



The Montague Reporter

YEAR 8 – NO. 29

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

APRIL 22, 2010

Earth Day Elegy for a Warming Planet

BY DAVID DETMOLD
MOUNT HERMON – Northfield Mount Hermon observed the 40th anniversary of Earth Day with a talk by David Schimel, senior scientist from the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, CO.

Schimel is the father of NMH student Amy Schimel, and was warmly applauded by an overflow crowd of students and faculty at Memorial Chapel on Wednesday morning.

Schimel sought to paint any lingering controversy over the human origin of observable and escalating climate effects as political, rather than scientific, in nature, with a display of statistics to provide “incontrovertible evidence” that humankind – through

the burning of fossil fuels – is driving the planet toward rapidly warming temperatures and related climate change.

“In 20 to 30 years, there may be no more maple trees in New England,” said Schimel, midway through his speech, an observation that drew audible gasps from his listeners for the first time. “Maple trees need cold winters. The high mortality of maples in southern New England is directly related to climate change.”

Among the larger observable patterns of drying rainforests, rapidly retreating glaciers in all regions of the globe, and earlier growing seasons in temperate climes, Schimel pointed to smaller, but no less quantifiable impacts of climate change, such

as the fact that Mountain Pine Beetles, from Colorado north to Canada, no longer subject to winter killing frost and now able to reproduce twice rather than once in their active seasons, have

lives a quarter mile from the beach in Truro, on Cape Cod, will soon own oceanfront property without moving her house, and that Provincetown will become an island as sea levels rise “in the next 20 to 30 years.”

He said climate change deniers were modern day proponents of the Big Lie propaganda technique. Often in the pay of industry, scientists who deny the reality of human caused climate change hope that by “simply telling the public things often

hundreds of independent scientific studies around the globe. These graphs showed steadily warming land masses on all continents, steadily rising temperatures of air above the oceans, sea levels rising all around the world, frozen soils in the northern and southern hemisphere thawing more rapidly, snow cover decreasing over the northern hemisphere, tropospheric temperatures steadily warming, ice sheets diminishing, and ocean

see EARTH DAY pg 8

“Every sustainable decision we make in the United States has a bigger impact than almost anywhere else, because we use 20 to 60 times more energy than anywhere else in the world.”

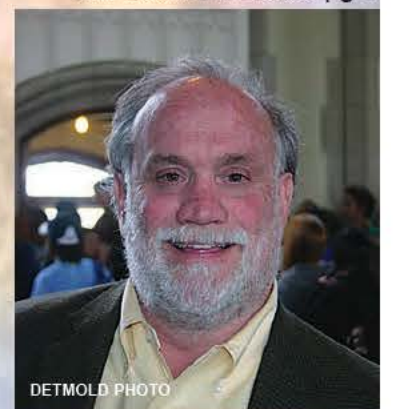
**– David Schimel
National Center for Atmospheric Research**

eaten their way through forests of lodge pole pines, causing 50% to 90% mortality in that species along the way.

He predicted his aunt, who

enough, they’ll believe it.”

To counter their claims with hard science, Schimel projected a slide of 12 data sets he said were synthesized from the results of



DETOLD PHOTO
David Schimel, senior scientist from the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, CO.

Leverett to Vote on Guantánamo Resolution



Bill Newman

BY DAVID DETMOLD – Attorney Bill Newman, for 23 years director of the Western Massachusetts chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, delivered the following speech on Tuesday, April 13th at the Leverett Library, to a crowd of more than two dozen Leverett residents, in preparation for Saturday’s town meeting vote regarding the United States Naval Station at Guantánamo Bay, and the detainees cleared for release at the detention camp that was established there in 2002.

The non-binding resolution, if approved by voters at the April 24th town meeting, would make Leverett the second town in the country, following Amherst, to adopt a resolution calling on Congress to lift the ban on cleared detainees from Guantánamo Bay settling in the United States, and would welcome such detainees to settle in

the town of Leverett.

If approved by the voters, copies of the resolution would be forwarded to the president, the attorney general of the United States, the senators from Massachusetts, and congressman John Olver.

“In order to understand why this resolution is important,” Newman began, “it is first critical to understand how Guantánamo came about – who’s been there; who’s still there, and what the solution to Guantánamo needs to be.

“First, you will recall that Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld told us Guantánamo was there because they had captured the worst of the worst, the most dangerous of the dangerous, the most wanted dangerous people in the world.

“Let’s look at that for just a

“It is by people standing up for sacred principles of democracy that democracy lives.”

**– Attorney Bill Newman,
Northampton**

moment. There had been 750 men in Guantánamo. There are 181 of them still there. So there have been over 550 to 600 detainees released or repatriated.

That could have happened for a number of reasons.

“First, after four, five, six or seven years of treatment there, they had become rehabilitated and were sent home. That’s one possibility. This is America. You’re allowed to believe what you want.

“Another possibility is after this amount of time, after suffering the indignity and pain of their incarceration, they began to understand what a wonderful country America was, they loved us, and therefore they were deemed to be acceptable to be released.

“Or, we had the wrong people, and we eventually decided to let them go.

“These seem to be the three possibilities. I would suggest to you that the third one is the real reason, not for absolutely everyone who is or has been in Guantánamo, but for a very large percentage of the men who have been detained there.

“How did that come about? Well, one way it came about is the United States dropped leaflets throughout Afghanistan saying, ‘Earn more money than you’ve ever dreamed of in your entire life – enough money to take care of you and your family and your village for the rest of your life. All you have to do is turn in someone we think is Taliban.’

“Well, Afghanistan is, to say the least, a fractured, difficult, tribal country, something of an artificial country. If you could see RESOLUTION pg 12

Ambulance Decision Delayed

BY JOSHUA WATSON

TURNERS FALLS – On Tuesday night at Hillcrest Elementary School, the officers of the Turners Falls Fire District presented their annual report, and put eighteen motions up for a vote. About 150 people attended.

Most controversial were motions 14 through 16, related to the Turners Falls Fire Department’s proposal to establish an ambulance service for town residents.

The TFFD hopes to purchase an ambulance, hire and train EMT staff, and put itself in the position of billing insurance companies for transporting patients for emergency care.

Currently, although the department responds to all emergency calls in the villages of Millers Falls, Montague City and Turners Falls, and budgets more than \$30,000 per year to do so, only co-responder Baystate Health Ambulance has the ambulances required to transport the patients, and thus bills for the entire expense of the calls.

The TFFD hopes to save its current expenditures, and earn enough in future years to hire new firefighters without requesting additional taxpayer funds.

However, the figures used by the Turners Falls Fire Prudential Committee in calculating the viability of the plan include providing ambulance service to all five villages of Montague.

Montague Center Fire Department prudential committee member Sam Lovejoy told the Montague selectboard earlier this month that the villages of Montague Center and Lake Pleasant are now planning to create their own ambulance service district, and contract directly with Baystate Health for coverage there.

Mark Allen, chairman of the Turners Falls prudential committee, said the TFFD planned to hold further informational meetings on the ambulance plan in Montague Center and Lake Pleasant, hoping to bolster support for their proposed ambulance service, which the TFFD believes will cut response time for emergency calls, at no extra cost to town residents. Pending those meetings, Allen asked for a “No” vote on the motions.

“This district has no power in and of itself to sign anything for the Montague Center Fire District,” said Allen. “That can only be done through the town selectboard, and [we] really don’t want to do it over the objections of the populations of Montague Center or Lake Pleasant.”

Motion 14, to authorize \$35,000 for the TFFD’s first payment on a six-year lease to purchase an ambulance, was defeated by a majority vote. The additional ambulance-related motions were defeated unanimously.

see AMBULANCE pg 9

PET OF THE WEEK

All Paws



Lucky

My name is Lucky and I'm a two-year-old male domestic short hair cat in need of a good home. I'm one of those cats who gets described as "dog-like." I'm social, I like hanging out with humans, and I'll let you know if you're not paying enough attention to me. I'm a great, big, black, soft, handsome guy with enormous paws. You'll just love these paws. You should see me play! I've lived with older kids and co-existed with a dog, and I seem to get on okay with female cats but not other male cats; just make sure to introduce us right. I do sometimes play a little rough, so you'll have to teach me how to have better manners, and learn how I communicate when I'm getting wound up. For more information on adopting me, please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or via email: info@dpvhs.org.

Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week

Grade 6

Ciara Staiger

Grade 7

Caleb Bristol
Kelly Rehorka

Grade 8

Michael Whiteman

Heifer Project International

PLANT AND BAKE SALE

Montague Congregational Church
Saturday, May 8th,
9 a.m. to Noon

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The Montague Reporter

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reporter@montaguema.net
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This newspaper shall not be liable for errors in advertisements, but will print without charge that part of the advertisement in which an error occurred. The publishers reserve the right to refuse advertising for any reason and to alter copy or graphics to conform to standards of the newspaper, such as they are.

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\$20 for 6 months

WENDELL LIBRARY NEWS

Movies, TNT Program and Health Workshops

FRESH, the movie, showing Friday April 23rd at 7 p.m., presents a vision of the possible by profiling heroes all over the country who are changing the way we eat. If *Food Inc.* was your wake up call, *Fresh, the movie* is your call to action. Sponsored by the Wendell Agricultural Commission

Sci Fi Movie Night feature is *Kronos*, showing Saturday, April 24th at 7:00 p.m. Scientists at a "top secret" atomic research laboratory are taken over by strange, fantastic control devices launched from an orbiting space ship inhabited by a hostile super-intelligence from beyond the stars.

Tweens and Tweens Program for Sunday April 25th, 3:30 to

5:30 p.m. is Making and Eating Asian Foods. Make vegetarian and meat potstickers and sushi with Ilina. Then eat them!

Staying Healthy with the Seasons, workshops with Nini Melvin on Wednesdays, April 28th and May 12th at 7 p.m. Shiatsu practitioner, Nini Melvin, offers these workshops using the five elemental phases from Chinese medicine to guide stretching and moving as well as self-shiatsu to the meridians and pressure points. Useful tools will be taught that are especially relevant during this seasonal transition. For more information visit www.PresenTouch.com. To sign up call Nini Melvin at (978) 544-7960 or the Wendell Library at (978) 544-3559.

CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS

Crabapple Blossom Festival Opening

BY LINDA HICKMAN

TURNERS FALLS – The seventh annual Turners Falls Crabapple Blossom Festival runs from May 1st through May 15th. Many of the downtown streets and parks in Turners Falls are lined with flowering crabapple, cherry and apple trees. Various events are scheduled to encourage people to celebrate spring, get outside, and enjoy the flowers and Turners Falls' nature, art, history and architecture.

The kickoff event is a *May Day Party* for families at the Carnegie Library from 10:30 a.m. to noon on Saturday, May 1st. Tuesday, May 4th, Dawn Ward will present a hands-on science program for young children, *Trees Everyday*, at the Carnegie Library at 10 a.m. On Wednesday, May 5th, there will be a *Cinco de Mayo Children's Festival* in Peskeompskut Park from 10 a.m. to noon. Tom Carroll and Laurie Davidson will perform a *Bilingual Concert* from 10 to 11 a.m. during the festival, which will also include a parade around the park and arts and crafts activities for young children. On Wednesday, May 5th, at 1:15 p.m., there will be a program on *Spring Flowers* for homeschoolers at the Carnegie Library with Ruth O'Mara. The family friendly band 3Potato4 will play the *Crabapple Blossom*



Library, there will be a home-schooler program on *Buds and Blossoms* with Rachel Roberts at 1:15 p.m. Beth Bazler of Northfield Mountain Recreation Center will lead the *Crabapple Blossom Fest Hike Along the Bike Path* for ages 12 and up on Saturday, May 15th, from 9 a.m. to noon. Call (413) 659-4461 to register for Beth's hike, which will include searching for wildflowers from Unity Park to East Deerfield. On Saturday, May 15th, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., there will be a *bilingual Migration Celebration* for families at the Great Falls Discovery Center. The migratory fish view-



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANNE FISKE

Warm Wishes for the Holiday Season

This holiday card was printed up by the Montague Center Fire Department, showing a controlled burn that took place 25 years ago in the village. The house burning in the background, owned by the Eddy family, was located on the corner of Greenfield Road and Hatchery Road.

Controlled burns such as the ones that took place over two weekends this spring at the Beauchesne property in Montague Center provide opportunities for firefighters to train under actual conditions. Chief John Greene of the Montague Center department said firefighters remained on the scene at the Beauchesne property until 6 p.m. on April 11th, and the embers of the house were still smoldering four days later.

ing facilities at the Turners Falls Fishway open for the season on Saturday, May 15th. The Fishway will be open Wednesday through Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., through June 20th.

For individuals wishing to enjoy exploring downtown Turners Falls at their own pace, the *Historic Downtown Walking Tour*, *Geological Walking Tour*, and *Downtown Attractions & Outdoor Recreation* guides will be available at the Carnegie Library, Great Falls Discovery Center, and the Town Hall.

The Crabapple Blossom Festival is organized by the Montague Public Libraries, with collaboration and support from the Montague Cultural Council, RiverCulture, Community Partnerships for Children, the Great Falls Discovery Center, and Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center. For more information, call the Carnegie Library, 863-3214.

Open To All Dads

single, married, grandfathers, uncles and other caregivers of any ages of children

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Free dinner and conversation about parenting and playing

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ERVING TOWN WIDE TAG SALE

Saturday, April 24th
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Over 30 participants. Rain date Saturday, May 1st. Maps available at Erving businesses, town hall, library and at various tag sales.

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SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES – April 26th to 30th

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

Monday, April 26th
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
1:00 p.m. Knitting Circle
Tuesday, April 27th
9:00 a.m. Walking Group
10:30 a.m. Yoga
1:00 p.m. Canasta

Wednesday, April 28th
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics
10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Monthly health screenings
1:00 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, April 29th
No Tai Chi
1:00 p.m. Pitch
Friday, April 30th
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
1:00 p.m. Scrabble
1:00 p.m. Writing Group

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

provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity.

Monday, April 26th
9:00 a.m. Exercise
12:00 p.m. Pitch
Tuesday, April 27th
9:00 a.m. Aerobics
12:30 p.m. Painting
Wednesday, April 28th
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
12:00 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, April 29th
8:45 a.m. Aerobics
Friday, April 30th
9:00 a.m. Bowling
11:30 a.m. Lunch – Chef's Salad.

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

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JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

Local Briefs

COMPILED BY

DON CLEGG – Each year Northfield Mount Hermon School in Gill holds **Service Day** as a celebration of community service. This is the day when students participate in projects across campus and throughout the local communities. Freshmen and sophomores work on campus to demonstrate a gratitude for those individuals who strive daily to make their lives more enjoyable. Juniors and seniors reach out to the people in surrounding towns to create a positive difference in their lives, working on projects of the students' choosing.

Today, students will be cleaning three walking paths leading from 7th Street up to High Street in Turners Falls. Pam Allen, a librarian at NMHS, who recently moved to Turners Falls, walked these paths in the fall and as the snow was melting noticed all the litter that had piled up since, courtesy of our own residents. Allen suggested cleaning up these paths as a Service Day project. Six students chose to clean the **Turners Falls walkways** on Service Day, which coincides with Earth Day.

Maybe it's time for the Turners Falls residents who use these paths all year long to turn over a new leaf.

Jordan Welsh of Turners Falls, a student at Sheffield Elementary School won the 7 to 8-year-old novice division at the **Pioneer Valley Regional Martial Arts Tournament** on April 17th. Young Welsh studies martial arts at the Central Street Tae Kwon Do Center in Turners Falls, under the instruction of

Master James White. This is the second tournament Welsh has won in a year; he is now nationally ranked.

Way to go, young man! **"Relax and Focus"** with Janet Masucci at the **Greenfield Savings Bank** community room in Turners Falls on Saturday, April 24th, from 10 a.m. until noon. Hypnotherapist Masucci offers techniques to achieve a mentally and physically relaxed state and says you will leave feeling refreshed and up-beat, with confidence and well-being. Free; light refreshments will be served.

Aubuchon Hardware of Turners Falls – will hold their 6th Annual **Customer Appreciation Day** on Friday, April 30th and Saturday, May 1st. "Dog Days" is the theme for both days, from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. You can purchase a hot dog for just a quarter, or bring a canned food donation to get a free hot dog! The quarters and the food will be donated to the Franklin Area Survival Center. Other events include a car show on Saturday, and for kids a bounce house, balloons, popcorn and a coloring contest. A portion of the event's sales will be donated to the Survival Center on 4th Street in Turners Falls.

Opening Day for the **Great Falls Farmers Market** will be Wednesday, May 5th at 2 p.m. The farmers market is located on the corner of 2nd Street and Avenue A in Turners Falls, right next to the Great Falls Discovery Center. The market returns with annual and perennial flowers, herbs, and vegetable plants along with baked goods, fresh bread, eggs, crafts, meats and local pro-

duce in season. The market is held each Wednesday from 2 p.m. until 6 p.m., rain or shine.

The Great Falls Farmers Market has grown over the past few years and has expanded its operating hours. (Previously, the starting time was 3 p.m.) This year, the market is looking to offer four Sunday afternoons of local produce. For more information check out the market on MontagueMA.net, then click on the Farmers Market section, or call Don at (413) 336-3648

The **Leverett Historical Society** is presenting a **Plant and Garden Book Sale** on Saturday, May 8th, from 9 a.m. until noon at Leverett Town Hall. This year, used garden books will be available for sale to benefit the Leverett Library and the Historical Society. All plant sales will support the Leverett Historical Society. To donate plants or books call (413) 367-9562.

Dawn Ward will also be available for Master Gardener advice, for plant choices and care.

Round Here Café, at 111 Avenue A, reopened on Monday after a week with no power, following the resolution of a billing dispute with WMECo. Power Town Music in conjunction with the Rendezvous will hold a **benefit concert** at the Voo on Saturday, May 22nd at 9:30 p.m. to help Round Here Café owner Nayana Glazier recover some of the approximately \$2,000 in spoiled product and lost business she suffered while the power was shut off. Mark your calendar for that event, and stop by for a cup of coffee or a great meal at the Café next time you're in town.

Sheffield Elementary students wrapped up their **read-a-thon** last week. Their goal was to read 5,000 books. They read 9,120. Zounds!

Send items for local briefs to reporter-local@montague.net

The Clothesline Project Comes to G.C.C.

Bearing Witness to Violence Against Women

GREENFIELD – The Clothesline Project is a visual display that bears witness to violence against women. During the public display, a clothesline is hung with shirts. Each shirt is decorated to represent a particular woman's experience, by the woman herself or by someone who cares about her. The project started in Hyannis in 1990 with 31 shirts. Now there are "clotheslines" in over 500 communities across the US and in several foreign countries.

Sponsored by the Greenfield Community College Human Service Club, the Clothesline Project will come to the East Building, Main Campus, on Tuesday and Wednesday, April 27th and 28th, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., to bear witness to the survivors, and the victims of violence against women, and to help with the healing process for people who have lost a loved one or are survivors of this violence.

For more information, call Abbie Jenks at (413) 775-1127.

Town of Montague Tax Bills Due

A reminder to all town of Montague taxpayers that the second half of the FY'10 real estate and fire district taxes are due by Monday, May 3rd, 2010. Payments received after that date are subject to 14 percent interest. To obtain a receipted bill, enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope and both copies of your bill with payment. The tax office is open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, from 8:30 to 5:30 and Wednesday until 6:30 p.m. The town hall is closed on Friday.

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The Montague Reporter

Editor
David Detmold

Layout & Design

Claudia Wells
Boysen Hodgson
Katren Hoyden
Karen Wilkinson
Suzette Snow-Cobb

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Photography

Joe Parzych
Shawn Woolsey
Claudia Wells

Distribution Manager

Don Clegg

Technical Administrators

Michael Muller
Michael Farrick

Editorial Assistants

Hugh Corr
David Brule
Michael Jackson

Circulation
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Vote YES for the Erving Senior Center

BY ROB FLETCHER

ERVING – I'm going to honor my elders and vote yes for the new Erving Senior Center at the town meeting on Wednesday, May 5th. I hope you'll join me.

Here's why I'm voting yes for the senior center:

Our seniors are important – they are our living link to what has come before and can give us a perspective that we aren't able to give ourselves. I treasure the time I spend with three elders that are my neighbors on Old State Road – Helen and Russell Brocklesby and Himmy Cole. It's usually my favorite part of the week, and I always leave the visits feeling renewed and richer in wisdom. I'd like to return that favor.

Seniors know more than we do – they've been through more.

Seniors don't ask for much – and have given so much.

Building the new senior center will not require additional

taxes – and even if it did I'd be happy to pony up my share.

Building the new senior center won't even require the town to borrow any money. We have the cash available, nothing else looming on the horizon is anywhere near as important as this, and we have plenty of other money stashed away for emergencies.

We've already invested \$200,000 in this project. Let's not let that money go to waste!

Long-term investment in our community makes sense. Especially in uncertain economic times, it's important to re-invest in our community. Whatever we face together becomes less difficult than facing it alone.

The seniors will really appreciate it. Most of us are so busy and have so many commitments that it's hard for us to take the time to really appreciate the good things in our life. Seniors

have paid their dues and are fully in the years of being wise enough to take the time to appreciate things, small and large. A gift given that is deeply appreciated makes me doubly happy.

I'm all for good schools, and I'm familiar with the phrase, "the children are our future." But in a very real sense, I'm hoping old age is my future! And when I get there I can't wait to enjoy our beautiful senior center in a "great place to live."

I'm excited to visit our seniors enjoying the new senior center they so deserve, and to see the terrace, arts and crafts area and games and exercise room that we all will get to enjoy in the future.

Thank you seniors for all that you have done for our wonderful town and I'm looking forward to joining you and voting 'Yes' for the community center that you've waited so long and so patiently for.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Protect the Center Playground



The town of Montague may seek to reorient the ballfield at the Center playground, to allow for diagonal parking on School Street if the former Montague Center School building finds a buyer and requires more parking.

I have lived here beside the Montague Center playground on Station Street and School Street for 60 years, and have watched three generations of school children play on this field at recess, including three of my own. Also, I have watched Little League ball, adult tag football, Fourth of July bonfires, fathers teaching sons how to play baseball, formation of parades, Gary Tun's soccer clinics, groups sailing Frisbees, and Louise Shattuck training her champion spaniels here. This space is free for everyone to enjoy.

I would like to share the history of this park, which has been an

integral part of development of the children of the Center.

It had been a tradition for each class to give a gift to the town of Montague to show its appreciation for providing their education.

The Montague Center graduating 12th grade class of 1905 raised two hundred dollars to purchase an acre of land, more or less, from Edwin G. Reynolds and gave it to the town for athletic purposes. This piece of land formed the original playground, where the baseball field is now.

Several parcels of land were added to the playground over the years.

The land my husband and I

purchased further south on School Street was once Sam Lincoln's garden. Several years later, his daughter Mable Lincoln offered to sell us land abutting our property and adjoining the park. We declined and she sold it to the town.

Much later, Aaron and Loraine Clark donated a piece of land to be added to the playground to be used for tennis courts. As a survey revealed the courts in Turners Falls and Millers Falls were seldom used, their request was not honored.

The playground is on the National Register of Historic Places, which recognizes the area is important to the history of the community.

As this is the only playground in Montague Center, I hope that it will only be used as a playground, not developed for commercial or residential use.

– Lillian Fiske
Montague Center

Bi-Directional Traffic Can Work

BY JAY KOSTANSKI

TURNERS FALLS – Why has Mass Department of Transportation (DoT) refused to look at the possibility of allowing bi-directional traffic across the Gill-Montague Bridge during its upcoming reconstruction?

District 2 Highway Director Al Stegeman has said they "won't go there," yet the DoT will not get specific on why they won't go there. The DoT has not provided up-to-date traffic studies, as requested. This is a four-year project that will be a hardship for business owners and residents of Montague.

I think it is worth the time and effort to try a traffic plan that allows traffic to flow in both directions over the bridge. I believe it can work.

On April 1st, a portion of the bridge was blocked while preliminary inspections were being performed. Bi-directional traffic was allowed across the bridge several times that day with minimal delays in either direction. There was no back up to the Third Street lights like we were told would happen. There was also no

back up on Route 2. No honking horns of impatience. No problems.

The following week, more work on the bridge. Bi-directional traffic was allowed, and again, no problems.

On the General Pierce Bridge in Montague City the state is using traffic lights to manage the bi-directional traffic over the bridge after work hours, when police officers are not present to direct the traffic. When asked about the possibility of using traffic lights on the Gill-Montague Bridge, the DoT stated liability and hazardous conditions would prevent this. There is quite a bit of traffic over the General Pierce Bridge between 3 and 6 p.m., yet there are minimal delays while the traffic lights are in use. Why are traffic lights useful on one bridge but not the other?

I feel that the Mass DoT should consider a traffic plan that allows for bi-directional traffic across the Gill-Montague Bridge, or at least share the studies they are relying on to justify their decision to allow only one way traffic into town. Furthermore, I

believe traffic lights should be used during off hours to move traffic around the 50-foot sections of construction on that bridge.

The past month has provided a wonderful opportunity to see that allowing traffic both in and out of Turners Falls during construction can work.

(left) Atlantic Bridge and Engineering of Salisbury used a Skyhawk apparatus earlier this month to double-check the measurements beneath the bridge deck against plans and specifications supplied by the state. Traffic flowed smoothly up above – both ways – despite the closure of one lane.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Pastor Decries Montague Reporter's 'Anti-Catholic Bigotry'

The problem of child abuse is a horrific crime and a serious problem. However, sometimes our emotions and, unfortunately, sometimes our bias and prejudice can put us off course in trying to find solutions.

Many people have wondered about the agenda of the *Montague Reporter* in its continuous anti-Catholic articles in making it seem like child abuse is a Catholic problem, something limited to Catholic clergy. If there had only been one article, we could presume ignorance on the part of the editor. But after so many repeated articles and sick cartoons, one has to ask what exactly is your agenda? Are you hoping to help solve the terrible and tragic problem of child abuse, or are you not so concerned with finding solutions to the serious issue of child abuse as you are to discredit the Catholic Church! I am afraid

your bias is showing.

Last year, in the state of Massachusetts, there were well over 2,000 reported sexually abused children. That is a mind-boggling number and totally unacceptable!

Massachusetts, by the way, to our shame, has the highest number of sexually abused children in the country! Who was responsible for these terrible crimes? Reading your vicious Catholic bashing articles and crude and juvenile cartoons one would get the impression that it was the Roman Catholic Church. But the facts tell us otherwise: of over 60,000 priests in the United States, less than one percent have had charges made against them in the last 50 years! That is not the impression one gets from the *Montague Reporter*.

Here are some sad and sobering statistics from the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data

System's most current report, *Child Maltreatment 2008*: Of the approximately 772,000 child abuse victims in 2008, nearly 80 percent of the perpetrators were parents of the victim, including birth parents, adoptive parents, and step parents. Other relatives accounted for an additional 6.5 percent, and an unmarried partner of a parent accounted for 4.4 percent of perpetrators! The remaining 9.1 percent would include friends, neighbors, teachers, coaches, strangers and sadly clergy – including Catholic, Protestant, Jewish and Muslim.

Unfortunately, bigots focus on the less than one percent – Catholic clergy – and ignore the more than 99 percent of other perpetrators.

If your concern is for abused children, then my question for you is why are you not working for more safeguards where the

numbers are so overwhelmingly great? Your focus on the less than one percent of the problem, overlooking over 99 percent of the perpetrators, makes me wonder seriously about the sincerity of your motives.

The Catholic Church is the only group to have taken a zero tolerance policy. If an innocent priest is accused, he is immediately judged guilty before he can be proven innocent, not a Constitutional way of dealing with American citizens! What are the policies for teachers, scout leaders, athletic coaches or any other group dealing with children? Even though the number of clergy involved is such a small percentage, the Catholic Church is sincerely trying to right a terrible wrong in a rather drastic manner.

The bigotry of your paper is doing nothing to help solve the problem, except to provide a

smoke screen for the majority of those who are the problem.

Recently, former CBS executive Bernie Goldberg, speaking of media executives in general, said that, "The one group you can easily offend with no fear of repercussions... is the American Catholics."

That may be true, because we are commanded by our loving God to forgive our enemies and pray for those who do us harm (St. Luke 6:35). In fact, that is just what we do, but it doesn't excuse you from fostering and encouraging bigotry.

I think that it's time the *Montague Reporter* review its mission to the community they claim to serve.

– Reverend Charles Jan DiMascola
Pastor, Our Lady of Czestochowa
Turners Falls

Disgusted by Repeated Catholic Bashing

I work in Turners Falls and I frequently pick up your paper. I have to say that I am shocked and disgusted at your repeated Catholic bashing articles and cartoons. The words vulgar and sophomoric come to mind. Get a life!

– Oliver Domina
Brattleboro, VT

Stop Continuous Attacks on Catholic Church

Regarding your continuous attacks on the Catholic Church, Ed Koch, the Jewish former mayor of New York, in a blog published by the *Jerusalem Post*, affirms that "continuing attacks" by the media on the Church and Pope Benedict XVI have become "manifestations of anti-Catholicism". He also said, "Many of those in the media who are pounding on the Church and the Pope today clearly do it with delight, and some with malice."

The *Montague Reporter* has

an opportunity to build community, but it seems it has chosen to become a divisive and controversial media for Catholic bashing.

Child abuse is a terrible crime and the Catholic Church has been atoning for the small percentage of clergymen who have been involved. George Weigel, author and journalist and Distinguished Senior Fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C. states that "The Catholic

Church in America today is likely the safest environment for children in the country. No institution working with the young – not the public schools, not the teachers unions, not the Scouts – has done as much to face its past failures in this area and to put in place policies to prevent such horrors in the future."

Philip Jenkins, distinguished professor of history and religion at Penn State and an Episcopalian, argues that, "The American media, usually

painstaking in their efforts to offend members of no racial, religious or gender category, consistently make one major exception – the Roman Catholic Church."

Based on the articles repeatedly printed in the *Montague Reporter*, one would agree.

Don't you think it is a time for a change of policy in the treatment of all your neighbors here in Franklin County?

– Elizabeth Fritz
Northfield

THE EDITOR REPLIES

We have continued to print news of the good works of our local parish churches, including, but certainly not limited to, a warmly received feature on the life of Father Charles DiMascola, a report on the 100th anniversary of Our Lady of Czestochowa, 'the Gem of Franklin County,' and earlier this month, a report on the Lady of Czestochowa bazaar.

On Friday, April 9th, the day after our editorial appeared on Pope Benedict XVI and the worldwide sexual abuse scandal confronting the Roman Catholic Church, (*MR VIII #27*: "A Spreading Stain") – our one and only article to date on the subject – the *New York Times'* Laurie Goodstein and Michael Luo, based on news accounts that same day from the Associated Press, reported that the future Pope Benedict XVI, in 1985, when he was still Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, the top Vatican official in charge of the Congregation for the Doctrine of

the Faith, wrote and signed a letter recommending a delay in defrocking a priest convicted of tying up and abusing two young boys in a California church rectory, due to the priest's "young age" (38) and in consideration of "the good of the Universal Church."

That decision was delayed two more years, a total of six years after Reverend Stephen Kiesle and his bishop, John Cummings, first wrote to Cardinal Ratzinger asking that Kiesle be defrocked.

According to the *New York Times*, "In 1985, while the bishop in Oakland was pressing Cardinal Ratzinger to defrock Mr. Kiesle, the priest began volunteering in the youth ministry at one of his former parishes, St. Joseph's in Pinole, California."

In 2005, eight victims of Kiesle's reached a settlement with the Diocese of Oakland averaging \$1 million to \$1.5 million each, the *Times* reported.

The Vatican has disputed none of these facts.

To say the Church has been

slow to adopt a zero tolerance policy on sexual abuse among the clergy is to put it mildly.

In the United States alone, the Roman Catholic Church has paid out more the \$2.6 billion in settlements for sex abuse cases involving clergy since 1950.

According to the *John Jay Report* to the U.S. Conference of Bishops in 2002, some 11,000 allegations of sexual abuse had been leveled at 4,392 priests, about 4% of the priests in the U.S. who served between 1950 and 2002. Dioceses were able to substantiate 6,700 cases out of 7,700 for the approximately one out of four accused priests (1,021) surviving at the time of the report. The report noted that sexual abuse allegations will continue to be made over an extended period of time, and made no estimate of what percentage of victims will decide, for whatever reason, not to report their abuse.

In our Valley, the Diocese of Springfield was home to 45 publicly accused priests, including at least 34 for whom the Diocese

reached voluntary settlements with victims totaling in the range of \$12 million.

Among the priests found to be "credibly accused" by the Diocesan Review Board was the former pastor of St. Anne's in Turners Falls, Reverend Clarence W. Forand, who was accused of abusing one parishioner, who was between the ages of 9 and 17, hundreds of times.

Yet Forand was allowed to serve as a priest at other parishes until his retirement.

Another priest for whom the Diocese settled claims of sexual abuse was Alfred C. Graves, moved abruptly to the chaplaincy of the Farren Memorial Hospital in Montague City in 1977 and serving there until 1981, after he was accused of raping a 15-year-old boy at a parish in Springfield.

Graves was defrocked in 2006.

Among the bishops of the Springfield Diocese responsible for handling cases of abusive priests was Thomas L. Dupre, who resigned as bishop in February of 2004, the same day

two men publicly accused him of repeatedly raping them throughout their teenage years.

Dupre contributed financially to the settlement of their claims.

We support last week's call by the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests for Bishop Timothy McDonald of Springfield to publish a list of past abusers in the western Massachusetts diocese, and to state their present whereabouts.

We believe if it were not for the newspapers of the world, first and foremost in this instance the *Boston Globe*, and the courage of victims coming forward, the repeated cases around the world where priests guilty of sexually abusing their young parishioners were shielded by Church officials more sensitive to the reputation of the Church than the safety of children entrusted to their care would be continuing still.

We will report on crimes such as these regardless of what institution may be involved.


Our responsibility to the community is to speak the truth, not to silence it.

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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Wendell Plans for Green Community Status

BY JOSH HEINEMANN - On April 14th, the selectboard unanimously approved an action plan to make Wendell eligible to be designated a Green Community, and to be able to apply for grants from an annually renewed \$10 million state fund available for energy conservation and renewable energy projects on town land, town buildings and infrastructure, and in private homes.

apply for state green energy grants available from an annual pool of \$10 million, and while none are eligible yet, several Franklin County towns are working toward that status.

A town must meet five requirements to become a Green Community and be eligible for the grants, including providing expedited siting for green energy production, or research and development or the manufacture of green energy components. Additionally, to become a Green Community and be eligible for state grants, a town must take a baseline of its energy consumption and work to reduce that consumption by 20% within five years. Since Wendell built the new town office building and library, which are efficient buildings, and then insulated the town hall before this proposal could be adopted, the baseline from which

the 20% reduction must happen is already low, although other towns have inquired and been told they can count previous years' energy conservation efforts towards the 20% baseline reduction. Additionally, a town must replace its fleet of vehicles, except for police, fire, and highway trucks, which are exempted, with hybrid, electric or other low-emission vehicles. Wendell owns no vehicles beyond its police, fire and highway vehicles.

Finally, to be considered a Green Community, a town must consider adopting the energy stretch building code, a code which would require stricter standards for a building's energy performance, saving on utility bills but increasing the cost of new construction from 3% to 5%.

The two energy task force members had concerns about some of these requirements. Manufacture of any green energy component is too large scale to be appropriate for a small town like Wendell, they felt, and 'by right' siting requirements give up the town's ability to have some say in what businesses come into town and how. Von Ranson said alternative energy is not all that green, and he argued the amount of energy required to manufacture, transport and site, for exam-

ple, a photovoltaic panel array is so great that the net energy gain is close to zero.

He felt priority should be placed on conservation, reducing energy use and not trying to meet increasing demand with newer technologies.

Smith said the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) does not expect all towns to meet all the requirements immediately and that the requirements are not "written in stone." She said most of the requirements call for the town to "consider" taking the steps outlined, and for the by right siting for green energy research, production, or manufacture, the town could select one property that right could be attached to. By endorsing the action plan the selectboard would pledge to consider taking the steps the Green Community proposal outlines, and would make itself open to receiving grant money that would help the town move in that direction.

Von Ranson objected that the grants are for renewable and alternative energy use and not conservation, and he questioned how likely Wendell would be to get a grant in competition with the state's larger towns and cities.

Selectboard member Jeffrey Pooser said Wendell has a lot of

water, and that small hydro electric production seems like the most promising new and relatively green source of energy.

In response to selectboard member Dan Keller's question, Smith said the decision of whether to pursue becoming a Green Community belongs to the selectboard.

Later in the meeting, after von Ranson, Didonato and Smith returned with a few word changes, Keller made a motion that the selectboard endorse the action plan, and the selectboard approved that motion unanimously.

Wendell's April 14th selectboard meeting began with a brief executive session, as requested by assessor Tom Mangan, and allowed under Reason Six on the laminated list of valid uses of executive session that town coordinator Nancy Aldrich holds in the selectboard office: Reason Six: to discuss the value of real property.

Aldrich said treasurer Carolyn Manley expects to have a complete draft of a new personnel policy ready for the next selectboard meeting, and hopes to have a hearing on the new personnel policy at the following meeting, May 12th.

Some months ago, at the November 25th meeting, the selectboard asked Massachusetts Audubon representative Bob

see WENDELL pg 9

Meet Your Realtors from Sokolosky Realty. Photo of five realtors in front of a 'TOWN of MONTAGUE 1754 TOWN OFFICE' sign. Text: 58 Years of Continuous Service to Montague and Surrounding Communities. "Let's have a cup of coffee and talk about your home". New Location - 159 Avenue A, Turners Falls. 413-863-4393 | www.sokoloskyrealty.com

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG. Unlicensed, Unregistered. Tuesday, 4/13: 10:50 a.m. Report of neighbor dispute on French King Highway. Spoke with subjects. Advised to not antagonize each other. Wednesday, 4/14: 8:38 p.m. Assisted Montague police with smashed TV in the roadway on Bridge Street. One male party arrested for destruction of property. Friday, 4/16: 7:25 p.m. Citation issued to [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle with a revoked registration. Saturday, 4/17: 9:40 p.m. [redacted] of Shrewsbury, for operating a motor vehicle after a subsequent suspension, use without authority, and failure to wear seatbelt. Sunday, 4/18: 9:05 a.m. Citation issued to [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle without a license. 9:38 p.m. Report of motor vehicle crash, car versus mailbox, on North Street. No injury. Monday, 4/19: 1:35 p.m. Citation issued to [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle with a revoked registration and no insurance. 8:10 p.m. Fireworks complaint on West High Street. Patrolled area and stood by. Nothing found.

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NOTES FROM THE GILL MONTAGUE REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Anti-Bullying Workshop in Turners

BY ELLEN BLANCHETTE

The Gill-Montague Regional School District (GMRSD) will present a workshop on cyber-bullying in Turners Falls this May.

Saying, "We are trying to be as pro-active as we can with this," superintendent Carl Ladd announced that Cindy Boyle from the Northwest District Attorney's office will present the workshop at Turners Falls High School on May 26th, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Parents and interested members of the community are encouraged to attend.

Ladd said Boyle had presented a workshop on cyber-bullying and the new pending state legislation on bullying to all school district personnel at the high

school on April 9th. The district has recently revised and updated their policy on harassment and bullying in the schools, in the wake of national publicity surrounding the suicide of 15-year-old Phoebe Prince, who took her life in January after having been repeatedly bullied at South Hadley High School.

In other school committee news, a fundraising effort in conjunction with the Ford Motor Company could potentially bring the GMRSD up to \$6,000. Freshman class president Summer Forest-Bulley and freshman class secretary Marjorie Gallagher came to the school committee meeting on April 14th to explain the Drive One 4UR School project, and

asked for everyone's support. On Saturday, May 1st, adults 18 years or older with a valid drivers license can test drive one of several Ford vehicles by coming to Turners Falls High School between 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and in turn, Ford will donate 20 dollars for each test driver. In addition, there will be a chance to win a Gateway LT20 Netbook. Anyone interested in participating should call (413) 863-7212 or 863-3252 ext. 229 to reserve a time.

In compliance with statutory requirements, the school district has sent certification letters to the towns of Gill and Montague regarding assessments for FY'11. At the school committee meeting on April 14th, superin-

tendent Ladd thanked the members for approving his recommendation of a level-funded budget of \$16,537,788 for FY '11.

Ladd announced the certification letters had been sent by the district setting assessments for Montague at \$7,602,878 including debt and \$7,407,101 less debt, and for Gill at \$1,445,869 including debt and \$1,417,197 less debt. The assessments reflect an operating cost for the district of \$9,048,747, and are based on currently assumed assessment calculations, using half the district's free cash (excess and deficiency) reserves.

The towns will take action to accept, amend, or reject the assessments at town meeting. The recommended wording of the letter to the towns is as follows: "The GMRSD School Committee recognizes that the

recently certified assessments for FY'11 are unaffordable to the member towns. However, having already cut nearly \$800,000 to reach a level funded budget, we are hesitant to cut more in the absence of a viable long-term plan to stabilize district funding. We look forward to working with you and state officials in the coming weeks on a plan that meets our educational goals and is more affordable to the member towns."

After some discussion, the motion put forward by Jeff Singleton carried with a majority vote.

The meeting adjourned to executive session to continue ongoing discussions around contract negotiations. The next school committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 27th, at Turners Falls High School at 7 p.m.

The Greenfield Farmers Coop Expands Again



Bill Ovitt stands on the expanded parking and storage lot of the Greenfield Farmers Cooperative

buy grain from Eastern States Farmers Cooperative in carload lots. The store space was about the size of a typical closet, with a six-foot counter at one end of the warehouse. Only a very few items were on display. The driveway to the warehouse was opposite what is now the Animal Crackers pet shop on Deerfield Street.

The farmers who formed it may have thought the cooperative was a better mousetrap, perhaps attracting mice, but as far as attracting customers, the hidden store was, well... hidden. Moving the exchange to the former office and garage of contractor Sam Faille, in 1968, was a stroke of genius. Business fairly exploded at the new site.

The cooperative's next expansion took place in the early '70s when the coop bought out a cut-rate gasoline station once situated next door at 263 High Street. The station, owned by a New Yorker and operated by the Squire family, was razed, and the lot filled to provide additional parking and driveway access on the south end of the store.

In 1975 the cooperative bought an adjoining car wash, on the north side, from Edward Doleva, demolished it and expanded warehousing on the site on two different occasions.

In 1979 architect Pierre Bellhumeur designed office space in an expansion above the store. In 1999, M. Bellhumeur also designed a post and beam tack shop and metal framed glass greenhouses on the south end of the building. The cooperative contracted with Dole Brothers of Shelburne Center for the remodeling and additions.

"When the property next door [261 High Street] came on the market," coop manager Jeff Bodine said, "we bought the property and hired Mitchell to tear down the house and build the parking lot. We're going to put up a seven foot high cedar stockade fence on the property line for the privacy of the adjoining property owners. We'll landscape the front [of the new parking lot] for curb appeal."

The Greenfield Farmers Cooperative Exchange carries thousands of items, ranging from flower bulbs and seeds to livestock grain, wild bird feed, horse tack, fertilizers, insecticides, bedding plants, tools and various supplies for farmers and homeowners alike.

The Coop was once an Agway franchised outlet, and it still offers Agway products. Agway formerly owned a grain mill in Bernardston, but closed it during hard times. Agway sold off HP Hood, which was

regarded as an unprofitable sideline. No longer a coop, Hood became profitable enough to buy Crowley. Both Hood and Crowley dairy products are now on sale side by side in stores like Food City.

Cooperatives permeate the business world more than you might realize. Cooperatives are formed by members to get better prices for their products, and to achieve buying power as a group. Land O'Lakes butter, which you see on the shelves of stores like Food City, is produced by the Land O'Lakes, a farmers' cooperative. The coop buys milk from member farms to process into dairy products. Land O'Lakes also manufactures metal buildings. While butter and metal buildings seem strange bedfellows, coop members need buildings. As coop members, farmers are able to buy buildings or building materials at more reasonable prices. At one time, coops even marketed CO-OP brand farm tractors.

Greenfield Farmers Cooperative employees are ready to offer advice or assistance in regard to their many products, and they make every effort to ensure customers a pleasant shopping experience. They also like to remind customers that those who shop at the cooperative support local farms.

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH

GREENFIELD - In November of 2009, the 600-member Greenfield Farmers Cooperative bought the 261 High Street home of Rosalie Bishop for \$180,000. Earlier this spring, in a single day, Mitchell Excavating Company of Shelburne demolished the building with their excavator, loaded the debris into a trailer dump truck, and hauled it away.

Mitchell's crew next cleared the site of a stand of large pines and disposed of the tree stumps and loam. The firm's employees trucked in gravel from their pit in Northfield, graded the site with their D-4 Caterpillar bull-

dozer, and compacted the lot with their Caterpillar vibratory roller.

"We're using the lot for storage of material moved from the lot in front of the store and for employee parking, to free up space for customers out front," assistant manager Bill Ovitt said. "With more storage area we can also buy truckload lots at better prices."

The Greenfield Farmers Cooperative Exchange began with six farmers in a warehouse next to a Boston and Maine railroad siding off of Deerfield Street in 1918. The group located the store next to a railroad siding because they arranged to

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Advertisement for Renaissance Excavating, Inc. featuring an image of an excavator. Text includes: "COMPLETE SITE WORK", "Septic & Drainage Systems | Sand, Gravel & Loam", "Main Road, Gill", "Douglas Edson 413.863.4462".

Advertisement for Dolan & Dolan Attorneys at Law. Text includes: "174 AVENUE A TURNERS FALLS MASSACHUSETTS 01376 413-863-3133", "PERSONAL INJURY, WILLS & ESTATES, WORKER'S COMP".

Advertisement for In-Town Self Storage. Text includes: "Overwhelmed by stuff? Try Franklin County's Most Convenient IN-TOWN SELF STORAGE", "UPPER END OF WELLS STREET, GREENFIELD", "774-7775", "Easy in-town location", "Secure 24-hour access", "OFFICE AT 50 CHAPMAN STREET, GREENFIELD, MA", "Contractors, Flea Marketers, Tradeshaw Vendors and Artists encouraged to inquire".

Advertisement for Greenfield Imported Car Sales. Text includes: "SALES • SERVICE • PARTS", "AUDI - VW - VOLVO - BMW", "Now Specializing in Toyota and other Asian Cars", "413-774-5517", "335 High Street, Greenfield", "greenfieldimportedcars.com (sales)", "GICP.com (parts: 774-2819)".

Advertisement for Lauralyn J. Brown, DVM. Text includes: "LAURALYN J. BROWN, DVM", "NOW ACCEPTING NEW CLIENTS", "Compassionate and Professional Care for Your Small Animal", "EXPANDED HOURS WITH DR. AMY RUBIN, DVM", "194 Millers Falls Road, Turners Falls 413-863-0025".

Advertisement for Country Oil. Text includes: "COUNTRY OIL", "SINCE 1986", "HEATING-COOLING-PLUMBING", "540 Northfield Rd., Bernardston 1-800-327-9992", "www.countryoil.com 413-648-9912", "Annual Heating System Cleaning \$10 Off with this Coupon Expires April 30".

Visit the Sunwheel to Appreciate Our Place on Earth

BY FRAN HEMOND

AMHERST – Come any time, any season. The Sunwheel at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, created by Dr. Judith Young of the astronomy department, records and anticipates the wondrous patterns of Earth and sun that rule our lives.

This March 20th, at the vernal equinox (from the Latin for “equal night”), some hundred people gathered at the Sunwheel on spring soggy turf in the stone circle, as Young explained the connection between the beautiful sunset visible between two waiting stones and our yearly event: “Spring is here.”

Some 2000 years ago, Stonehenge in England was constructed, its circle stones marking the same celestial events for our predecessors: the same spring and autumn equinoxes, the same summer and winter sol-

stices, the same awe of the heavens and their beauty.

Here in Amherst, the spring solstice was a family affair, with little ones frolicking about, perhaps getting answers to things they had already noted. I recalled years ago a small son asking, “Hey, Mom. Does Lou (our neighbor to the east) put up the sun every morning, and does Bud (our neighbor to the west) take it down at night?”

In Western Mass, open skies



The Sunwheel, on the fields of UMass Amherst

Young.

Many of us have a bit of the Sunwheel at our own homes. Here at Cold Brook Farm, the Breakfast Club view looks out clearly beyond the south edge of the window. By the vernal equinox, the sun has moved north into my vision. It will glare in the window each spring and summer sunrise until the September equinox. And my happy view of the proceedings on the pond has returned.

The Sunwheel at UMass encourages an appreciation of our own spot on this Earth.

Dr. Young will host two more gatherings at the summer solstice, on June 21st, when summer begins for us in the northern hemisphere. One gathering will take place that day at sunrise, at 5 a.m.; the other at sunset, at 7:30 p.m. See www.umass.edu/sunwheel for more information.

EARTH DAY from pg 1
temperatures steadily gaining heat for decades.

Pointing to one graph he called particularly interesting, Schimmel said specific humidity in the atmosphere is rising as a consequence of rising temperatures.

“As the atmosphere warms, it can hold more water vapor,” said Schimmel. “As a consequence, more water can come out of the atmosphere. The number of extreme precipitation events should increase, as a very likely consequence of increasing temperature.”

Another graph compared the rising ocean surface temperatures

with the increased force of hurricanes. “Hurricanes are becoming more severe. Compound that by adding more people and infrastructure in warm coastal regions, and you can see we’ve been systematically making human society more and more vulnerable to this effect.”

Schimmel talked about the standard chart for measuring the increase of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, the Keeling Curve, named for Charles David Keeling, the American scientist who first alerted the world to the human-caused buildup of atmospheric carbon dioxide and its likely effects.

Observation of core samples from polar ice has allowed scientists to track the rise and fall of carbon dioxide over 750,000 years, Schimmel said, and through seven ice ages. Over this vast period of geologic time, atmospheric carbon dioxide has remained remarkably steady at around 290 to 300 parts per million. Now, as the Keeling Curve shows, it has climbed to 385 ppm, and the graph continues to point steeply upward.

The Keeling Curve also demonstrates the seasonal fluctuation of carbon dioxide, as plants, mostly in the Northern hemisphere, where the planet’s largest

land masses lie, absorb carbon dioxide as they grow, and then release that CO₂ in the fall as they die. “For the first time, scientists began to view the Earth not as a boulder rolling through space but as a system influenced by the life of the planet itself.”

With the steep growth of human population and the concomitant burning of fossil fuels since the industrial revolution, but particularly in the latter part of last century, Schimmel said, “Fundamentally, we’re taking carbon stored in fossil form from millions of years ago, that would remain part of the rock cycle for more millions of years, we’re taking it from an inactive state and releasing it quickly into the oceans and atmosphere where it will cycle for thousands of years before being contained in sedimentary rock again.”

Taking the students through a basic refresher course in physics, Schimmel said, “The atmosphere is transparent to sunlight. Solar radiation is interrupted by land surfaces and oceans and re-radiated into space as thermal infrared radiation, as heat. The atmosphere is not transparent to thermal infra-red radiation.”

If the Earth’s atmosphere trapped less heat, the planet would become inhospitable to liquid water, and to life. As the Earth’s atmosphere continues to build up more heat-trapping gasses, the trend will be in the opposite direction, giving rising to warmer and warmer temperatures.

“As we build up more and more carbon dioxide, water vapor, and other gasses in the atmosphere, it will change the relatively benign climate we

enjoy.”

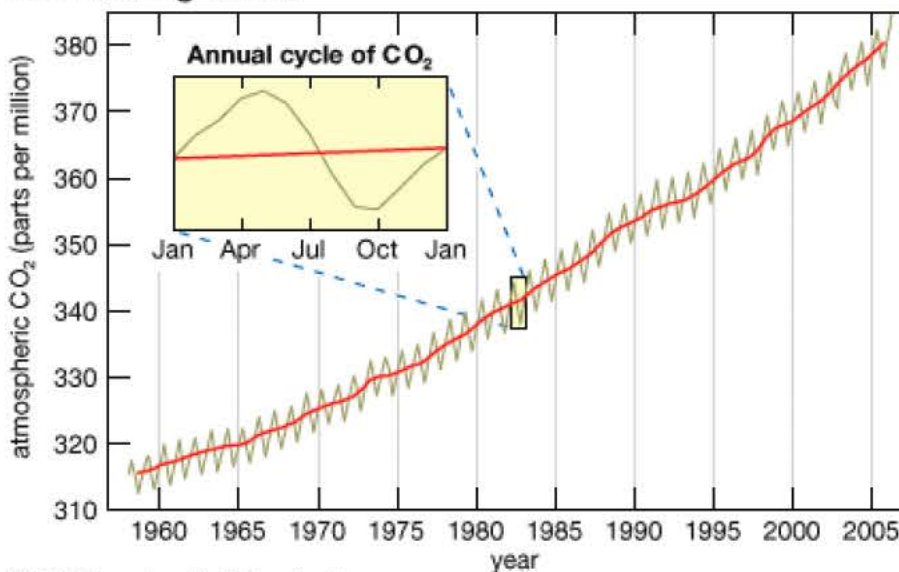
Schimmel said the United States has four and a half percent of the world’s population, but uses 24% of the world’s energy. The average person in the U.S. uses 60 times more energy than the average person in Bangladesh, for example, and Schimmel said the affluent students and faculty members listening to him at NMH probably use about twice as much energy as the average American.

“Because we use so much energy in the United States, if we reduced our energy use by 10% it would reduce global energy use by 2½%. It’s not a problem where we, as individuals, are helpless to change the bigger picture.”

Schimmel said the United States’ reliance on individual cars rather than mass transportation is out of proportion to the rest of the world, and he recommended transportation as the most fruitful category of energy conservation for individuals to make changes in their personal carbon footprint. (For more ideas on how to do so, Schimmel recommended visiting www.globalfootprint.org).

“The future will be a mix of new non-fossil fuel sources, and energy efficiency,” Schimmel predicted, as the students rose, crowded for the exits, and poured out onto the broad, manicured green lawns beneath the bright, sunny sky.

The Keeling Curve



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Montague Grange Plans Renovations for 175-Year-Old Hall



MICHAEL MULLER PHOTO

(l to r): Mark Ragonese, Joanne Caloon, Chris Moro, Sally Prasch, Shauna Lynn, Sam Yon-Song, and Jean Weintraub at the entrance to the Montague Grange Hall

BY MICHAEL MULLER – In March, several members of the Montague Grange formed a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization called the Friends of the Montague Grange (FMG) specifically to raise funds to repair and rehabilitate the 1835 Grange Hall. Originally constructed as a Unitarian Church, the building turns 175 years old this year.

Grange members thought it was time to give the hall some 21st century upgrades.

The list of needed renovations includes wheelchair ramps, moisture remediation, insulation, more insulation, and a total overhaul of the interior space. The goal is to make the hall a comfortable community space, a place where town residents feel

welcome to spend some time.

Step one, repairing the roof, will be complete by the time you read this. Don Ogden of Leverett has done a fantastic job, bringing the roof repair in on time and under budget.

As you can imagine, a long list of building repairs adds up to a long and expensive bill. In order to achieve our goals, the

Grange has devised a three-pronged approach: a typical direct mail campaign; a lower-cost membership campaign in the Friends organization; and a series of fun fundraising events throughout the year.

The Grange has already started the events schedule. On April 2nd, the FMG held a Mystery Theater & Dessert event at the hall. More of a comedy than a typical Mystery Theater, it featured scrumptious desserts prepared by the Blue Heron restaurant and other neighbors and friends. The evening was a roaring success, pulling in almost \$1,500. The leftover desserts were served at a concert the following week, pulling in an additional \$236 for a grand total of \$1,725. Thanks to everyone who made those two events happen!

On Sunday, May 2nd, at 6 p.m., the evening of the May Day Celebration on the town common, the Grange will be visited by Kellianna of Wendell and Marsia of Mother Turtle for an evening of acoustic Goddess and Soul music. Tickets are \$15 at the door, and baked goods and coffee will be available.

The Montague Grange is considering a partnership with the Transition Town Montague group to bring a year-long series of low cost skills sharing workshops to town. Topics will include canning and preserving,

apple pressing, carpentry, efficient insulation, local cow and other animal sharing, raising chickens, and more. The focus will be on reacquiring skills once common in our villages, to improve community self-reliance, while getting to know our neighbors a bit more. Originally an agriculture-based organization, the Montague Grange would be proud to be part of such a workshop series. For more info, contact Shauna at shaunalove111@gmail.com, or go to the Transition Montague section of the MontagueMA.net website.

Monthly potlucks and resuming monthly contra dances are in discussion. If these are of interest to you, stop by the hall in Montague Center and let us know.

The Friends of the Montague Grange is a 501(c)(3) non-profit whose mission is to raise funds to repair and upgrade the Montague Grange hall. Membership in the Friends is \$25 per year. Membership and donations are tax deductible and can be mailed to 181 Meadow Road, Montague, MA 01351. Please visit www.MontagueGrange.org to get regular updates about future events, and to download the membership form.

WENDELL from pg 6

Wilber if the society could make some payment to the town in lieu of the taxes all of the land Audubon owns in Wendell would generate for the town if it were in private hands. Wilber answered that Mass Audubon never has a sufficient supply of cash, but might be willing to contribute to the town in other ways that do not cost the society money.

Aldrich reported the response on April 14th; Mass Audubon offered the town a half scholarship to the regular \$900 price of its Wildwood Camp in New Hampshire, and also offered to work in the school system developing programs.

Keller asked if the Swift River School could use their help, and selectboard Chair Christine Heard asked Aldrich to write Mass Audubon a thank you letter, and asking if they would extend the school program offer to Mahar Regional High School as well as Swift River.

Heard said she doubted many families in town would want to pay even half the cost of a week

at Wildwood Camp, given the present economic situation.

The New Energy Alliance will be reconstructing and maintaining the wooden pole high-voltage lines that run from Gill to Sterling through Wendell, on the weekend of April 23rd through April 25th, using helicopters. The helicopters will be flying low, and will use the land that is now growing scattered white pines, but was cleared by Harold Wetherby opposite Don Ellis' yellow house on New Salem Road as a landing zone. Selectboard members asked Aldrich to send letters to neighbors of Wetherby's property, because a landing helicopter makes a big commotion.

Wendell's tax rate was certified at \$16.77 per \$1,000 of valuation. Tax bills will go out May 3rd, and will be due within 30 days.

Aldrich summarized a letter the town received from the state Executive Office of Administration and Finance stating the requirements and consequences of the state's new Open Meeting Law. Meetings will

have to be posted in all the town's posting places with minutes of the prior meeting and agenda of the upcoming meeting. If that is not convenient, the town may post on the police and fire station, and if that is not possible the town may post on its cable TV channel, or have a 24-hour telephone line with messages about every meeting, or have an electronic scrolling display at the town offices giving meeting dates and times with minutes and agendas. A citizen may complain about a board's failure to post to the Attorney General, who may levy a fine to a board chair after 14 days of continued non-compliance. Aldrich added, "Here is another disincentive to volunteer for a town board or committee."

Pooser said he has taken several calls about the metal recycling roll-off at the WRATS. People do not want to climb in to salvage and use metal that used to be stored on a concrete slab. He thought there might be a staging area where metal could be held before it is thrown into the roll-off.

AMBULANCE from pg 1

The prudential committee plans to reintroduce the motions at a special meeting, tentatively scheduled for mid-June.

The warrant also included a motion requesting allocation of \$425,000 for the TFFD to purchase a new pumping truck. Apart from cash currently on hand, the amount would include a new \$350,000 loan, yearly payments for which were estimated by the committee at about \$31,500.

The department hopes to replace a pumper engine that is now more than 30 years old. (The department also has a newer pumper engine, a

pumper tanker, and a ladder truck.) The older truck was described by Chief Ray Godin as being "well beyond its reasonable service life," and displaying a great deal of body rust, despite ongoing repairs. He related an incident from last December where, readied for return from a fire dispatch to Millers Falls, "the driver's door fell off."

The motion to fund the new pumping truck, which required a two-thirds majority vote, was defeated, with 48 voting yea, and 41 voting nay. All other motions on the warrant were passed.



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

- William Carlos Williams

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

Then Something

The moose and his mate
stood in the roadside marsh at dawn.
They moved the shallow sheet of water,
the smallest rustle,
as if ghosts were passing.

Together they broke the surface,
such precision in their knobby bodies--
Were they only figments in the unestablished light?
But something held them
bound them to the earth.

On a rise, above them, just at the edge of the road
in a kind of trance,
I stood, leaning toward them, and for a long time
we stood in each other's company.
It was as if we were appearing

and disappearing in the dim light.
The weight of shadow,
laden with gravity, shiftings, myths, a wild surrender.
We didn't move,
but might have been moving together

through the shallow satin of water,
losing ourselves, it seemed, in truth and beauty.
Or am I only making something of them they were not?
Weren't they only two moose in a swale,
pulling up water plants, chewing them

just before full day fell over the earth?

--Patricia Fargnoli
Walpole, NH

Song to Andreana

If it were my place,
I'd rearrange space
to make the world revolve around you;
I am a single grain of sand on a lonely strand, without you;
And when I close my eyes and look deep inside,
It's you that I see;
I'm yours and you're mine,
until the end of time:
Love eternity...

--R.M. Garcia
Erving

On the Question of the Soul

It is not iron, nor does it have anything to do
with the fleshy heart. It does not quiver

like feathers, nor the arrow shot from the hunter's bow,
is not the deer that runs or falls in the snow.

It hunkers down in the invisible recesses
of the body--its closets, scrolled bureaus,
the ivory hardness of the chest,

or disperses through every cell. And also it flies
out beyond the body.

Someday watch smoke travel through the air.
Someday watch a stain spread out to no stain
in the ocean. The soul does that.

It doesn't care whether or not you believe in it.
It is unassailable and contradictory: the dog
that comes barking and wagging its tail.

It is not, I am certain, biology.
Not a cardinal or a heron, not even a thrush or wren,
but it might be a praying mantis.

It is the no color of rain
as it sweeps a field on an August morning
full of fences and field flowers.

It is the shifting of light across the surface
of any lake, the shadows that move like muskrats
across a mountain whose shape mimics the clouds
above it.

Weighed down by the vested interests
of the body it, nevertheless, bears us forward.

--Patricia Fargnoli
Walpole, NH

Best Boy

Angus, Angus-Pangus,
Angeroo, Angeroni.
Angus McTavish McPherson
according to his pedigree.
Agnes, according to my grandmother.

Best childhood buddy,
Only childhood buddy.
Sharer of secret off-the-leash after school walks
through the wilds of suburbia,
Eater of under-the-table bites of burnt pot roast,
dried out fishsticks and other dinner disasters,
Stealer of socks, slippers and sanitary napkins,
Licker of fingers and toes and tears
shed at midnight on lonely Friday nights,
Ardent admirer of Dusty, the cocker spaniel next door,
Arch enemy of Luke, the Schnauzer across the street,
Bearer of repeated humiliations:
"Look Daddy, there's Toto!"
Proud master of sit up, stay, and beg.

Reason I didn't want to go to college,
Reason I came home once a month,
No love ever expressed so freely before or since:
Tail-wagging, urine-dripping, mad-dashing, face-licking,
belly-presenting, jumping at long last into my lap
to sit up tall and trembling,
pointy ears thrust forward to catch my questions:
Who's my best boy?
Who's the best boy in the world?

After college, living alone in sixth floor
one-room Manhattan walk-up,
bathroom down the hall, roaches everywhere,
the phone rings.
My mother's voice a thin choke,
"Didn't suffer. Had no choice."
Only time I've heard her cry.

Today I find your collar
curled next to my grandmother's watch
in forgotten attic box.
Round metal tag
that always clanked against your bowl
hanging from worn red leather
still smelling of wet dog
twenty years later
the same questions
still catch in my throat:
Who's my best boy?
Who's the best boy in the world?
Angus, Angus-Pangus,
Angeroo, Angeroni.

--Lesléa Newman
Northampton

CONTRIBUTORS' NOTES:

Kevin Smith is 52 years old, a Turners Falls resident, tubist and therapist as well as poet.

Gunnar Garcia is a resident of Erving and a student at EES. He comes from a family of poets and poetry lovers.

Now a resident of Turners Falls, Elizabeth Nash has lived on both the left and right coasts and in New York, Florida, Tennessee, Ohio, and Vermont. Outside extremely brief sojourns in Mexico, Israel, Holland, Canada, and the Bahamas, she has traveled only in books and in dreams. Elizabeth works

as a writer and editor for Northeast Foundation for Children.

Patricia Fargnoli, the New Hampshire Poet Laureate from December 2006 to March 2009, is the author of six collections of poetry. Her newest book is *Then, Something* (Tupelo Press, fall 2009). Her fifth collection, *Duties of the Spirit* (Tupelo Press, 2005) won the New Hampshire Jane Kenyon Literary Book Award for an Outstanding Book of Poetry and was a semifinalist for the Glasgow Prize. Her first book, *Necessary Light* (Utah State University Press, 1999) was awarded

the 1999 May Swenson Poetry Award judged by Mary Oliver. Her book, *Small Songs of Pain* (Pecan Grove Press, 2003) is a collection of poems triggered by Chagall's illustrations of LaFontaine's fables. In addition she has published 2 chapbooks: *Lives of Others*, Oyster River Press, 2003, and *Greatest Hits*, Pudding House press. A member of the NH Writers' Project and a Touring Artist for the NH Arts Council, she resides in Walpole, NH. "Then, Something" and "On the Question of the Soul" are from the book *Then, Something* (Tupelo Press, 2009, copyright Patricia Fargnoli). Used with permission of the publisher.

Rolando (Marty) Garcia is an Erving Recreation Commissioner. He works at the S.O. Conte Anadromous Fish Research Center Conte in Turners Falls.

Lesléa Newman, a past poet laureate of Northampton, MA is the author of 60 books including the poetry collections *Still Life With Buddy*, *Nobody's Mother*, and *Signs of Love*. Her literary awards include poetry fellowships from the Massachusetts Artists Fellowship Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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Remember

Remember that time last year
 In summer
 When I invited you over?
 We went outside to play
 We climbed that big old pine tree.
 Remember how pleasant it felt
 When the soft, but also quite spiky,
 Pine needles brushed against our
 faces
 And the joy we felt of making
 It to the very top?
 Once down from the top
 We found pine sap
 All over our hands. Remember?
 We came in
 To watch TV, but my mom said
 We had to scrub our hands first.
 Remember how rough
 The washcloth felt
 Against our sticky skin?
 Do you remember that?
 Remember that time last year
 In fall
 When we went outside to play?
 Three minutes later
 It started to rain.
 We took cover
 Under that big pine tree
 And after the rainstorm
 We came out from under its shelter.
 Remember how cool the wet
 pavement felt
 Under our hot, bare feet?
 Do you remember that?
 Remember that time last year
 In winter
 When we got back from hockey
 practice?
 During a gigantic storm,
 We drove up the driveway
 To see our tree was still standing
 Do you remember that?

--Gunnar Lee Garcia
 Erving

Her Father's Arm

starts at the shoulder
 bends at the elbow
 ends at the wrist

 loops around her mother's waist
 hangs in the air mid-wave
 disappears inside a sports jacket.

 Her father's arm is tan,
 hairy and muscular
 in the photos taken

 before the war
 took his arm
 and did not give it back.

 Armed with these ancient photos
 she studies the jocular, two-fisted man
 who became her one-armed father.

--Lesléa Newman
 Northampton

Drunkard in the Subway Restroom

I laughed
 when I first saw him -
 his eyes, cracked and rusty,
 ogling the unwashed
 porcelain object of
 his affections; wrinkled brown
 fingers fumbling
 with pants zipper,
 then failing him,
 as he lost contact
 with his porcelain lover
 and pissed all over the floor.
 His lover gurgled insultingly,
 while I laughed
 and saw my reflection
 in the stale yellow tiles.

--Kevin Smith
 Turners Falls

Turtle

I still think about him
 that great old turtle
 large as a coffee table
 standing by the side of the road,
 his narrow eyes, his wrinkled head,
 his grey-green shell spotted with lichen.

How he rose up on his elephantine legs!
 How he hissed and snapped
 at the metal snow scraper
 you thrust at him
 trying to steer him away from the sea
 of cars barreling past

back toward the quiet woods behind him.
 His rage fought your determination
 as you blocked his path again and again
 until finally he turned
 and ambled off into the trees
 without so much as a backwards glance.

Two years have passed and I wonder,
 Does he still think about us
 the way we still think about him?
 Does he dream about us?
 Write poems about us?
 Does he tell his children and grandchildren

what happened that day, fumbling for words
 to describe our unearthly beauty?
 Does he thank his lucky stars
 we came along just in time?
 Or does he curse us daily
 for stopping him from stepping

into that dangerous traffic,
 dodging cars like whizzing bullets
 as he risked it all to reach
 his ancient heart's desire
 forever unknown
 on the other side of the road.

--Lesléa Newman
 Northampton



PHOTO BY ROMAN VISHNIAC

"My Soul, Dear Children, Is Still Young"

-from the Yiddish song, "Revel, Little Ones"

In response to a photo from *Children of a Vanished World*, a study of Jews living in the Polish ghettos on the eve of the Holocaust, by Roman Vishniac.

You think I'm useless old man, yes?

My home's a sooty hovel,
 my clothes, frayed and not so clean.
 Ah, the letters of our ancient alphabet
 carry so much woe!


Yet my grandson beside me-for him
 I live and work, sing and cry.
 Do you see that his eyes are bright,
 that he is eating an apple?

Not yet, not yet am I a useless old man . . .


--Elizabeth Nash
 Turners Falls

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Lesléa Newman



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UP TO THE MINUTE TECHNOLOGY
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RESOLUTION from pg 1
 tum in someone from the next village or a competing tribe you've hated your entire life and get paid more money than you've ever had in your entire life, why wouldn't you?

"Those people were shipped to Guantánamo, along with people from 40 other countries that were represented in Guantánamo, and kept there for eight years or longer.

"Why Guantánamo in the first place? The reason the Bush Administration decided to bring detainees to Guantánamo was because that administration believed and took the position that Guantánamo was a lawless enclave, and the only 'law' that existed was the law as determined, settled and executed by the executive branch of the United States. That no court could interfere in any way in anything the U.S. government did at Guantánamo Naval Base: no jurisdictional oversight; no inter-

national oversight; nothing. It was lawless, and intentionally lawless.

"Now, that's an amazing concept for America. It is so offensive to our hallowed principles of freedom and democracy that it should be shocking to all Americans.

"How shocking? We have had a very conservative Supreme Court. It is highly deferential to the executive branch of government. By and large, the decisions the court has arrived at, the results are: if it's a dispute between an individual and the government, the government wins. If it's a dispute between a corporation and an individual, the corporation wins. If it's a dispute between those with power and those without, the powerful win. Now, there will be exceptions, but those basic tenets are true.

"The Supreme Court was presented with this issue, squarely, [in *Hamdi v Rumsfeld*]: 'Is there jurisdiction by a U.S. district court over Guantánamo Bay? Was it or is it in fact an enclave over which American law does not apply, which is to say, the detainees have no rights whatsoever to go to any court to ask for any kind of remedy?'

"And the Bush administration, if you read a book called *The*

Torture Papers [Karen Greenberg and Joshua Dratel; Oxford University Press] which compiles the internal memoranda of the Bush administration, said, 'Absolutely right. We can do whatever we want. And while it may be possible, although we doubt it, that some federal district court somewhere would actually exercise jurisdiction, we have every confidence the U.S. Supreme Court will absolutely support our claim. And we will be able to do whatever we want in Guantánamo.'

"Amazing. And they came very close to winning. But they lost, 5-4.

"And Congress has tried twice, through various statutes, to roll back that decision. And twice more, the U.S. Supreme Court has said, 'There is jurisdiction over these *habeas corpus* petitions that have come before the federal courts that have been filed by the Guantánamo detainees or their next friends, people filing on their behalf.

"Now, while all this has gone on, until very recently there were no detainees who had been released through a judicial order. But detainees began to be released because the international community was outraged. How can the United States of America

pick people up anywhere in the world, kidnap them – except we call it extraordinary rendition, which somehow makes kidnapping something else – and bring them to a prison, sometimes Bagram, sometimes Kandahar, sometimes directly, and get them to Guantánamo?

"How can that happen in a community of nations, when it's conducted by the United States, a nation of laws, of freedom and democracy? How can this happen? It's really rather extraordinary.

"The Bush administration began to take significant steps towards closing Guantánamo. Again, why would you do that if you had the worst and the most dangerous terrorists in the world there? Because you don't. Otherwise, you keep them. The Bush administration wasn't going to let those people go, nor should they.

"But they did. They released 500 or more detainees. Yes, the Obama administration has reduced the number of Guantánamo detainees, but not nearly as much as the Bush administration had.

"Now, in fairness to the Obama administration, the Bush administration released the people who were easiest to release.

And of the individuals who are there now, it's not so easy to release them.

"And of the 181 [remaining detainees], about half of them are cleared for transfer, that's the correct term, and they can't be released because they face imprisonment or torture or death in their home countries.

"There are other groups and individual people at Guantánamo, some who have been imported there within the last number of years, really for the purpose of creating a reason for military commissions. We're not concerned with those individuals in this resolution. And there are other individuals who have been subjected to indefinite detention without trial, without charges. Those are the people who are described as 'too difficult to try, but too dangerous to be released'. We are not talking about people who will face military commissions, civilian trials, or indefinite detention. Those are not the people who are the subject of this resolution.

"We're talking about people who the United States government says have been cleared for transfer, individuals the U.S. government says should be released, are entitled to be released, do not pose a danger, or should be considered members of the world community and returned to a country where they can be safe. But their country of origin can't be the place they're sent back to.

"There have been a dozen countries who accepted individuals from Guantánamo, who are not from that country – Portugal, Spain, Palau, Bermuda. As far as reports from those countries, there have been no problems with those detainees, as far as I am aware.

"The U.S. Congress, however, in what I would suggest was a certain amount of political expense see **RESOLUTION** pg 13

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG
Multiple Assaults and Battery


Tuesday, 4/13 2:26 p.m. Burglary on Central Street. Referred to another agency. 10:22 p.m. Domestic disturbance on G Street. Arrested [redacted] for violation of a restraining order and subsequent offense of disturbing the peace. Arrest of [redacted] for subsequent offense of disturbing the peace. Wednesday, 4/14 6:15 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Bridge Street. Peace restored. 7:52 p.m. Assault and battery on Bridge Street. Referred to an officer. 8:32 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] for malicious destruction of property over \$250, disorderly conduct, and disturbing the peace. Thursday, 4/15 1:27 p.m. Vandalism at Stewart's Nursery on	Greenfield Road. Investigated. 7:14 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, an unregistered and uninsured motor vehicle. 7:48 p.m. Fire on T Street. Services rendered. Friday, 4/16 9:21 p.m. Arrested [redacted] for unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, operating a motor vehicle with a revoked registration and without insurance. Saturday, 4/17 8:08 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] for assault and battery. Sunday, 4/18 12:07 a.m. Arrest of [redacted] for domestic assault and battery, assault and battery with a dangerous weapon (blanket in mouth), kidnapping, and intimidating a witness. Monday, 4/19 9:37 a.m. Missing person on Third Street. Services rendered.
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JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

THE HEALTHY GEEZER:

How Much Vitamin D is Enough?

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ – Q. I'm 68 years old, and I want to know how much Vitamin D you need to be healthy.

The U.S. Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences has established Adequate Intake (AI) levels for vitamin D. The daily levels in International Units (IU) for

everyone are as follows, according to age:

- Under the age of 50: 200 IU
- From 50 to 70 years-old: 400 IU
- Over 70 years old: 600 IU

The recommended upper limit for vitamin D is 2,000 IU a day. Vitamin D can be toxic when taken in higher doses. Vitamin D is included in most multivitamins, usually in strengths from 50 IU to 1,000 IU. Vitamin D toxicity is rare. There is a greater risk of poisoning if you have liver or kidney conditions, or if you take some diuretics.

There are different forms of Vitamin D. The major forms – the ones important to humans –

are vitamin D2 and vitamin D3.

Vitamin D2 is synthesized by plants. We get vitamin D in our diet. Very few foods in nature contain vitamin D. It is found in eggs, dairy products, fish, oysters and cod liver oil. Foods, such as milk, may be fortified with vitamin D2 or D3. Fortified foods provide most of the vitamin D in the American diet.

Vitamin D3 is synthesized in human skin when it is exposed to sunlight. About 10 minutes of daily exposure to sun is considered enough to prevent deficiencies.

Vitamin D's primary job is to maintain normal amounts of calcium and phosphorus in your

blood. Vitamin D helps keep your bones strong. Research suggests that vitamin D may protect us not only from osteoporosis (loss of bone density), but also from high blood pressure, cancer, heart disease, diabetes, multiple sclerosis, and psoriasis.

Populations at a high risk for vitamin D deficiencies include the elderly, obese individuals, and people with limited sun exposure. Osteomalacia – also known as adult rickets – is found in older patients deficient in vitamin D. Osteomalacia causes bone and muscle weakness.

People older than 50 are at increased risk of developing vitamin D insufficiency. As people

age, skin cannot synthesize vitamin D as efficiently, and the kidneys are less able to convert vitamin D to its active hormone form.

Recent studies indicate that vitamin D reduces the risk of falling, which is especially dangerous for seniors. However, to obtain the benefits of the vitamin, you must take 700 to 1000 IU a day. These studies buttress other research that has shown that vitamin D improves strength, balance and bone health in the elderly.

Each year, one third of people 65 and older, and one half of people 50 and older, fall at least once. Almost one-tenth of these falls put their victims in an emergency room. Many seniors who fall end up in nursing homes.

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

RESOLUTION from pg 12 diency, in its budget resolution made it illegal for any Guantánamo detainee who has been cleared for release to come to the United States, with the exception if there is going to be a judicial action involving an individual as the accused. But no cleared detainee otherwise can come to the United States.

“So the United States government says to the world community, ‘We want you to take the cleared Guantánamo detainees, and a dozen countries have. But we’re not going to take any of them. We’re kind of sorry we made this mess. They’re not dangerous. But we’re not going to take any of them.’”

“It is a remarkable position for the United State government to take.

“The most publicized example, I think, involved the Uighurs. Uighurs are a Muslim sect in China. A number of Uighurs have escaped China,

where they are persecuted; you perhaps read about the relatively recent execution of Uighurs in China [last November, following ethnic riots in Xinjiang].

“A number of Uighurs had escaped to Afghanistan, and were picked up there and [22 of them were] shipped to the naval base at Guantánamo. The Uighurs, even according to the Bush administration very early on, posed no danger, were there by mistake. The Bush administration covered that up for a few years, and the Uighurs said, ‘O.K. Let us come to the United States.’”

It involved mountains of paperwork, but at the end of the day, the Uighurs said, ‘O.K. Let us come here.’ Their lawyers said that, and the judge said, ‘Right. Why not? They’re not dangerous. Release them in the United States. They can’t go back to China. They can’t go back to Afghanistan. Why not let them be released in the United States?’

“The court of appeals reversed that decision. The United States government argued, ‘They have no passports or visas.’ I’m not making this up.

“The executive branch of the United States has absolute discretionary authority over immigration issues, and the court could not order the release of the Uighurs and realize the historical core of *habeas corpus*, which is, ‘release from unlawful confinement.’”

“The voters in Leverett, like the voters in Amherst, are going to get the opportunity to say something to the United States government, which is: When someone has been in Guantánamo and has been cleared for release, is not dangerous, poses no danger to our country, we think we should rejoin the community of nations and allow that person to be admitted into the United States, and when that happens, such individuals will be welcome here.

“Leverett cannot in any way dictate American foreign policy. But what Leverett and communities throughout the country can do is say, ‘We have principles that are in violation. We have principles of democracy and freedom that are so important we need to stand up for them, even when the government will not.’ And when the U.S. Congress realizes it is in the United States’ interest to rejoin the community of nations, we are here to say, ‘We are part of it. We asked for it to happen. We, as a community, stood for these principles.’”

“When we do that, we are on the right side of history. This resolution will not change the world, and it may not, for many months, change U.S. foreign policy. It is by people standing up for sacred principles of democracy that democracy lives. It is why individuals see the United States as that shining example of principles and of freedom. This resolution is one

of the documents that speaks towards that.”

Leverett’s annual town meeting takes place at the Leverett Elementary School at 9 a.m. on Saturday, April 24th.



To view the entire videotape of the forum on Guantánamo at which Bill Newman was one of several speakers, consult the MCTV program schedule at www.montaguevtv.org, or download the video directly from their website by clicking on “Guantánamo” under the “videos to view” section.

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GO GREEN FAMILY

Episode 8: A New Challenge – Eating Green

BY JEANNE WEINTRAUB-MASON

MONTAGUE CENTER – Nell and Jane Robbins-Levine were still basking in the afterglow of winning the transportation challenge when host Sam Lively started to explain the next Go Green Family Challenge to the webcast viewers.

“We think Challenge Number Two will whet your appetite,” Sam smirked. “How we grow our food and what we choose to eat have an enormous impact on the environment. Over the next two months, our panel of experts will examine the Go Green families’ shopping and eating habits to see

which has the most environmentally friendly diet.

“Each family member will keep a food journal, and families will save all their grocery receipts. Plan to be at the Strawberry Festival at the Deerfield Inn at the end of June – we’ll announce the winners of this round there, and award them the special incentive for this challenge: a year’s supply of maple syrup. Good luck, and *bon appetit!*”

A Secret Habit

Two weeks later, as she was examining the “Grown in Chile” label on the tomatoes in the produce aisle at the Whole Fare

supermarket, Jane Robbins-Levine was accosted by Emily Woo, her colleague at Hampshire College.

“Jane Robbins-Levine – I saw you and Nell on TV! You two are really the talk of the town! So, what’s this, are you shopping now for the food challenge? What’s your strategy this time?” Emily exclaimed.

“Oh, Emily,” Jane answered with exasperation. “Nell and I are totally butting heads! We started out agreeing to buy organic as much as possible, but it’s taken

me two weeks to convince Nell that

we need to stop eating meat – and she’s not happy about it.”

“What’s the big advantage of eating vegetarian?” inquired Emily.

“It takes ten times more energy to grow beef than grain. And now there are studies showing that switching to a vegetarian diet has more impact on reducing global warming than buying a hybrid car. You’d think Nell could understand why this is the obvious thing to do, but I get nothing but grief from her these days!”

After Emily Woo bid her good-bye and wished her luck on the challenge, Jane turned her attention to a case of Icelandic lamb chops, displayed alongside a photo of pristine pastures and a

sign proclaiming these chops represent ‘the very essence of sustainable farming.’ “I think not,” she muttered, and hurried over to the bulk grain aisle.

Continued next issue.

Arena Civic Players present

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Christopher Sergei's beautifully crafted adaptation of Harper Lee's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel.

Fridays and Saturdays, April 23rd, 24th, 30th and May 1st at 8:00 p.m. and Sundays April 25th and May 2nd at 2:00 p.m.

at the Shea Theater, Avenue A in Turners Falls. For more info and to reserve tickets call the Shea Theater at (413) 863-2281, ext. 3.

Following the April 25th matinee, Attorney William Newman of the ACLU will lead a talk-back with actors and audience. Tickets also available at World Eye Bookshop, Greenfield and Jones Library, Amherst.

Montague to Prohibit Outdoor Wood Burning Boilers

BY ANNE HARDING – A public hearing was held Wednesday to introduce the new Montague regulation prohibiting installation of outdoor wood burning boilers and outdoor hydronic heaters (OWB/OHB) in town.

The draft regulation was available for review, but no one showed up but members of the board of health.

Although not required by law, the board will keep a comment period open until Monday, May 17th, and plans to publish the regulation for immediate enactment following their May 19th meeting.

There has been a moratorium on new OWB/OHB installations in Montague since 2005, when the board became aware new statewide regulations were under development. It took three more years before the amendments to the State’s Air Pollution Control Regulations were finally adopted, December 25th, 2008.

Montague’s regulation does allow OWB/OHB’s installed on or before

December 26th, 2008 with a permit from the Montague building department to continue operating as long as they meet all the requirements of the Massachusetts amendments and do not create a public health nuisance.

The regulation is being enacted to minimize the human health hazards resulting from the use of OWB/OHB’s – wood smoke, fine particulate matter, particulate matter, and noxious fumes. Board member Jay DiPucchio cited recent state studies showing students at both Sheffield Elementary and Great Falls Middle School have higher than average asthma rates.

The board has been studying the issue of particulate matter since Pioneer Renewable Energy’s proposal to build a biomass plant in Greenfield.

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JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

THURSDAY, APRIL 22nd
Deja Brew, Millers Falls: *Larry Kopp*, country & city blues guitar with vocals, 8 to 10 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 23rd
The Roots of War Speaker Series: Jo Comerford, *How Federal Spending Priorities Make Us Less Secure*. Greenfield Community College, Stinchfield Lecture Hall, 12:30 to 2 p.m. Contacts: Abbie Jenks, (413) 775-1127 or Les & Susie Patlove, (413) 625-9388. Comerford is Executive Director of the National Priorities Project, which provides real-time data on war and national defense spending, and the tradeoffs in local social welfare, education, and renewable energy which result. She will provide evidence of how growing military spending is starving "Main Street" services.

Documentary film *Fresh* shown at the Wendell Library, 7 p.m. This hopeful and inspiring film by Ana Sofia Joanes advocates for a healthier, more humane and local food production. Discussion follows.

Friday Night Films at the Riverside Green School in Gill on Route 2 at dark, outside in the rear open field. The film *Up* will be shown. Bring chairs, blankets, snacks and friends! Rain date 4/24. Info: 863-4162.

Montague Bookmill, Montague Center: *LALIT*. A Sanskrit word meaning playful, desirable; also the name of a newly formed group of musicians in the Pioneer Valley. Robert Markey (sitar), Burrie Jenkins (guitar), Rob Terreden (percussion), and Jon Weeks (horns and woodwinds). Eastern

and western influenced styles. While the instrumentation lends itself to a large number of more traditional Indian Ragas, complete with "alap" intros and energetic "jor" improvisations, everything from jazz standards ("Afro Blue," with sitar contrapuntal improvisations against the melody) to straight-up celtic jigs are thrown in the mix. \$10, 8 p.m. www.myspace.com/lalitquartet

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Blame It On Tina*, Jen Spingla, Bob Rosser and Tina Horn, 9 to 11 p.m.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Thanks Neighborhood Party!* The band *Watcher* at 9:30 p.m. followed by Dance Party with Tommy TBA. No cover.

FRIDAY TO SUNDAY, APRIL 23rd to 25th
Arena Civic Theater presents: *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Christopher Sergel's beautifully crafted adaptation of Harper Lee's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel. Fr. & Sat. at 8 p.m., Sun. at 2 p.m. Continues 4/30 to 5/2. \$13; \$11 for seniors & students; \$8 for 12 and under.

SATURDAY, APRIL 24th
Wendell Earth Day Celebration, 10 to 2 p.m. on the common (town hall in case of rain) will feature local arts, crafts, farm products, and information from environmental groups. At noon Kellianna will sing, followed by a community potluck.

Pow Wow at UMass Amherst. Curry Hicks Cage Gymnasium, 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Dancers, vendors for merchandise and food. Two drums, grand entry at noon. Suggested donation \$5.

Millers River Environmental Center, Athol: *Fascinating Frogs!* 10 to 11 a.m. Join educator Rachel Roberts for a program focusing on the life-cycle of frogs. Free. Geared toward families with young children.

At the Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Earth Day Celebration!* Clean-up 9 to 1 p.m., followed by Kids' Nature Poetry Open Mic from 1 to 2 p.m. All ages and abilities welcome. Snacks and drinks provided. Contact Sarah Doyle at (413) 863-9972 or at sarah_doyle@prodigy.net

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

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Salvation Army String Band, 9:30 p.m. \$3 cover.

SUNDAY, APRIL 25th
2nd Annual Turners Falls Cleanup! All day,

come out to Avenue A for Earth Day celebration and clean-up.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Women's T-Dance* with DJ Lori B., 3 to 7 p.m., \$4 cover.

The Adaskin String Trio performs at Woolman Hill Quaker Conference Center, Deerfield. Works of Beethoven, Francaix and more. In the meeting-house, benefit for Woolman Hill, 4:30 p.m.

Family Dance at the Montague Grange, Montague Center. Simple, happy dances paced for little feet. Perfect for 5 year olds to 15. Sixteen to 60! Dances go from 3:40 to 5:50 p.m., \$4 per person, or families \$7 to \$12 sliding scale.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Rik Rolski*, acoustic guitar, 8 to 10 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Mark*



Emlyn Ngai, violin; Mark Fraser, cello; Steve Larson, viola, The Adaskin String Trio perform Sunday, April 25th, 4:30 p.m. at Woolman Hill Quaker Conference Center, Deerfield.

Hummel and the Blues Survivors. Celebrating his new release, 7 p.m. "Mark Hummel is a Harmonica God" (Blues Revue).

MONDAY, APRIL 26th
Deja Brew, Wendell: *All Small Caps Season Finale, A Night of Spoken Word*. Open Mic at 7 p.m. Guest readers from 8 to 10 p.m.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Open Mic*, 8 p.m. Sign-up beginning at 7:30 p.m. free.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28th
Deja Brew, Millers Falls: *Knitting & Crafts Night*, 7 to 10 p.m. Any craft and any skill level welcome. Get a chance to win our monthly crafty gift with every \$5 you spend at Craft night.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Montague Phantom Brain Exchange*, \$5, 9 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 29th
Deja Brew, Wendell: *Shamus Hogan*, 8 to 10 p.m.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Bok Choy Jazz*, 8:30 p.m. no cover.

FRIDAY, APRIL 30th
Montague Bookmill, Montague Center *Supermachine*. Poetry Journal reading, featuring James Copeland, Ben Fama, & Natalie Knight, music by *Holy Spirits*. Suggested donation: \$5, 7 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Eric Love* singing

great '60s & '70s covers, 9 to 11 p.m.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *The Original Cowards and Walking Ghosts*, \$3 cover, 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 2nd
Annual May Day celebration at the Town Common, Montague Center. 10 a.m. Free and open to the public. Dress colorfully!



Kellianna and Mother Turtle perform at the Montague Grange on Sunday, May 2nd 6 p.m. Benefit for the Montague Grange.

Goddess & Soul Concert at the Montague Grange, Montague Center. An evening of Acoustic Music with *Kellianna* and *Mother Turtle*. Tickets \$15 at the door. 6 p.m. Heartfelt, worldly views and voices, chanting and Dancing the night away. Scandinavian Dance in the

hall at 2 p.m.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, MAY 7th & 8th

The Shea Theater's Fifth Annual *Valley Idol* begins. A benefit for the Shea Theater, Turners Falls. Auditions start at 6 p.m. Register as a contestant (must be 18 years old) www.theshea.org or call Shea Theater 863-2281. Audience Admission: \$3 (first night only). Round 1: 5/8 at 7 p.m. Continues 5/15 and 5/22.

SATURDAY, MAY 8th

Valley Idol, Jr., an a cappella singing competition for students 8 to 17 years old. First Prizes are \$300 U.S. savings bonds for each of three age categories: 8 to 11; 12 to 14; and 15 to 17 year olds. First round try-outs: 5/8 at 9:30 a.m. \$20 to register (see above listing). Audience admission for all dates: \$5. Round 2: 5/15 and 5/22 at 9:30 a.m.

ONGOING
Gallery at Hallmark, Avenue A, Turners Falls. William Wegman photographs, *Out of the Box*. On display through May 2nd. Gallery open Friday thru Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m.

Nature photography and oil painting exhibit by Patricia Hayes at the Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls on display through April 30th.

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Showtimes for
Fri., April 23 to Thurs., April 29th

1. **KICK ASS** in DTS sound MATINEE 12:00 3:00 R DAILY 7:00 9:30
2. **HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON 3D** PG in DTS sound MATINEE 12:00 3:00 DAILY 7:00 9:30
3. **CLASH OF THE TITANS 3D** DAILY 7:00 9:30 in DTS sound MATINEE 12:00 3:00 PG13
4. **DATE NIGHT** DAILY 6:40 9:20 PG13 MATINEE 12:15 3:15
5. **HOT TUB TIME MACHINE** DAILY 9:20 PG
6. **THE LAST SONG** DAILY 6:40 PG MATINEE 12:15 3:15
7. **THE BACK-UP PLAN** PG13 DAILY 6:30 9:00 in DTS sound MATINEE 12:30 3:30
8. **THE LOSERS** PG13 in DTS sound DAILY 6:30 9:00 MATINEE 12:30 3:30

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SAT. 4/24 9:30 \$3
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TALKING PICTURES **MOVING ON; LETTING GO**

35 Shots of Rum



1 eagle = The Pits
4 eagles = The Heights

BY TODD DETMOLD

CHICAGO – It feels like a funeral, which is ironic given that it ends with a wedding.

The central characters mixed up in Claire Denis' taciturn drama each have something to mourn: a parent vanished (or dead), a lover whose attentions have waned, a young daughter on the verge of growing up and away. Remarkable in a sparseness of information juxtaposed with a richness of detail, *35 Shots of Rum* is the kind of movie for which critics' buzz-phrases like "slice of life" and "mood piece" ought to be reserved.

There are four main characters here, but I think the key to unlocking them has to be underdog secondary man René, who has only three or four scenes. All of them are crucial. When we

meet him, René is retiring from a career working the transit rails with Lionel (arguably the ensemble's main character). His departure from the life he knew recalls Brooks' parole arc in *The Shawshank Redemption*: say what you will about the glamor of the job, it's all he knows or needs. He proceeds to wander about town like a ghost, showing up as if out of nowhere to ride the line with Lionel.

"I don't want this life," he whispers of his impending 'freedom', his new iPod – a retirement gift – dangling from his ears like an albatross.

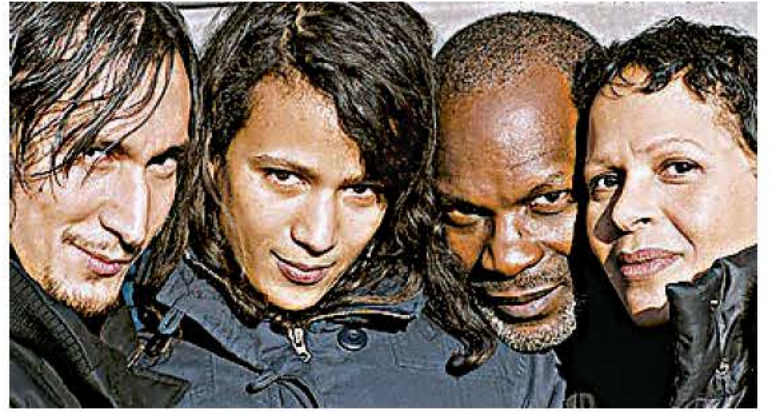
It's probably René's depression that spurs Lionel to consider the atrophying lives around him. He lives in an aging apartment complex with his daughter Joséphine. His neighbors are

Gabrielle and Noé, who have their own complex, deep-seated feelings for Lionel and Jo.

Everyone in the foursome wants something better for the others than what they themselves have to offer. But to consider that you aren't good enough for a person you love can feel like an admission of inferiority.

There's a really stunning set piece in the middle of the film. The four neighbors, en route to a concert when the car breaks down, end up taking shelter from the storm in a sleepy café. The owner, about to close up for the night before the love quadrangle walks in the door and starts ordering rum and kebabs, turns on some music and lets the party take its course. This leads to Lionel dancing with his old flame and his grown-up daughter, passing the lover off for the younger, curvier bartender and the latter off to the swarthy neighbor.

Moving to the sound of The Commodores' "Nightshift" (the re-appropriation of which here



(l-r) Gregoire Colin, Mati Diop, Alex Descas and Nicole Dogue in Claire Denis' "35 Shots of Rum"

rivals something like "Goodbye Stranger" in *Magnolia*), Noé and Joséphine are as if betrothed by proximity. The reluctance on display is palpable. Whatever their past (and Denis will parcel out only less than we need to know), these two are the binding that must keep the family together after it's fallen apart. It's difficult to tell if their love is sincere or if it's just a show for their parents. Lionel drives the trains, Gabrielle drives a taxi; everyone is on a

course to start a new chapter in their lives, but in order to do so they have to end the old ones.

35 Shots of Rum is about the evolution of families, the circle of life, and the sting of saying goodbye. These lonesome people want to change their fates for the better but first must suffer the long-simmering pain of letting go. It's a solemn eulogy to lifetimes gone by, eloquently spoken, with a hopefulness for the future.

Turners Track Teams Clean Up in Millers Falls

BY DAVID DETMOLD – For the seventh year in a row, members of the Turners Falls track team turned out during April vacation to help clean up the grounds at the Route 63 Roadhouse in Millers Falls.

Sixteen students plied rakes and brooms and swept up leaves and picked up winter debris along Route 63 and the adjoining side street for more than an hour on Wednesday, while coach Ron Hebert ran here and there giving directions and his sidekick Bob Avery made helpful comments from a lawn chair.

Roadhouse owner Jaime Snyder said the annual clean up got started seven years ago when co-owner Carol Cameron's son Dylan was on the track team. They noticed Dylan's uniform was tattered, and wanted to make a contribution for new uniforms for the team.

Pausing on his way to pick up grinders for the team from Subway, Snyder observed, "Sometimes the track team kind of gets neglected."

Well, not at the Roadhouse! Snyder has been making a \$200 contribution to the track

team every year in return for an hour of group yardwork, and he throws a big picnic lunch for the kids to boot.

"They're such a great bunch of kids," said Snyder, who no longer has any family member on the team. "Carol hopes it will inspire other community members to do something similar."

"I'm glad to be able to help out," said Summer Forcier, a member of the Girls Track Team. "It's good to contribute to the community."

The girls squad is 1 and 0 so far this season, Forcier added.



Track Team members take a break from spring cleanup at the Roadhouse: (l-r standing) Katerina Palso, Ceara Dolbenty, Summer Forcier, Brooke Hastings, Nina Dodge, Lucas Foley, Spencer Harris, Tyler Peters, Robert Flandreau, Gage Afansasiev. Coach Hebert (kneeling) Sophie Letcher, Teagan Glenn, Kayla Drumgool, Emily Felton, Andrew Renaud, Lauren Grimard

Hebert said the girls squad is "strong," but this year will be a time for "rebuilding" for the boys track team, which has 14 seventh graders, one junior, and three seniors.

"Rebuilding!" snorted Avery. "Reimagining is more like it!"

Hebert told Avery to take a lap around the field, as Snyder brought out lunch for the hard working youngsters.

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