



## AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

Part 2 /  
Page 12



## TALENT SHOW

At the Montague Grange/  
Page 16

LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 5 - NO. 29

also serving Gill, Erving and Wendell

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

APRIL 26, 2007

## Montague Budget Powwow

BY KEVIN FOLEY

The proposed \$16,791,401 fiscal year 2008 budget for the Gill Montague Regional School District (GMRSD), voted by the school committee on Tuesday night, leaves approximately a \$1 million gap between what the town of Montague has said it will be able to pay for the schools this year and what the school district says it needs to run them.

School officials held a joint meeting with the finance committee and

selectboard on April 25th, to discuss ways to bridge the funding gap. Superintendent Sue Gee presented the revised '08 budget to those in attendance, and outlined some problems facing the school district. "We are in what I consider to be a financial crisis. We're having meetings, looking at how many teaching positions we can afford to lose."

Reducing teachers isn't the only way the school district is looking to save money. The school plans to put out an advertisement this year in hopes of

increasing the number of students from neighboring districts choosing into the GMRSD. But cutting teachers may work against the district's hope of attracting more students.

"Although we are losing more and more students to school choice, we are also gaining more and more students by way of school choice," said Gee. "We advertised last year and our (school choice in) enrollment went up from 65 to 80 students. We are running our ad again this year."

see POWWOW pg 10

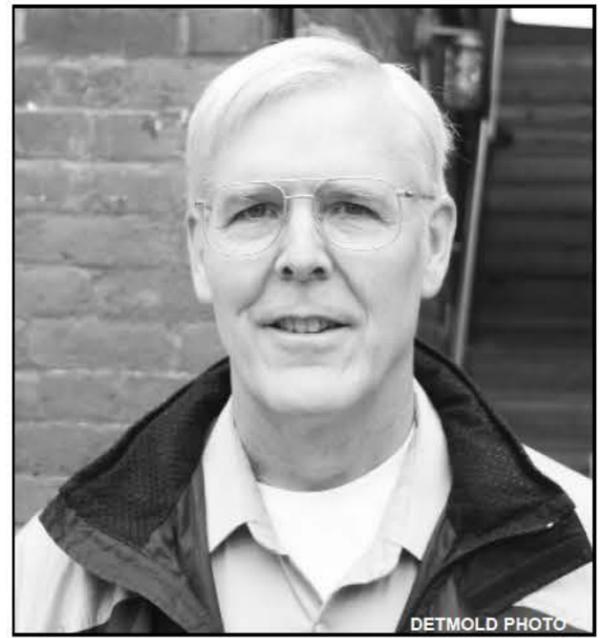
## Allen Wins a Seat on Prudential Committee

BY DAVID DETMOLD

TURNERS FALLS - Mark Allen bested 15-year incumbent Dean Letourneau in a race for a three-year seat on the Turners Falls Fire Department Prudential Committee Tuesday, April 24th. Allen won the contest hands down, 258-104, in the course of the highest turnout for a fire district election ever. The last time there was a race for Prudential Committee was in 1992, Allen said, when 340 votes were tallied.

Asked what drove the large turnout this year, besides the first contested fire district election in 15 years, Allen said his campaign emphasis on holding down district taxes had resonated with voters.

"During the past nine years," Allen said, "the fire district taxes have gone up by a larger percentage than the town's taxes." Using his own tax bill as an example, Allen said during that time district taxes went up 48%, as compared to town taxes, which went up 39% (including debt for



Mark Allen

the high school and middle school renovation).

"I don't know why it rose as much as it did," said Allen, referring to the district tax levy. "I have no reasons to believe it wasn't well managed. But the fact that it rose so much faster than the town's is a matter of concern. We need to be very sensitive to the tax burden this is contributing to." Allen said about 18% of the tax bill for residents in Montague City, Turners Falls, and

Millers Falls goes to support the Turners Falls Fire and Water District. (For the Turners Falls Water Commission, incumbent Stephen Call, running unopposed, was re-elected with 223 votes on Tuesday.)

Allen also campaigned for greater openness for the district, calling for minutes of the meetings to be shared with the press, and other ways of publicizing the work of the fire and water district.

see ALLEN pg 10

## G-M Schools Face \$1.14 Mil Shortfall

BY DAVID DETMOLD

The Gill-Montague school committee knocked about \$780,000 off their "minimally adequate" budget on Tuesday, April 24th, but made it clear the cutting knives were going to come out again at their next budget meeting, as they look to reduce a gap of approximately \$1,139,636 over what the member towns say they can afford to pay for the schools this year. G-M business manager Lyn Bassett said the \$1.14 million figure was

arrived at by calculating how far the town of Montague's target of providing \$300,000 more than its '07 contribution to the schools would go towards meeting the district's latest "level services" budget. Approved last night, the new budget would seek \$16,791,401 to operate the district schools in fiscal '08.

In slicing \$780,000 off their initial '08 budget, the school committee abandoned their goal of adding a full time reading teacher, a full

time reading specialist, a half time math coach, a half-time curriculum director, a full time data assistant, fulltime principals for the Gill and Montague Center elementary schools, an MCAS support teacher, and various materials and textbook upgrades. In March, the committee had defended these additions as minimally necessary to achieve educational mandates required by the state and federal departments of education. Both Great Falls

see SHORTEFALL pg 5

## The Crucible

BY ARTHUR MILLER, AT THE SHEA THEATER

AN ARENA CIVIC THEATRE PRODUCTION, DIRECTED BY CATHERINE KING

REVIEWED BY  
IVAN USSACH

TURNERS FALLS - Religion, politics, sex - three of the more taboo subjects for polite dinner conversation - collide in Miller's dramatic classic, first staged in 1953 at the peak of the national witchhunt for communists during the McCarthy era. From the chilling opening musical strains of Carl Orff's "O Fortuna," augmented by extreme lighting and creative use of colored glass, this produc-

see CRUCIBLE pg 11



Jerri Higgins of Montague City plays Elizabeth Proctor, Steve Woodard of Leverett plays Deputy Governor Danforth in Arena Civic Theater's production of *The Crucible* at the Shea. *The Crucible* continues this weekend.

NATHAN HURLEY PHOTO

## Consignment Shop Opening on the Avenue

BY ANNE HARDING

TURNERS FALLS - For the past few weeks, I've been trying to figure out what's been going on behind the paper-covered windows of 115 Avenue A, right next door to Cup o' Joe. This weekend I got my first tantalizing glimpse, as the paper came down from the windows of Seth and Eva's Consignment Shop in preparation for the grand opening of the store on Tuesday, May

1st.

The shop offers an eclectic mix of work by local artisans, as well as quality used products. Downtown residents Seth and Eva Licata have filled their shop with an array of products priced to attract a diverse customer base. At the time of my pre-



Seth and Eva Licata

opening visit, featured artists included Nina Bander and Stephen Cahill of Turners Falls, Jeremy Young of Northfield, Wendell's

see SHOP pg 16

## PET OF THE WEEK Soft as Satin



**S.W.**

S.W. is a female two-year-old short hair cat in need of a good home. S.W. (which could mean Sweet Whiskers!) is a petite kitty with a ring of white around her neck and black tip to her nose. She's very soft and satiny and also very clean. She is OK with children over 8 and other cats, and perhaps even a nice dog. She loves human company so much and likes to snuggle in bed, though she also loves a sunny window to look out of. This gentle little cat has been an indoor only cat and should stay that way. For more information on adopting S.W. please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at 413-548-9898 or via email at leverett@dpvhs.org.

### Montague May Day Celebration

Sunday, May 6th, 10:30 a.m. all are invited to process from the Montague Center post office to the town common. The event is free of charge and participants are encouraged to bring along a blanket and picnic lunch. (413) 367-9923 for information.

### The Montague Reporter

is looking to hire writers to cover meetings, arts, features, etc. Call 413-863-8666 or write to: reporter@montaguema.net

### The Montague Reporter

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# Elks Support Easter Eggstravaganza

BY STAN AMBO

**TURNERS FALLS** - The Montague Elks Lodge #2521 was one of the sponsors of the 3rd Annual Peter Cottontail Eggstravaganza held on Saturday morning, April 7th at Unity Park in Turners Falls. For the last three years, the Montague Elks have

contributed to the egg hunt, which grows in popularity each year. This year, over 500 children eagerly hunted for 5000 eggs in Unity Park. The hunt began with a race akin to the Oklahoma land rush!

Earlier that morning, the eggs had been placed all over Unity Park by Boy Scout Troop #6 of Turners Falls, led by troop leader Bruce Dunbar. The scouts also helped to rope off the sections for the hunt. In addition, the scouts held their Tuesday night meeting at the park, where they began to clean the egg hunt area and identified trouble spots, which were later repaired by the parks and recreation committee staff.

The fun was not complete at the end of the egg hunt. There was still face painting, egg decorating, a bake sale and pictures with the Easter bunny. DJ Bobby C provided musical entertainment for



Timeless Bryan, Michelle Bryan, Zaroma Bryan (winner of the grand prize the large bunny), Pam Lester, Exalted Ruler of the Montague Elks, and Ocean Bryan.

## Adopt-A-Planter Meeting at Great Falls Discovery Center

BY LINDA HICKMAN

**TURNERS FALLS** - The Streetscape Revitalization Committee will meet on Monday, May 7th at 5:15 p.m. in the Great Falls Discovery Center. The meeting is open to the public. Anyone who adopt-

ed a planter along Avenue A last year, or who is interested in participating in the adopt-a-planter program this year, is especially invited to attend.

A downtown spring clean up on Saturday, May 12th, from 9 a.m. - noon, will also be dis-

cussed.

For more information, or if you are interested but unable to attend the meeting, call Linda Hickman at the Carnegie Library, 863-3214, or Michael Bosworth at the Brick House, 863-9576.

## Town of Montague Tax Bills Due

A reminder to all Montague taxpayers that the second half of the Fiscal 2007 Real Estate and District tax bills are due by Tuesday, May 1st, 2007. Payments received after this date, are subject to a 14 percent interest penalty.

To obtain a receipted bill, enclose a self-addressed

stamped envelope and both copies of the bill with your payment.

For the convenience of Town of Montague residents, you will now be able to pay all real estate, district, and personal property bills online. To pay a bill online, have your bill(s) and checkbook in hand, and then go

to www.montague.net, click on Departments, Treasurer/Collect-or, Online bill payments, then complete each screen to process your payment. It's convenient, fast and secure.

The tax office is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

## SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES April 30th - May 4th

**MONTAGUE Senior Center,** Gill/Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. for activities and congregate meals. Council -on Aging Director is Bunny Caldwell. For information or to make reservations, call 863-9357. Meal reservations need to be made a day in advance by 11 a.m. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open. Mealsite Manager is Chris Richer. The Center offers a hot noon meal weekdays to any senior. A reservation is necessary and transportation can be provided.

### Monday, 30th

10 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
11 a.m. Easy Aerobics

### Tuesday, 1st

9:30 a.m. T'ai Chi

### Wednesday, 2nd

10 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
12:45 p.m. Bingo

### Thursday, 3rd

1:00 p.m. Pitch

### Friday, 4th

10 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
11 a.m. Easy Aerobics

1 p.m. "Memories and Moments" Scrapbooking class. Memory books have long been used as a way to record your personal history as a form of artistic expression. Through this project you will learn a fun and rewarding way to preserve and take care of the photographs you treasure. Led by Lorene Small; supported in part by a grant from the Montague Cultural Council and the Gill/Montague TRIAD.

**GILL/MONTAGUE SENIOR CENTER TRIP** - "What's Cooking in Vermont?" On Thursday June 28th, the bus leaves First Street parking lot at 9 a.m.; returns at 6:30 p.m. Cost: \$65.00 per person, taxes and gratuities included.

Deadline for this trip is June 1st. Call Jean at 772-6356 or 863-9357 to make reservations. Make checks payable to Montague Council on Aging.

**ERVING Senior Center,** 18 Pleasant St., Erving (Old Center School, 1st Floor), is open Monday through Thursday

from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. For information and reservations call Polly Kiely, Senior Center director at 413 423-3308. Lunch daily at 11:30 a.m. with reservations a day in advance by 11:00 a.m. Transportation can be provided for meals, Thursday shopping, or medical necessity by calling Dana Moore at 978 544-3898.

### Monday, 30th

9:30 a.m. Exercise  
9:45 a.m. Library

### Tuesday, 1st

12 Noon Pitch  
9 a.m. Aerobics  
12:30 p.m. Painting

### Wednesday, 2nd

9:30 a.m. Line Dancing  
12 Noon Bingo

### Thursday, 3rd

9 a.m. Aerobics  
12:30 p.m. Shopping

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

## FACES & PLACES



DETMOLD PHOTO

Clothes Tree on 3rd Street

## Walkathon

**TURNERS FALLS** - The annual Meals on Wheels Walkathon will be held Saturday, May 5th from 8 to 11 a.m. at the Franklin County Technical School. This year's walkathon is dedicated to the late Frank Metivier, for his years of service to the seniors of Franklin County. Check the website at www.fchcc.org for details or call 413-773-5555.

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# Crabapple Blossom Festival Expands

## Children's Concerts, Walking Tours, Bike Rides and Blooming Crabapples

BY LINDA HICKMAN

**TURNERS FALLS** - The fourth annual Turners Falls Crabapple Blossom Festival will run this year from April 28th - May 20th. Many of the downtown streets and parks in Turners Falls are lined with flowering crabapple and apple trees. Various events are scheduled to encourage people to come and enjoy the flowers and Turners Falls' nature, art, history and architecture.

The festival begins with two musical events for children at the Great Falls Discovery Center on Saturday, April 28th. From 10 a.m. - noon, there will be a Children's Songfest with musician and educator Chip Wood. From 2:00 - 3:30 p.m., the Pop Rockets will perform as part of a celebration for the Week of the Young Child. On Sunday, April 29th, a 5K Fun Run/Walk will start at Peskeomskut Park on Avenue A. Register before 10:30 a.m. for this Montague Parks and Recreation event. On

Wednesday, May 2nd, at 5:30 p.m., Alan Snow of the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation will lead a walking tour of the trees along Avenue A, beginning at the Carnegie Library. The identification, selection, planting and care of urban trees will be discussed. Saturday morning, May 5th, from 9 a.m. to noon, there will be a nature walk, titled "Wildflowers and Waterfalls: Explore Barton Cove." To pre-register for the Barton Cove program, call the Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center at 413-659-4461.

Also on the afternoon of Saturday May 5th, from noon - 4 p.m., the Friends of the Montague Public Libraries are running a Cinco de Mayo Library Festival. Activities include a used book sale, a bilingual children's concert with Tom Carroll and Laurie Davidson at 2 p.m. on the Carnegie Library lawn, with-games, and arts and crafts for

children.

There will be a Downtown Spring Clean Up from 9 a.m. - noon on Saturday, May 12th. Volunteers will meet at the Great Falls Discovery Center at 9 a.m. Also on Saturday morning, there will be a children's planting program at the Carnegie Library from 10 - 11 a.m. with Bev Whitbeck. Saturday afternoon, from 1 - 2 p.m., a Sense of Wonder: Spring program will be held at the Great Falls Discovery Center from 1 - 2 p.m. Also on Saturday, May 12th, a Historical Downtown Walking Tour will begin at 2 p.m. at the Great Falls Discovery Center. Linda Hickman, author of the new Turners Falls Historical Walking Tour brochure, will lead the walk.

On Sunday, May 14th, a Fun Bike Ride and Tour will start at the beginning of the Turners Falls Bike Path in Unity Park. The ride will last eight miles, and will mostly cover the new bike path. Naturalist Steve

Winters and librarian Linda Hickman will lead the ride and provide commentary. On Tuesday, May 15th, there will be a Children's Festival, either in Peskeomskut Park or at the Carnegie Library from 9:30 a.m. - noon., depending on park readiness. Tom Carroll and Laurie Davidson will perform a bilingual concert from 10 - 11 a.m. during the festival, which will also include arts and crafts activities.

The Crabapple Blossom Festival ends with the Great Falls Arts Fest and Arts and Blooms Walking Tours, on Saturday and Sunday, May 19th and 20th. During the three-week-long festival, free self-guided historical walking tour booklets and maps featuring the locations of downtown crabapple trees, participating organizations and restaurants will be available at the Carnegie Library and the Great Falls Discovery Center.

The Discovery Center is open on Fridays and Saturdays

from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. The Carnegie Library is open on Monday-Wednesday, 1 - 8 p.m., Thursday, 1 - 5 p.m., Friday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Saturday, 1 - 5 p.m. Children's concerts will be held indoors in the Carnegie Library in the case of inclement weather. In the case of heavy rain, the walking tours and bike ride will be rescheduled. For information call the Carnegie Library, 863-3214 or other sponsoring organizations.

**TURNERS FALLS FIRE DISTRICT VOTERS**

Thank you very much for your comments and support.

**MARK ALLEN**

*Seth and Eva's*



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## A Few Good Men Collect Personal Items for Soldiers

BY SARA E. CAMPBELL

**TURNERS FALLS** - While rehearsals were underway for the recent production of "A Few Good Men," the fictional story of Marines in Guantanamo Bay performed at the Shea Theater last weekend, The Country Players decided to undertake a project in support of our active duty troops in Iraq. It took some searching to get past the commercial websites, but at AnySoldier.com they found a way to contact a soldier directly and respond to the specific needs expressed. The site allows contributors to search by several screens including by last name, gender, branch of service, current location or state of origin.

TCP selected a Massachusetts unit and a soldier

named Cindy Lou Williams. Who could resist a soldier named Cindy Lou? Her unit is the 399 Combat Support Hospital, which moved from Mosul to El Anbar province after the new year. Clearly, they are in the thick of the battle over there. She had requested personal items such as toothpaste and deodorant, as well as batteries, phone cards, CDs or DVDs and pajamas for the injured patients, who often must have their clothes cut off when they come in to the hospital. Holiday decorations to cheer up the ward were also on her list, the sillier the better, such as



The Country Players collected donations for the troops at their recent performance at the Shea.

Groundhog Day, she stated in her web posting. The cast, crew, and audience contributed a variety of items, including cash donations for postage. A good sized box was filled, with tea bags, mints, and flavored drink packages filling

in between the larger items. The U.S. Postal Service makes mailing boxes available at no cost, including packaging tape and customs declaration forms, which TCP made use of.

Although "A Few Good Men" was the first introduction to military "life" for many of the young cast, it should be noted that uniforms worn by Lieutenant Colonel Nathan Jessup (Barney Cummings, Jr.), and Captain Julius Randolph, the Judge (Marley Stevens) were authentic, and their own. They also provided portions of the uniforms worn by Lieutenants. Jack Ross and Jonathan Kendrick (Justin Whiteman and Ansel Appleton). And you thought they were acting!

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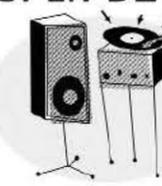
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# The Montague Reporter

24 3rd Street, Turners Falls, Mass. 01376

## Editor

David Detmold

## Assistant Editor

Kathleen Litchfield

## Editorial Assistants

Nina Bander  
Hugh Corr

## Circulation

Jean Hebdon  
Julia Bowden Smith  
Philippe Deguise

## Layout & Design

Lisa Davol  
Boysen Hodgson  
Anja Schutz  
Karen Wilkinson  
Suzette Snow-Cobb

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## Photography

Lisa Davol  
Joe Parzych

## Technical Administrators

Michael Muller  
Michael Farnick

## Yes on Intra-District Choice

Providing intra-district school choice is a good idea for the towns of Gill and Montague. As long as spaces are available, the program will allow parents to choose the elementary school they think best meets the needs of their child, among the four they are paying for. It will also, if managed fairly, help to integrate the district, creating equal opportunity for every child to learn.

Presently, the regional agreement between our towns prohibits students in one town from attending an elementary school in the other. In an era of school choice, to not allow choice between the schools of Gill and Montague is to encourage the loss of tax dollars to neighboring towns, to help them run *their* school districts, as school choice students continue to leave G-M schools and take state money with them.

Entering this year's budget cycle, G-M school officials say they need - at minimum - \$1.1 million dollars more than the towns of Gill and Montague say they can afford to give them to run the schools. At the same time, school choice students and charter school students leaving the district will cost the G-M schools at least \$1.3 million this year. We should take whatever sensible measures we can to minimize the depletion of our schools' resources being drained away by school choice losses.

The million dollars and more that leaves Gill and Montague each year to help neighboring towns and districts run their schools dwarfs, by comparison, the savings potential that might be gained by closing any one of our district schools. If the school committee's brush with decision making on elementary school configuration last year taught us anything, it is the extent to which people in our community love the schools their children do attend. That's a good

sentiment. We should encourage it.

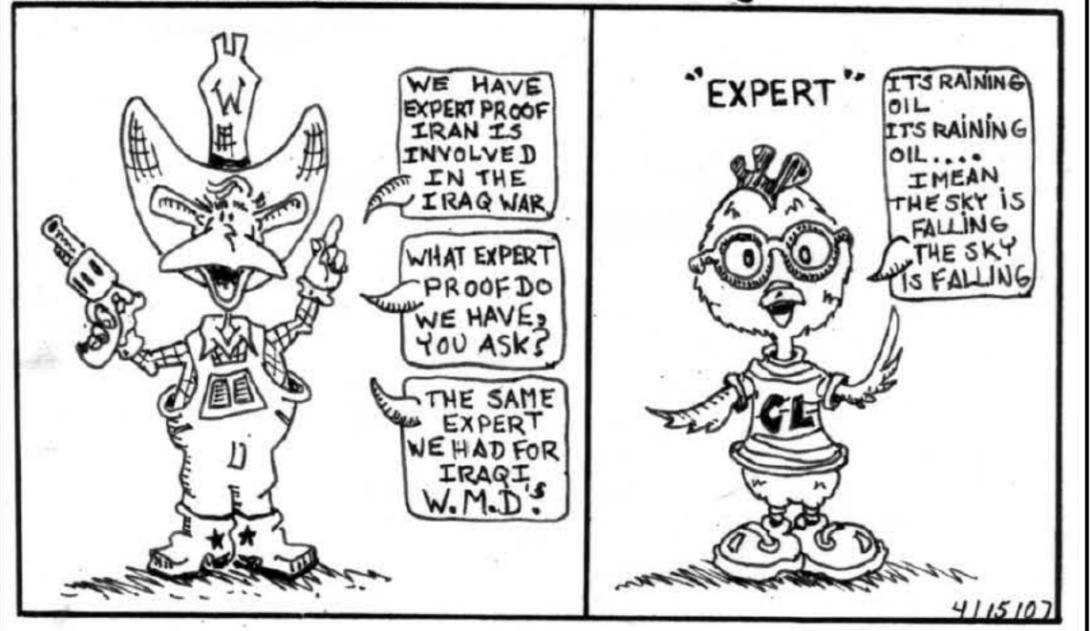
On May 3rd, town meeting voters in Gill and Montague can take a step to strengthen their schools, and to strengthen the bond between them, by voting "Yes" on intra-district choice. Because most parents do love their school community, we do not think many will choose to take advantage of school choice between Gill and Montague, but some may. For them, smaller classroom sizes, a more diverse student body, access to other languages and cultures, or the closeness to nature that certain schools may provide will be the magnet that draws their child's interest and enriches their educational experience.

As Montague town administrator Frank Abbondanzio has convincingly demonstrated with his eight-year analysis of Montague's town and school budget patterns, the costs of running town government, providing municipal services, and educating our children is exceeding our ability to pay for them, and will leave us millions of dollars in the red within a few years if immediate action is not taken. School officials say they hope to work together with the towns to correct the longterm budget imbalance. That's going to be rough.

But it will be a whole lot easier if we work together to solve the crisis, not pit ourselves against one another. Making a commitment to supporting excellence in education, at elementary, middle and high school levels, in all our schools, and to allowing parents of our towns to choose between them is a good place to start. Attract back the parents who now choose out of district schools; begin to fill the classrooms with their children. Invite students from nearby towns to join them, if we still have any room left over. That's a recipe for a healthy school district.

## BORDEAUX WHINE

by denis bordeaux



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Unified Security Budget Would Make U.S. Safer, Save Taxpayer Dollars

As Congress puts the final touches on its Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 2008, a new report by the Task Force for a Unified Security Budget lays out a plan that would increase national security while cutting wasteful military spending.

Crafted by a non-partisan task force of military, homeland security and foreign policy experts, the report argues that security spending is seriously out of balance. It points to the Bush Administration's budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2008, which would allocate 90% of national security spending to the military, 6% to homeland security and 4%

to all other non-military tools, including diplomacy, foreign aid and nuclear nonproliferation.

As the cost of the Iraq War climbs to half a trillion dollars, the urgency for reordering our security spending priorities couldn't be greater. Right now, it's clear that taxpayers are spending an extraordinary amount of money for less security.

The report, *A Unified Security Budget for the United States, FY 2008*, released today by Foreign Policy in Focus, makes the case for reductions in military spending on outdated or unproven weapons systems totaling \$55.9 billion. The U.S. government is

about to deploy to Iraq, for example, the V-22 Osprey, a hybrid plane-helicopter, which is over-budget, years behind schedule and fraught with performance problems. The task force argues it should be canceled instead. The Unified Security Budget recommends a total \$49.7 billion increase in non-military security spending on homeland security, foreign assistance and other non-military programs and institutions. To read more, go to [nationalpriorities.org](http://nationalpriorities.org).

- Anita Dancs, Research Director, National Priorities Project, Northampton, MA

### Great Falls Middle School Raises Over \$3,000

Great Falls Middle School has raised \$3,438 with its annual raffle!! The school PTO would like to extend a special thank you to area businesses who contributed prizes. We would also like to thank our staff, students and families, and community members

from Montague (all five villages!), Gill, and Erving for selling and buying their raffle tickets to help raise money for field trips and after school programs. They drew the raffle tickets at a well-attended potluck supper on Wednesday, April 11th, where

some of the students bravely stepped up to the mic to display their talents. The evening ended with a good old rock 'n' roll set played by none other than Jeff Kenney, principal of Great Falls Middle School, and his faculty band.

### Golf Tournament Fundraiser to Honor Jack Bassett

Jack Bassett, former TFHS teacher, coach, and longtime resident of Turners Falls, will be honored at a golf tournament organized as a fundraiser to help offset some of the budget cuts at the Gill-Montague Regional School District in recent years.

Local residents including Bob Avery, Linda Chandler, Marie Colton, and Noreen Lemieux are coordinating the effort. They welcome additional help from any willing volunteers!

The golf tournament will be held at Thomas Memorial Country Club in Turners Falls on Saturday, May 12th. Simultaneously, a "Montague Mile" walk or run around the track at the Turners Falls High School will take place. The event is also geared for families, with kids' activities starting at the golf course at 12:30, a silent auction,

raffles, and a dunking booth. Steve Ciehowski, former TFHS band director, will provide music with his band. And of course, the guest of honor, Jack Bassett, will be on hand to visit with friends from 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Proceeds from the fundraising activities will go to support reading programs for K-12, physical education for K-5, and athletics for 6-12th graders at Gill-Montague schools.

For more information, or to register for either the golf tournament or the Montague Mile, please contact Stacey

Langknecht at 367-9408 or [mike@masscraft.com](mailto:mike@masscraft.com), or Bob Avery at 863-9502, or [ravery21@hotmail.com](mailto:ravery21@hotmail.com).

- Stacey Langknecht  
Montague Center



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**Obituary**

**David "Hacksaw" Beaubien 1934-2007, retired entrepreneur**

David J. Beaubien, 72, died on April 20th, 2007, at the Fisher Home Hospice in Amherst following a long illness. He was born September 20th, 1934 in Montague, the son of Arthur Beaubien and Helen (Moreau) Beaubien. He attended elementary school in Millers Falls and graduated in 1952 from Turners Falls High School as president of his class. He graduated from the University of Massachusetts in 1957 with a Bachelors Degree in Electrical Engineering and briefly held a faculty position as an instructor in that field. In 1958 he moved to the Boston area where he co-founded Cambridge Systems, Inc. In Newton, a manufacturer of meteorological instruments now used throughout the world. In 1967, EG&G, Inc. acquired Cambridge whereupon David directed mergers and acquisitions for the next 23 years, retiring from EG&G in 1990 as senior vice president. In 1989 he co-founded Yankee Environmental Systems, Inc. in Turners Falls, with his sons. He

has written numerous professional papers and articles in the field of environmental instrumentation that were published in various scientific journals. For many years, David also served as director of several public and private companies and Wall Street mutual fund boards. He played a role in the startup of multiple businesses throughout his life. In 1980, he moved from the Boston area back to Montague, and eventually to Ware, where he resided since 1998.

David's father Arthur served as Montague selectman in the early 1940s, and also worked for the telephone company until his untimely death in 1944, when David was just nine years old. Several neighborhood families stepped in to help to raise him through this formative period. He earned an amateur radio license at a young age. His home in Millers Falls, adjacent to Mackin's Garage, was packed with piles of retired telephone equipment,



David Beaubien

fostering a lifelong interest in radio and technology.

Some may recall his nickname "Hacksaw," which he earned when a train derailment dumped a large shipment from the Millers Falls Tool company into the river. David fashioned an electromagnet, which he then used to fish out many hacksaws and other hand tools. During WWII, power to the lights at the ballpark behind his home was disconnected (to thwart aerial bombardment) and David connected his ham

radio transmitter to this half mile long elevated wire, forming a world class radio station. Other similar capers and exploits were more or less successful, making him a colorful and popular young member of the community.

Aside from his entrepreneurship, David served as a trustee of the University of Massachusetts under Governor Ed King and eventually as chairman of the Board of Regents of Public Higher Education during the administration of Governor Michael Dukakis in the 1980s. A recipient of the Troy Award, he was a Distinguished Alumnus of the University and founded the David J. Beaubien Engineering Scholarship Endowment.

David leaves his wife Pamela of Ware, his son Arthur, his son Mark and his wife Wendy (all of Montague), his daughter Patricia Dichter and her husband Bronek of Sudbury, his stepchildren John Holbrook and wife Michelle of Cary, NC and Todd Holbrook

and wife Elizabeth of Winston-Salem, NC, and nine beloved grandchildren, his sister Rosalie of Greenfield, and many dear nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his brother, Dr. Richard Beaubien, sisters Patricia and Alice (all of Millers Falls), and his sister Helen of Danvers.

A funeral mass will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, April 28th, at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church, #90 7th Street, in Turners Falls. Following the service, friends and family are invited to gather for refreshment and remembrance. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations either be directed to the Mayo Clinic, Liver Transplant Center, Joe Adams Building, 4205 Belfort Road, Suite 1100, Jacksonville, FL 32216, or to the David J. Beaubien Engineering Scholarship Endowment, c/o Michael Chernoff, Department of Engineering, Development Office, Marston Building, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01003.

**SHORTFALL**  
from pg 1

Middle School and the Sheffield Elementary School have been placed on the Massachusetts Department of Education's watch list for failing to meet annual yearly progress goals.

The school committee opened their meeting with a public hearing on the proposal to open elementary schools in Gill and Montague to intra-district choice. The GMRSD is already mandated by the federal No Child Left Behind law to allow parents of students who would be attending Sheffield School this year to choose their students into openings at the Gill Elementary, should they wish to, and to transport those children at district expense. Superintendent Sue Gee said five Sheffield students will be taking advantage of that option, so far. The deadline for Sheffield parents to exercise the option of choosing to Gill next year is May 1st.

In response to a question regarding the purpose of intra-district choice, Gee said the policy is meant "to give parents and

students an opportunity to choose a school inside the district rather than go outside the district. We do have empty seats in some of our schools. It's important we don't have 28 children in one classroom and 10 in another. The parents will have the opportunity to move to a classroom that is not so crowded, to try to balance the sizes of classes across the district over time."

At the public hearing, a few speakers weighed in on the proposal to shift Gill Elementary 6th graders to the Great Falls Middle School. Gill 6th grade teacher Joanne Rabideau supported the proposal, saying her students "quickly become middle schoolers" when they enter 6th grade. They tell her, "No offense, Ms. Rabideau, but I'm ready to be out of Gill Elementary." She said she looked forward to being able to collaborate with a team of teachers, and to allow her students access to the state-of-the-art technology, and expanded programs and library facilities available at the middle school. [To read haikus by Rabideau's 6th graders, see this week's

poetry section, pages 8 and 9.]

Ed Voudren, a parent who acted as spokesperson for a petition drive earlier this year to shut down the Montague Center School, which led to a non-binding opinion question being placed on the May 21st annual town election, addressed the committee on the question of 6th graders moving to the middle school. "We will be uniting the kids once and for all, where we've already paid for the best educational facility we can provide. By the end, they'll be part of a larger group, united from 6th through 12th grade," Voudren said. "Divided, we can only give them limited resources," he added. "United, we'll be able to provide them with every opportunity for a good education."

Later, Voudren returned to the podium to take issue with public statements that have tagged the petition drive to close Montague Center School as having originated with the Hillcrest Elementary PTO. "I want to make it clear, the petition was not started by the Hillcrest PTO," said Voudren. "It was partially backed by it,

but the majority was by the taxpayers. This was a taxpayer movement - not the PTO. They contacted me, and asked me to do a million different things. Now you'll see more people participating. More people at the polls, at town meeting, at school committee meetings. When I tried to get out of politics once and for all, it was made clear to me: the taxpayers want to support teachers, not bricks and mortar. Some people said to me, 'Why don't we go back to a one-room school house and get this over with once and for all?'"

School committee member Mike Langknecht held up a copy of a flyer widely distributed around town during the Christmas season, and said the idea that the Hillcrest PTO was behind the move to shut down the Montague Center School originated with that flyer.

"My whole point was to make it clear this was the taxpayers, not the PTO," Voudren replied.

The flyer Langknecht held up contained the following words: "Shortly there will also be a petition circulating around

town. Through this petition, we hope to bring the school closing issue to the voters. If you are willing to carry the petition, contact the following:" with a list of names and numbers. The flyer was signed "the Hillcrest PTO."

Also at the meeting, committee chair Mary Kociela announced the interviews for interim GMRSD superintendent had concluded with the recommendation to offer the post to Kenneth Roche, recently retired after five years as superintendent of the Blue Hills Regional Technical High School in Canton. In the past year, Roche has consulted for the Mohawk Regional School District, and while there authored the proposal to the Massachusetts legislature to allocate more aid to rural school districts facing enrollment declines (RED Circuit Breaker). Gee said this work would give him insight into the budgetary problems faced by G-M schools.

Gee is leaving by the end of June to take a new position at the Quabbin Regional Schools. Pending the outcome of contract negotiations, 

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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Tech School Budget Increasing

BY KEVIN FOLEY

With annual town meeting approaching, the selectboard and the finance committee are in the process of finalizing budget numbers for fiscal year '08. They held a joint meeting on Monday, April 23rd that hosted representatives from the library, secondary school and Franklin County Technical School (FCT) to discuss their budget requests.

The Tech School prompted debate over their proposed '08 assessment of \$240,000, which represents a roughly \$25,000 increase from last year's assessment for the town. Overall, the school's budget is not increasing. The increase to Erving is due to two more students who will be entering the school, as well as an increase in Erving's required minimum

contribution, which the state sets for each town, and the fact that the town is entering the final year of a four year increase in contributions, due to a past budgetary mistake.

The contributions to FCT are calculated by taking the state minimum contribution for each town, which is calculated by using property values and average income of the town's residents, and adding a charge for each student on top of that. Erving has the highest minimum contribution of all of the Tech School's 19 member towns. Deerfield and Erving both send 15 students to FCT, but Erving pays more due to its higher minimum contribution.

"It used to be if you had 500 kids at the school, (the budget was) divided by 500 and

everybody was billed equally, but (the state) changed that," said Rich Kuklewicz, representative of FCT. "They made it a lot better."

"They think they made it a lot better," said Andy Tessier, selectboard chair. "But they made a mess out of trying to understand it."

The Tech School's budget has had an average growth rate of 3.1 percent over the last ten years, generally regarded as a low rate of growth.

The school does anticipate some increases in the near future. The heating system in the school is about 30 years old, and maintaining it is difficult. "We're sinking a lot of money into (heating) every year," said Russ Kaubris, business manager at FTC. The heating units are not

efficient, according to Kaubris, who says the school rates very poorly on the Energy Star rating system.

School officials have expressed a desire for increased security, a difficult task in the school because of the school's accessibility to non-students for services students provide. The student-run restaurant, auto-body shop and cosmetology shop all have clients that need to access the different shops during school hours.

The town is in the process of searching for someone to fill the newly created position of environmental supervisor for the wastewater plants in Erving. So far there have only been six applicants for the position, which will pay roughly \$54,000. Administrative assistant Tom

Sharp said the town is having trouble finding enough qualified applicants. However, the town plans to proceed with the application process by setting up preliminary interviews with all of the candidates.

The town has contracted a consultant to train the staff of the wastewater treatment plant, after the town received poor feedback on a recent inspection. The \$1910 for the consultant will be taken from the town's consulting fund, currently at \$2,000.

The cable commission will hold a meeting on Wednesday, May 2nd. The attorney that will represent the town in its negotiations with Comcast will be present at the meeting, according to Linda Downs-Bembury, selectboard and cable commission member.

Zoning Hearing on Millers Falls Road

BY KEVIN FOLEY

TURNERS FALLS - A stretch of land along Millers Falls Road that borders the Indutrail Park on the east and the residential area of Norman Circle on the west was the subject of a public hearing before the Montague planning board on April 23rd, to make way for possible rezoning. The parcels, between Norman Circle and the Hallmark property at the corner of Industrial Boulevard, are currently divided into an area zoned residential fronting the road and an area zoned industrial in the back; the industrially zoned land in back has no clear access from Millers Falls Road.

The planning board, which has favored rezoning that entire stretch of land as industrial, sought input from residents on

the proposal. Doug Stevens, planning board chair, presented those present with four options. The entire stretch along the north side of Millers Falls Road between Norman Circle and the Hallmark property on Industrial Boulevard could be reclassified as residential, industrial, general business, or the zoning lines could remain unchanged.

"As far as I'm concerned, the path of least resistance would be to make it all residential," said Stevens. "But there will be plenty of people who will say that Montague needs more (business)."

"The people that really should have a big say in what happens here are the 26 homeowners (that are close to the property)," said Maurice Emond, a Turners Falls

resident who is in the process of creating the Edgewater housing development at the end of Norman Circle. "These people went in there with the idea that they were protected residentially. They put in some good money." If the land is rezoned industrial, the value of the houses nearby will go down, according to Emond.

Greg Olchowski, attorney for the Hallmark Institute of Photography, thinks it doesn't make sense to keep the zoning as it currently is. "You've got a natural impediment against any industrial development on the rear of the property," due to the fact that it lies between two ravines.

The best option is to zone the land as residential, according to

Olchowski. "You've got a nice buffer there. We've got a very well maintained administration building for Hallmark on the corner (of the land). It's a nice sequence into the residential community. We're quiet, and we don't have any smoke coming out of the building."

The planning board suggested a solution that would create a buffer similar to the one Olchowski described. Zoning the land as industrial but creating a zone bordering the residential areas that would be set aside from the industrial zone might create a way to keep property values up around the land.

"You might say a buffer today," argued Frank Hill, a Norman Circle resident. "But three or four years from now,

people can come in and take your place and put a parking lot out there."

Arlene Johnis, the owner of the majority of the property, said she has her own plans for its future. "My dream is to have a nursing home on this land. To have assisted living there also." Johnis has a 60-year-old mentally retarded brother and would like to create a place where he could live. "I don't know where this fits into all this scheming. I would like to do that."

Town planner Dan Laroche said the board would resume discussion on the matter at their next meeting, May 8th, at 6:30 p.m. "The board can either move forward with their plan, or withdraw their proposal," he said.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE GILL POLICE LOG

Operating Under the Influence on Main Road

Wednesday 4-18 5:45 p.m. 911 hang-up call on West Gill Road, all OK
Thursday 4-19 12:45 p.m. 911 request for an officer at Main Road residence. Matter was a civil dispute, subject advised. 11:22 p.m. Noise complaint on Cove View Lane.
Friday 4-20 4:20 p.m. Assisted fire department with brush fire on Ben Hale Road.
Saturday 4-21 9:45 a.m. Assisted Erving police with domestic disturbance on Old State Road. 11:45 a.m. Assisted Erving police with arrest on Mountain Road. 4:50 p.m. Two youths found in possession of alcohol on Barton Cove Road, charged with minor in possession.
Sunday 4-22 2:16 a.m. Arrested [redacted] charged with OUI (4th offense) and marked lanes violation. Incident occurred on Main Road.
1:45 p.m. Report of past damage to motor vehicle on French King Highway, report taken. 7:45 p.m. Report taken for a missing/stolen license plate on Boyle Road. 9:42 p.m. Alarm sounding at French King Highway business. Checked with owner, all appears OK.
Monday 4-23 12:32 a.m. Loud noise complaint on Chappell Drive. Officer spoke with subject, who agreed to turn down music.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Accidents on Millers Falls Road

Thursday 4-19 7:14 p.m. Walk-in to station reported a breaking and entering at an Avenue A address. Prescription drugs, jewelry, and cash were missing. Report taken.
Saturday 4-21 1:04 p.m. Report of a breaking and entering at the Newt Guilbault field house. It looked like someone attempted to gain entry but no entry was made. Report taken. 3:03 p.m. Report of a motor vehicle accident on Millers Falls Road in front of Stewart's Nursery. One party transported to hospital for minor injuries.
Both cars towed from scene. 7:06 p.m. Report of a fight at Spinner Park on Avenue A. Officer responded and was told there was no problem. 11:32 p.m. Walk-in to station reported an assault at a 7th Street address. Stated he was strangled by his landlord. Report taken. Advised of options.
Sunday 4-22 1:01 a.m. Report of a disturbance at Millers Pub. Reporting party states that music was loud and the doors were open. Investigated.
Monday 4-23 10:16 a.m. Report of a larceny from a 4th Street address. A rear license plate was stolen from a motor vehicle. Report taken.
Tuesday 4-24 8:58 a.m. Report of vandalism at the Parks and Rec building at Unity Park. A crown symbol and words were written on the door in magic marker. 10:00 p.m. Report of a motor vehicle accident just past the airport on Millers Falls Road. One vehicle accident, operator transported to hospital, car towed, and owner cited for speeding, operating to endanger, and marked lanes violation.

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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

June 6th Set for Annual Town Meeting

BY JOSH HEINEMANN -

At the selectboard meeting on April 18th, the date was set for Wendell's annual town meeting on Wednesday, June 6th. A special town meeting will start at 7:00 p.m., and the annual town meeting will start at 7:30. Moderator Kathy Becker is available until June 10th; finance committee members are available generally, and town clerk Amy Hartjens was in her office a few steps away, so it was easy to confirm that she too would be present on that date. The warrant must be posted by May 23rd.

Patti Scutari informed the selectboard that the culvert to her driveway had collapsed, and needed replacement. The board told her the culvert was not a town responsibility, but that she could contact the highway crew for advice on installing a new one.

Following communication from the National Guard, the board agreed to give leave and rehire any member of either branch who was called up to active duty, although the town presently has no full time employee in the National Guard or the Reserves. Board members agreed to sign a letter saying the town would honor the commitment.

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich read a letter from Andmar Industries, who had been operating the Mormon Hollow Auto Salvage yard on Mormon Hollow Road. The company went bankrupt, and as a member of the B list of creditors, Wendell is not likely to receive the \$93.50 that Andmar Industries owes in excise tax. Board chair Ted Lewis commented that the recent owners put a lot of money into cleaning up the operation and apparently were not able to recover it. They have a license through 2007, and board members were not sure whether

town bylaws would allow that license to be passed on to another operator.

Aldrich reported that Wendell will receive \$147,769 for its fiscal 2008 Chapter 90 highway money from the state. Board chair Ted Lewis commented that the state dispersal is up a little, and the restrictions on its use have been relaxed. Originally the money could only be used for county roads, but now it can be used for other roads and even for equipment.

Aldrich reported that the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative awarded Wendell a \$9,500 grant in recognition of the green technology used in the new library and town office building. Board member Dan Keller said the solar panels on the library have already been paid for and are producing electricity, although that electricity will not be used until the system is inspected. He thought that money could be added to an accumulating fund and applied in the future towards solar panels on the highway garage roof, which has good exposure for solar applications. Lewis commented that the building needs a good roof first.

Keller said the library floor, installed and finished with polyurethane, looks beautiful. Trim and flashing on the east library gable end are finished, a small but time consuming job, and the punch list in the town office building is growing short. He said it looked like the library would be substantially complete, and get a certificate of occupancy by Friday April 20th or Monday April 23rd. An electrician was in the building on the 18th to correct a leak in an electrical conduit that was letting water into the town office, but Keller was not sure if he was done correcting the problem.

Lewis asked about water in the library basement. Keller said

that problem has not been corrected yet. The basement has perimeter drains, but the drains lead nowhere, just to a trench outside the building. Whitney Trucking expects to return to Wendell the first week of May to extend the drainage away from the building. Lewis said, "Then the building is not done."

Keller said the first floor is unaffected by the drainage problem, and the library will be able to start moving in on that level. In the basement, the furnaces are isolated and are out of the water. A sump pump is keeping the water in check.

Lewis said a sump pump can give out easily. He likened the situation to buying a car as new, and finding out later that it had been in a collision, and repaired.

Aldrich reported that she had taken the test to operate the town water system, and the results would be back in six weeks. She

said she assumes that she will be able to bring the water samples to a lab for testing; the town has not chosen a lab yet, and DEP has not sent a schedule of the tests required.

Aldrich said that a representative of the town's

insurance company inspected the office building, and thought the amount the town is insuring the building for is high. But the board agreed that replacement cost for the building would be at least as high as the original construction cost.

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If you don't like something, change it. If you can't change it, change your attitude.  
 -Maya Angelou

Portion of mural in the community room.  
 Painted by 8th grader, Cece Tomi, '06

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# the poetry page

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

Poetry Page edited by Christopher Sawyer-Laucanno, Janel Nockleby and Jamie Berger

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

design by Boysen Hodgson

## Sixth Grade Haiku Project

Joanne Rabideau's class in Gill - on both pages

The cat comes to town  
Silently he stalks his prey  
Waiting in the shadows.

--Jonny Marguet

Look at the pink plants  
The flowers look so pretty  
I want to touch one.

--Bethany Laramie

## God told me Dick Cheney is the anti-christ

Answer the phone, please  
no one on the other  
end has the nerve to talk  
in tongues or deep hollywood  
resonance evoking horns or  
your head on a platter.  
It's just breathing, it  
must be god  
who told me dick cheney is  
the anti-christ, I swear,  
just look at the man,  
listen to his wife, o god,  
save us from these nasty, nasty people  
if you can find a thousand angels on  
the head of a pin, can they dance to  
the tune of ten thousand  
improvised explosive devices  
going off in your worst nightmare?  
I'm hanging up the phone now,  
call back when you have some  
good news, a reality that actually  
seems real. hello, can you hear me?

--Don Ogden  
Leverett



## If You Are on Earth

Within 49 miles of you,  
there is an intersection  
of the lines of longitude and latitude.  
They are not trying to appease  
or pacify. It is only, these shelters  
of geographic points are concrete proof  
of the strangers our lives make.

There are no plans for this region.  
Sure, it isn't fair to become upset  
when becoming upset is only  
an indication of the problem.  
Those large feelings as if you know  
you are growing something too timid  
to bloom in this light, to enter into  
a life where each container is named:  
the outhouse, the bus stop, the birdhouse,  
the tissue box. Together with others,  
you form a line of something around something,  
to document to say this is what it looks like.  
In our square we are making a monument.

--Jeannie Hoag  
Amherst

## 3On The White Square

A little of what we are  
Assembles itself for use  
A larger necessity than  
We had expected arises  
And we keep the quantities  
Small, to thwart  
The urge to lay  
It on thick, the precise  
Thinness of a tablespoonful,  
The unhurried abundance  
In a sip, allow time  
To live and make a thoughtful  
Tasting, as if we might enter  
By mere pacing, the  
choreography  
In a shaft of light.

--Patricia Pruitt  
Turners Falls



## Rails

Out of a hard dark  
in solo pillow talk  
flat as pennies on the track  
the night train wakes us to each other  
stringing from your house to mine  
clothesline dream catchers  
swinging from November's claws

Together and alone we hang  
prayer flags  
night gowns  
lover's rags in phantom limbs that  
used to brag a flame

In the blood stained morning  
we are bornetorn from separate berths  
worked over memory's knuckled slats  
tu too too tu too too tu too too  
endless cars across a crooked spine

--Candace R. Curran  
Orange

### ALL SMALL CAPS

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- Open mic 7:15-8:00
- Featured readers 8:15-9:30

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#### Upcoming Readings

**April 30th** - Matthew Klane, Candace Curran & Adam Golaski  
**May 28th** - Memorial Day - No Reading  
**Fall Season Begins September 24th:**  
 Readers to be Announced

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### CONTRIBUTOR'S NOTES:

Adam Golaski, the other poetry editor for Film Forum Press, is also Horror Fiction Editor of New Genre (www.new-genre.com). He's published poetry, fiction, and non-fiction in a variety of journals, including Lit, Web Conjunctions, Supernatural Tales, and McSweeney's. These poems were originally published in eye-rhyme: the gold issue.

Candace R. Curran is the founding organizer of INTERFACE, collaborations of word and image and has participated in other exhibitions that combine art and any excuse for poetry. Curran has been published throughout New England and Canada. She is a two-time Poet Seat winner and has been a judge for the Franklin County competition.

Don Ogden is a writer/worker/activist/broadcaster whose work has appeared in a wide variety of publications over the years. He is presently co-host on Valley Free Radio's Enviro Show (see: <http://envirosho.blogspot.com>). He lives in Leverett.

Patricia Pruitt is Chair of the Montague Selectboard. Her poems have appeared in a number of magazines including Agni and Talisman. Her most recent book is Windows.

Doug Turner, married to Sue, father of two, granddad, housepainter, reporter, writer, poet, Navy veteran, has been a resident of New Salem since 1987.

Amy Dickinson lives in Amherst just blocks away from the Emily Dickinson Homestead (no relation). She is wrapping up her MFA in poetry at UMASS and plans to run off to join the Peace Corps.

Joanne Rabideau's class in Gill has been busily writing haiku.

Don Clegg is the cameraman or producer behind over 60 shows for MCTV. He enjoys his work, volunteer or not, with the Food Pantry, Service Net, and The Montague Reporter.

Jeannie Hoag lives in Amherst, where she attends the UMass MFA Program for Poets and Writers.

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**74 PROSPECT ST. TURNERS FALLS**

*the poetry page*

**You Must Do**

You must nude do  
Ye'muss'd

You must  
You must nu'do  
Ye'muss'd

see You in class [slash]  
see You undressed [rest]

no sex  
naked nonetheless  
no  
less undress'd  
no sex  
in class

rhapsodic  
You

apple/ breast  
apple/ breast  
eyeglas—ses

You must see do  
You must  
You must see

nude  
see

apple/ breast  
apple/ breast  
[rest]

must do rhapsodic  
must r-HAP-sa-do  
eyes

You nude  
all along  
r-HAP-sod  
see  
You nude  
all along

You must cellphone do  
You must cellphone—  
cellphone  
nude  
Ye'muss'd

You nude  
all along  
on cellphone

apple/ ear  
apple/ ear

+ golden backside

listen:  
cellphone cellphone  
cellphone—

You nude cellphone  
all along  
You nude  
all must  
do  
al'muss'd  
You nu'do

--Adam Golaski  
Hartford, CT



**Post-Introductory Parade, Lentissimo**

*Aquifer, pretend we never met,*

The tired theaters of our hands, the discarded vial of pesticide,

The greasy-lipped woman with no route to Shrewsbury, the showboat cardinal in winter, the rosary recited in Croatian,

The underground reserves of daffodils, the spiritual seizures of mothers, the bellows of the healer in West Texas, the endearing accordion down the hall, the mathematical conversion of miles to kilometers, the turtle creeping up the stairs of New Hampshire, the surfers freezing in Cleveland,

I have this refrain, aquifer, about loving everything,

The unfashionable palms of Hollywood, the naked landscape of the pulpit, the unseen everything, the war fields of crippled mesquite, the porcelain ghosts of sinks, the old insult of Corinthians, the simultaneous dream of breaching whales,

My refrain of loving everything, aquifer, my refrain of goodbyes,

My fear of pipes, my misfiring memory chip, my closet of engineers, my inability to distinguish fears of you from fears for you, the distant machetes, the quickest rust, the shoeless feet, the thirsty factories, the thirsty everything, the mispredicting forecaster,

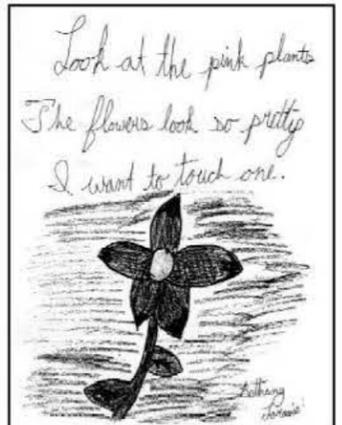
If you are schooled in scripture, if I might dress you in history, if I might serve as your humble troubadour of hope, don't take me seriously, don't weave ribbons through your rocky hair, you are too pretty already, aquifer, for this refrain of goodbyes,

For these men in the pancake house, the cactus bristling with ice, the crashing helicopters, the grafts of apple trees, the hidden hellos.

--Amy Dickinson  
Amherst

The sundial is on the money  
- no need to adjust it.  
It's "close enough  
for government work."

--Doug Turner  
New Salem



**Some People**

There are some people who don't think that I am using my hard earned and expensive education to the fullest.

There are some people who don't think that I should have given up my high paying manager's position.

There are some people who have always questioned what I thought and believed and I always worried why.

There are some people who don't think very much of my religious, political, or social beliefs.

I know none of these people could learn to understand how miserable my life was when I only did things to please some people.

I know some people will never understand how much happier I am becoming now by not answering or justifying to some people.

I have also come to understand that those once important people in my life just don't think very much of me any more or maybe never did. That is fine with me because I have learned negative thinking of some people is not my answer. I just try not to think of them at all.

--Don Clegg  
Montague City

The mockingbird sings  
On a branch he is quiet  
Flying like a plane.

--Brittany York

The white mountain peaks  
Sparkling, gleaming snow and sleet  
There goes the ski lift.

--Jackie LaFleur

The circle goes round  
and around again sending  
some up in the sky.

--Alyssa Weld

On the foggy bus  
Forgot to do my homework  
Extremely frightened.

--Jeremy Peffer

The snow is nearing  
Heavily falling to the ground  
The end of the world.

--Abby Cichanowicz

You can't imagine  
Rain falling on windows which  
sounds like tumbling beads.

--T.J. Meyer

Had an Uncle Steve  
Who slept loudly in my chair  
All he did was snore.

--Leslie Kozma

The outdoors is so  
amazing and so clean but,  
The big big blue sky.

--Courtney Brown

Now the tree stands tall,  
In the breeze sways back  
and forth,  
Great to climb and eye.

--Raleigh Yates

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### POWWOW from pg

Each school choice student that leaves the GMRSD represents a portion of the approximately \$1.3 million dollars in state aid that will be lost to the school district in the coming fiscal year. In 2007, the total amount of state aid for the GMRSD would have equaled \$7.1 million, if 156 students hadn't choiced out. With their departure, however, the actual amount of state aid the district received was \$5.9 million.

Other possible programs that could help to relieve the budget gap include interregional special education transportation, which would allow buses and vans from one town or school district to transport students from another town, eliminating the need for some vehicles. Also, intra-district school choice could help the town reduce the number of students who choice out of the GMRSD. Gill and Montague will hold elections on intra-district school choice on May 3rd at 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. respectively.

Selectboard member Al Ross warned those present that a short-term solution will not serve the best interest of the town. "If you do something one year, you have to do it next year, because the problem is not going to go away."

"I can see right now that you people have no idea what you're going to do," said Millers Falls resident Art Gilmore. "You are looking to someone for guidance and I don't know where you're going to get it."

Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio provided what guidance he could by presenting his study of the town and school budget for fiscal years 2001-2007, and suggesting ways in which the town can start to achieve a balanced budget over the next six years. He focused on what he called "budget busters" in his study, which included health insurance, and cost of living and step raises for personnel. "We can't keep feeding the deficit. It's amazing that something so obvious hasn't been obvious to everyone else."

### ALLEN from pg 1

The day after the election, Prudential Committee member Joe Janikas said, "The voters have spoken, and they have called for lower taxes." Janikas said he planned to introduce a motion at the next Prudential Committee meeting, Monday, May 7th, at 5:30 p.m., to reduce the hours the Turners Falls fire station is manned, by shutting it down overnight, from 6 p.m. to 7 a.m.

"We don't have as many fires as we used to. Firefighters would still respond to calls. Other towns do this." The meeting, open to the public, will take place at the Water Department office at 226 Millers Falls Road.

In South Deerfield, for example, Chief Gary Stokarski, who has acted as fulltime "maintenance man, cleaner, mechanic, administrator and [Chief of] fire prevention" since the South Deerfield fire district instituted a

paid full time staffer to man the station during daylight hours in 2001, said the budget for their district is approximately \$250,000 a year. He said in combination with the EMS service, the fire station is staffed from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. "Right now, we do not have a significant enough call volume to support" keeping the station open 24/7, Stokarski said. South Deerfield fire district serves a population of about 3500, with 28 on-call firefighters.

By contrast, Turners Falls fire district serves about 6000 residents, with eight permanent firefighters in addition to the chief, and 18 call firefighters. Chief Ray Godin said two firefighters staff the station overnight. The department gets about 600 calls a year for emergency services. He could not offer an immediate estimate on the breakdown of the percentage of those calls that come in during daylight hours.

Eileen Tela, accountant for the Turners Falls Fire District, said

the '08 budget for the fire department amounted to \$726,000. She said the budget for the Turners Falls Water Department was \$494,000, and the budget for General Government, which includes the cost of maintaining streetlights in Millers Falls, Turners Falls, and Montague City, paying the cost of employee insurance, and administrative expenses for both the fire district and the water department, amounted to \$563,000 for the coming fiscal year. Tela said residents of the district were assessed \$2.74 per thousand dollars of valuation to support fire and water district services last year; businesses in the three villages of the district paid \$4.56 per thousand.

Allen said during his campaign he did not even broach the idea of merging the Turners Falls and Montague Center fire districts, even though on the face of it that proposal might cut down on administrative costs for pro-

viding the town with fire prevention services. "I've heard there is no way either Lake Pleasant or Montague Center would want to be included, because with the costs they have for their volunteer fire department, they probably pay a lot less than the residents of the other villages do."

Regarding Janikas' suggestion not to staff the Turners Falls fire station at night, Allen said, "I'm pleased an idea has been brought forward that might be helpful." Godin said he had not seen Janikas' proposal yet, and did not want to comment on it. But he acknowledged the likely trade-off would be between personnel costs and response time.

Allen said cost savings should be explored during the planning and construction of the proposed new police station, to be built adjacent to the fire station on Turnpike Road, including sharing kitchen facilities and meeting rooms, and sharing dispatch personnel.

# GCC Presents

# SPRING WEEK

## APRIL 30 - MAY 6 2007

<p><b>MONDAY</b> April 30<sup>th</sup></p> <p><b>CONCERT</b></p>  <p><b>PIE BOYS FLAT</b> 12:00 Front of East Bldg. (Rain: Theater)</p>  <p><b>FREE LUNCH</b></p>	<p><b>TUESDAY</b> May 1<sup>st</sup></p> <p>Live Exotic <b>Animals</b> 10:00-1:00</p>  <p><b>Room S104</b></p>	<p><b>WEDNESDAY</b> May 2<sup>nd</sup></p> <p><b>PSYCHIC FAIR</b> Free Readings</p>  <p>10:00-1:00 <b>Room N358</b></p> <p>Professional Pests "Roaming Surprises" 10-11AM South 11-Noon North Noon-1PM East</p> <p>GCC Music Ensemble 7PM Theater</p>	<p><b>THURSDAY</b> May 3<sup>rd</sup></p> <p>ANTIQUE IMAGES</p>  <p>Costume Dress Up Pictures</p> <p>10AM-1PM <b>Room S104</b></p> <p>Student/Faculty Dance Performance</p> <p>7PM <b>GHS</b></p>	<p><b>FRIDAY</b> May 4<sup>th</sup></p> <p>DVD Clock With your picture on it!</p>  <p>10AM-1PM <b>Room S104</b></p> <p>*LIVE THEATER <b>Cabin Fever</b> 8PM Theater</p> <p>*Sat. May 5<sup>th</sup> at 8PM Sun. May 6<sup>th</sup> at 2PM</p>
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**CRUCIBLE**

continued from page 1

tion by Arena Civic Theatre sweeps us into the vortex of confusion and fear that was Salem, Massachusetts from June to September of 1692. An adult figure kneels, unmoving, over a child lying still in bed. It is Reverend Parris, the town's embattled minister, and his young daughter. The night before he caught her out in the woods with the girls, up to no good: singing, dancing, maybe even running naked! Were they conjuring Satan?

As visitors debate the signs and implications of demonic possession, the actors stretch their opening night legs. Robert Campbell plays Parris with a low key, believable exasperation as he squirms to avoid the career-destroying conclusion. Reverend Hale, played by the able Kevin Tracy, has been brought in to investigate. Townspeople bicker. Then the child wakes and attempts to fly out the window. The battle for her soul is on, and before the show is over, many of Salem's finest will face the supreme sacrifice.

If watching what happens to characters placed in drastic situations is the stuff of drama, *The Crucible* arrives fully loaded. One hundred and fifty Salem residents were arrested during the witch trials. Nineteen were hanged. Their names are recorded in the theater lobby. Some of them appear as characters in the play. And so the challenge for the theater company is to sustain Miller's dramatic tension as these unfortunate people are put through their paces - whether by an intensely personal God or impersonal fortune depends as much on the viewer as on the playwright. Miller used court transcripts and other contemporary material to strive for an "historical reality" that reveals "the essential nature of one of the strangest and most awful chapters in human history."

These people believed. The Massachusetts Bay Colony was a theocracy, before the United States and the separation of church and state existed. The

court scenes show the awesome, unchallenged power of those two forces in tandem, and the price of dissent. If this makes you feel uncomfortable, well, that's the idea. Director Catherine King wants the play to provoke viewers to reflect on our fundamental power and belief systems.

Founded in 1626, only a half-dozen years after the Pilgrims landed, Salem was still clinging to its Puritan roots, and during the 1700s it would become a wealthy powerhouse of maritime trade. Giles Corey, a cantankerous elder played to perfection by Marty Norden, admits proudly to having been plaintiff in dozens of lawsuits. John Proctor, a farmer and main protagonist, reminds wealthy landowner Thomas Putnam, "We vote by name in this society, not by acreage." And when Proctor says, "I can still speak my mind," Parris retorts "We are not Quakers." One wonders if the tension between their spiritual and material life was even greater than ours today.

*The Crucible* illuminates the sometimes shadowy connections language makes between peoples' internal, emotional lives and the world around them - and the limits of language, and by extension reason, to express the totality of who we are as individuals. We witness, with painful sympathy, the characters' mental gyrations as they alternately protect and reveal themselves, cant and recant. What, I ask myself, would I do in their situation? The motivation of John Prescott and his wife Elizabeth - played by Nick DeRuiter and Jerri Higgins, both of whom build their performances to a satisfying climactic pitch - is clear and honorable. That of their accusers, much less so.

While it is tantalizing to speculate, the viewer is ultimately left hungering, like the characters themselves, for the truth, an absolute, anything to relieve the agony of uncertainty. When the judge declares, "We burn a hot fire here; it melts down all concealment," we wonder whether such a force exists, and yearn for it. George Funk delivers a solid performance as Judge Hathorne, anchoring the complex court scene as he attempts to ferret out

the truth of what has been said and done. In his search for veracity he gains our sympathy. And yet one questions, as such a powerful man interrogates witnesses about their beliefs, what he himself really believes.

Strong performances are also delivered by Martha King-Devine as Abigail Williams, the 17-year old ringleader who had an affair with John Proctor and maneuvers for his love, and by Tess VandenDolder as Mary Warren, the Proctors' 18-year-old servant whose loyalty and testimony are questionable. Abigail's motives are especially curious. As a child she witnessed her parents' heads being smashed by Indians, and she tells John Proctor, "A wild thing may say wild things." The courtroom histrionics she instigates among the assembled girls made me tremble. Overall, the entire cast does good work and one expects they will hit full stride with opening night under their belt.

In another program note, Miller wrote that people throughout the world took this story as their own. And yet in a 2000 interview he acknowledged his own misgivings, saying: "One can't forever stand on the shore; at some point, filled with indecision, skepticism, reservation and doubt, you either jump in or concede that life is forever elsewhere." Ultimately, then, *The Crucible* calls for our courage. And in the current political age, as in all ages, we will need plenty of it to keep from succumbing to fear and oppression. The authorities couldn't hang Giles Corey, but they pressed him to death with stones to get him to confess. His last words were: "More weight."

A final historical note: In October, 1692, the hysteria in Salem subsided; the remaining prisoners were released and the special court was dissolved. In 1697, the Massachusetts general court expressed official repentance regarding the actions of its judges during the witch hysteria of 1692. Jurors signed a statement of regret and compensation was offered to families of those wrongly accused.



**MCTV Schedule**  
Channel 17: April 27th -- May 3rd

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7A-8A (Daily); 12P-530P (Tuesday); 1230P-530P (Thursday); 1P-530P (Saturday, Monday, Wednesday); 130P-530P (Friday, Sunday)  
**Friday, April 27**  
8:00 am Over The Falls: Rosenberg 3/23  
9:00 am Montague Select Board 4/17/07  
10:00 am Waterfowl Identification  
11:30 am Listen To The River  
6:00 pm Nasa Destination Tomorrow #19  
6:30 pm Curly Fingers Dupree Band  
7:00 pm GMRSD meeting 4/24/07  
10:00 pm On The Ridge: Joe Judd 4/6/07  
10:30 pm Velocity  
**Saturday, April 28**  
8:00 am NASA Destination Tomorrow #19  
8:30 am Curly Fingers Dupree Band  
9:00 am GMRSD meeting 4/24/07  
12:00 pm On The Ridge: Joe Judd 4/6/07  
12:30 pm Velocity  
6:30 pm "Taking Charge of Your Health"  
7:30 pm Montague Update: Chris Mason  
8:30 pm Carnegie Library: All about Emus  
9:30 pm "Butterflies of Mass."  
9:40 pm Coffee House: Katie Clarke Band  
**Sunday, April 29**  
8:00 am "Taking Charge of Your Health"  
9:00 am Montague Update: Chris Mason  
10:00 am Carnegie Library: All About Emus  
11:00 am "Butterflies of Mass."  
11:40 am Coffee House: Katie Clarke Band  
6:00 pm Montague Update: Joe Parzych  
7:00 pm Over The Falls: Rosenberg 3/23  
8:00 pm Millers Falls Rd Rezoning Meeting  
10:00 pm Rev. Carlos Anderson: "Shalom"  
**Monday, April 30**  
8:00 am Montague Update: Joe Parzych  
9:00 am Over The Falls: Rosenberg 3/23  
10:00am Millers Falls Rd Rezoning Meeting  
12:00 am Rev. Carlos Anderson: "Shalom"  
6:00 pm Montague Update: Chris Mason  
7:00 pm Montague Select Board (Live)  
9:00 pm Sustainable Energy  
10:00 pm Valley Idol  
**Tuesday, May 1**  
8:00 am Montague Update: Chris Mason  
9:00 am Sustainable Energy  
10:00 am Valley Idol  
6:00 pm GMRSD meeting 4/24/07  
6:30 pm Abenaki Lifestyles  
7:00 pm GMRSD 4/24/07  
10:00 pm Discovery Center: Open Mic Night  
**Wednesday, May 2**  
8:00 am GED Connection #38  
8:30 am Abenaki Lifestyles  
9:30 am GMRSD 4/24/07  
6:30 pm NASA Destination Tomorrow #19  
7:00 pm GED Connection #39  
7:30 pm "Taking Charge of Your Health"  
8:30 pm Carnegie Library: All about Emus  
9:30 pm Tales of The CT Valley Dinosaurs  
**Thursday, May 3**  
8:00 am NASA Destination Tomorrow #19  
8:30 am GED Connection #39  
9:00 am "Taking Charge of Your Health"  
10:00 am Carnegie Library: All About Emus  
11:00 am Tales of The CT Valley Dinosaurs  
6:00 pm There and Back with Karen Adams  
7:00 pm Special Town Meeting (Live)  
9:00 pm Listen To the River  
11:00 pm Montague Music Train

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**AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH: PART 2 OF A 2-PART SERIES**

# Teaching Us the Meaning of Unconditional Love

BY LYN CLARK

**TURNERS FALLS** - My granddaughter Lexi was diagnosed with "Autism, PDD-NOS" (Pervasive Developmental Disorder - Not Otherwise Specified) in 1998 when she was about 2½ years old.

Following a diagnosis such as this there are several stages that parents grope their way through: denial (it can't be; tragedies happen to other families, not ours); grief (she'll never have close friends, go to a prom, marry, have babies, live out the dreams we had for her); acceptance and determination (what must be done? where can we get help? where can we go for information?); and finally overwhelming love for this child, for whom they will now become fierce advocates.

Lexi is now eleven, and is mainstreamed into a fourth grade classroom, although much of her time is spent with therapists. Mainstreaming is called 'inclusion', only possible since 1975 when the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) was passed and children with autism could no longer be routinely relegated to special schools. The principal argument for 'inclusion' is that an autistic child can pick up more social skills from the example of her normal peers, and progress more normally than if she were isolated with other autistic children.

What is it like to be Lexi? She can't say, so who really knows? Probably a lot like it is to be any autistic child - to a greater or lesser degree depending on where each is on the spectrum. We know that much of her world is frightening and overwhelming, but she faces every day with courage, trusting those who love her to protect her from harm. A check-up trip to the dentist requires two parents to hold her still; serious work on her teeth requires that she be anesthetized. Certain

sounds are painful to her, and she can frequently be seen with hands clamped over her ears. Changes in her daily routine tend to confuse and dismay her; predictability is her lifeline. Although she can say quite a few words, and even string three or four together, she cannot carry on a conversation, or describe what distresses her; she is stuck somewhere between verbal and non-verbal, yet she can sing along with a song from one of her favorite CDs all the way through without a mistake. She is a master at handling two remote controls simultaneously - one for the video and one for the DVD player - performing complex operations with them to create an entertaining kaleidoscope of images and sequences never imagined by their producers. No one taught her how to use the remotes; it's something she quickly picked up on her own. She knew her letters, and was able to operate a mouse and navigate computer software at an early age. Mechanical skills aside, we do not know what Lexi truly comprehends, or what she has simply learned by rote. She almost certainly thinks in pictures, and is best taught with this in mind. She is left-handed (as are many autistic individuals) and her fine motor skills are poor, making her letters look more like a five-year-old's than an eleven-year-old's. She also has poor muscle tone - another component of autism.

Lexi is happiest when she is in the water, either at home in the pool, or best of all at the beach, where she delights in being buffeted by the waves. Water is her element. She has come a long way in her short lifetime, now eating many foods she used to refuse, wearing mittens and hats that once she couldn't tolerate against her



Lexi at Hampton Beach

skin, a far cry from the child who couldn't let her mother out of her sight without panic and tears. Most parents cheer when a child brings home an A on a report card, or gets the lead in the school musical. Lexi's parents have adjusted their expectations and cheer when she manages to zip up her jacket, to go to bed without insisting they stay with her until she falls asleep, and to enter the doctor's office without having to be forced against her will. In safe, familiar surroundings she is joyful, full of hugs and laughter. Those who say that these children are incapable of love are in error; one has only to see Lexi with her parents to understand the depth of her love for them, and of their devotion to her. She's a happy child despite all.

It is not easy being the parent of a special needs child, one who will almost certainly require constant supervision and assistance throughout her lifetime. The contrast between Lexi's abilities and those of her peers will only continue to widen as they become adults. Who will be there when we are gone to love and protect her? parents ask themselves. Who will make sure she has what she

needs; who will provide what is necessary for her well-being and comfort? This anxiety is well founded, as there are few services at present for autistic adults. Money must be found and saved to care for a child who will always be a dependent adult; plans must be made at some point to assure a safe living environment, possibly in a group home - but how? When? Where? Adults with autism, like other adults with a range of special needs, are particularly vulnerable to abuse, and are frequently the victims of crime. These thoughts and questions keep a parent - and a grandparent - awake in the small, dark hours before dawn.

I have a profound admiration for Lexi's mom and dad. Not only have they provided her with a loving home, but they have consulted with a special needs lawyer who has drawn up the recommended documents to provide for her protection should anything happen to them in the next few years.

We tend to concentrate on what we do to and for autistic children. Early on, I became aware that something was happening to and for me through my relationship with Lexi. As a child I would not make eye contact with a disabled person ("Don't stare, dear," I can remember my mother saying); as an adult I have looked away from a child's strange behavior, much the same way some people do from Lexi, ignoring the tantrum, leaving the struggling parent alone to deal with the crisis in an unfriendly and judgmental environment. But Lexi has become my mentor, my Master Teacher, and I am learning fast. Now when I see the disabled, I look past the disability to the person. I feel connected.

Dr. Robert A. Naseef, author of Special Children, Challenged Parents, says it best about his own autistic son: "Tariq has taught me the meaning of unconditional love. Children with special needs are spiritual catalysts. They challenge and sometimes force us to look at ourselves. They help us accept our own imperfections and the imperfections of others. In this sense Tariq is not damaged in the least. He is perfect as he is." As is our Lexi.

The future of not only my granddaughter but of all disabled persons is filled with uncertainties. It's my hope that someday Lexi will have a "Circle of Friends," a network of those peers who are sympathetic to her condition, and willing to include her in certain activities, and protect her from bullying, and from her own risky behaviors.

April is Autism Awareness Month. These children need your love, and their parents need your understanding. It is my hope that you will educate your own children to understand their less fortunate peers, so that these innocent victims - so needy and deserving - will be the recipients of their kindness both now and when they are adults.

(To learn more about autism, go to Autism Speaks, <http://www.autismspeaks.org>.)

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**THEATER REVIEW**

# Amadeus at Smith College

**REVIEWED BY SUDI NIMMS NORTHAMPTON** - Director Jenna Augen has undertaken an enormous task in bringing Peter Shaffer's Amadeus to Theatre 14 at Smith College. However, she does the show justice.

At the heart of the story is the question, "Did he do it?" Did Antonio Salieri ultimately kill Mozart? The many intricate details that create this classical

affair are expertly penned by Shaffer and beautifully executed on stage by Augen.

The lead actors portraying Mozart (Mike Rozycki) and Salieri (Nicholas Dahlman) are quite convincing in their parts. One cannot help but compare them to their film counterparts, and they do an impressive job bringing their respective characters to life. Dahlman is particular-

ly striking as the Mozart's jealous peer, the composer whose aim it is to bring Wolfo to ruin.

The stark yet effective set by Jacquelyn D. Marolt is reminiscent of pieces of various instruments: piano, harp, and violin. Some of the set's pieces are askew, reminding the audience that all is not well in the house of Mozart. The grand staircase that leads from the upstairs 'balcony'

to the rooms below is well-incorporated by the cast. A revolving platform is used to reveal a music room featuring a grand piano on one side and a parlor room on the other.

Gorgeous period costumes, inventive lighting and, of course, the exquisite music of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart fill the senses as we enter the 18th century. It's worth the trip.

Amadeus continues this weekend on April 25th, 26th, 27th and 28th at 8:00 p.m. Smith College's Theatre 14 is located in the Mendenhall Center on Green Street in Northampton. Tickets are \$7 for general public and \$5 for students and seniors. For more information and ticket reservations, call (413) 585-ARTS (2787). Enjoy the show!

**THE HEALTHY GEEZER**

## Handling Essential Tremor

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - Q. I heard that Botox can help if you have shaky hands. Is that true?

"Shaky hands" is a symptom of "essential tremor," which is the most common movement disorder. The medical community calls it "essential," because it isn't linked to other diseases.

Botulinum toxin type A (Botox) injections, popular for ironing wrinkles, is used to treat muscle spasms and tremors caused by diseases such as multiple sclerosis, and neurological conditions such as muscle spasms of the neck, shoulders and face.

And, yes, it's true that Botox is used to treat hand tremors. Injections can bring relief for up to three months.

Essential tremor (ET) is often confused with Parkinson's disease. Unlike Parkinson's disease, however, ET doesn't lead to serious complications. Parkinson's is associated with a stooped posture, slow movement, a shuffling gait and other difficulties.

Not all tremors are ET. There are more than 20 kinds of tremors. For instance, excessive caffeine, alcohol withdrawal, problems with thyroid or copper metabolism or the use of certain medications may cause tremor.

A genetic mutation is responsible for about half of all cases of ET. The only other known risk factor is older age. Although ET



JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

can affect people of all ages, it usually appears in middle age or later. Men and women are affected equally.

Abnormal communication within the brain causes ET. There is no cure yet for this disorder.

Tremor is an involuntary movement of one or more parts of the body. Most tremors occur in the hands. Tremors can also show up in the arms, head, face, vocal cords, trunk, and legs.

Victims of tremors usually get them when they make a delicate movement such as writing with a pen or tying shoelaces. Tremors usually disappear when a person is resting.

Some people have relatively mild tremors throughout their lives, but others develop more severe tremors and increased disability.

Most people with ET don't need treatment. The effects of the condition can be eased by avoiding what aggravates the

problem - lack of sufficient sleep, anxiety, stimulants such as caffeine, and temperature extremes.

Drinking alcohol can calm tremors for up to an hour after consumption. However, tremors tend to worsen when the alcohol wears off.

Physical therapy and exercise can develop more stability in hands that shake.

And there are other medications besides Botox that can bring relief. These include beta blockers normally used to treat high blood pressure, anti-seizure medications and tranquilizers.

If tremors are severe and drugs don't help, there are surgical procedures available.

Thalamotomy is a procedure that involves making a small hole in a part of the brain called the thalamus. The surgery destroys the faulty circuit or brain cells that modulate tremor.

An alternative to thalamotomy is thalamic stimulation. An electrode connected to a stimulation device, is placed in the center of the brain. The stimulator is placed under the skin below the collarbone.

Electrical currents sent through the electrode interrupt communication between tremor cells. This process reduces tremors within seconds.

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

## Curbing Installed



PARZYCH PHOTO

Tom Spencer aligns granite curb stones on the bike path parking lot, near Southworth paper mill, with the help of Ed Zagniacz.

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH

**TURNERS FALLS** - A Warner Brothers crew is installing granite curb, sawed top, bottom and ends, to enable perfect alignment, which Tom Spencer is setting with the help of Ed "Zaggy" Zagniacz's eagle eye. The curb lines the bike path parking lot, for folks who don't want to ride their bikes to the bike path for fear of excessive exercising. Zaggy

said the bike path still needs about 3/4 of a mile of finish paving, with a top coat of blacktop needed from 11th Street to the gatehouse by the dam. Despite a mild winter, construction is off to a slow start this spring. "Only about half the guys are back working," Zaggy said. "The Turners airport runway job is coming up for bid, pretty soon. That would be nice, close to home."

## VIDEO TO GO

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# JEP'S PLACE: Faith, Hope and Other Disasters Part XXX

## Miss Pogoda

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH GILL - The worst thing about milk production was herding the



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cows. If you think being a shepherd is romantic, you've never had to herd anything. We had cows, damn few fences, and lots of kids. It added up to "minding cows." I hated it. The only thing more boring than watching grass grow, is watching grass being eaten. As long as you kept your eyes on the cows, they would not stray. But if you looked away, or tried to read a book or magazine, the cows would get into our corn or the neighbor's.

Our respite was going to school. Miss Pogoda was quick to praise, and it got us away from minding cows. If we were good, the teacher let us stay after school. Wiping the blackboard with a damp cloth or clapping the chalk erasers clean of dust was a prized privilege, rewarded by words of praise. Pa liked Miss Pogoda, too. She let us come to school barefooted as far into fall as we could stand. Pa figured

that even if we didn't learn much, it saved on shoe leather. The bigger boys in school vied to see who could go without shoes the latest into fall. One boy, "Doody," showed up barefooted one morning when there were traces of white frost on the ground. He was tough - the unsurpassed champion.

We were far more afraid at home than at school. Both of our parents warned us not to tell them about being punished at school because we would be punished twice as bad at home. Miss Pagoda's most effective weapons were a frown or the words, "I am disappointed in you."

We were all afraid of Pa, including Ma. A harsh word or angry look was enough to make us comply - we knew the strap was next. Sometimes, if Pa saw us playing stickball or tag, he'd say, "Pull some weeds or hoe the garden if you have so much

energy."

In summer there was no shortage of fieldwork, and in winter we had to do barn chores and bring in firewood. In a way, it was a good thing. We appreciated anything we got and we learned to work hard. Everyone talks about "The cruel world out there." By the time we were ready to leave home, "The cruel world out there," looked pretty darned good.

Pa's answer to any complaint was, "If you don't like it, there's the door." Most of the kids exercised that option in their early teens. The only separation anxiety we had was hoping for an early departure. Pa was forever telling us what an expense we were to him. "Just figure up, at a penny a day, what it costs just to feed you."

Both parents lamented the fact there were too many children. Before I found out where babies came from, I

wondered if someone were dropping them off like unwanted kittens. At any age, it hurt us to hear my parent's refrain - "Too many children." Even worse were the taunts from other kids at school, "Why does your family have so many kids?"

There were enough kids in our family for a scout troop, attracting the interest of a scout leader, who urged me to join. "Roughing it builds character," he said. The scout master went on to tell what fun camping was - plenty of hiking, sleeping all jammed together on hard beds, cooking over a wood fire, getting a good workout in the fresh air, away from the comforts of civilization, while being bitten by all manner of bugs. I didn't join. I had had enough of that at home. We didn't know it, but we were having fun.

- Continued Next Week

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**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE • Town of Wendell Planning Board**

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40A Section 5 and Section 9 of M.G.L., the Wendell Planning Board will hold a public hearing on May 15, 2007 at 7 p.m. in the Town Offices at Morse Village Road to consider changes to the Wendell Zoning Bylaws described in the details below. Proposed changes to the Zoning Bylaws include revisions to:

(1) Article III (Definitions) change definition of 'Dwelling, Secondary' from 600 sq ft to 800 sq ft;

(2) Article VI (Special Permits and Site Plans), Section F, 8. delete in its entirety to ensure extension of Secondary Dwelling provisions beyond June 7, 2007;

(3) Article VI (Special Permits and Site Plans), Section J, 2. delete in its entirety to ensure extension of Secondary Dwelling provisions beyond June 7, 2007;

(4) Article III (Definitions), and Article V (Lot density and Dimension), Section A, 6. and Article VI (Secondary Dwelling), Sections F, 1. and Section J, to keep the language allowing secondary dwellings consistent with the above proposed changes;

(5) Article III (Definitions) add 'Common Driveway' definition

(6) Article V (Density and Dimensions) change title to 'Access, Density, and Dimensional Regulations' and Section C, Common Driveway Access;

(7) Article VI. (Special Permits, Use Regulation and Site Plan Review), Section D Special Permit and Site Plan Review Procedure: site plan appeals to be described and will be identical to special permit appeals so appeals of site plan decisions no longer go before the Zoning Board of Appeals and instead go to the District or Superior Court.

The proposed text of the bylaw changes under consideration are posted outside the Town Offices for review and are available from the Town Coordinator and the Town Library during their regular business hours.

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

**FRIDAY, APRIL 27TH**  
Deja Brew, Wendell: Nexus, rock. 9 to 11 p.m. No cover.

Rt. 63 Roadhouse: Heros, rock & roll. Come to dance. 9:30 p.m.

**THURSDAY, APRIL 26TH**  
Deja Brew, Wendell: Larry Kopp, blues. 8 to 10 p.m. No cover.

**FRIDAY TO SUNDAY, APRIL 27 TO 29TH**  
Arena Civic Theater presents *The Crucible* directed by Catherine King at the Shea Theater, Turners Falls. Tickets \$12.50 general, \$10 for Senior Citizens & Students. Available at World Eye Bookshop and at the Door. Call 863-2281 x3 for reservations. Friday and Saturday 8 p.m. Sunday 2 p.m. Info. 863-2281.

Juniper Festival - UMass Amherst. Poets Christopher Janke, Michael Robins, and Elizabeth Hugheys' International Tour! Janke's Structure of the Embryonic Rat Brain won a prize! Robins' The Next Settlement won a prize! Hughey's Sunday Houses The Sunday House won a prize! [www.umass.edu/english/eng/mfa/JuniPerFestival.htm](http://www.umass.edu/english/eng/mfa/JuniPerFestival.htm) for details.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 28TH**  
Gill-Montague Gala-Featuring *The Gregory Caputo Big Band* and his show "Velocity." Turners Falls High School theater, 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$20. Tickets are available at Scotty's Store, World Eye Bookshop or call Sandy at TFHS, 863-7218. Tickets on sale now!

Psychic Fair sponsored by The National Spiritual Alliance at Thompson Temple, Lake Pleasant, 11 - 4 p.m. Readings or Reiki \$25 for 20 minutes. Tag sale 10 to 4 p.m.

Rt. 63 Roadhouse: John Sheldon originals, rock & blues. Dance! 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: Ray Mason, rock. 9 to 11 p.m. No cover.

April Arts & Wine Tasting at the Village Co-op, Leverett, 2 to 5 p.m. Paintings of Kiran Bhowmik on display during April. Call the Village Co-op (413) 367-9794 for more info.

**SUNDAY, APRIL 29TH**  
Family Dance at the Montague Grange. Family-style Contra Dancing for all ages. \$7-\$10 per family. Simple dances with easy instruction geared for little feet. Great for 3-11 yr olds, and their parents. 4 - 5:30 p.m. Includes a light snack. Last dance!

Deja Brew, Wendell: Classical Piano with Adam Bergeron. 7 to 9 p.m. No cover.

The Wholesale Klezmer Band concert "Jewish Music of Peace, Justice and Celebration." At Temple Israel, 27 Pierce Street, Greenfield, 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10 per adult \$5 per teen



*The Ray Mason Band has been going strong with the current lineup of Frank Marsb on drums, Stephen Desaulniers on bass, and Tom Shea on guitar. You can catch them performing at Deja Brew on Saturday, April 28th at 9 p.m.*

& child. Benefit for Temple Israel.

**SATURDAY & SUNDAY, APRIL 28TH & 29TH**  
Asparagus Valley Pottery Trail: A Sale and Tour of 10 clay studios in western Massachusetts. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For directions and potters, [www.asparagusvalleypotterytrail.com](http://www.asparagusvalleypotterytrail.com)

**MONDAY, APRIL 30TH**  
Live Jazz at Ristorante DiPaolo, Avenue A, 6 to 9 p.m. Info. 863-4441.

Deja Brew, Wendell: A Night of Spoken Word. Open Mic 7 - 8 p.m. Guest Readers 8 - 10 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 2ND**  
Deja Brew, Wendell: Open Mic Fiddle Tune Swap 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.

**THURSDAY, MAY 3RD**  
Deja Brew, Wendell: Kellianna, rock. 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. No Cover.

Greenfield Community College Spring Student & Faculty Dance Concert. Held at Greenfield High School, 7:30 p.m. Ticket prices: \$5 general; \$4 students and seniors. For information, contact Sharon Arslanian at 775-1262.

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY, MAY 5TH & 6TH**  
Pothole Pictures, Memorial Hall Theater, Shelburne Falls Spring & Summer series begins. Friday-Lord of the Flies, Saturday-My Dinner with Andre. 7:30 p.m.

**FRIDAY TO SUNDAY, MAY 4TH TO 6TH**  
Ja'Duke Center for the Performing Arts presents Suessical the Musical Continues May 11th to 13th Friday and Saturday at 7p.m. and Sunday

**HOT SPOT TEEN CENTER**  
MONDAYS - Drop-in, 3-6 p.m.  
TUES & WEDS - Ongoing Music Project, 3 - 6 p.m.  
THURS - Drop-in, 3 - 6 p.m. & Movie Night, 6 - 8 p.m.  
*Free (except some trips), open to local teens. Some require permission slips.*  
Info: Jared at 863-9559.  
Hot Spot Teen Center is in  
**The Brick House**  
24 Third Street, Turners Falls, 01376

at 2 p.m. at the Shea Theater, Turners Falls. Suessical the Musical boasts a cast of 250 performers in a program of entertaining dancing singing and acting that will leave you wanting more. Directed by N i c k Waynevovich w i t h

Choreography by Kimberly Waynevovich and produced by Lisa McCarthy. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$10 12/under and 65/over. Reserve tickets by calling the Shea Theatre at 863-2281 Ext. 2. Tickets are also available at the World Eye Bookshop, Greenfield.

**SATURDAY, MAY 5TH**  
Concert at The Bookmill, Montague Center: Doug Hewitt Group and Same Old Blues. Dennis Shapson opens the show with classic ragtime blues played on his National steel guitar. Jon Lawless on harmonica. 8 p.m. \$7.

Wendell Full Moon Coffee House presents Steve Charney and The Amazing Harry. 7:30 p.m. \$6 - \$12 Call(978) 544-5557 or visit [www.wendellfullmoon.org](http://www.wendellfullmoon.org) for more info. Partial proceeds benefit the Swift River Elementary School. Wendell Full Moon Coffee House is located at the town common, in the Wendell Town Hall, Wendell.

Deja Brew, Wendell: NdigoMoon Jazz. 9 to 11 p.m. No cover.

**SUNDAY, MAY 6TH**  
Deja Brew, Wendell: Classical Piano Improv with Adam Bergeron. 7 to 9 p.m. No cover.

Amandla Community Chorus spring concert "Celebrating Our Youth" at Temple Israel, 27 Pierce St., Greenfield. Songs of justice and hope from various cultures and fea-

turing area youth singers. Info 773-8655. Sliding scale \$5-\$20.

**MONDAY, MAY 7TH**  
Last call for artists for the 3rd Annual Great Falls Art Fest! Sponsored by The Brick House Community Resource Center, Turners Falls The jury for the Great Falls Art Fest, holds its final jury session. This fabulous 3rd annual event in the village of Turners Falls is on **Saturday and Sunday, May 19th and 20th**. In an effort to present a festival that offers quality artwork and handcrafted items, the organizers of the Great Falls Art Fest are seeking artists in a wide variety of mediums. The Fest is also a stop on the Arts & Blooms Turners Falls Open Studio and Downtown Walking Tour, so the village will be filled with art lovers! Proceeds benefit The Brick House programs. Interested artists should call Karen Stinchfield at The Brick House 863-9576, or visit [www.thebrickhouseinc.org](http://www.thebrickhouseinc.org).

**SATURDAY, MAY 12TH**  
CD release party at The Pushkin. Veteran Valley performers Pat & Tex LaMountain celebrate the release of their sixth recording over the span of three decades. Concert and dance featuring Tex on acoustic guitar and Pat playing rhythm guitar and other area musicians. Sliding scale entrance fee of \$6 -10 at the door. CDs available. 8 p.m.

Concert at The Bookmill, Montague Center: *Electric Junkyard Gamelan*, original rhythm-driven music on invented instruments. 8 p.m. Food and drink available at the Lady Killigrew Pub and Café. \$10/\$12.

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY, MAY 18TH & 19TH**  
"Valley Idol" is back! Karaoke singing competition, \$1000 for grand prize winner, cash prizes for runners-up. Competition takes place over 4 nights at the Shea Theater, Turners Falls (May 18, 19, 26 and June 2). Proceeds benefit the Shea. For info, call 863-2281. Auditions on **Friday, May 18th** at 6 p.m. for the first 100 applicants only. \$35 registration fee applies to all contestants. Contestants must be at least 18 years old to audition. Singers will need to prepare a 90-second musical selection for audition. First night cut will be to 25 singers. Go to [www.theshea.org](http://www.theshea.org) to download registration and view contest information or leave a message at 863-2281. Proceeds benefit Shea Theater.

Turners Falls Open Studio and Downtown Walking Tour - a tri-annual extravaganza! Tour artists' studios, museums, and scrumptious eateries.

For more information call Karen at 863-9576 or Eileen at 863-9499

**THROUGH JUNE 17TH**  
Exhibit: John Willis' and Tom Young's "Recycled Realities and Other Stories". Haunting and surreal series of black and white images invite viewers into a vast paper landscape at Erving Paper Mill. Also Images from "View from the Rez" and "Timeline". Hallmark Museum of Contemporary Photography, 85 Avenue A, Turners Falls. Hours: Thursday through Sunday 1-5 p.m. 863-0009.

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**Fri., April 27th-Thrs., May 3rd**

1. **BLADES OF GLORY** PG13  
DAILY 7:00 9:30  
MAT. FRI, SAT, SUN 12:00 2:00 4:00

2. **MEET THE ROBINSONS** PG  
DAILY 7:00 9:30 in DTS sound  
MAT. FRI, SAT, SUN 12:30 3:30

2. **SPIDER-MAN 3** PG13  
THURSDAY MIDNIGHT!

4. **ARE WE DONE YET?** PG13  
DAILY 6:45  
MATINEE FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 3:15

4. **PERFECT STRANGER** R  
DAILY 9:15

5. **DISTURBIA** PG13  
DAILY 6:45 9:15  
MATINEE FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 3:15

6. **CONDEMNED** R  
DAILY 6:30 9:00 in DTS sound  
MATINEE FRI, SAT, SUN 12:00 3:00

7. **NEXT** PG13  
DAILY 6:30 9:00 in DTS sound  
MATINEE FRI, SAT, SUN 12:00 3:00

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**UNTIL APRIL 28TH**  
Museum of Industrial Heritage Display and Jack Coughlin Sketched Portraits in the Great Hall.  
**FRIDAY, APRIL 27th**  
Freaky for Frogs! Join Refuge staff for a hands-on activity to explore the life cycle of frogs, and learn about some of our local frogs we share our environment with. Geared towards young children. 10:30 a.m.  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 28TH**  
Week of the Child - The Pop Rockets Perform! We used to be The Juice Pops, now with two new members are The Pop Rockets! [www.poprocketsmusic.com](http://www.poprocketsmusic.com) 2 to 3:30 p.m.  
**THURSDAYS, MAY 3RD- 31ST**  
Learn the basics of fishing by attending this free 4 part course offered by Massachusetts Div. of Fisheries & Wildlife. Free and open to the public. Please pre-register Accessible facilities. 6 - 8 p.m.  
**FRIDAY, MAY 4TH**  
Struggles of a Migratory Bird. A presentation about the challenges our colorful migrants must face in order to return to the CT River Watershed this Spring. 10 a.m.  
**THURSDAY, MAY 3RD - 30TH**  
Nature Photography by JD Keating on display in the Great Hall. JD Keating has lived as a musician and artist in Western Massachusetts for over 20 years. He has produced an extensive body of photographs encompassing the Pioneer Valley.

**Great Falls Discovery Center - 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls - [www.greatfallsma.org](http://www.greatfallsma.org)**

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# Talent Show at the Montague Grange

**BY DAVID DETMOLD** - A down-home crowd showed up for a night of mainly local talent - some exhilarating, some less than exhilarating, but all in a good cause - at the first (annual?) Montague Community Talent Show, held at the Montague Grange on Sunday, April 22nd. Entertainers from throughout town showed up, though most lived within walking distance of the Grange. They danced and sang for a packed audience, and by the end of the evening a total of \$2,450 was raised for the Turn Children Education Fund c/o the Greenfield Savings Bank. This charitable cause was picked after the Turn children's mother, Tracy Turn, passed away unexpectedly last year.

MCs Brenden Taffe and Marina Goldman provided lively stage patter between acts; Taffe looked especially punk rock with his red Chuck Taylors, an indisputable sign of good taste, which made his propensity for telling bad jokes all the more puzzling. Organizer Deb Radway helped the many children in the hall to find good seats up front, or to usher them elsewhere when clog dancers or chanteuses on crutches needed a pathway to the stage.

Sheffield School principal Chip Wood got the proceedings off to a rousing start with a children's sing-a-long, featuring "The Green Grass Grows All Around." Susannah Branch provided a stimulating follow-up with her light cream and sugar rendition of Kristin Chenoweth's "Taylor the Latte Boy." Branch has a beautiful voice, and is quite inspirational to look at.

The Guiding Star Step Dancers kicked up a fuss with their staccato rendition of "Bicycle Built for Two," with four pairs of wooden clogs tapping out rhythm simultaneously on the hardwood floors. They even clicked their heels in the air a time or two without losing the beat.

Miette Muller offered a Dadaist version of "Somewhere over the Rainbow," perhaps the most unusual rendition of this song ever heard in public. Taffe preceded her performance with the following joke: "What is white and wears ribbons and goes jigaboom, jigaboom?" Stumped? "A Morris team in a minefield."

Jackie Beauchesne leant a touch of class to the stage with her heartfelt version of Eden Ahbez's "There Was a Boy," with its plaintive refrain, "The greatest



*The Raw Pickle Trio, an a cappella group from Dubrovnik, stopped by the Montague Grange for the talent show.*

thing you'll ever learn. Is just to love and be loved in return." Next, Lucia Mason, Ivy Moore and Bella Lattanzi appeared on stage and charmed all with their singing, particularly Bella, who wowed everyone in earshot with her original ode to her pet snail.

"You keep me occupied, When I am.... (will she remember the next word?).... bored.

I love you so, And that's all right." She could teach Morrissey a thing or two about songwriting. Or Lou Reed, for that matter.

Kate Spencer sounded like she had stepped right out of the radio from A Prairie Home Companion with the old Blue Grass, Gospel hymn "Angle Band." Susannah Branch provided seraphic harmonies.

Then, the MCs brought 13-year-old Kiara Sampson to the stage, and she floored 'em with an upbeat version of "Dancing in the Streets," sung to a perky doo-wop backing track.

Following intermission, the highlight of the show, literally and figuratively, was the shadow puppet theater provided by Jackson Blaine and friends, under the expert tutelage of Miguel Romero. These talented youngsters put on a witty pan-

tomime of the Afro-Cuban folktale, *Zomo the Rabbit*, displaying the trickster's exploits as he milked a wild cow, stole a tooth from a panther and charmed the scales off a giant fish.

Three young ladies from Dubrovnik sang songs that shepherdeses might sing following their flock at sunset along the Adriatic, although this thought caused some amusement among the songstresses themselves when the MC used it to introduce them. In any case, they sang beautifully, with thrilling harmonies on the last two songs. The first one, a bit more rough and ready, translated as follows:

"Oh, how beautiful it is in our area; The stars are shining and the bachelors are singing; Spread out your arms and dance next to me." Words as apt to bring a ready response in Montague as anywhere.

Their singing was one of the unexpected pleasures of the evening. Who were these Slavic beauties and whence came they to the Grange hall on a spring evening? Just one of the many fleeting mysteries of Montague.

All good things must come to an end, but not before a little stand-up comedy. Give them points for trying, but the crowd was perhaps sated with too many

children's songs to really appreciate Mike Epstein's schtick, or Holly Givens', that followed. Givens started her routine with a comparison between Las Vegas and our town, saying you see things on the Strip that you never come across in Montague. Except maybe on May Day, around the town common. Epstein regaled the audience with tales of his life as a surveyor. Not the first thing you'd normally expect to find in a comedy routine, but still. He gets credit for the best joke of the evening: "What's fluorescent yellow and sleeps two?" Give up? "A state highway truck." May Clark, who appeared to be about two, gave him a soft Bronx cheer throughout his entire performance.

Kayleigh Turn received a standing ovation from the crowd for her rendition of Hilary Duff's "Someone's Watching Over Me." Goldman, in a Joan Crawford voice, added accolades. Dave Kaynor and friends rounded out the evening with a song he wrote for Kayleigh's mother, called "Tracy's Turn."

Taffe, a Robin Williams-style character who kept the evening humming, also proved to be adept at shape-note singing, as he demonstrated on a song he wrote called "Chasm Lake." Taffe said he brought the idea of holding a variety show to Montague when he moved here last year, after participating in talent shows in his former home of Shrewsbury, VT for the past 15 years. But he credited Radway and Spencer with doing all the work of organizing the event. Let's hope they bring it back next year, for another worthy cause.

## SHOP

cont. from page 1

Benjamin Silva and Alexander Osborne of Northampton. Their work ranges from incredibly detailed pencil sketches to unique jewelry; from blown and fused glass to handcrafted rustic furniture; from one-of-a-kind pillows to one-of-a-kind paintings and collages. In addition, you will find restored vintage furniture, used guitars, and a variety of gently used household treasures. All this in a shop that is not much larger than my living room.

The Licatas are actively seeking additional artists and consignment goods to supplement the store's inventory. They'll be open Tuesday through Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Seth's long-time hankering to own his own business kicked into high gear when a "For Rent" sign appeared in the window of the recently vacated storefront, former home of Ed's Barber Shop, which had moved down the Avenue to its old home in the storefront of the Moltenbrey Building. A call was made, a deal was struck, a grand cleanup began, artist friends were solicited and in a few short weeks the glimmering of an idea has led to a grand opening. Seth admits the original plan to open a guitar store required a daunting capital investment, so you won't see too many guitars in the shop at this time. You will however be able to get guitar and bass strings, and in the future the shop hopes to act as a distributor for local music. And they'll be open on Sundays! (It appears that guitar strings are most likely to break on Saturday night, when nary a music store is open for business).

Come down and see the eclectic treasures on display, and greet the newest arrivals to the downtown business district. You can reach Seth and Eva at: 413-512-1434, or go their website at [www.sethandevas.8k.com](http://www.sethandevas.8k.com).



**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ERVING POLICE LOG**

## Breaking and Entering at Copper Angel

<p><b>Wednesday 4-11</b> 2:10 p.m. Motorist reports toddler in walker in middle of street in front of daycare at Strachan and Warner Streets. Spoke with daycare provider who claimed to have no knowledge of incident.</p> <p><b>Thursday 4-12</b> 1:00 p.m. Assisted EMT's with a medical emergency at a Warner Street address. Transported to hospital by BHA.</p> <p><b>Saturday 4-14</b> 11:45 a.m. Passing motorist called to report a woman beside a white van on the side of the road waving frantically for help, two or three miles east of the bridge. Patrolled Route 2 to the Orange town line. Unable to locate white van or woman.</p>	<p><b>Sunday 4-15</b> 10:45 a.m. Report of a breaking and entering at The Copper Angel. Back door hasp broken. Entry was made; nothing reported missing.</p> <p><b>Monday 4-16</b> 9:30 a.m. River Street resident turned in marijuana pipe found in area. 3:45 p.m. Report of a motor vehicle accident on Route 2 in Farley. No personal injuries. Subject arrested for operating under the influence by Massachusetts State Police.</p> <p><b>Thursday 4-19</b> 9:00 p.m. Observed injured otter on Route 2. Animal appeared to be hit by car. Officer ended otter's suffering.</p> <p><b>Friday 4-20</b> 1:20 a.m. Report of suspicious vehicle in Box Car parking lot. Arrested</p>
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