

**DEBBIE STONE FUNDRAISER**A resounding success
/ Page 9**FATHER CHARLES DIMASCOLA**at Our Lady of Czestochowa
/ Page 11

LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS GILL ERVING WENDELL

Year 3
No. 27

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The Montague Reporter

REPORTER@MONTAGUEMA.NET

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

APRIL 21, 2005

Gill Store Closing



SANTOS PHOTO

Susie Maddern's grandson, Jackson, age 6, welcomes visitors to the Gill Store yesterday afternoon. The Gill Store is hosting a clearance sale between now and its closing date of April 30th.

BY KATHLEEN LITCHFIELD

GILL - It is the end of an era for the Gill Store. Built in 1803, this one-room structure has long been a general store, once a liquor store, part-time car dealership (Model T's) and even a print shop in its long history, always meeting the varied needs of local residents

and the occasional out-of-towner who would wend their way up and down Main Road to discover something out of the ordinary in the center of this out of the way village.

After 28 years of running the Gill Store, Susie Maddern is stepping down from her role as shopkeeper and see **GILL** pg 14

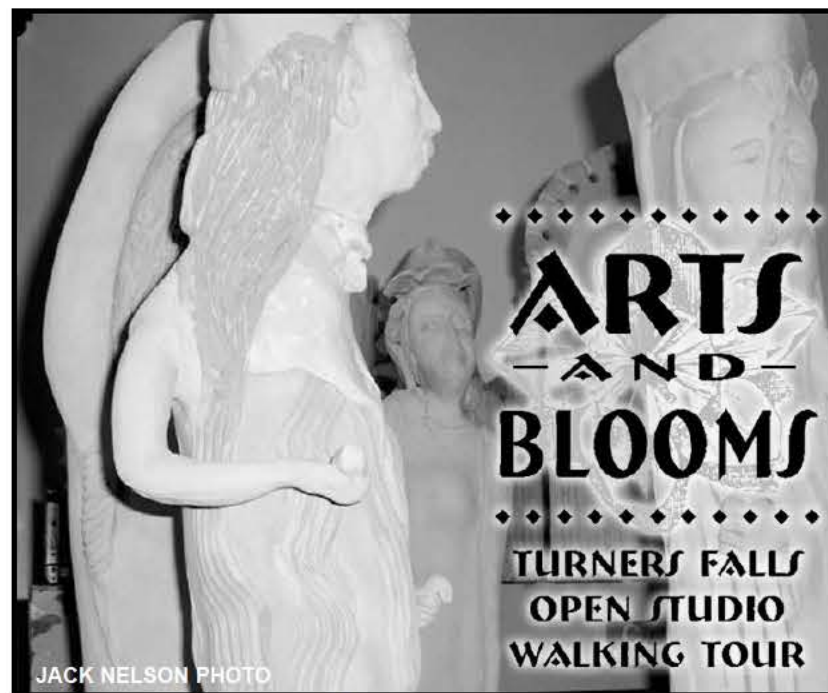
Art's Blooming in Turners Falls!

Chisels ring, children sing, shutters snap, audiences clap. Spring brings open studios back to the Avenue.

BY EILEEN DOWD & LAENA SANTOS

TURNERS FALLS - The artists of Turners Falls are, once again, opening their studio doors wide on Saturday, April 30th and Sunday, May 1st from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. for the Arts & Blooms Studio Walk & Eating Tour. The doors are open not only to let in Spring, but to invite all the neighbors, near and far into the studios to enjoy the fruits of the winters' labor.

There will be lathes turning beautiful bowls and mirrors, pottery wheels throwing glorious shapes of function and whimsy. There is the unmistakable sound of chisel to stone, the sound of the camera shut-



JACK NELSON PHOTO

Jack Nelson garden sculpture

ter capturing an image and the sound of performance. Turners is aglow with the brightness of creative work. The Great Lighting Showroom will also be open for a really great glow!

In addition, visitors can enjoy the initial opening of the Hallmark Museum of Contemporary Photography, featuring a print exhibit by the students of the Hallmark Institute of Photography to benefit tsunami relief.

The Brick House is also presenting the Great Falls Art Fest (an art and craft fair) at the Great Falls Discovery Center (Saturday only).

Also, Jay K's Liquor Store will

host a wine tasting, the area's restaurants will offer culinary masterpieces, the Shea Theater will host a performance of Arsenic and Old Lace by the Arena Civic Theatre (Friday and Saturday) and Chris Janke will host a poetry reading at 4 p.m. at a new performance space in the back of Suzee's Laundromat, featuring the poets who recently contributed to the *Montague Reporter's* Poetry Page.

Visitors can purchase copies of videotapes of Montague's 250th anniversary parade, the Turners Falls Girls' championship softball

see **ARTS** pg 14

THEATER REVIEW

The Ugly Duckling



PHOTO BY PEGGY REWA

Gill Elementary first graders rehearse their roles in "The Ugly Duckling."

BY PATRICIA CROSBY
GILL Elementary School held its traditional all-school play last week, an adaptation of Hans Christian Anderson's "Ugly Duckling," smartly directed by the talented Court Dorsey. Temporarily stunned by budget cuts and the split-

ting-in-two of principal Bob Mahler, as he took on management of both Gill and Montague Center schools, the system had to forego the all-school play last year to the marked disappointment of community and school members, especially the sixth graders see **DUCKLING** pg 6

Sewer Rates Expected to Rise Sharply

BY DAVID DETMOLD

MONTAGUE - Sewer users will see their rates rise by two thirds within five years if they are forced to foot the entire bill for planned improvements to the town's sewer lines and wastewater pollution control facility (WPCF). Representatives of the WPCF's engineering firm, Camp Dresser & McKee (CDM), told the selectboard at a public hearing on Tuesday, April 19th, that needed improvements will cost the town \$5.7 million, raising an average sewer user's annual bill from

\$350 to \$570 by the year 2010. CDM vice president Bob Weimar said the town is under notice from the state and federal Environmental Protection Agency to correct ongoing violations of the Clean Water Act resulting from the discharge of raw sewage directly to the Connecticut River at two combined sewer overflow (CSO) locations in Turners Falls and one in Montague City.

Needed repairs to the 1964 treatment plant, last upgraded in 1979,

see **CSO** pg 3

Turners Falls Crabapple Blossom Festival

BY LINDA HICKMAN

TURNERS FALLS - The second annual Turners Falls Crabapple Blossom Festival runs from April 30th - May 7th. Many of the downtown streets and parks in Turners Falls are lined with crabapple and apple trees. They are coming into glorious bloom shortly, and various events are scheduled to coincide with the week of their blossoming to encourage people to come and enjoy the flowers and

Turners Falls' nature, art, history and architecture.

The festival kicks off with the Great Falls Art



Crabapple Tree in Bloom

Fest on Saturday, April 30th from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. at the Great Falls Discovery Center. The Arts and Blooms studio see **BLOSSOM** pg 2

PET OF THE WEEK

Coax Me!



Isabella

Isabella is a two-year-old short hair brown tiger cat in need of a good home. Isabella would prefer a quiet home where she is the only cat. She is a wonderful girl who would like a kind person with patience for a shy cat, who'll make her feel secure and coax her into blossoming this spring! To learn more about adopting Isabella, please contact the Dakin Animal Shelter in Leverett at 548-9898 or via email at info@dakinshelter.org.

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BLOSSOM

continued from pg 1

walking tours are Saturday, April 30th, and Sunday, May 1st. On Tuesday, May 4th, at 6 p.m., Sue SanSoucie will lead a historical walking tour of downtown Turners Falls that begins at the Discovery Center.

A bilingual English-Spanish concert for families with Laurie Davidson and Tom Carroll will be held Thursday, May 4th at 10 a.m. at Peskeomskut Park on Avenue A. A family concert with Donna Lee will be held at Peskeomskut Park on Saturday, May 7th, at 1 p.m. A spring planting program for young children with master gardener Beverly Whitbeck will be held

at the Carnegie Library on Saturday, May 8th, at 2 p.m. During the weeklong festival, free self-guided historical walking tour booklets will be available at the Carnegie Library and the Great Falls Discovery Center.

Outdoor concerts will be held in the Carnegie Library in the case of inclement weather. Registration is requested for the planting program. The Crabapple Blossom Festival is supported by the Montague Public Libraries, the Brick House, the Gill - Montague Family Network Council and the Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center. For information, call the Carnegie Library, 863-3214.

Downtown Spring Cleanup

BY LINDA HICKMAN

TURNERS FALLS - There will be a downtown Spring Cleanup this Saturday in Turners Falls. Interested residents and individuals will be meeting at the corner of Avenue A and 3rd Street at 10 a.m. The group will begin on 3rd Street as the Highway Department has recently cleaned up Avenue A. The cleanup will include trash pickup, weeding, sweeping and raking. If possible, participants should bring gloves, rakes,

brooms and water. The cleanup will continue until at least Noon on Saturday. The cleanup is in honor of Earth Day, April 22nd, and in preparation for the Great Falls Art Fest on Saturday, April 30th and the Arts & Blooms Studio Tours on April 30th and May 1st. We would like the downtown to look as good as possible for the Crabapple Blossom Festival which runs from April 30th to May 7th.

For more information call the Brick House at 863-9576.

Walk for Seniors

BY ANNA VIADERO -

MONTAGUE CITY - If you knew an elderly neighbor was too ill or frail to cook for themselves tonight, would you bring them a meal? Of course you would, if you didn't feel you'd be imposing on their privacy and dignity. You'd simply want to help. That's why I'm encouraging you to participate in the "13th Annual Walk for Meals on Wheels" on May 14th. When you sponsor a walker, you literally ensure that your elderly neighbors will be fed a hot, balanced meal, delivered to their

home during a time of need, in a manner that ensures their privacy and dignity. Every penny of your pledge stays in the community and goes directly to feeding an elder. Your pledge will mean that our Franklin County Meals on Wheels program never has to say "No" to an elder who requests this help in the months ahead. Please, join me. "Walk the Walk" with me by sending a meal -- or a week of meals! -- in the form of a check made out to Meals on Wheels. It can be mailed to Meals on Wheels, FCHCC, 330 Montague City

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES April 25th - April 29th

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

- Monday, 25th**
9:45 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11 a.m. PACE Aerobics
- Tuesday, 26th**
9:30 a.m. Tai Chi
10 a.m. Writing Classes
1 p.m. Painting Class with Louise Minks, instructor
- Wednesday, 27th**
10:15 a.m. Senior Aerobics
12:45 p.m. Bingo
- Thursday, 28th**
1 p.m. Pitch
- Friday, 29th**
9:45 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. PACE Aerobics

ERVING Senior Center, 18 Pleasant St., Ervingside (Old Center School, 1st Floor), is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. For information and reservations call Polly Kiely, Senior Center director at (413) 423-3308. Lunch daily at 11:30 a.m. with

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PHOTOS BY ARIEL JONES

On the stoops. Avenue A (above)

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reservations a day in advance by 11 a.m. Transportation can be provided for meals, Thursday shopping, or medical necessity by calling Dana Moore at (978) 544-3898.

- Monday, 25th**
9:30 a.m. Exercise
9:45 a.m. Library
12:30 p.m. Pitch
- Tuesday, 26th**
9 a.m. Aerobics
12:30 p.m. Oil Painting
- Wednesday, 27th**
10 a.m. Line Dancing
12 Noon Bingo
- Thursday, 28th**
9 a.m. Aerobics

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

POSTCARDS FROM THE PAST

Harrington's Dam and Foot Bridge



Postcard courtesy of the Montague Historical Society

This postcard was mailed from Montague in 1910. The foot bridge was built by T.F. Harrington so he could cross the Sawmill River from his home on the south bank to the north bank, where his mill complex was located.

He had many enterprises including a sawmill, a fulling mill, a carpet cleaning company, and a factory that made fig boxes. He also had an electric power company. Harrington's Dam is seen at the bottom of the photo.

Million Penny Challenge Met

BY MICHAEL LIPINSKI
ERVING - Since September, the Erving Elementary School community has attempted to collect one million pennies to benefit library and technology programs at the school. Over 390,000 pennies were collected in a custom-made, plastic container located in the front hall of the school.

The effort to accumulate one million pennies was boosted by the annual Erving Elementary Read-a-thon. The Read-a-thon is an annual eight-week fundraising event held each winter and sponsored by Charles Housen of the Erving Industries Housen Foundation. The program is designed to encourage reading by everyone

in the school community. During the event, students, relatives, staff members and others keep track of all the pages they read. The pages are tallied and each page read earns a penny from the Housen Foundation. Coupled with a high level of interest in the Million Penny Challenge, this year's Read-a-thon was a record breaker! Participants read 1,072,401 pages, earning over \$10,000 for their efforts.

Over six thousand dollars earned from the Read-a-thon was converted into the pennies needed to complete the Million Penny Challenge. Citizens Bank of Greenfield provided an armored car service that was used to deliver the pennies to the school. The pennies are now on display in the school library, until the end of April. Citizens Bank will be providing the pick up service at that time to deliver the pennies back to the bank and into the Erving School's account.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERVING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

CSO continued from pg 1

should be undertaken simultaneously, Weimar said. The CSO abatement work will cost \$2.2 million; upgrades to the treatment plant are expected to run to \$3.5 million. If town meeting authorizes funding, the work is expected to get under way in 2006 and be completed by 2007 or 2008, Weimar said.

Town planner Robin Sherman, in attendance, commented, "We can't be discharging sewage into the Connecticut River. But it is completely inappropriate to finance (the entire cost of the improvements) through the sewer rates.

"The sewer system is an asset to the entire town," she continued. "It provides the infrastructure for economic development. I hope at town meeting we can look at how to finance (the needed improvements) without the entire burden falling on the sewer rates."



Millers River Watershed Monitoring Training Session

BY IVAN USSACH
ATHOL - For everyone who has a favorite stretch of river or stream they would like to protect, the Millers River Watershed Council (MRWC) and the Athol Bird & Nature Club will hold a training session on May 10th at 6 p.m. at the Millers River Environmental Center, located at 100 Main Street in Athol. The volunteer training session will provide residents of the Millers River watershed with information to conduct Shoreline and Mid-Stream Surveys. A follow-up outdoor training date will be set at the May 10th meeting. Photodocumentation and stream con-

tinuity surveys will also be briefly discussed.

A shoreline survey is taken by walking the edge of a waterway, and a mid-stream survey is taken from a boat, canoe or kayak. Both surveys, when conducted regularly by dedicated volunteers, provide valuable information on the conditions of waterways, such as flow levels, habitat change, and the presence or absence of pollution, trash and invasive species.

Volunteers are encouraged to select their own stretch of waterway to monitor. Where possible, volunteers in the same sub-watershed can work together as stream teams. There are

stream teams currently operating in the Tully River and Otter River sub-watersheds.

The Millers River watershed includes 14 sub-watersheds, covering all or parts of 17 towns in north-central Massachusetts, from Ashburnham and Gardner in the east to Montague and Erving in the west, where the Millers River joins the Connecticut River.

Space is limited. To register or learn more about the May 10th training session, please contact the MRWC at 978-248-9491 or email council@miller-sriver.net.

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FRANKLIN COUNTY TECH

Outstanding Student of the Year

TURNERS FALLS - Aaron White of the Culinary Arts department was named Franklin County Tech's Outstanding Student of the Year for 2005.

White received his award at the nineteenth annual outstanding vocational technical student awards banquet held at Mechanics Hall in Worcester on April 7th. The awards banquet involves all the vocational and technical high schools in the state.

White is the son of James and Sherri White of Turners Falls, and is a highly regarded member of the Culinary Arts program at Franklin County Tech. He has been at the

top of his class academically, is a Student Council delegate, and has competed actively in SkillsUSA competitions. In

addition to his love for cooking, White is also interested in management and plans to attend college in the fall.



PHOTO COURTESY OF FRANKLIN COUNTY TECH

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My Neighbor Brandy

BY RUDY RENAUD

TURNERS FALLS - I've always said that if you ever want a job as a local politician, get a dog. By the simple act of walking a dog three to four times a day, you get to know your entire neighborhood and all its idiosyncratic inhabitants. Thanks to my greyhound Myrddin, I've had the pleasure of meeting some of Turners Falls' most colorful characters, and friendly folks. Just to name a few there's my good friend Steven I walk with on Avenue A who's always willing to share his vast knowledge of everything sophisticated that I know nothing about; the kind couple on L St. who often get Myrddin deli meat from their fridge; the personable folks at Yesterdays bar who make sure they are always fully stocked with Scooby Snacks for the greyhound; the kind gentleman, now deceased, who always had bones on the back of his wheelchair for the neighborhood dogs; and Brandy and Brian, the sweet young couple who liked to walk and talk with us.

The first time I met Brandy and Brian was in Unity Park. They were walking her uncle's dog, Trouble. Saying that Brandy was friendly and outgoing is a bit of an understatement. Since that first meeting at the park last summer, Brandy always greeted me with a "Hey ya, Rudy!" yell, a

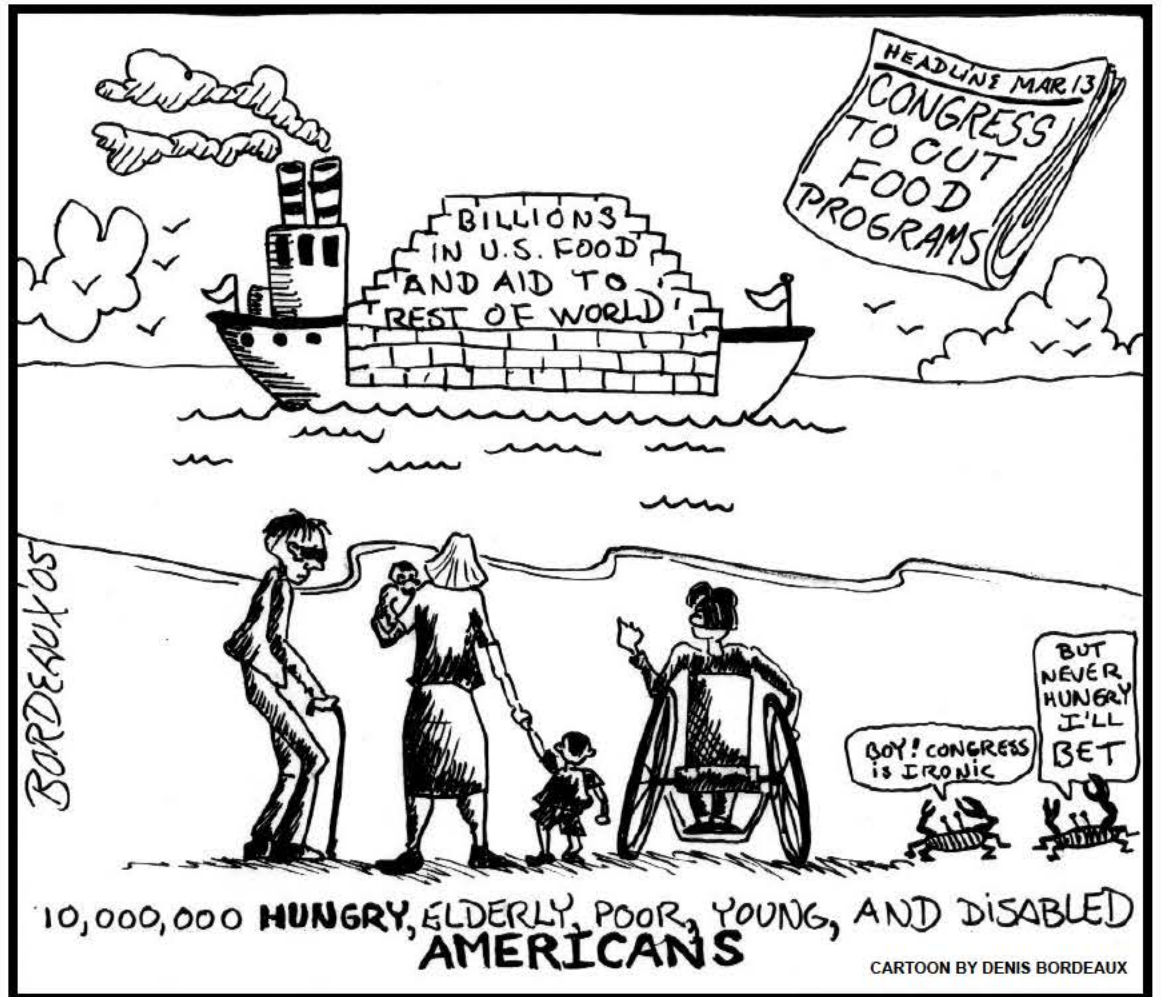
big smile and conversation to boot.

I remember once when I saw her at the Exxon station and she was on the pay phone and couldn't really talk to me. I was OK with it because my dog and I were on a mission; Myrddin needed to pee. Anyhow, the next day when she saw me she apologized profusely for not being able to talk. She told me she was telling some family members that she was pregnant and she figured they should be the first to know.

Brandy was really looking forward to starting her family with Brian. She lit up when talking about how they were going to find their own place, and raise their family together. And after being knocked down a lot by life's inevitable punches, she maintained a much better attitude than people I know who have twice as many reasons to be happy.

In a sense, Brandy was a lot like Turners Falls. Rough around the edges, charming, inviting, hurt, but hopeful, always hopeful.

Unfortunately, Brandy won't live to see the hope of what Turners could be turn into a reality. She won't see her baby grow to be a man, and she won't have that family she always wished she had as a young person. All this because for some reason, somebody thought it was a good idea to



murder this innocent, young, sweet woman and her unborn baby while she was at work at a gas station in Deerfield last Saturday night.

I'm going to miss seeing her and Brian at Suzee's, the gas station, and especially on the swings at the park. I'm going to miss the hope she gave out freely, and the positive clichés she shared. I'll miss how talking to her and Brian reminded me to be grateful everyday for all I've been blessed with. And I'll also miss how seeing a kind soul like Brandy reminded me that the life you get is really just luck of the draw and it isn't fair and sometimes it's just downright rotten, but you have to make the best of it. Mostly though, I'll just miss my neighbor Brandy.

Memorial contributions in Brandy Waryasz' name are suggested to cover the family's unexpected expenses. They can be made to Bank of America, Federal Street, Greenfield.

Help Save Farmland Urge Governor Romney Not to Slash APR Funding!

BY JESSE ROBERTSON-DUBOIS

NORTHAMPTON - According to several sources, the Romney Administration is considering severe cuts to the Commonwealth's successful and popular Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) program, which has permanently protected over 55,000 acres of the state's most fertile farmland. Please contact Governor Romney's office as soon as possible and urge him to provide a minimum of \$10 million for the APR program in FY'06.

The state APR program is one of the country's oldest and most respected state farmland protection programs. Since 1978, this voluntary program has purchased the development rights to farmland, paying farmers the difference between the "fair market value" and the "agricultural value" of their farmland, in exchange for a permanent deed restriction that precludes any use of the land that will affect its future agricultural viability. The program allows farmers to realize some of the equity from their land without having to sell it for development, providing an important source of capital to expand or diversify a farm operation, buy additional cropland, plan for retirement, or transfer the farm to the next generation.

Less than 11% of the Commonwealth's agricultural land is permanently protected. The rate of farmland loss is escalating. Massachusetts now ranks second in the country in its rate of agricultural land loss, having lost ten percent of its land in farms in just five years (from 1997-2002).

In the face of this threat, Massachusetts farmers are waiting in line to protect their land. There are 48 approved APR projects ready

to go, and more in the pipeline. These 48 final voted projects represent an estimated \$35 million in value, but will cost the state only \$20 million because the APR program leverages significant federal, local and private funds as well. Despite this backlog of applications and available matching funds, the Romney administration has cut APR funding along with other land protection programs. Compared with investments of roughly \$50 million per year under each of the three preceding administrations, land conservation spending by the Romney administration has totaled less than \$50 million in FY 2004 and 2005 combined.

Please call, fax or email Governor Romney's office as soon as possible. Let him know you care about the future of farming and farmland in Massachusetts. Remind him that smart growth requires land conservation not just development, and urge him to provide at least \$10 million in funding for the Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) program in FY 2006.

Contact the Governor by email at: www.mass.gov/Agovwebmail/WebMailPageControl.ser?level=101, by phone at: (617) 725-4005, by fax at: (617) 727-9725, or by mail at: State House, Office of the Governor, Room 360, Boston, MA 02133.

Lastly, please let us know what you are doing. Send a copy via e-mail to jrobertson@farmland.org, call (413) 586-9330 ext. 21 or drop a copy in the mail to:

Jesse Robertson-DuBois
American Farmland Trust
One Short Street, Suite 2
Northampton, MA 01060

Poetry Page

invitation for submissions

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

The editors reserve the right of final selection for publication.

We welcome your letters.

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Preparing for the Draft

BY JOSH HEINEMANN - WENDELL - On a beautiful Sunday afternoon, April 17th, thirty citizens of Wendell and surrounding towns, including men and women of draft age, gathered in the Wendell town hall for a draft counseling session. Speakers included veteran peace activist Francis Crowe, Aaron Falbel, an organic farmer from Sunderland, Eric Waseleski, a former Marine, and Joe Toritto, a teacher from Holyoke Catholic High school.

With little introduction from Wendell's Molly Kaynor, who organized the event, Francis Crowe started her talk by saying we are not likely to have a draft under this administration. The word "draft" is unpopular and Bush has promised he will not reinstate one. Rather, the draft may resurface as a national service obligation, as it is called in England and Israel, encompassing men and women from 18 to 38. It will begin with one year of military training followed by the service, which might be in any job from hospital worker to computer operator to actual military service.

Although there is no draft now, men are required to register with selective service within 30 days of their eighteenth birthday. Crowe said although the registration form does not have a place for it, a registrant should write on the form, "I am a conscientious objector," if that is the case, then copy the form and mail themselves a copy in a sealed envelope to provide a dated record of that statement. A conscientious objector, Crowe defined, is opposed to participation in any war, on moral, ethical, philosoph-

ical, or religious grounds, with an intensity equivalent to a religious conviction. If you consider yourself a conscientious objector, your job is to convince your local draft board of the intensity of your belief. Keep a copy of every communication you have with your draft board, and send all correspondence by certified mail.

There are two classifications of conscientious objector. 1-O status indicates a refusal to participate in military service at all, and gets a two-year civilian alternative assignment; and 1-AO, who is willing to serve in the military, but not as a combatant. A person drafted as 1-AO usually serves as a medic, and Crowe cautioned that the function of the medical corps is "to preserve the fighting force," not to reduce suffering or heal the wounded.

Aaron Falbel, an organic farmer from Sunderland, spoke next, and described in more detail the process by which registrants can convince a draft board they deserve 1-O or 1-AO status. When a draft board communicates with a registrant, they have ten days in which to answer three questions that the board will pose: Describe your beliefs about combat, about training for combat, and all forms of military service. Describe how you acquired these beliefs, membership in organizations, or training that brought you to your current awareness. Describe things you have done that show these beliefs are deeply held.

After receiving answers to



Peace Activist Francis Crowe

these questions, the draft board will schedule a hearing. When you go you are entitled to bring a witness, and you should expect to be asked difficult questions. Like Crowe, Falbel recommended that registrants record in writing their memory of the hearing as soon as possible afterwards. Falbel also recommended communicating with the Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors, (CCCO), the American Friends Service Committee, (AFSC) or the War Resisters Fellowship, in Nyack New York, all groups familiar with the process of achieving conscientious objector status.

Eric Waseleski, Gulf War Marine and president of the Wally Nelson chapter of Veterans for Peace, spoke next about his experience in the military, why he joined, and why he left. By the time he was 18 he was comfortable and familiar with the military recruiters who had been coming to his high school every year. Coming from a family with a strong military history he felt enlisting in the Army was an honorable way for him to serve his country and later have enough money to attend college. After

two years in the Army, he reenlisted in the Navy and was assigned to maintenance of Close In Weapons Systems (CIWS) on the sister ship of the USS Cole. His first long cruise was "a blast," just as the recruiter promised.

He suspected a change when the ship was being supplied for his second major cruise, and instead of 15 Tomahawk missiles they loaded 60. A Tomahawk missile makes a crater 30 meters in diameter and has a death field of 70 meters. Along with the aircraft carrier Enterprise, they were to cruise with "best speed" to the Persian Gulf. The Enterprise with her nuclear engines was out of sight almost immediately. His ship skipped its scheduled port of call in Yemen, which was instead visited by the USS Cole, later attacked by terrorists. Cruising through the Suez Canal they saw the burned out remains of tanks on the Egyptian side, still there from the 1967 war with Israel.

On December 17th, 18th, and 19th, 1998 President Clinton testified about Jennifer Flowers, and Waseleski's view of the world changed as his ship launched 52 of their Tomahawks into Iraq from 30 miles offshore, two miles beyond the range of enemy missiles. He learned that one of their targets was the house that belonged to Saddam Hussein's daughter and he wondered what honor there is in attacking an unarmed woman. They never saw an enemy, and they never saw what destruction their weapons wrought.

An admiral visited their ship and told the men, "When Saddam Hussein falls, know that you were a part of it." He felt then, that as part of an empire, their actions made sense, but as part of a republic they made no sense. He sees the work he is doing now as payment towards the debt he owes to the people whom he failed to protect then.

Joe Toritto, a teacher of music

and religion at Holyoke Catholic High School spoke last. He said conscientious objection is a legal right; he dismissed several draft myths, that students will not be drafted, that non-citizens will not be drafted, (although they will be granted citizenship if they die in combat.) Fleeing to Canada has been closed off as an option, and only child status counts only in extreme situations. Women do not have to register now, but that could change.

Fourteen states will not give a driver's license to an unregistered man. A question on the college financial aid form asks, "Have you registered?" and if the answer is no, there is no financial aid or loan available. Civil service jobs are closed to non-registrants.

If you think you may want to apply for conscientious objector status, Toritto recommended starting and maintaining a file of relevant documents now. He repeated Crowe's and Falbel's instructions to write, "I am a conscientious objector," on the registration form (there is no place provided), to make a copy, and mail that copy to yourself as a dated record. He emphasized that conscientious objection does not require total pacifism or belonging to a specific church. He repeated the three questions that a draft board will want answers to, and said, "When I was 17, I couldn't do that." But he said he has begun to save records for his 4th grade child who does peer mediation at school, and said, "You probably have records or memories already."

Waseleski said, "Becoming a CO is not a way out of service, but a way of offering yourself for service to humanity."

Patti Scutari stood up and announced that she and Molly Kaynor had taken a course in draft counseling, and they were available to anyone needing someone to talk to, or advice.

Andrew Jenkins gave an answer to the questions registrants might expect about a "Just War," against a truly evil system, such as World War II. He said that 60 years later we are still engaged in conflicts that are an aftermath of that war.

Stickers were available with a hotline number, 1 800 FYI 95GI, and website, www.GRights.org, for active duty military personnel. For more information, contact: CCCO: 1515 Cherry Street, Philadelphia PA 19102.

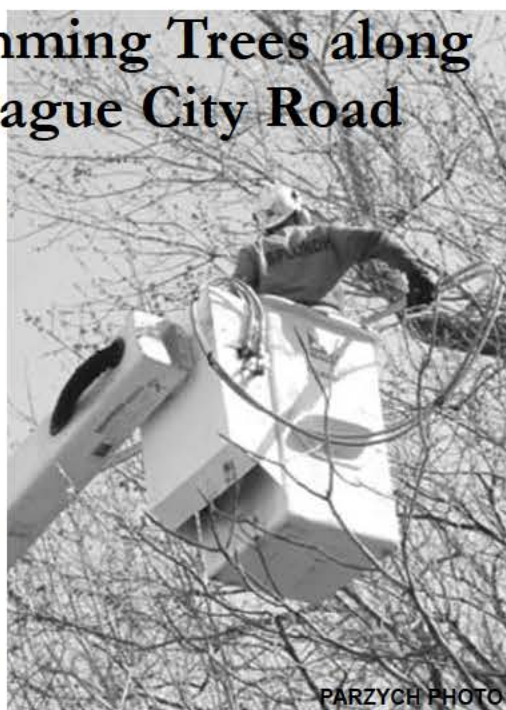
Asplundh's Tree Crews Trimming Trees along the Utility Lines on Montague City Road

April is National Poetry Month. With the weather warming and the flowers in bloom, all our writers seem to have been bitten by the poetry bug, even Joe Parzych, who abandoned his prosaic homilies to heavy equipment and earth moving machinery to offer this metrical view of men at work.

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH
The wood chipper cries out the company name "Asssplunddhhh!" it shouts in a shower of chips As it grinds up the branches and spits them back out. Tree limbs bleed from the hydraulic chain saw. Does the tree feel pain? Foreman Barry Haber, a graphic designer, does not dwell on such thoughts. It's a

job, Haber says, and swoops up to the sky to sever more limbs to feed the insatiable ironhearted chipper. "Asssplunddhhh!" it cries, devouring more branches..

Captions: 1.Foreman, Barry Haber at work in the sky. 2. Asplundh tree trimming crew by the sky bucket. 1-r, Foreman Barry Haber, Eli Whitney, and Tim Hennessey.



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Controversy High Rated PG-13

BY DAVID DETMOLD
TURNERS FALLS

Controversy High, a full-length play in four acts performed by students of Dean Scranton's junior English class at the Franklin Tech School, under the direction of Wendell's peripatetic Court Dorsey, evolved from a series of improvs dealing with conflict resolution and theater.

Scranton teaches a very personal elective English class. "When I teach Hamlet, I ask the students what keeps them from committing suicide," he said. "My class deals not just with literature, but with self-expression, and I ask my students to do research on themselves."

The play, which was performed for each grade level at the Tech School last week, and at a county-wide teen conference at the Turners High School on April 13th, evolved from his students "doing improv about

conflict in their own lives, addressing conflict that they see in the school community."

These kids are not shy when it comes to adult topics. Sexuality, drug use, drunk driving are dealt with coolly and caustically. The scene is set at some high school in Franklin County school called Controversy High, where backstabbing and character assassination are as common as in the Roman Forum of Julius Ceasar. The students are deciding whether or not to go to a keg party thrown by one of their number who is less than popular. But there will be beer there, and a number of possible love interests may intersect before the evening winds down, many of them with the school's lothario, Jake, (Juan Gonzales) known to drip such honeyed dialogue as:

Jake: "Whatcha doin'?"

Babe of the Moment: "Nothin'."

Jake: "You want to do nothin' with me?"

Babe: "I dunno, maybe."

Jake: "That's cool. Maybe we can talk and chill and... talk and stuff."

He gives the same line to all the girls, but for some reason they seem to fall for it. Among themselves, however, the girls discuss the important questions.

Babe: "Whatcha gonna wear to the party? Not that it matters, it won't be on for very long."

And who's going to pay for the pizza when the delivery boy comes?

Babe #1: "I didn't know your mom was Mexican."

Babe #2: "That's not my mom, that's our maid."

Babe #1: "My bad. She mumbled some gibberish."

Babe #2: "That's Spanish."

Anyway, they leave the

money for the pizza with her, and get on to more essential matters. Like why isn't Jake picking up when Tanya (Rosie Chan) calls him? And how are they going to come up with the \$200 they need to pay for the keg of beer and the smoke to keep everyone high as kites all night?

Noticeably absent from the proceedings was any mention of parents. The parents of these teens were entirely missing from the play, and, perhaps, from their lives. That the conflicts and prejudices and law-breaking activities of the characters portrayed could have benefited from parental involvement goes without saying, which may be one reason why the actors never said a thing about them.

The entire junior class was watching the production on the morning of April 15th, and by

the time the play was part way through the first scene, the assembly hall had taken on the aspect of a large group improv, with audience members calling out ad libbed dialogue, commenting on the characters, and laughing or jeering at their mishaps. Until one of the characters, Caroline, wound up wrapped around a tree in a drunk driving accident as the party ended, and Scranton solemnly intoned that a member of their school community had died in a car accident that night. Not sure where fact faded into fiction, the assembly fell momentarily silent, considering the implications of the drama the 16 cast members had been bravely enacting on stage.

Controversy High will be performed again on the morning of May 13th at the Turners Falls High School auditorium. Parents should plan to attend.

DUCKLING

continued from pg 1

who will remember for an eternity that they didn't get one. Now the all-school play is back on its feet, as long as there are some parents free during the day, creative costumers, and half a principal willing and able. Judging by the performance (4/14), the event is stronger than ever, engaging every member of the school community in acting, singing, movement, costume, and set design.

"The Ugly Duckling" (script kindly loaned by the Erving Elementary School, which produced it five years ago) is the story of being different - not just the "duckling" himself, endear-

ingly played by lanky Malik Odeh - but his persecuted friends: charming Katelyn Phillips (Ducky), exuberant Natasha Vaughan (Tweety), and winsome Jack Hubert (Stanley). Whether it's their kindness at unpopular times, their high-pitched (and boy, is it high-pitched) squeal of a bird call, or their general inability to keep up with the crowd, each of them is unable to fit in. So they join the Ugly Duckling for a series of adventures, looking for a place where it's okay to be who they are. Accompanied by the sweet tones of Seth Lemieux as the Sage Peacock, whose Greek Chorus-style commentary on issues from high above the stage action, from his perch-

es on the climbing wall, the foursome travels from pond to field, from woods to river, then back home to the farm, keeping watch over their shoulders for the sinister Cat, played by the sly Chad Galipault.

Framed by a grand and colorful set (designed by community member Susan Calabria) and enlivened by simple, low-budget and wonderfully effective costumes (like striped t-shirts and tinselled hats for the Birds), the musical numbers were great: an attentive band and the ever-in-motion Dorsey energetically drawing out a lively and raucous, or sweet and soulful sound from the bashful young singers at every turn. Each of the classes had its time in the spotlight,

from the Animal Parade of mewling, squeaking, and hopping Kindergartners, through the Spring Dance 1st-graders, Rockin' Robin 2nd/3rd-graders, and 4th grade Goofy Geese. Fifth and sixth graders took the leads, among their many highlights were Rachel Arial's marvelously maternal bossiness and waddle as the ever-loyal Mother Duck, and the sauntering Swans, portrayed as oh-so-cool dudes with black-ringed eyes and hanging shirttails. From the scary, sad, finger-pointing energy of "Different," where the creatures gang up on a confused Ugly Duckling, to the satisfying finales of "Together" and "Side by Side," the audience (packed to the ceiling on bleachers

loaned by NMH) was absorbed, engaged, and enthusiastic to the end, when all involved, especially parent Mary Reeder, described as "Assistant Director and Most Valuable Asset," were given well-deserved and vigorous applause.

In addition to the work of school staff and many volunteers, the production was made possible by the Mass Cultural Council, the Gill Arts Lottery, the Gill PTO, and Gill's Quintas Allen Fund. Youth from the Brick House were on hand to videotape the performance, which with luck will be available to those who missed it on public access TV.

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Operation Slow Burn

Northwestern District Attorney Elizabeth D. Scheibel announced on Wednesday, April 20th, the completion of Operation Slow Burn, a large-scale undercover narcotics operation in the towns of Greenfield and Montague involving more than 60 defendants.

In response to a growing problem of street level drug dealing, which leads to increased assaults, robberies, burglaries, and larcenies, this operation was developed by Greenfield Police Chief David Guilbault and Montague Police Chief Ray Zukowski and Staff Sergeant Gary Billings, at the direction of, and in cooperation with, Greenfield Mayor Christine Forgey and Montague Selectboard Chair Pat Allen. In addition, drug dealers who loiter

near town businesses and public facilities have a negative impact on the public's use of those businesses and facilities.

Operation Slow Burn began in December, 2004 and involved Greenfield and Montague Police Departments, the State Police Narcotics Unit assigned to Northwestern District Attorney Elizabeth D. Scheibel, the Franklin/Hampshire Drug Task Force and the Berkshire County Drug Task Force. Undercover officers made multiple hand-to-hand purchases from 64 individuals in Greenfield and Montague, involving heroin, crack and powder cocaine, oxycontin, mushrooms, and marijuana. One-third of the buys were conducted in the downtown areas of Greenfield and Montague. More than 30 cases

involved the sale of heroin, cocaine, and marijuana in a school zone.

The planning and execution of Operation Slow Burn involved more than 100 law enforcement personnel, including Greenfield and Montague police officers, the detective and narcotics units of the Northwestern D. A., Massachusetts State Police Command Post, the Franklin County Sheriff's Office, the Berkshire County Narcotics Task Force, Pittsfield Police Chief Anthony Riello, and the Franklin and Hampshire County Police Chiefs. The operation was directed by Sgt. John Newton, Sgt. Joe Burge, and Detective Kevin Rowell of the Greenfield Police Department, Detective Lee Laster of the

Montague Police Department, and Massachusetts State Police Officer Chris Wilcox. In addition, yesterday's arrest and subsequent arraignments were coordinated by Greenfield District Court Clerk-Magistrate Meg Palmeri and Northwestern Assistant District Attorney Mary Lou Szulborski. Among the defendants involved in the sweep were:

Laura Adkins, 26, 67 4th Street, Turners Falls, distribution class D drug, distribution class B drug.

Christopher Oakes, 18, 64 4th Street, Turners Falls, possession with intent to distribute class D drug (2 counts).

Jamie Mahar, 31, 84 4th Street, Turners Falls, distribution of a class B drug, shoplifting by concealing merchandise,

assault with a dangerous weapon, shoplifting, failure to stop for a police officer, reckless operation of a motor vehicle, failure to stop or yield.

Vanessa Caballero, 20, 84 4th Street, Turners Falls, distribution of a class B drug.

Jeffrey Poirier, 19, 42 3rd Street, Turners Falls, distribution of class D drug (2 counts).

James Sowers, 46, 174 Ave A, Turners Falls, distribution of a class E drug, distribution of a class B drug (2 counts), distribution of a class A drug (2 counts).

Joshua Phillips, 22, 54 Ave A, Turners Falls, distribution of a class D drug (2 counts).

Christian Cannon, 30, 175 Ave A, distribution of a class E drug, distribution of a class B drug (2 counts), distribution of a class A drug.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Unlawful Entry, Unlawful Possession

Thursday 4-14

10:55 a.m. Report of a larceny at a 2nd Street address. Under investigation.

10:27 p.m. Report of a domestic disturbance at a G Street address. Problem with some juveniles. Officer spoke to all involved. Peace restored.

Friday 4-15

8:45 a.m. Report of vandalism at a G Street address. Minor damage to a motor vehicle. Report taken.

2:00 p.m. Female juvenile arrested at the Tech School for possession of a class D drug.

Saturday 4-16

7:27 p.m. Report of a breaking and entering at an 11th Street address. [redacted] was arrested and charged with violating a restraining order, breaking and entering to commit a misdemeanor, and two

counts of malicious destruction of property under \$250.

5:32 p.m. Report of breaking and entering at Railroad Salvage. Four people were arrested and charged with trespassing: three juveniles and [redacted].

7:22 p.m. Report of a traffic hazard on Turners Falls Road. Kids in the road. Officer moved them along.

9:27 p.m. Assisted U.S. Army in arresting [redacted] for being AWOL. Held until Army could pick him up.

Sunday 4-17

12:34 p.m. Report of a domestic disturbance at a K Street address. Found to be verbal only.

Monday 4-18

5:51 a.m. Report of a person in the road on the


Gill/Montague Bridge. Put in protective custody.

6:17 p.m. Report of littering on Denton Street in Lake Pleasant. Beer cans thrown. Under investigation.

Tuesday 4-19

12:02 p.m. Report of a minor motor vehicle accident at the Survival Center on 4th Street. Report taken.

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Feed The Birds, Kill The Trees

BY ALAN EMOND

COLRAIN - Human nature is all too often in conflict with nature itself. We read about the plight of species on the brink of extinction with great sorrow. Somehow our world feels less whole by the slaughter of the buffalo and the extermination of the passenger pigeon. I recently learned in conversation with an entomologist that since the introduction of genetically engineered corn we have lost up to 150 types of moths and butterflies.

Most of us live detached from nature, our knowledge of it con-

sisting of a collection of visual snippets, mentally stored photos and short stories, glimpsed through windows as we move from home to vehicle, on to work, and back home again. If you listen to the rhythms of nature, seasons pass only to return again, spring buds burst through waxed shells, the new green foliage provides food for insects, rabbits, turkeys, and deer. Insects fall prey to birds, bats, and other insects; rabbits, turkeys, and deer are food for coyotes, foxes, and hawks. In the cycle's end, predators fall to disease and old age, insects and

bacteria recycle their bodies into fertilizer that in turn feeds the plants and trees. The circle is again complete.

We all harbor an instinctual need to reconnect with nature. The intensity and clarity of this need will vary depending on our urban or rural environment, and the amount of our exposure to nature growing up. One way the urge to reconnect with nature can express itself is through the universally pleasing activity of "bird feeding".

You would have to search far and wide to find anyone who doesn't enjoy watching birds at a feeder. Cruising suburban streets, it is not uncommon to spy several homes sporting two and three feeders. Come September, bird seed of many blends and weights is a key display item in stores. It's big business!

Big business or not, those footing the bill are expressing their love of the feathered acrobats of nature, arrayed in suits as fine as any circus actors. How could you find fault with bird lovers? Without doubt, their intent is pure and good, but could the seemingly innocent backyard activity of feeding the birds be yet another oversight by the planet's most intelligent animal?

Winter grooming of shrubs and trees is, I believe, essential to the well being of our forests. As a tracker and naturalist, I can't help but analyze how our actions affect the balance of nature perfected by millions of years of evolution.

Buy a feeder, hang it in front of your favorite window, and wait. The show starts slowly, just a few birds at first, but soon it turns into a frenzy equal to the entry hole to a beehive in August. Reliable chickadees are usually the first visitors, followed by their social group: titmice, nuthatches, and downy and hairy woodpeckers. Next jays are attracted by the commotion, and eventually the seed eaters come calling: cardinals, finches,

sparrows, and juncos.

Now your world is complete, you've made peace in your heart the Indian way by giving back to nature. It's so much fun watching the birds dip, dive, side flip, and challenge for rights to the next seed to be plucked from the proffered bounty. One can't leave out the most special moments, when a bird lights, selects a meal and sits there to eat it before your eyes. We all, myself included, love to feed the birds.

Without the ready meals provided by bird lovers, the birds would naturally feed on insects during the winter months. Give it some thought. How many pounds of birdseed and suet do the birds at your feeder go through in a season? At my feeder, the visitors were predominately chickadees, titmice, nuthatches, and woodpeckers, in that order. I fed them from February 12th to March 1st, and with only one feeding station, they consumed 15 pounds of seed and peanuts in those few short weeks. How many insects would it require to equal 15 pounds of bird seed! How do you suppose 15 pounds of insects - who use trees as a host - affect a section of forest?

Truth is, all birds are well equipped to take care of themselves without our intervention. When I was a young boy, before feeding the birds caught on as anything more than an unaffordable luxury, the woods would team with waves of bug pickers in the winter. Seed eaters could be watched gleaning fields, verges of woods, open southern banks, and sumacs for winter forage. Walks in deep woods these winter days are comparatively serene, with little bird chatter. As I witness the bombardment of my feeder I am certain the birds who dine there are roosting nearby. They've become swiftly addicted to my fast food restaurant, and now spend little time or effort grooming trees in search of hibernating insects and their egg masses.

Constant grooming of trees during dormant winter months is crucial to the balance in ratio of insect pest to host trees. State biologist Randy Dettmers agreed with my assertion that birds with a preference for insects should under natural conditions spend intense amounts of time gleaning forests for spiders, moths, borers, gall grubs, and other tree pests and their egg masses. The inactive insects winter under bark, in dormant buds, dead wood, and needle clusters of their host. In my observations, a flock of chickadees and their entourage revisit the same stands of forest where they've had success finding insects before, grooming them ever deeper as winter waxes and eventually wanes, just like they revisit your feeder. Without the birds doing their timeless job of cleaning the woods of these pests, how many more insects than nature intended are attacking our forest in spring! If rabbits were eating your gardens would you leave a chicken dinner out each night for the local fox?

I'm afraid the problem runs deeper than any possible damage to the forest trees. The birds themselves depend on instincts honed over thousands of years of survival of the fittest and the most adaptable. Those who did not possess a strong instinct to glean every inch of the winter landscape perished, taking with them their inferior genes, leaving only the strong and habitually perfected members of their species to reproduce the following spring. Over decades, as the passion for feeding the birds has grown to a national pastime, we humans, in our love, are allowing the small percentages of birds born without a strong gleaning instinct to survive and join the breeding population each spring. With each passing year, as the dependency on our abundant offerings grows, so does the possible disaster down the road if the fast food express ever derails.

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Debbie Stone Fundraiser a Resounding Success

BY JOE PARZYCH

TURNERS FALLS - The fundraiser for Debbie Stone, held recently at the St. Kaziemerz Society hall on Seventh Street was a resounding success. It filled the hall to capacity.

"This is better than a class reunion," Debbie said. "It's so great to see the support I'm getting from everyone." She said 53 family and friends helped with the fundraiser, preparing food, and getting donations for the raffle. 58 businesses and individuals donated raffle prizes. She is extremely grateful to them all.

The St. Kaziemerz Society donated the hall and the band, *Curley Fingers*, played gratis. The Stone family members, who are all great cooks, prepared the food, and it surpassed expectations.

"We thought we would run out of food," Barbara Terault, Debbie's sister, said. "But so many people brought donations

of food, we had plenty." There was such a steady stream of people coming to wish Debbie their best she hardly had a chance to eat any of the delicious offerings.

Debbie was a bit overwhelmed by all the material and moral support, and continues to marvel at the generosity and expressions of good wishes. She is preparing a thank-you to the community, but finds it difficult to begin expressing the depth of her gratitude.

Debbie, who had been working as a caretaker and landscaper for a large estate, is now casting around for a suitable occupation. She also enjoyed coaching little league softball, and enjoys being around children. Since having her spine injured, when her truck pinned her against a concrete driveway, Debbie's time has been occupied with physical therapy and adjusting to life in a wheelchair. The money from the fundraiser will go toward

remodeling her living quarters to be wheelchair accessible so she can live more independently. She definitely wants to get back to work.

"I don't know exactly what I will be doing," Debbie said, when I called her, "but I am leaning more and more towards working with children. I am getting a lot of guidance from the director of Granite State Living. He is also a paraplegic, and is giving me great support."



PARZYCH PHOTO

Debbie Stone greatly appreciated the support she received from everyone who attended her fundraiser at St. Kaziemerz Society recently.

Debbie is undergoing physical therapy and is looking for a handicapped van, because she finds her pickup truck difficult to get into. Anyone knowing of such a vehicle can write to her: Debbie Stone, 146 Concord

Street, Nashua, NH 03060. Cards and letters would be most welcome. You can also email her at the address: stoney1157@comcast.net.

Stand and Deliver

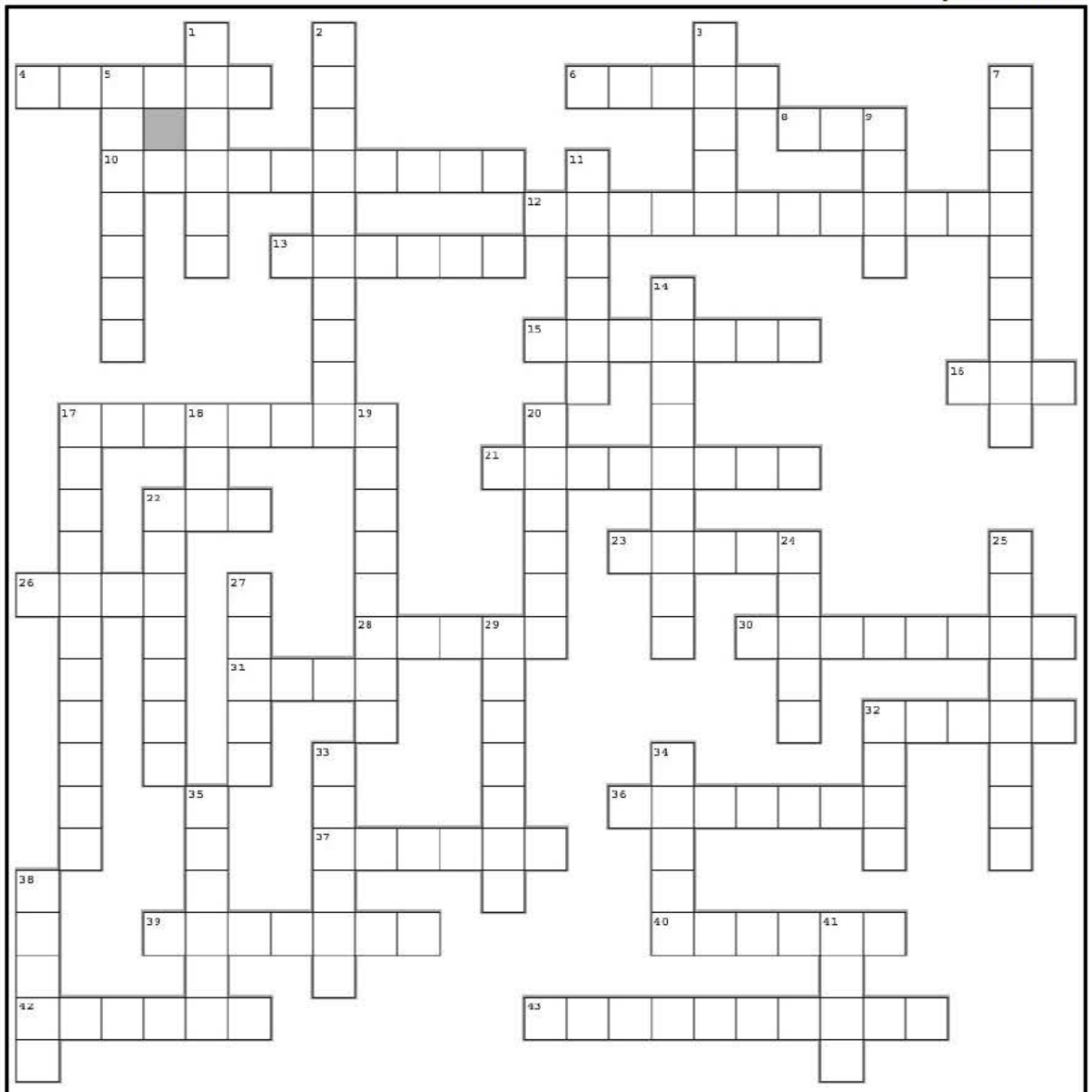
by Bette Black

Across

- 4. Narrative folk song with a refrain.
- 6. Poorly bred fellow.
- 8. A measure of length, forty-five inches.
- 10. Shire haunted by merry men.
- 12. Common sparring weapon.
- 13. Spirit, courage.
- 15. Deer meat.
- 16. Sacred Tree.
- 17. Silver coin worth twelve pennies.
- 21. A quarter of an English penny.
- 22. A burdensome or excessive demand.
- 23. Will Scarlet's country of origin.
- 26. Beverage made from fermented honey.
- 28. Our hero.
- 30. Little king.
- 31. A measure of length, about nine inches.
- 32. fun, adventure.
- 36. Ornamental leather belt worn to support a sword or bugle.
- 37. Rascal, ruffian.
- 39. One who makes a journey to a sacred shrine.
- 40. A free man.
- 42. Tined deer horn.
- 43. Tall shepherd from Hathersage.

Down

- 1. A cloak or cape.
- 2. Tyrant of England in the king's absence.
- 3. A silver coin worth four pence.
- 5. Devastating Welsh weapon adopted by the English.
- 7. Outlawed Man.
- 9. Instrument played by Allan a' Dale
- 11. A bag for holding arrows.
- 14. Epithet of English king captured while on crusade.
- 17. Prize at the archery contest.
- 18. Meadow, field.
- 19. That Sherriff's bumbling lackey.
- 20. The Lady of Sherwood.
- 22. News.
- 24. Truth or fact.
- 25. Traveller who spreads tales in the form of song.
- 27. Arena for a joust or tournament.
- 29. Unbeliever.
- 32. The miller's son.
- 33. Identifiable service uniform.
- 34. Wait or stay.
- 35. A young gentleman attendant to a knight.
- 38. Title for Michael Tuck of Fountains Abbey.
- 41. Presently, soon.



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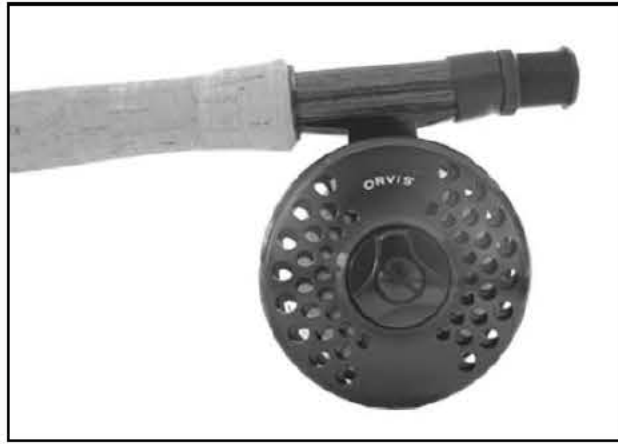
BY ARIEL JONES
MONTAGUE - One of the ongoing problems I've had since moving to Western Massachusetts from the city has been the fear of getting lost. The driving part was fine, but the navigating was terrible. If you are not afraid of being lost, or you have lived here all your life, it would be hard to understand the anxiety driving out alone onto winding unmarked roads with an innately bad sense of direction can give one. The only motivation strong enough to get me out there seemed to be my love of learning to fly fish.

I was now facing the fact

that I couldn't always drive an hour away to fish a known water with Tom. I would have to go exploring for local spots so I could go out more often.

Before I Discovered Maps

How do you know where to go? What was private, and what was public? Where were the trout? I began by talking to Richard at Pipione's, and began asking around to get a general idea of what roads ran alongside local rivers. I was advised to look for turn-off spots where cars, presumably those of other anglers, and not lunatics straight out of Deliverance, had parked. In



an Orvis mid-Arbor Reel.

of accomplishment. One more unnecessary mental obstacle was slipping behind me. The ability to just go out on my own was getting easier. The trick was to not think about it too much and just do it. And, I found a spot.

Here's the first of many tips I intend to give to prospective fly fishers: Look At Maps. They not only show roads and rivers, but contain other helpful information, like a section on fishing that includes a table of rivers and which fish are in them.

There are also many books on trout fishing in New England that give a lot of helpful information about where to go. More about all this later. I'm off to Arkansas for two weeks; I'll be checking out the fishing spots there, and may correspond with you while I'm on the road. Otherwise, more news from the wet and wild world of fly fishing by the first week of May.

early August, I spent one Saturday doing this. I was often "lost," but was having such a marvelous time it didn't seem to matter. I was finally beginning to realize just how truly beautiful this part of Massachusetts is. I followed roads, found waters, saw turnoffs. I often parked my car and tramped down to a riverbank to examine the depth, search for pools, check out the riverbed, just like a pro.

When I got home later that day, I felt an enormous sense

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Czestochowa's Pastor a Gem in Franklin County

BY KATHLEEN LITCHFIELD
TURNERS FALLS - When Pope John Paul II visited Boston in the summer of 1979, Father Charles DiMascola, pastor of Our Lady of Czestochowa Church, designed the sterling silver ring, inscribed with *Ut Unum Simus* (That We May Be One), which was presented to the late Roman Catholic leader.

DiMascola, a former art teacher at Palmer High School, also designed the two-paneled artwork denoting religious freedom - created in a form of traditional Polish paperwork called *wiczinanki*, with white paper on a background of red velvet -- presented to Pope John Paul II that day.

One side of the diptych portrayed Quaker Mary Dyer, who was hanged on the Boston Common in 1660 for her religious beliefs, and the other side featured quotations from Dyer written in calligraphy by the Dominican nuns of the Monastery of the Mother of God in West Springfield.

DiMascola, who grew up in Wilbraham in a predominantly Polish neighborhood, also carried a candle and led the procession of ecumenical officers to the Boston Common for the Papal Mass that day.

He said he was deeply honored to be asked to contribute his handcrafted art to the Pope, at a time when he was studying for priesthood at the Pope John XXIII Seminary in Weston at age 39.

Years before he became a priest, and the pastor of Our Lady of Czestochowa Church here in Turners, DiMascola was a respected art teacher who inspired children's creativity and helped numerous high school students prepare their college art portfolios.

DiMascola grew up as an only child in a close-knit family of Polish relatives and neighbors near Indian Orchard. He attended parochial school led by Felician Sisters, where he was taught half in Polish and half in

English.

"In my neighborhood, everybody spoke Polish, at the store, the market, if you bought shoes. It was like a little Warsaw," he said, recalling visits to Gruszka's Market on the corner of his street, the only spot where

DiMascola attended Memorial Junior High School in Wilbraham for ninth grade and then rode a bus into Springfield to attend Classical High School on State Street for grades 10 through 12. It was here that his longtime love of drawing and

very much involved with TV and computers and they often neglect the creative side of their lives. They never develop that unless someone encourages them. Kids don't have hobbies like they used to," said DiMascola, who has officiated

young, he said.

The gray-haired, 63-year-old Roman Catholic priest, with his characteristic warm smile and gentle demeanor, said he chose the seminary in 1977 to teach children about Jesus Christ and give them faith and values he feels will give them a better chance in the world.

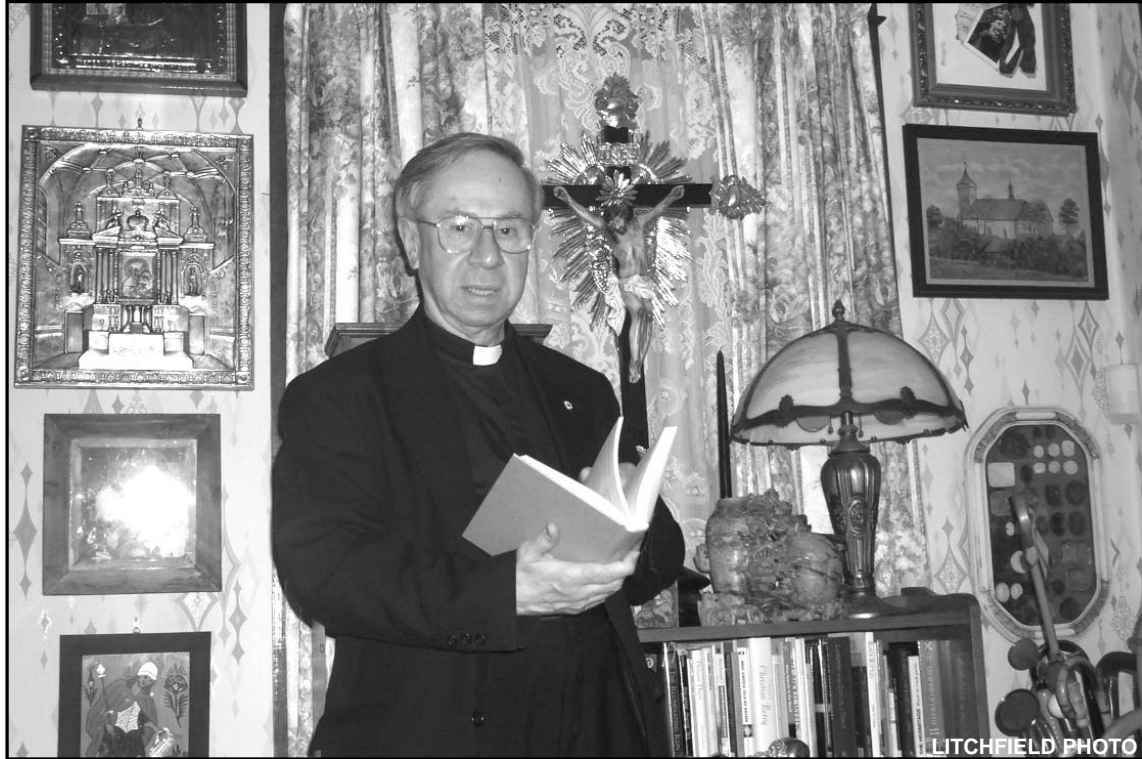
"I always had the interest but I felt I wasn't smart enough to be a priest when I was younger. I didn't think I could handle the work and didn't think I had enough brain cells to do it," he chuckled, tapping the side of his head. "Then something dawned on me - if I didn't understand Jesus Christ, then something was wrong with my teacher, not with me. That realization gave me great courage."

His first parish was Our Lady of the Rosary in Springfield and his second, Christ the King Church in Ludlow. He came to Our Lady of Czestochowa, known as "the gem of Franklin County" with its hand-carved, ornate altar, turn-of-the-century paintings from Poland and stained glass windows from the Pontifical Institute in Rome, in 1986.

While admitting he still gets nervous standing in the pulpit and speaking before his parishioners, DiMascola said the part of priesthood he finds incredibly satisfying is the miracle of the Eucharist.

"That God comes to us in this very real form, as the Bible promises, that's very unique to the priesthood. Nobody else can do that. And administering the sacraments, especially Confession, is very satisfying," he said. "To be able to be the instrument of reconciliation with God for people. A lot of people come to Confession here. We have lines. In a given year we hear between 6,000 to 7,000 confessions here. It's very satisfying to reunite people with God."

DiMascola said he is "very pleased" with the election of see **DiMASCOLA** pg 12



Father Charles DiMascola, pastor of Our Lady of Czestochowa

there was a telephone during his childhood.

Fondly recalling listening to the "Lone Ranger" on the radio Friday nights and Jack Benny on Sunday nights, DiMascola said his memories included horse-drawn carts delivering ice throughout the neighborhood.

"In those days everybody had a field behind their house. In the early spring my grandfather cleaned out the chicken coop and spread it all over the field. Then a man would come and plow up everyone's fields. We grew vegetables and enough potatoes to last all winter, and stored them in the potato bin in the cellar. We had chickens, rabbits, pigeons . . . those were quiet days. The garden always had sunflowers and wild dill so when you did pickling, the wild dill was all over the place to make it easy for you."

painting - along with a healthy dose of his families' innate creativity - was harnessed; he decided to go to art school.

After graduating from the Massachusetts College of Art in Boston, he earned his first teaching position at Palmer High School in 1964, with a class of 25 students.

"When I left in 1977 for the seminary, there were over 600 students taking art classes and five art teachers in the high school. We had the whole floor and different classrooms in addition. I ended up teaching Polish in my last year there, at the request of students who wanted to learn," said DiMascola. In fact, many of his students visited Poland through the high school, to further their studies during the summertime.

"It was just the way things were. Today, young people get

at the weddings of some of his former art students and baptized their children. Some have even moved to the area and become his parishioners here in Turners Falls.

"Many of the children in this parish are above average intellectually, but there's a difference in this parish, in that people are very traditional. The average family has between five and seven children and sometimes more. And many don't believe in TV. These kids are very creative and more open to doing things on their own. I don't know why this is. I find it very curious. This parish is made up of young families with children. We have as many baptisms today as parishes had in the '20s. The numbers are growing," said DiMascola. Today Our Lady of Czestochowa has over 1,600 parishioners, most of whom are

Religious Services

Baptist

Faith Baptist Church, 331 Silver Street, Greenfield, 774-6438
 Sunday at 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.,
 Wednesday Adult Bible Study 7 p.m. Youth Bible Club at 6:45 p.m.

First Baptist Church of Turners Falls, 10 Prospect, Turners, 863-9083
 Sunday at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., and Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Christian Science

First Church of Christ Scientist, 110 Federal St., Greenfield, 773-9765
 Sunday at 10:30 a.m. and Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints (Mormons)
 25 Bank Row, Greenfield, 772-

8514 Sunday at 10 a.m.

Congregational

Gill Congregational Church, Main Rd., 863-8613 Sunday at 10 a.m.
 First Congregational Church, 19 Bridge St., Millers Falls, 659-3430
 Sunday at 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Bible study Wed. at 7 p.m.

Episcopal

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Seventh and Prospect St., Turners, 863-4602
 Sunday at 9 a.m.

Friends (Quakers)

Mount Toby Monthly Meeting of Friends, Rte. 63, Leverett, 548-9188
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Jewish

Temple Israel, 27 Pierce St., Greenfield, 773-5884
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the month) and Saturday at 9:30 a.m.; schedule does vary, it is advisable to call in advance

Lutheran

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 23 Long Ave., Greenfield, 773-5242
 Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

Nondenominational

Grace Church, 41 K St., Turners, 863-2771
 Sunday at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., and Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

National Spiritual Alliance
 2 Montague Ave., Lake Pleasant, 367-0138 Sunday at 1 p.m.

Unity in the Pioneer Valley Church
 401 Chapman Street, Guiding Star Grange, 625-2960; Sunday at 10 a.m.

Roman Catholic

Our Lady of Czestochowa, 84 K St., Turners, 863-4748

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 Monday at 8 a.m.; and Tuesday-Friday at 5:30 p.m.
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 St. John's, 5 Church St., Millers Falls, 659-3435
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St. Mary's of the Assumption, 80 Seventh St., Turners, 863-2585
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Salvation Army

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Unitarian Universalist

All Souls, 399 Main St.,

Greenfield, 773-5018 Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

First Parish Unitarian, Main St., Northfield, 498-5566
 Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

United Church of Christ

Evangelical Congregational Church (UCC),
 11 Church St., Erving (978) 544-8658

First Congregational Church (UCC),
 4 North St., Montague Ctr., 367-9467 Sunday at 10 a.m.

First Congregational Church of Turners Falls (UCC), 148 L St., Turners, 863-9844 Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

Contact the Reporter to add your service.

DiMASCOLA

continued from pg 11

Pope Benedict XVI, formerly Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger of Germany, on Tuesday. "One of the things I have noticed is that people seem to misunderstand the idea of the Pope. The role of the Pope is supernatural. It comes from God to direct people to God. That's not something that can come about by consensus or popularity vote. The Pope is a divine thing, not a human thing. Whoever is elected, even though the cardinals are the instruments, it's the Holy Spirit that inspires that election. In doing that, it reaffirms that God is running the show. No matter how Pope Benedict feels, he still must go according to God's plan. He is a divine instrument, a supernatural force in a natural world. And that's why his role

is unique," DiMascola said. "To say that if we had a more liberal Pope, he'd make certain changes in moral areas, he can't do that because that would be contrary to God's law. People don't seem to understand that role."

Noting the great number of young people he witnessed at Pope John Paul II's funeral and following the election of Pope Benedict XVI, DiMascola said he is encouraged.

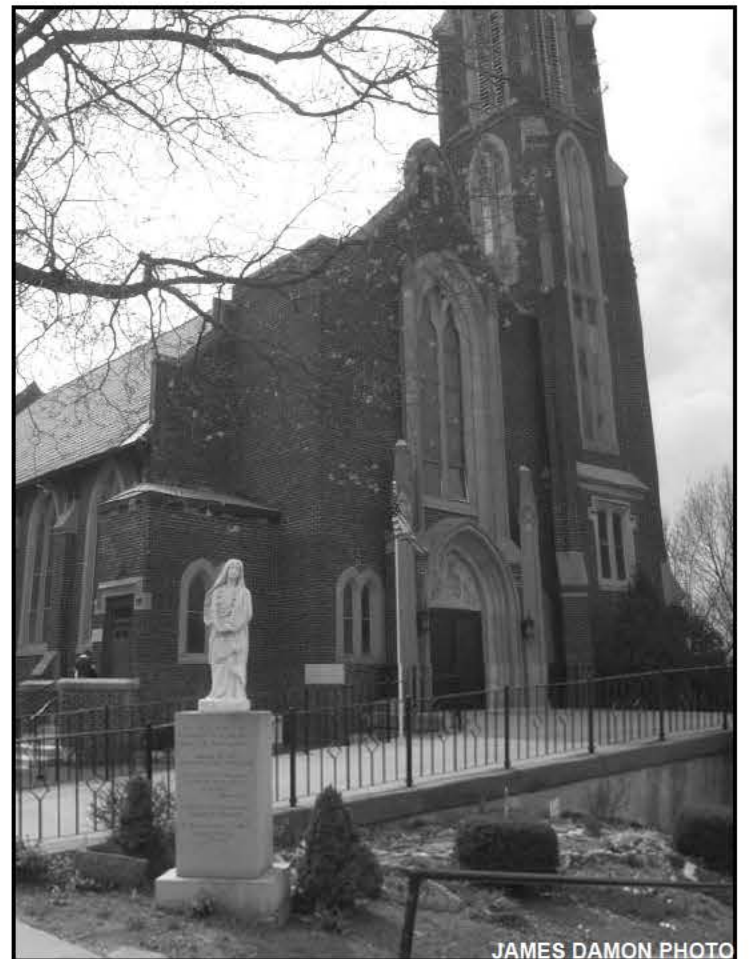
"All those naysayers and negative nellys are on the wrong boat. They don't get the message that Jesus Christ is alive and well in his church," he said.

Being the only priest in his large parish keeps DiMascola very busy these days, but when he gets a chance he still enjoys drawing with pen and ink for relaxation. Tending towards drawing images of a religious nature and of architecture, he also illustrates sto-

ries that he makes up and does artwork for the church when called upon.

He just celebrated his nineteenth anniversary at Our Lady of Czestochowa Church, and still sings in Polish, something very much appreciated by Montague's residents of Polish descent, recently reported as 21.1 percent of the town's population, according to an article in the *Sunday Republican*.

"Up here we're in our sixth generation of Polish descent, so the language isn't as strong as it used to be," said DiMascola, who enjoys carrying on the Polish traditions he grew up with. His parishioners seem to appreciate having those traditions carried on in DiMascola's own kind and caring manner.



JAMES DAMON PHOTO

Our Lady of Czestochowa Church, a gem in Franklin County

THE HEALTHY GEEZER

Keep Your Balance

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - Q. I'm not sure what's going on, but, once in a while, I find myself losing my balance. Is this just an aging thing or what?

- *Off-balance in San Francisco*

A. About one in ten people over 65 experience difficulty with balance. More than 40 percent of Americans will go to a doctor complaining of dizziness. Getting older is only part of the problem. Inner ear disturbances are the primary cause.

Losing balance when you're

older is serious stuff. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that, each year, more than one-third of people over 65 years suffer a fall. Falls are the leading cause of injury deaths among older adults. And, even if the fall doesn't kill you, you could fracture a hip and then a whole bunch of problems can cascade over you: limitations on activities, isolation, loss of independence, depression.

Not all balance problems have the same cause. Here are several major ones:

Benign paroxysmal positional vertigo (BPPV). With BPPV, one of the most common causes of balance problems, you get vertigo when you change the position of your head. You may also experience BPPV when you roll over, get out of bed, or when you look on a high shelf. BPPV is more likely to occur in people over 60.

Labyrinthitis, an infection or inflammation of the inner ear. The labyrinth is the organ in your inner ear that enables you to keep your balance.

Ménière's disease, which

also can give you intermittent hearing loss, a ringing or roaring in the ears, and a feeling of fullness in the ear.

Other causes may involve another part of the body, such as the brain or the heart. Aging, infections, head injury, certain medicines, or problems with blood circulation may also cause problems with balance.

Blood pressure medications and some antibiotics can cause balance problems. If you are taking any drugs in these categories and feel off-balance, it's worth discussing with your doctor.

Some people may have a balance problem and don't know it. Balance disorders can be difficult to diagnose because patients sometimes can't describe their symptoms well.

Balance disorders can be signs of other health problems, so it's important to have them checked out.

If you can answer any of the following positively, discuss the symptom with your doctor.

Do I feel: Unsteady? Disoriented? As if the room is spinning? As if I'm moving when I'm still? As if I'm falling? As if I might faint?

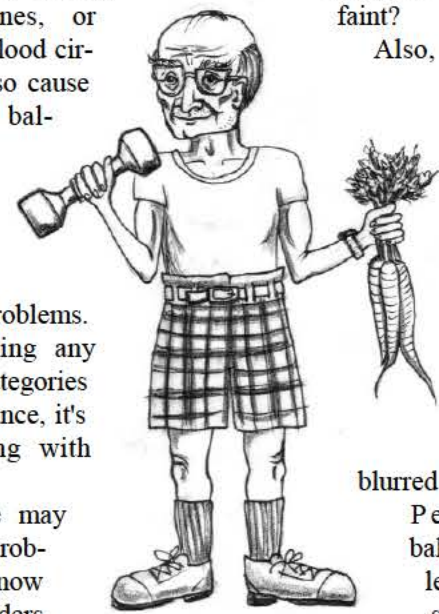
Also, do you ever lose your balance and fall? Or, do you


experience blurred vision?

Persistent balance problems are not something you should


pass off as a harmless part of the aging process. They should always be examined carefully.

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





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Bruschi's Future Uncertain

BY LEE CARIGNAN

TURNERS FALLS - On February 16th the football world was shocked to find out Patriots star linebacker Teddy Bruschi had suffered a mild stroke. His wife called 911 saying her husband was experiencing blurred vision and numbness on the right side of his body. The 31-year-old linebacker was admitted to Massachusetts General Hospital, where he spent two days before being released on February 18th.

It was a sobering moment for fans used to seeing Bruschi flying around the field making big plays, to see him walk gingerly out of the hospital and be helped into his vehicle. No official announcements have been made, but all reports have been positive that Bruschi is doing well. It's still unclear if Teddy Bruschi will be able to resume his football career.

The nine-year veteran and defensive captain has become one of the most popular Patriot players. The fans admire Bruschi for being a blue-collar player who always gives one hundred percent and is all business on the field, but is very friendly, approachable, and down to earth off it. They appreciate that Bruschi signed a

below market contract to stay with the Patriots, and that winning championships is more important to him than getting more money somewhere else.

Bruschi, who has become a big time playmaker, had 128 tackles and three interceptions last year. He was selected to the Pro Bowl for his first time last season. Bruschi was drafted by the Patriots in the third round in the 1996 draft out of Arizona. In college he was a defensive end but wasn't big enough to play the position in the NFL. He successfully made the conversion and has become a very good inside linebacker for the Patriots.

Belichick recently reported Bruschi has been visiting the Patriots headquarters daily. He said Bruschi is doing well and is in good spirits. Belichick did not say anything regarding Bruschi's chances of playing next season.

The uncertainty regarding Teddy Bruschi, along with the loss of fellow inside linebacker Roman Phifer, has left a gaping hole in the middle of the Patriots defense. Ted Johnson is the only true middle linebacker left on the roster. Johnson, who is getting up there in years himself, has also had injury problems in the past. This leaves the Patriots



very vulnerable in the middle of their defense. With all the top linebacking free agents already signed, the Patriots had to settle on four-year veteran linebacker Monty Beisel last week. The 6'3 238 pound linebacker signed a two-year deal with the Pats. He started nine games for the Kansas City Chiefs last years. Beisel will add depth, but it's unrealistic to expect him to replace a Teddy Bruschi. Beisel will probably be used more as a situational linebacker, not as an every down player.

Last year's backup linebackers, Don Davis, Larry Izzo, and Dan Klecko, could help provide some depth. But Davis played more at safety last year and has been mostly used on special teams. Izzo is a bit undersized and has also been used mainly on special teams. Klecko could be the top incumbent to take on a middle linebacker spot. He has

great size at 270 pounds and good mobility, but has limited experience at linebacker. Klecko still needs to learn the position and may not be ready yet to assume that role. He was a defensive lineman in college. The Patriots have used the versatile Klecko at fullback, tight end, linebacker and defensive line since they drafted him. A knee injury cut his season short last year.

Unfortunately, the college draft may not provide the Patriots with any answers. The linebackers in this year's draft class aren't considered very good. There isn't one middle linebacker that's expected to go in the first round. It seems doubtful the Patriots would reach for a linebacker in the first round just to fill a need. The Patriots may take a chance on one in the second round. There are three interesting middle linebackers that could be available for the Pats in that round. Channing Crowder of Florida is a solid player and is a lock to be taken in the second round. Odell Thurman of Georgia has great physical talent but has had some off-field problems. This is the type of player the Patriots have avoided in past years. Barrett Ruud of Nebraska is 6'1 and 240 pounds and had nearly 300 tack-

les over the last two seasons. He isn't considered the most athletic linebacker in the draft, but has had great production. This is the type of player the Patriots like to draft. He could be a good fit for the Pats.

If the Patriots do lose Bruschi, it could force them to play more 4-3 defense next season. The Patriots have great depth on their defensive line, with many young talented players. This has become one of the team's greatest strengths. The Patriots have used three first round draft picks on their defensive line in the last four years to build a great line. First rounders Richard Seymour, Vince Wilfork, and Ty Warren should be a force for years to come. Belichick prefers to play a 3-4 defense but may have trouble finding middle linebackers to play at a high enough level to stay in the defense. The abundance of talented defensive lineman on the team could influence Belichick's decisions next season. The key for the Patriots playing their 3-4 defense next season will be if Ted Johnson can stay healthy all season and if Belichick can find someone in the draft or on their roster that can hold down the other middle linebacker spot.

THE PERSISTENT GARDENER

Gardening Truisms

BY WOODY BROWN

MONTAGUE CITY - For a very short while I collected gardening truisms. These little tidbits of advice were both informative and fun to gather. I'll share a few of them with you. There's no guarantee - nor do I suggest - that being guided by these adages will make you a better gardener. But each truism addresses specific problems you may encounter in your own garden.

Not everybody likes garlic, but for those who do: "The largest cloves yield the biggest bulbs". And, incidentally, you will never get a large garlic bulb from a small clove. I am assuming everyone knows that garlic in the garden is grown from bulbs, not seed.

Having learned the hard way

that smaller cloves will not produce a large bulb, I now generally discount the smaller cloves, taking them inside for my wife to use in cooking. Yes, we like garlic!

It's a little early in the season for this truism concerning spinach, but it has merit anyway. "If you can walk around your garden four times without working up a sweat, it's time to plant fall spinach."

Most gardeners I've observed seem to think the only time to plant is in the spring. This is definitely not so. Spinach, lettuce and radishes are a few crops that will give you an early fall harvest from which you'll gladly benefit.

"Green melons picked before their time can become juicier, but they never catch up with



vine ripened melons in flavor." In other words, melons do not seem to get any sweeter once they've been harvested. I acquired this bit of information from *Melons for the Passionate Grower* by Amy Goldman. I try growing melons most years, but the truth is I'm not very often

successful. I have had sufficient experience to realize Ms. Goldman is right. Let your melons ripen on the vine if at all possible.

Like the majority of gardeners, I grow tomatoes. They're fun to grow, and I love eating them. When time for the first frost arrives, I often have green tomatoes still on the vine. Well, the truism that fits right here is "Tomatoes picked before fully ripe should not be ripened in the sun." I don't quite know why this is true, but I've seen and heard this truism enough times to believe it.

What is recommended for these green "love apples" is to wrap them in newspaper and let them ripen in a cool place (60 degrees). Another fact about tomatoes is that they taste best

at room temperature. I don't argue with this maxim, but personally I like my tomatoes and tomato juice chilled just a little.

The one other thing I've read about tomatoes is that cooked tomatoes provide the most nutrition. I recorded this information in my collection of truisms, although my instinctive feeling has always been that cooking lowers the nutritional value of any vegetable. Certain nutritional elements are destroyed by heat, but according to the truism, this is not always the case.

Well, there's a few truisms or maxims about the garden that if nothing else may give you the aura of authority at the gardeners' cocktail hour. Happy gardening!

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GILL
continued from pg 1

repository of all important sports scores and local news. The Gill Store, under her ownership, will close in nine days, at the end of the day on Saturday, April 30th.

It is with a sentimental eye

but a hopeful heart that Maddern, cherished by her many regular customers and their children, who grew up coming to the store after school for penny candy and snacks, leaves now. But she hopes to continue working in the hub of Gill's commercial life if and when the store reopens.

A potential buyer from Gill is rumored to be in the works, with plans to open a deli with some seating and to offer fresh, local vegetables, fruits and handmade products (including Susie's much-loved handcrafted postcards of local scenes) as well as a modest assortment of necessities, she said.

Maddern fell in love with the store in 1977 when she and her husband, Philip Maddern, first decided to purchase it.

"My husband asked me if I wanted to change jobs, and I was ready, and our kids were in the schools - Northfield Mount Hermon, Turners Falls and Gill Elementary," she said. "It was just priceless that our whole life changed then and now it is going to change again."

But Maddern is proud of how little the Gill Store itself has changed over the years, with refurbishing and repairs and a little front porch the only real structural alterations. She keeps a scrapbook bursting with newspaper clippings and memorabilia about the store behind the counter, and regularly pulls it out to show customers its various interior incarnations and owners over the last two centuries.

"My philosophy's always been, when you come to the Gill Store, there's no change. I love it when people come in and say, 'this place hasn't changed a bit.' That was always my mentality," she said. "There are so many changes out there. Your job changes, your family

changes, just too many. But if you come to the Gill Store, there'd be no change."

Only a change for the better could please Maddern, and she is hopeful for the future.

"I'm relieved and I'm excited. I hope I'm going to be able to work here. And for my husband, who owns his business at home (The Gill Greenery). He said, Susie, you can work for me! So I hope to have two jobs, but I can still go to the kids' soccer games and the Gill School plays and go to the movies with a friend, and that part is going to be so wonderful," she said, recalling the many years of long hours that often forced her to cancel plans if she couldn't find someone to fill in shifts.

"Back in 1977, the world wasn't so busy then. It was a wonderful business for families in Gill. The kids could ride their bikes to the store and pick up a bag of chips for the family. Now kids have cell phones and they call their parents to tell them they got here safely. That whole philosophy, of you just can't be riding your bike around town anymore like you used to. Parents will call me now and say, 'is Heather there yet?' And wives call and say, 'when Jim stops to get the paper, Susie, tell him we need milk.' I love that," she said, grinning broadly.

"Something else I've loved most is when a person comes in and says, 'I bet you don't have what I need' and then I'll find it

for them right here. I have loved meeting the needs of the community. You didn't have to go to Wal-Mart or to another town to find what you need," she said.

Maddern never advertised - except through word of mouth - and she always dissuaded anyone who wanted to write a feature story on the store's history or quaint atmosphere for a national magazine or other media.

"I just wanted it to be low-key and remain precious, just as it is," she said.

Through Saturday, Maddern is offering 25 percent off "most everything" in the store and next week, from Monday through Saturday, she will offer 50 percent off "most everything" to clear out her stock. The Gill Store is open Monday through Friday from noon to 8 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

When asked if she was sad about leaving the place she has made her own for so many years, Maddern glanced about the jam-packed space, past the collection of wall clocks, children's toys, groceries, cold drinks, health and beauty aids and numerous useful household items.

"There's nothing to be sad about. It's a change, but it's going to be the best kind of change. This town is so precious and so old, it will always be a wonderful stop," she said.



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

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ARTS
continued from pg 1

game from last summer and the Native American Reconciliation Ceremony, as well as see a demonstration of digital editing and enjoy tasty treats at the MCCI table.

And, don't miss the debut of Montague Reporter T-shirts at the table next to MCCI! Here,

visitors can purchase back issues of the community newspaper, purchase ads and take home rate sheets, and/or become a subscriber!

Come early and stay late!

For more information about the weekend's events, call Eileen at 863-9499 or Karen at 863-9576. For more information about the Hallmark exhibit, call Alan at (413) 863-4290,

Ext. 26.

Directions: Take Route 2 to Turners Falls (between Greenfield and Erving), head south over the bridge and you have arrived. Brochures and maps can be found in all area restaurants and in an easy-to-spot information booth.



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION



Family Dance at the Montague Grange this coming Sunday (see below) is the last dance of the season with caller Cindy Green. Series begins again in October. See you there.

FRIDAY, APRIL 22ND
Fourth Friday Contra Dance with David Kaynor & Greenfield Dance Band at Guiding Star Grange Hall, 401 Chapman St., Greenfield. 8:00 p.m. - midnight. 413-367-9380

Northfield. Info: 498-5957.

SATURDAY, APRIL 23RD
VUSI MAHLASELA

The Voice of South African Freedom! 7:30 p.m. at Memorial Hall in Shelburne Falls. A star in his homeland for over a decade, Vusi has been nominated for Best Male Vocalist in South Africa, \$15 advance / \$18 day of show / under 18 half price!

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27TH
 Mid-Week Concert Series featuring *Greenfield Community College Chorus*, Marjory Heins, director. At All Souls Unitarian Church, 399 Main St., Greenfield. 12:15 p.m.

Fourth Saturday Contra Dance with *Tophill Productions* Guiding Star Grange Hall, 401 Chapman St., Greenfield. 8:00 to 11:30 p.m. (413) 773-1671.

FRIDAY, APRIL 29TH
 The Bookmill documentary film series presents a free and lively presentation of *Gross National Happiness: What's up with Capitalism?* 8 p.m. The film explores, in playful and clear language, the fundamentals of capitalism (private property and the "market"), possibilities for a socially responsible capitalism, and other imaginable alternatives. The documentary series is presented by Karen Werner, a Montague Center resident and sociologist working on an economics primer for kids.

Arena Civic Theater presents *Arsenic and Old Lace*. Performances at the Shea Theatre, 71 Avenue A, Turners Falls. 8:00 p.m. (413) 863-2281.

7:00 to 10:30 p.m. Also card and board games, mah-jongg lessons, hot (fair trade) coffee, snacks and great company in the Webster Room of First Parish, 72 Main Street, Northfield (use side entrance on Parker Street), tell them Mo sent you. Info: 498-5957.

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY
APRIL 29TH & 30TH

Media Arts Café features the film *On The Waterfront* (NR). A priest sets out to smash mob control over the New York waterfront in this film classic with Marlon Brando, and Karl Malden. Winner of 8 Academy Awards including best picture. Media Arts Café is in the Green Trees Gallery, 105 Main St., Northfield. \$10 - general admission; \$8 - seniors; \$6.50 - students ticket price includes a complimentary beverage. Comfortable couches and café table seating. State-of-the-art audio/video system. Coming May 20th & 21st - The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill!!!
SATURDAY, APRIL 30TH
 Open Mic for musicians and writers of all ages at the Gathering Place coffee house,

Wendell Full Moon Coffee House featuring *Randal Bays*, in the historic Wendell Town Hall on the town common. Randal's grasp of the Irish fiddle style is rare among non-Irish musicians, a result of more than twenty-five years of fiddling, listening, and sharing many a late-night session with the finest traditional musicians. Originally from Seattle, Randal has been based in the Pioneer Valley for the last few years, but continues to tour the world, playing with some of the greatest traditional musicians both here and abroad. He is also a master guitarist. Open mic at 7:30 p.m. Randal Bays at 8:00 p.m. (978) 544-5557, www.wendellfullmoon.org. (Partial proceeds to benefit the Wendell Cultural Council) Admission is \$6-\$12 at the door; kids 6-12 \$2; under 6 free.

SUNDAY, APRIL 24TH
 Got Kids? Family Dance!

At the Montague Grange Montague Grange Family Dance Series on Sunday, April 24th - with caller Cindy Green (on Passover) The Montague Grange closes this wonderful family series, now in its fourth year. The series goes from October through April. This is family-style contra dancing, paced for little feet (no age restriction) or adult beginners, in a beautiful, restored historic building, across from the Town Commons in picturesque Montague Center. This Sunday dance is from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m., priced a sliding \$5-\$10 and includes a light snack. Come one, come all! For more info go to www.MontagueMA.net.

A Bouquet of Music Concert Series - *Mohawk Select Chorus* - Nick Waynelovich, director. Concerts take place in Franklin Medical Center's main lobby or weather-permitting in the Ethel Lemay Healing Arts Garden. FMC is located at 164 High St., Greenfield. Noon to 1:00 p.m. 413-773-2573.

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY
APRIL 29TH & 30TH

Great Falls Art Fest
Saturday, April 30th, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Sponsored by The Brick House Community Resource Center. Many booths will house artisans and their work in multiple media on the lawn at Great Falls Discovery Center, Avenue A, Turners Falls. This event is taking place in cooperation and conjunction with three other events: the opening of the Hallmark Museum of Contemporary Photography on Avenue A, the April 30-May 1 Arts and Blooms walk around Turners Falls artist studios, and the Montague Libraries April 30-May 8 Crabapple Blossom Festival. (413) 863-9576.

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

Art Opening at GCC Downtown Center

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

Tobacco Treatment Program at Franklin Medical Center

The next six-week session will take place on Wednesdays, May 11 - June 15, from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. in the Library Conference Room. The cost for the six-week program is \$50.00. Nicotine Replacement Therapy (gum, patch or lozenges) is available at a reduced rate for those approved by their physicians. Pre-registration is required. To register or for information on other services and programs, call The Professionals at (413) 773-8557 or 1-800-377-HEALTH. You can also visit our website at baystatehealth.com.

Great Falls Discovery Center Programs

Saturday, April 23rd - Invasive Plant Control: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Saturday, April 30th - Leaping Lily Pads: 11 a.m. Families with young children are invited to join Susan Russo of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service in activities to learn about a frog's life cycle.
 Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls. For further info please call (413) 863-3221.

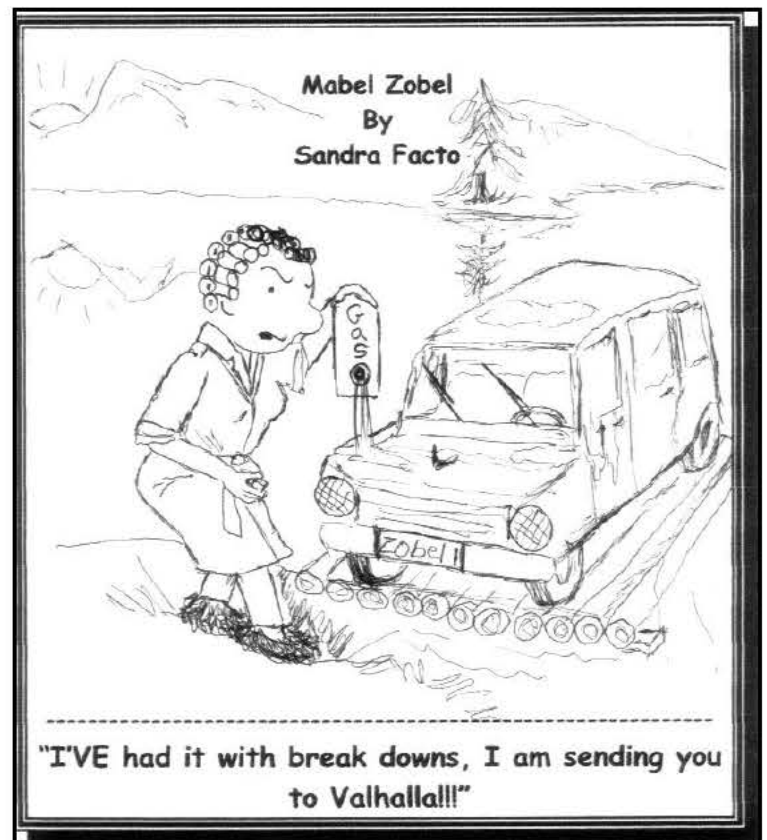
Hot Spot Teen Center

Monday - Ongoing Digital Arts Project, 3 to 5 p.m.
Tue & Wed - Ongoing Music Project, 3 to 5 p.m.
Thursday - Technology Drop-in hours, 3 to 5 p.m. and **Movie Night**, 6 to 8 p.m.
Friday, April 22nd - Al Souza Exhibit: Selected puzzle Works at UMASS, 1 - 5 p.m.
 These programs are free (except some skate trips) and open to local teens. Some require permission slips. For more info about any of these events or programs please call **Jared at 863-9559**.
 Hot Spot Teen Center is in The Brick House Community Center 24 Third St, Turners Falls

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 2. ALOT LIKE LOVE PG13 in DTS sound
 DAILY 6:00 9:00
 MATINEE SAT-THUR 12:00 3:00
 3. ROBOTS PG
 DAILY 6:00
 MATINEE FRI, SAT, SUN, & WED 12:00 3:00
 3. SIN CITY R
 DAILY 9:00
 4. FEVER PITCH PG13
 DAILY 6:15 9:15
 MATINEE FRI, SAT, SUN, & WED 12:15 3:15
 5. SAHARA PG13
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 MATINEE FRI, SAT, SUN, & WED 12:15 3:15
 6. THE AMITYVILLE HORROR R in DTS sound
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 MATINEE FRI, SAT, SUN, & WED 12:30 3:30
 7. THE INTERPRETER PG13 in DTS sound
 DAILY 6:30 9:30
 MATINEE FRI, SAT, SUN, & WED 12:30 3:30

Answers to last week's crossword puzzle, Costume Drama

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Across | Down |
| 1. BATIK | 1. BUSTLE |
| 2. FRECHSEAM | 2. FLAX |
| 4. REENACTMENT | 3. CREWEL |
| 6. TENSION | 5. PIPING |
| 8. DART | 7. INDIGO |
| 10. MERINO | 8. DUCK |
| 12. BONING | 9. THIMBLE |
| 14. MARABOU | 11. CHAPEAU |
| 19. RENAISSANCE | 12. BIAS |
| 21. COCKADE | 13. SMOCKING |
| 23. RETICULE | 15. MACARONI |
| 25. CASHMERE | 16. PELISSE |
| 28. BROCADE | 17. FLOUNCE |
| 29. TASSEL | 18. CALICO |
| 30. SELVEDGE | 20. SINGER |
| 31. BODKIN | 22. VELVET |
| | 24. FROG |
| | 26. MOIRE |
| | 27. PARASOL |



What the Devil is a Hoptree?

BY FRAN HEMOND

MONTAGUE CENTER - Have you ever seen a Common Hoptree? It is so common that we have not been able to find anyone who has heard of it. But it is mentioned in the *Audubon Guide to North American Trees*, and has surfaced here by the pond.

For some years, a "patriot act" had branded any plant with three leaflets as poisonous, and the supposed offender was eliminated without question. Itching through a severe case of poison ivy does nothing to improve one's judgment.

It was the white, drooping, wafer-like fruit of the stranger, unlike the berries of poison ivy, that finally identified the little

hoptrees.

The tree guidebook calls for the reader to have some ability to follow page numbers, flip pages back and forth, possibly insert bookmarks, and have a little patience to identify the subject. Following the rules and pictures and descriptions will make you a 30-day wonder. It's all here, in color, three leaflets at the end of a long stem, the tree trunk, the flowers and pendant wafers, pertinent information as to habitat and place in the world.

Hoptree was apparently used as a substitute for hops in mak-



ing beer. It prefers dry rocky uplands and canyons, rather than the banks of ponds, and it's widely spread (the nearest area mentioned in the guide: western New York). It is an understory

tree or shrub; here they have appeared by the pond in the shelter of a pine and catalpa. And it is the most northerly of the citrus family, thereby cousin to oranges and lemons.

One may wonder how hoptrees' little wafers could replace hops. But then much of today's world does not really remember what hops are like. My picture of hops had been colored by the Devil's Hopyard sign in Salem, CT, where midnight revelry apparently livened up a staid New England community, and Hopmeadow Street, running through downtown Simsbury, CT, which conjures up a circumspect field of herbs.

Actually, hops grow on extended vines, like grapes. Hops are a perennial, can grow very fast each year, require trellis support, and they can "take over." Strobiles, which are cone-like catkins, are produced (like bunches of grapes) which are the valuable product used in brewing beer. They are also dried and stuffed into sleep-inducing pillows.

How common hoptrees can furnish a substitute for hops is still a question. Here by the pond, they seem out of their time and place, but a worthy resident of a good old town that includes inhabitants of all kinds and diversity.

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OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

Clay for Jaye

BY FLORE

MONTAGUE CENTER - "All I needed was a spark. That motivation struck me in high school, through an art teacher named Marc Nolan. This talented person had us even drawing our own shoes, things that were familiar to us, within reach, making us aware of what was available," said Montague resident potter Jaye Pope. The time of reference? Back in 1974 - 75, in a small town named Baldwinville in Central Massachusetts. Pope was born in East Templeton. "Most families shiver when you announce: 'My career will be art,' as if you had volunteered for a firing squad! Mine was no different, their own orientation for survival were like others: 'Earn a decent living first!'"

Do we realize, who use beautiful pottery in our households, the hardship involved, and the tension needed to remain creative, for artists? Like for instance, how to make ends meet, and raise a family? How to deal with intricate problems of design while acquiring knowledge and facility within the chosen medium,

learning new techniques? As a rule, most ceramists, artists, hold two different jobs. Worth knowing: the Franklin County Community Development



Jaye Pope works in her Montague Center studio.

Corporation in Greenfield provides a valuable source of information and affordable programs for counseling artists to set themselves up in business. Pope suggests checking them out at (413)774-7204.

Porcelain is Pope's chosen mode. A maker of colorful distinctive fish, a designer of mugs, dishes and tiles, Pope recalls walking some years ago in Granada, Spain, marveling at the opulent richness of the decorative tiles there. Same with London. It's a way to enliven our daily lives.

As a rule, Pope fires her pieces at 2200 degrees, in an electric kiln. However, other ceramists prefer earthenware, bringing up their kilns to fire at much higher temperatures. Totally passionate with her work, she adds, "Clay, you know, is a material that helps encircle time, define civilizations, through their individual modes of expression. Do you realize we craftspeople face a common denominator:

revealing the dormant magic in a lump of clay? Coupling its function with the decorative? It brings a kind of added mythology to our fast moving world!"...

Don't miss visiting her atelier, Pope is catching mermaids now! Where? At the Good Dirt Pottery Studio, 38 Main Street, across from the town common in Montague Center.

On Sunday, May 1st, between the Maypole dances, drop by for a visit, while the Morris dancers and villagers are rejoicing on the green!

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