marion Herrick passionately loved the natural world around her. She also loved books and ideas

only Trustee Emerita. In 1991 Mrs. Herrick was named Wendell's first Citizen of the Year in acknowledgment of her extraordinary contributions to the town. After reviewing many years of town reports, librarian Rosie Heidkamp writes:

"The year Mrs. Herrick became a trustee (1966), the library's annual budget was \$356. Her many years of generous service witnessed the growth of the vibrant library we know today. Through the late 60s and 70s the library saw dramatic growth in circulation, the purchase and donation of many books, an increase in library hours, the physical refurbishing of the building, the cataloging of the collection, the beginning of regional bookmobile service, the receipt of state aid and grant monies, and an array of public programming. Mrs. Herrick's ambi-

fied' the front lawn of the library by planting forsythia and iris. No citizen of Wendell has been such a library booster and patron over so many years as Marion Herrick. We are delighted to have the opportunity to honor her appropriately in the new library."

When told, at her 96th birthday party, of the trustees' hope to honor her in the new library, Mrs. Herrick remarked, "Well, I've always loved Wendell and I've always loved books and here they come together."

Donations to the Herrick Fund in any amount, which will be matched dollar-for-dollar and will be tax deductible, may be made in checks written to the Friends of the Wendell Free Library (and marked "Herrick Fund") and sent to the Friends at P.O. Box 133, Wendell, MA 01379.



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It is difficult
to get the news from poems
yet men die miserably every day
for lack
of what is found there.

- William Carlos Williams

Readers are invited to send poems to the
Montague Reporter at 24 3rd Street, Turners
Falls, MA 01376;
or reporter-poems@montaguema.net

Poetry Page edited by
Christopher Sawyer-Laucanno
& Chris Janke
designed by Boysen Hodgson

SQUIRREL KING SPEAKS

Even the safest among you
are considered food—
they'll rout your middens
topple your dreys
train their dogs upon you
and divinate from your innards.

They feel burdened
by the problem you represent.
They'll install bafflers
and attic defenses.
Resourceful and scurrilous,
they'll pick their teeth with your
bones.

And we have turnpelt among us,
scoundrels among the scamperers.
There are the radiocollared,
the pets, the advisors,
the sketched, the anatomized.
The wheel inside the cage.

We do not revolt,
we hightail, we distract;
our fatal falls are few.
We have no collective noun,
we the scatterhoarders,
the BB-scarred,

the suppurating victims
of the warbles of the squirrel bot fly,

the scrabblers in the sorry late snow;
we starvelings whose own teeth
pierce our skulls
when there is nothing else left to eat,

we rely on olfaction and memory
not good sense or group consensus.
Yet, as I sway here atop this conifer,
hidden from buzzards by only my tail,
surveying our suckling pups,
my gray comrades coursing

the arborways, plotting
flight paths to the feeder,
I feel a twinge of significance.
We will scurry over their ruins.
We will stash our acorns
in the nostrils of their monuments.

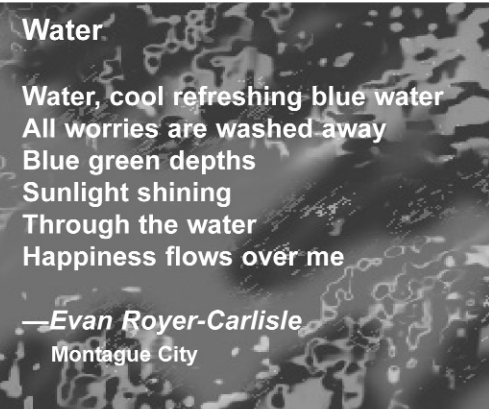
Just wait, soon they'll be stumbling
on wooden legs and we'll have
gnawed
their crutches to twigs. Just wait,
they'll beg us for crumbs
from the larders they've squandered
or for our pinecones, sticky with the
pitch of oblivion.

—Corwin Ericson
Wendell

Calling all student poets, artists (and teachers) In keeping with the tradition of publishing only student poems and art work in the June issue of the Poetry Page, The Montague Reporter is once again seeking submissions from student poets and artists in grades K-12 who attend school in our circulation areas (Montague, Gill, Erving and Wendell). **Please send your best work by the end of May to the address at left.** We're looking forward to publishing your work!

Attention Poets in Montague, Erving, Gill and Wendell The Montague Reporter Poetry Page needs your best work. Please send your best poems to <reporter-poems@montague.net> or by snail mail to The Montague Reporter, 24 Third Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376. We know you're out there; now we know that you know we're out here. So stop hiding behind your desk or your tractor or your dashboard and send us some work. **We think it's time you got discovered!**

Chris & Chris - Poetry Page Editors



To Cross Over

Grand conveyance, rails too narrow to cross over
Ride the red wheelbarrow to cross over

Safety-pins fasten the falling from falling
Prick each finger with sorrow to cross over

Mind demands the slow strength of girders
Body a bridge of one arrow to cross over

Eagle-wings stir what they shadow to stillness
Follow the flight of a sparrow to cross over

Pain shared with friends is pain divided
Reclaim the wounds they borrow to cross over

Love runs a river between relevant shores
Staunch the flow with yarrow to cross over

Density grounds its bearers in matter
Hollow the bones of their marrow to cross over

Traveler, where you're headed is a shifting dune
It lies too smooth tomorrow to cross over

—Kanika Agrawal
New York City

Treasured Gift

"Just take the one that you like the best,"
I was invited by my friend.
And one seemed tall among the rest
because the top part had no end.
The first time through I knew my choice
of two tree trunks within a frame.
Lest words affront their muted voice
I stayed with "Redwoods" * as their name.

Thanks to all who submitted poetry for this issue. We welcome new submissions every month. The Poetry Page will return in May.

To Stroll Down the Avenue

Why shouldn't we stroll down the avenue?
Sleeves rolled to capture the foggy dew,
cigarettes glowing orange in the night.

Why shouldn't we stroll down the avenue?
Wrapped arm to arm within plain view
of the working men hanging off railings.

The jigsaw-bricks weave into the tenements,
window lights echoing laughter and laments,
our leather shoes clapping the cold cement,
and in between their sound our sentiments,
words unspoken, nearly unbound, nearly aloud,
but restrained in the binds of reticence.

Why shouldn't we shout up to the bridge,
voices echoing along the stony ridge,
sweet nothings amplified upon the rocks?

(The black river bears witness to our words.)

I discern your eyes at the edge of my sight,
in the dark, their blue hue only black on white.
And at the river's edge you hold my jacket tight,
seeking comfort from the breeze, seeking a respite,
from a chill rising up and dancing across your knees,
and I pull you in closer than I otherwise might.

(The black river bears witness to our vice.)

But what circumstance begets circumstance?
What breeze turns your glance,
from the boys in the diner, towards mine?

Boys - but for their manly follies,
stories over booze, their bragging rights.
Men - but for their boyish fears,
tucked behind muscles, kept guarded tight.

(at the river's edge you hold my jacket tight)

But what word affords a word?
What utterance of mine, unsaid and unheard,
would bring a like word from you?

(sweet nothings amplified upon the rocks)

The fears of a man are those of a boy,
and more, kept nestled in his mind.
Such fears are mine, too, nestled behind
a wrinkled brow, searching the sublime -
your thought - waiting for you to employ
your charm, upon the man (and boy).

So I wait for circumstance and a word.

—R. J. DiDonato
Wendell

Why My Bones Hate the Ice

This is why my bones hate the ice:
Ten years ago I stumbled across that white mirror
and snapped my foot off.
I could hear the ankle in my boot
crunching like a mouthful of ice.
I rolled through traffic to the curb,
and the cars stopped, their drivers afraid
to crush a fender on the Bigfoot
flushed from hiding in the woods.
Later, my bones spoke to me
through morphine, the great translator:

That could have been your head,
another Mexican sugar skull
on the Day of the Dead
with your name scripted in red letters.
You are nothing but a Neanderthal
and this is the new Ice Age.
Your bones will stack up
with all the other bones
below the ice of ten thousand years.
Your foot is mummified, wrapped
for the voyage to the next world,
and your ancestors are waving their hats at you
from the shore in a country where ice does not exist,
calling to you the way your grandfather did:
Ven aca. Come here.

Now I need my cane to walk a trail in the woods.
The brook is frozen, braiding the light at noon,
and the black water pulses through cracks in white,
where the ice is a lost civilization of fountains and catacombs,
the fangs of saber-toothed tigers, a coral reef of glass.
That's why my bones love the ice.

— Martín Espada
Amherst

Raymond DiDonato resides in
Wendell with his wife and children.

Corwin Ericson lives in Wendell,
Massachusetts, and works as the
managing editor of the

CONTRIBUTOR'S NOTES:

Massachusetts Review. His work
appears in *Harper's*, *the Believer*,
Best American Erotica, *Slope*,
and elsewhere.

Martín Espada's eighth poetry
collection, *The Republic of
Poetry*, is forthcoming from WW
Norton. Espada teaches in the
English Department at UMass
Amherst, and was recently
named a Guggenheim Fellow.

His favorite bookstore is the
Book Mill.

Kathryn Flagg, a 60-year resi-
dent of Millers Falls, now resides
with her son and family in
Allendale, New Jersey.

Evan Royer-Carlisle, age 13, is
a resident of Montague City and
a student at the Greenfield
Center School.

Kanika Agrawal a graduate
of MIT, is currently a student in
the MFA Program in Poetics at
Columbia University.

FISH

continued from pg 1

controlled waters used to grow the Barramundi at the indoor farm.

Goldman, a graduate of Hampshire College, is the president of Australis' U.S. operations. He is busy introducing the Australian product to the U.S. market.

"We want Barramundi as a mainstay, healthier, sustainable fish," said Goldman.

Australis introduced the Barramundi at the International Boston Seafood Show last spring.

"We began selling the fish to restaurants a week after the show," said Goldman. "A lot of restaurants don't need large portions of the fish, but supermarkets and retail locations have been demanding larger fish."

To accommodate them, and the expected rise in demand, the Turners Falls aquafarm has recently begun work on a 19,800 square foot expansion, expected to be complete by fall. This \$2 million project will allow for the installation of seven new tanks, along with a new loading dock and shop. Eight new jobs will also be created.

By the end of 2006, output is expected to increase to about 1,000 tons of fish per year. This is almost as much as aquafarms in Australia produced a few years ago for the entire country.

The Australis aquafarm has three main areas of operation, referred to as the nursery, the growout, and the purging and packing department. The nursery contains four stages within itself.

"The fish we grow here have exceptionally beautiful fins," said Goldman, netting a

Barramundi from a purging tank.

"Most aquafarm fish may appear damaged, especially around their fins. I attribute the look of our fish to our constant regulation of their growth."

The aquafarm receives the Barramundi as fingerlings shipped from Australia. Through Icelandic infrared sensor technology and sorting graders the fingerlings steadily make their way through a carefully controlled process of multiple growth stages. The sorting process occurs once every four days, sorting about 400,000 fish a week. These stages are named after major Australian cities.

"Adelaide" contains fish that have grown up to two inches. It may seem extreme to have an entirely separate tank for such small fish but it is a precaution that Australis willingly takes.

"Barramundi are naturally cannibalistic," said Goldman. "Some fish will go through drastic changes of 8 - 80 grams in about 45 days. Fish that are much larger will eat the smaller fish." Through constant sorting and separation of the fish by size, this hazard is effectively prevented.

All of the fish tanks feature a current set specifically to the particular growth stage. This current rapidly removes waste while at the same time strengthening the fish.

At the end of their last growth stage in "Darwin," the Barramundi make the voyage to the production line - "Perth" - where they are housed in one of the 150,000 gallon tanks. Each tank can hold 35,000 fish, Fenway Park at capacity.

Viewed from the top floor, the tank's interior resembles a sort of fish whirlpool. The larger

fish swim on the outside where the current is the strongest while the weaker, smaller fish stay closer to the middle.

"Building these tanks was a leap of faith," said Goldman. "I built them extra-wide so we would be able to build them up and deepen them. Bigger tanks cause growth spurts in the fish."

At the heart of the plant is the filtration system. Between the 13 large water treatment systems, 30 million gallons of water are processed daily. The aquafarm also reuses 40 million gallons of water per day. The central wastewater treatment portion of the filtration system is also able to recover and reuse 70 percent of the waste generated by the aquafarm each day.

Of the 25 employees at the Australis facility, seven work in the aquafarm. These current employees come mainly from environmental science or aquaculture backgrounds, but no advanced degrees are required.

"I'm not afraid to train people who are willing to learn," said Goldman.

Fish that have grown to capacity are taken to the purging

pools at the front of the aquafarm. Here they are starved to rid them of any excess waste. Lastly the fish are put through a rapid chilling process. This technique kills the fish without freezing them. The Barramundi are then hand-packed and sent out to a warehouse in Boston.

Goldman said he first got into fish farming because of his interest in sustainable food. In 1983 at the age of 19 he was one of two students at Hampshire College to share a half-million dollar Pew Charitable Trust Grant for his work on a solar greenhouse prototype.

"We were trying to produce food with less energy input," recalled Goldman. His creation, the "Bio-Filter," which utilizes bacteria to further along the self-sustaining process is still at work in the filtration system at the aquafarm.

Foster's Supermarket in Greenfield has begun selling Barramundi grown in Turners Falls.

"Interest in this fish has really started to pick up," said seafood manager Mike Atherton. "I love it. It has a fresh

flavor and no pin bones like salmon or trout. It is also very moist and tastes great whether you grill it or broil it." Atherton is especially proud of the fact the fish delivered to his store on Friday were swimming in the tank the same day.

Big Y in Amherst began selling Barramundi more recently, about a month ago.

"The fish have sold really well so far," said seafood manager Michele Condino. "I get sick of the same old fish. The Barramundi is unique and delicious. When you fry a flounder it is delicate and may crumble. The Barramundi does not; it is a very firm fish that has a natural flavor that stands on its own."



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Patriots Extend Seymour's Contract

Defensive lineman signs \$30.02 million, 4-year contract

BY LEE CARIGNAN

TURNERS FALLS - The New England Patriots finally put some money to use this off-season, and it couldn't have gone to a better player. Richard Seymour's \$30.02 million contract extension is finally in the books, a contract that includes \$24 million in guarantees. Now the Patriots have the two cornerstones on each side of the ball locked up for the long-term. Quarterback Tom Brady, 28, is signed until 2010 and Seymour, 26, is signed through 2009.

Seymour has as impressive a resume as any player in the league. He has three Super Bowl rings, and has been to the Pro Bowl four times over his first five seasons. He is widely thought to be the best defensive lineman in football, a distinction only magnified by the fact that linemen in Bill Belichick's 3-4 scheme are not often put in a position to rack up big statistics. Seymour has averaged just over five sacks a year during his career.

Seymour will receive the bulk of his contract via an \$18.66 million option bonus due next season. He also received a guaranteed \$5.34 million as part of a renegotia-



tion bonus this year, which roughly equaled his scheduled earnings for this season. His base salaries the next four years are \$585,000, \$600,000, \$730,000 and \$3.685 million. Most importantly for the Pats, his cap number is slated to be just \$4.4 million in 2006 before it goes up to \$8.26 million in 2007, \$8.39 million in 2008 and \$11.34 million in 2009.

"I just want to be paid wherever my place is," Seymour said at the Super Bowl in February. "What I bring to the team, what I bring to the table, I just want what's fair for me. I don't want to take advantage of anyone, and I don't want anyone taking advantage of me. If I bring a certain level, then I want to be paid at that level."

Seymour went on, "I'm just happy for the stability and not wondering what's going to happen. I think if my second five years can be as good as

my first five, in terms of personal and team success, I'll be pretty happy at the end of the day."

Seymour admitted that as contract talks with the Patriots dragged on the past few seasons, he had to assess his options and consider the possibility of moving on. Seymour knows he probably could have made more money had he pushed free agency, but realizes he has something pretty special going in New England.

It's widely anticipated that wide receiver Deion Branch could be next to sign a contract extension. The Pats No. 1 receiver will be a free agent after the 2006 season. The Patriots have decided to spend money on their younger players instead of focusing on other teams' free agents this off-season. Center Dan Koppen, whose future has some uncertainty after he suffered a torn rotator cuff last season, also has just one year left on his rookie deal, along with tight end Daniel Graham. The Patriots still have plenty of salary cap room to sign them along with their draft picks from next weekend's draft.

Montague Community Cable Annual Meeting
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 144 Main St. Greenfield
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THE HEALTHY GEEZER

Keeping Your Stomach in Neutral While You Drive

BY FRED CICETTI, LEONIA, NJ-Q. *My wife can ride in the car and read a book. It makes me jealous because I'd be sick to my stomach if I did that. How can she do that without feeling queasy?*

Little is known about individual susceptibility to motion sickness. Your wife caught a biological break. You didn't.

Many people—including me—suffer nausea when traveling by boat, car or airplane. It also happens on rides in amusement parks and playgrounds.

The symptoms of motion sickness are caused by conflicting messages arriving at the central nervous system.

Different parts of your body let your brain know where you are what you're doing. The inner ears let you know if you're turning, or moving forward-back-

ward, side-to-side, and up-and-down. The eyes also monitor the directions of motion and where the body is in space, such as upside down. Skin pressure receptors tell you what part of the body is touching the ground. The muscle and joint sensory receptors tell what parts of the body are moving.

If all the signals tell the same story, there are no problems. However, suppose you're below deck in a heaving sea. Your body is getting information that the boat is moving violently. But your eyes see the unmoving walls of your cabin. If you are susceptible to motion sickness, this below-deck scenario is almost guaranteed to make you look for a porthole to get rid of your last meal.

How about the example of reading in the car? Well, your



ILLUSTRATION: JESSICA HARMON

body is picking up all kinds of cues that you're in motion, but your eyes see only the unmoving pages of your book.

Here are some tips to avoid motion sickness:

Always ride where your eyes will see the same motion that your body senses. For example, sit in the front seat of the car

and look out the windshield to distant scenery; don't stare at the rapidly passing telephone poles outside the passenger window. I prefer driving so I am forced to look straight ahead.

If you're on a boat, go up on deck and watch the horizon. Request a cabin in the forward or middle of the ship, or on the upper deck.

On an airplane, sit by the window and look outside. Also, choose a seat over the wings where there is the least motion. Direct the air vent at your face.

On a train, take a seat near the front and next to a window. Face forward.

Minimize head movement.

Avoid strong odors and spicy or greasy foods immediately before and during your travel.

Don't overeat.

Don't smoke or sit near

smokers.

Before your travel begins, take motion sickness medicine recommended by your physician. There are over-the-counter drugs. There is also prescription medicine in an adhesive patch or in oral form.

There are other treatments for motion sickness that may benefit some people, but they have not been proven to be consistently effective. High levels of ginger have helped some. There's an acupuncture point at the wrist that provides relief of nausea during pregnancy and after chemotherapy, but there is contradictory evidence about its effectiveness in treating motion sickness.

If you have a question, please write to fredcicetti@gmail.com



FINDING BALANCE: HEALTH TIPS FOR A HAPPY LIFE

Free Flow, No Pain

BY JENNY CHAPIN, MONTAGUE - There is a saying in traditional Chinese medicine, "bu tong ze tong, tong ze bu tong," which means "no free flow, pain; free flow, no pain." It refers to the understanding that blockage creates trouble. Whether in our muscles, body systems, emotions, or thoughts, energy that moves without obstruction is able to do its proper job. The prevailing rule of life is that it wants to move; stop the movement, and life gets uncomfortable.

When there is trauma or injury, the body tends to shut down around the hurt area. It's like putting up police tape to keep curious intruders away from a danger zone, for their own protection but mostly to protect the area of concern. The problem is that attempting to protect a hurt place by shutting down around it means

decreased blood flow to that part and decreased movement by it, which leads to increased pain, which makes the body shut down more, which makes it even harder to heal.

After a while, the body gets used to not moving properly or easily, and we begin to think that's normal. (It's not!) In addition, the trauma is still lodged in the body, with no way to leave because the body has closed it off, so it continues to have detrimental effects long past the original event. When one part is no longer doing its share, other parts must compensate to pick up the slack, taking on jobs they're not really good at. They get worn down, stop being good at their primary job as well, and at this point, we're on a downhill slide.

One way to look at free flow vs. pain is via physics. Physicists describe light in terms of particle and wave: a stationary point in time and

space, or a pattern of movement through time and space. This model can be applied to describing energy as well, since light is a form of energy. (And energy and matter are simply different forms of the same thing, as Einstein proved with $E=mc^2$.)

When light, or energy, appears as particle, its characteristics include structure, mass, and form; it is tangible, palpable, concrete, and it can be seen. As a wave, it is described as movement, vibration, force, consciousness; it comprises thoughts, ideas, belief systems; and it is what we experience.

When energy gets stuck, it's like a particle: stationary and palpable. Whether an injury produces a physical or emotional response (usually both), that response ties up the energy and slows or stops it in place. Consider how much energy is engaged when there is so-called "negative" tension - for example, holding tightly to a thought

or emotion such as anger. There's a charge to that tension; release the tension, and the charge is freed up, made accessible for constructive use.

And here we come back to the other form of energy, the wave. It's important to release the charge by letting it "catch the wave" and exit the body. No need to re-experience the original trauma - you already went through it once, and doubtless it wasn't much fun the first time around. Re-traumatizing is neither beneficial nor desirable.

We tend to try to ignore, resist, or mask pain when we encounter it. But if pain is the body's way of calling attention to something that is off-kilter somewhere, rather than resist it - which only creates more suffering - can we use it as an opportunity to look closer at where we are not "flowing freely," in the bigger picture of our life? Restore the free flow, the pain will diminish or disap-

pear - what could be better than that?

Jenny Chapin is a certified acupuncturist, bodyworker, and yoga teacher. Suggest a topic or question for her column at jgchapin@crocker.com.

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413-774-1220**Three Documentaries on Iraq War Soldiers****NORTHAMPTON** -
Sunday, April 30thAcademy of Music 1:30
p.m.**All that I Can Be**

This eight-minute short, produced by Educational Video Center / Youth Organizers Television, examines the war from the perspective of a Washington Heights youth named Willam, who enlists out of high school, after the death of his mother. This award winning documentary reveals the lives of young people making their way in a society in which joining the military seems their best or only option for economic survival.

Occupation: DreamlandDirected by Ian Olds and
Garrett Scott

This full length feature is an unflinchingly candid portrait of a squad of American soldiers deployed in the doomed city of Falluja during the winter of 2004. A collective study of the soldiers unfolds as they patrol an environment of low-intensity conflict creeping steadily towards catastrophe.

Purple Hearts: Back from Iraq

Directed by Nina Berman

This 10-minute short offers a powerful collection of portraits, showing the day-to-day realities of young American soldiers wounded in the Iraq War. We hear their testimony and read descriptions of the extreme challenges they've faced since returning home.

For more information, call:
413-584-8975.**Cindy Sheehan Visits Tent State**

BY DAVID DETMOLD

AMHERST - In a setting that evoked the peace encampment on the rural Texas highway leading to George W. Bush's ranch as well as the student resistance to the Vietnam War, Cindy Sheehan, the Gold Star mom who faced off with the President over America's occupation of Iraq came to "Tent State University" on the Student Center lawn at UMass, Tuesday night, April 18th. Unlike the heady days of campus activism in the 60s, there were no flag-burning, bearded radicals in evidence, raising clenched fists and shouting "Off the Pigs!" Rather, Sheehan was met by a polite crowd seated on folding chairs under a wide canvas tent, clapping at every punch line. Nonetheless, she delivered the goods, as only a mother who has lost a son in a doomed military adventure can.

Sheehan's son, Casey, was killed in action in Sadr City, on April 4th, 2004, along with several other soldiers from his company. The experience of losing her son, changed Sheehan from a passive detractor of the war to a passionate advocate for bringing the troops home now.

On Tuesday, she spoke of the necessity of standing up for your beliefs, even in an era when dissent is labeled treason, or 'giving comfort to the enemy'.



Cindy Sheehan

"I know I've called the president some names," admitted the 49-year-old Sheehan, who lives in Berkeley, CA when not camping out in Crawford, Texas. "I've called him a lying bastard," for example. But Sheehan defends her use of strong pejoratives against Bush by claiming government leaders who lead our children into war on a lie should be held accountable in the strongest terms. "Would you question a mother's right to use such language if a drunk driver killed her son?" she asked, rhetorically. No one in the crowd demurred.

"My oldest son was killed," continued Sheehan. "He's never coming back. My eldest son was killed needlessly and senselessly, by a drunk driver, ironically, and by a complicit Congress who are co-conspirators in his murder. Congress handed Bush the keys to the war machine." Sheehan said, even members of Congress who

originally voted against the war, now vote to continue funding it, "to support the troops."

But she decried the lack of material support for the troops in the field, or at home. Soldiers in Iraq still lack body armor, potable water, decent food, and adequate training, Sheehan asserted. So where are the 275 billion dollars (\$9 billion from Massachusetts taxpayers) Congress has spent already to fight the Iraq war going?

"You know where they are going," Sheehan said. "They are going to Haliburton, Exxon, Standard Oil, Blackwater Security: those are the ones getting the money."

She urged the crowd to support Massachusetts congressman Jim McGovern's (D-Worcester) bill to cut off funding for the Iraq war and bring the troops home. "There is all out civil war in Iraq now," said Sheehan, "and our troops are in the middle of it. Forty-eight more [Americans soldiers] have been killed in April so far."

When Sheehan finished speaking, the crowd applauded. A student organizer stepped to the microphone and invited them to adjourn to the Campus Center to watch a film called *The Revolution will Not Be Televised*. And so it went at Tent State University in the year of our lord 2006, as the war dragged on.

Referendum to Recall Troops from Iraq

NORTHAMPTON - More than 100 western Massachusetts organizers working in a statewide campaign have hit the streets in Hampden, Franklin, Berkshire and Hampshire Counties to collect the signatures necessary to place a non-binding initiative on the November 2006 ballot. It reads:

"Shall the representative from this district be instructed to vote in favor of a resolution calling upon the President and Congress of the United States to end the war in Iraq immediately and bring all United States military forces home from Iraq?"

If passed, this referendum would send a strong message to all elected leaders that the voters of Massachusetts want the war to end and for all troops to return home safely.

Kasia Paprocki, AFSC Western Massachusetts Campaign Coordinator, notes "this is the first time Massachusetts voters can

directly state how they feel about the war and get that message heard nationally." She adds, "The campaign gives voters the opportunity come together to voice their dissent to the war and to speak out on how the war is affecting their communities at home." According to the National Priorities Project, Northampton taxpayers have contributed \$33.5 million; Amherst residents, \$38.6 billion; and Springfield residents, \$128 million toward the war effort to date.

Statewide, the financial cost of the Iraq war thus far to Massachusetts taxpayers is \$8.9 billion. With these tax dollars, the state could support the hiring of 139,383 additional teachers, the construction of 53,151 affordable homes, or the provision of health care to 1,376,451 state residents, obliterating the impact of the new health care bill passed by the state legislature. In addition

to these financial costs, the human costs are staggering as well. To date, U.S. troops have suffered 2,374 deaths and 17,469 more have been wounded. Furthermore, the deployment of military forces, particularly the National Guard and Reserves, places a heavy burden on Massachusetts hometowns because many members serve as community "first responders," working as police, firefighters, and emergency medical personnel.

The campaign in western Massachusetts is currently organizing in all 22 western Massachusetts legislative districts. In eastern areas of the state, similar efforts are taking place. Volunteers have already come forward to help in Montague and in Wendell, and more are needed. To join the campaign or sign the petition, those interested can contact the Western Mass AFSC office at 413-584-8975, or via email at: afsc@crocker.com.

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FRIDAY, APRIL 21ST - SUNDAY 23RD

The Arena Civic Theater presents *All My Sons* at Shea Theater, Turners Falls, 71 Avenue A, Turners Falls, 413-863-2281, theshea.org, 8 p.m. show .Sunday at 2 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 21ST

General Information Sessions about Co-op Power and Community Ownership. Sustainable Energy! Co-op Power is a member-owned cooperative building sustainable energy resources, saving money on energy, and rooting capital in our communities. Green Fields Market 144 Main St 4 - 6 pm Information at Session www.CoopPower.coop; info@cooppower.coop; (413)-425-6795"

Media Arts Cinema (In the Green Trees Gallery) *Winged Migration* follows a rich variety of bird migrations through 40 countries and each of the seven continents. \$8.00 - General Admission \$6.50 - Seniors/Students 105 Main St. Northfield, 498-2100 One Show Only at 7:30pm

SATURDAY, APRIL 22ND

Marx in Soho, a one man play by Howard Zinn, historian and social activist. Performed by Jerry Levy. Embedded in some secular afterlife, Marx is given permission by the administrative committee to return to Soho, London but winds up in Soho, New York. Benefit Citizens Awareness Network, to end the use of nuclear power in the Northeast. Memorial Hall, Bridge St, Shelburne Falls, 8 - 10 p.m. Tickets - \$15 general admission, \$10 students, retired/unemployed. Tickets at World Eye Books, Boswell's Books and at the door. Info - 413.625.6177

Turn it Loose, danceable rock and Roll at Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls, 9p.m. Phone: 659-3384 www.rt63roadhouse.com 9:30pm

Actor Jeff Bridges, will host the Massachusetts premiere of his new movie, *The Amateurs*, at the Academy of Music in Northampton from 4 - 6 p.m. General admission is \$20. Wine & cheese reception with Bridges and Bernie Glassman, from 2 - 4 p.m. for \$85 admission, including both reception and film screening.

SUNDAY, APRIL 23RD

Jeff Bridges and Bernie Glassman lead a day long workshop at the Maezumi Institute called, *Enlightened Film: Zen Mind, Artist's Mind*. 9 a.m. - till 4 p.m., includes screening of two of Bridges' films, followed by open dialogue. \$175 for the day. Films - *The Big Lebowski* and *The Fisher King*. Pre-Register - call 413- 367-2080 ext. 4# or email laura@zenpeacemakers.org.

Nancy Rockland-Miller will perform at the Echo Lake Coffee House in the town hall, Leverett Center, 7:30 p.m. Original rockin' music by local Leverett musician. \$10/\$8 seniors. Doors open at 7:00 pm, refreshments on sale. info: 413-548-9394

TUESDAY, APRIL 25TH

Series *Tuesday Art Talks at the Leverett Library* will be *The Art the the Mural* by local artist Lindsay Palermo who is the creator of the murals in the Leverett Library and in the

Leverett Elementary School. Sponsored by Leverett Crafts & Arts and Leverett Library. Free to the public. 7p.m. in the library's meeting room.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26TH

Slate Roof Poets, Jim Bell, Susan Middleton and Susie Patlove, will read at the Cushman Memorial Library, 28 Church Street, Bernardston, 7:30 p.m. Library is wheelchair accessible. Join them for poetry, refreshments and to learn about small press publishing. Info:Art at 413-498-4451.

THURSDAY, APRIL 27TH

Poetry publication, *Slope Editions* is having its annual mini-tour. One of the first stops will be a reading by Amanda Nadelberg and Matt Hart at Amherst Books, 8p.m. Info -www.slopeeditions.org

SATURDAY, APRIL 29TH

Spaghetti Supper sponsored by the Wendell Womens Club. Homemade Vegetarian or Meat Sauce, beverage, salad, brownie with ice cream. Relay For Life Team #73, Schneiders Helpers, will assist womens club members with this event. 50% of the proceeds benefit the American Cancer Society. 5 - 7 p.m. at Wendell Town

Elisabeth von Trapp Concert at TFHS Saturday, April 29th

The granddaughter of Maria von Trapp and daughter of Werner von Trapp, one of the seven Von Trapp children made famous in the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical *The Sound of Music*, will perform at the Second Annual Gala fundraiser for the Gill-Montague Education Fund. Elisabeth has five self-produced albums, and composes her own music set to Robert Frost poems and Shakespeare sonnets.



The concert will be held in the Great Falls Middle School/Turners Falls High School theater. Performing with von Trapp will be "The Gill-Montague Elementary Chorus" and "The Great Falls Middle School/Turners Falls High School Singers" 7:30 p.m.

Tickets - \$20/\$15/\$10 available at Equi's, Scotty's, World Eye Bookshop, all Gill-Montague Elementary Schools. Call: 863-9341

Hall. Adults \$6, Children/Seniors \$4. Info and tickets call (978) 544-2928.

SUNDAY, APRIL 30

Family Dance at the Montague Grange, with caller Jim Fownes Family-style Contra Dancing for all ages. Lots of fun, humor and some singing games too. Great for 3-10 yr olds, and their parents. Last

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MONDAYS - Drop-in, 3-6 • **TUES & WEDS** - Ongoing Music Project, 3-6 • **THURS** - Drop-in, 3-6, Movie Night, 6-8
 *Free (except some trips) and open to local teens.
 Some require permission slips.
 Info: Jared at 863-9559.
 Hot Spot Teen Center is in The Brick House
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1. THE BENCHWARMERS
 DAILY 6:45 9:00 PG 13 DTS sound
 MAT FRI - SUN, WED 12:00 2:15 4:30
2. ICE AGE 2: THE MELTDOWN
 DAILY 6:45 9:00 PG
 MAT FRI - SUN, WED 12:00 2:15 4:30
3. SCARY MOVIE 4 PG13 DTS sound
 DAILY 7:00 9:10
 MAT FRI - SUN, WED 12:00 3:00
4. THE WILD PG13
 DAILY 6:45 9:00
 MAT FRI - SUN, WED 12:00 2:15 4:30
5. TAKE THE LEAD PG13
 DAILY 6:45 9:15
 MAT FRI - SUN, WED 12:15 3:15
6. THE SENTINEL PG13 DTS sound
 DAILY 7:00 9:10
 MAT FRI - SUN, WED 12:00 3:00
7. V FOR VENDETTA R
 DAILY 6:45 9:15
 MAT FRI - SAT, SUN, WED 12:15 3:15

dance of the season \$5-10 per family, includes a snack, 4-5:30 pm

ONGOING

Jay Maisel's bold, graphic, saturated color images are showcased in *Retrospective*, Hallmark Museum of Contemporary Photography. Works from Maisel's career as an advertising, corporate and editorial photographer based in New York City. 85 Avenue A, Turners Falls. Hours, Thurs.-Sun. 1-5 p.m. Free. (413) 863-0009.

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April Adventures

April Vacation must have been on the minds of many students last week, especially these from Maureen Keating's 3rd Grade class at the Montague Center School, who were asked to write about an imaginary trip they would like to take.

Life in Hollywood

By Kyle Jarvis

One day I went to Hollywood with my friends Zach and Trent. At fist we didn't have a clue what we were doing. We got there by airplane. We brought credit cards and lots of money. As soon as we got there we bought a car. And then we found a house. We went to the beach. We had a blast. Then we chowed down on food. Then we knew we loved life in Hollywood.

Going to Montana

By William Thompson

If I were to go on a voyage, I would go to Montana. I could

ride a lot of ponies, like a cowboy does. I would go to Montana because most cowboys live in Montana. I'm a cowboy, and I can make new friends in Montana. I would bring my sleeping bag, food, water, a jacket, a stuffed animal, three flashlights, hunting dogs, about 1,000 arrows, and a loaded shotgun. I would bring my family with me just in case I got hurt.

Exciting Adventures in New Hampshire

By Emmett Turn

Have you ever been to New Hampshire where the mountains are? I have! I always bring my snowboard and coat; it's chilly up there, you know! One time I was snowboarding when all of a sudden two bullies were behind me. I accidentally went into a closed trail, but they were gone. Then all at once a huge bear rose from the bushes. I snowboarded

down the mountain really fast.

Finally I was safe, until a skier bumped into me.

I fell on my snowboard, bump. I was sliding. I was almost at the lodge. I was going to crash! I was digging my feet in the snow. I stopped just as my nose touched the glass window. I came into the lodge! Boy, did I have a story to tell my dad.

I Would Go to China

By Sage Jillson

If I were going to take a voyage, I would go to China. I would like to go there to learn more about Chinese culture.

I am interested in the dragons used in Chinese art. I like to draw dragons in my art.

I know that China is on the continent of Asia, and is a large country. Many people live there.

I would want to go with my Mother and Father. I would bring my drawing pad and writing notebook to remember what China looked like. One day I will go on this special voyage.

Going to Ireland

By Liam Theis

I want to go to Ireland because it's a great place and there are lots of people there. I would go with my Mom and Dad. I would bring a camera. One thing I love about Ireland is that my ancestors came from there. One of my ancestors was famous. I'd get there by plane.

I love going to Ireland.

My Trip to Paris with My Cat

By Hayley Black

I would like to go to Paris because the city is huge and crowded with people. It has tons of museums, with beautiful works of art. There are tons of stores for shopping. I would like to go to Notre Dame, which is very pretty and the bridges are pretty too.

I want to go there because of the sights and shopping there for things. Now, about my cat. I would bring her for protection.

And these are the things I would bring: a video camera, cell phone and my cat toys, and my toys, and lots more.

My Montana Adventure

By Trent Bourbeau

If I went on a voyage, I would go to Montana. I would go to Montana because I always dreamed to go there, and there is

excellent hunting there.

Montana is a big state. It has wide open country. Lots of animals live there too. I would get there by plane. I would go alone and bring my bow, some arrows, my hunting clothes, my 16 gauge, and some ammo. Some day I will go to Montana!

Los Angeles, California

By Spenser Harris

One day, I called Zach, Kyle, Emmett, Devon, Shane, and Trent and said, "We're going to L.A." We hopped into my mom's van and went to the bank. We got the money in all of our relatives' accounts. Then we headed to L.A.

On the way, we stopped to the Grand Canyon and ten different malls. We bought cell phones and made 34 stops for gas, bathroom breaks, and little snacks. We stayed at 14 different hotels and went to 20 laundramats. Finally we saw all of L.A.

It took three weeks to cover the whole city. We went everywhere: museums, aquariums, even Hollywood. We met the cast of "The Fast and the Furious," and "2 Fast and 2 Furious," and all our favorite movies and TV shows. We bought new clothes and had a night driver. So we took the quick way home. We had \$2,000 left for candy.

That night we slept well.

Vacation was also on the minds of these third graders from Sharyn Wood's class at Sheffield School, who were asked to describe a trip to their imaginary cabin.

My Cabin

By Danny Sheperd

My cabin was a small wood cabin in the woods with lots of tall trees surrounding it, in a wide open field. It had a brown couch and a chair with a wooden TV in it, with a fireplace. The fire smelled like the scent of sunflowers and roses. The inside had a lot of pictures of my cabin in the winter, summer, spring and fall.

On the outside it was a cold winter day at 20 degrees F, with me on my snowboard and lots of mountains all around me. I could see lots of deer, foxes and seagulls.

I had a small dog called Snabby. Every summer I would take my dog and my Lamborgini to the sandy beach with my best friend Hannu to relax.

In the fall I would invite Hannu over to do some raking outside and cleaning inside. In the spring I would play cards with him. Hannu and I would take Snabby to the park to play too. That was what my cabin was like.

My Cabin

By Serena Smith

I was at the beach in my cabin. I saw a beanbag chair and smelled popcorn. I saw

my big sister Rachel and we played a game.

We went outside to relax together. It was low tide and we saw a beautiful sunset. Our feet were in the wet sand.

We went back to the cabin and into the beanbag chair to relax our bodies. We went to sleep at 9:00.

We woke up and had a good breakfast. Rachel had toast with peanut butter and I had a PB and J sandwich. After we went outside we went swimming for a while. The water felt nice and warm. We stayed there for the morning and then we packed up and went home. My dream was over.

My Springtime Cabin

By Liam Francis Ellis

It was springtime outside, and it was a great day. Around the cabin it smelled of pine trees in the forest. There was a little pond where you could swim in the summertime, and there was a little bit of snow on the ground because it was still spring. At night you could watch shooting stars or find the Big Dipper.

The sturdy cabin was brown with white windows. I came in the small cabin and warmed up by the roaring fire. Once I was warm I lay down on the couch. When I got off the couch I went into the kitchen and ate an apple and a strawberry yogurt with milk on the side. Then I went in the basement to practice my basketball dribbling. Life was peaceful.



(Left - right) Ronique Williams, a 2nd grader from Boston, took advantage of April vacation to visit her friend Matteson Heath, a 3rd Grader from Hillcrest School this week. Together with Katerina Lenois, a 4th Grader from Sheffield, they decided to going into business selling lemonade on 5th Street on Tuesday. The girls started out asking 50 cents for a Dixie cup's worth of lemonade. When that didn't draw enough trade, they dropped the price to 25 cents. Jake Whiteman, a freshman at Pioneer and his pal Intha Lepkham, an 8th Grader at TFHS, were wavering until Ronique dropped the price further. "It's free!" she yelled. The boys decided that was a bargain they could not pass up.

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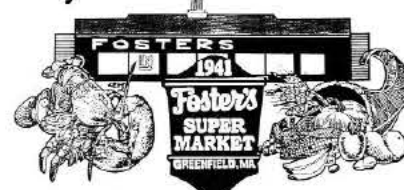


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