



The Montague Reporter

Save the Box Car

BY IVAN USSACH ERVING - The highlight of this week's selectboard meeting (April 4th) was a visit and urgent appeal for help by a small group of townspeople supporting Toni Wilson's effort to purchase the Boxcar Restaurant on Main Street. Jeff Dubay made an initial presentation for the group, which included Joanne Taylor, Ms. Wilson and another woman. Dubay began by saying the Boxcar Restaurant might be sold to Dunkin Donuts, with the likelihood that the historic building would be demolished and replaced by the standard franchise design.

Dubay, who along with Taylor is a planning

board member, said he and several other townspeople "got alarmed" when they heard of the possible sale, which could happen very soon. Speaking first of the building's historic importance, he said the former train depot station is 150 years old and "has not been altered much. With Erving on the way to rebuilding its center," he stressed the importance of maintaining such a historic property.

Wilson's current lease on the restaurant is about up, Dubay said, and the owners want to sell. Wilson is currently pursuing a loan from the Franklin County

see ERVING pg 9

Schools Building Paths of Learning and Art



Dakota Albano, 12 and Christina Mateo, 11, both fifth graders at Sheffield Elementary School, stand in front of the designs they created for the school's pathway.

BY NICOLE KAPISE TURNERS FALLS - Hillcrest Elementary School and Sheffield Elementary School are friendly neighbors. Facing each other from across sports fields and playgrounds, they are separated by fences. Soon, however, thanks to a \$14,000 grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the two schools will be connected by more than just community spirit.

In a project entitled "Celebrating the Circle of Life Through Art" planning committees are hard at work designing an inter-school pathway, to

be constructed approximately in June of this year.

Artist-in-Residence David Fichter is working with student-led design teams to create a series of murals that will line the path connecting the two schools. Hillcrest students will paint murals focusing on the family, while the Sheffield murals will detail the history of Montague, up to the present time.

Student leaders from grades four and five at Sheffield drew landscape plans featuring their ideas of how the path should look. Each sketch see SCHOOLS pg 9

DISAPPEARING WINDMILL

BY JOE PARZYCH

TURNERS FALLS - If you travel east down Route 2 past the Mobil station in Gill, a windmill appears to be turning somewhere in the vicinity of Chappell's garage. The windmill disappears as you get closer. This is not a mirage. The windmill exists, only it is not a windmill and it is not in Gill. It is across the river near the Franklin Technical School, next to the offices of Yankee Environmental Systems, Inc.-YES, for short. "The 'windmill' does not generate electricity; it is a scientific instrument measuring wind direction and velocity," Mark Beaubien said. He is one of the founders of YES.

YES develops, assembles and markets instruments to measure a wide range of environmental conditions. The firm has focused on developing reliable instruments to solve difficult problems of measuring various atmospheric phenomena such as temperature, moisture, atmospheric (UV) radiation, acid rain, global warming, and weather. A group of concerned scientists has just released a report that mankind has deforested the land, polluted the air, land and oceans to the point that future generations will not be able to feed themselves. YES has concentrated their efforts on monitoring



PARZYCH PHOTO

our environment.

"Measuring winds is tricky because upper atmosphere winds may blow in a totally different direction than winds closer to the ground," Beaubien said. This information is critical for homeland security in planning for evacuation in the event of the discharge of a "dirty" bomb, or the radiation plume from the malfunction of an antiquated atomic plant pushed past its original design, like the one in Vernon.

"The city of Boston had YES instruments deployed to measure winds around the city, before the Democratic convention, to determine the wind direction and velocity," Beaubien said. "There was talk of a 'dirty bomb' being detonated in a major city, at the time. Our instruments calculated (the potential) dispersal of contaminants."

Unfortunately, Entergy has not felt the need to deploy YES instruments to determine the course of a plume of radiation from the Vermont nuclear plant. Apparently, there are few politicians living in Franklin County who need to be protected, and Entergy officials live down South.

If you take an airline flight, YES

see WINDMILL pg 6

Gill Weighs in on Nuclear Waste

BY DAVID DETMOLD

Once again, on Monday April 4th, River Road resident Bart Bales asked the selectboard to call for increased safety measures at the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant. Gill is within the 10-mile evacuation zone of the 32-year-old boiling water reactor, located on the banks of the Connecticut River in Vernon, VT. Vermont Yankee's owner, Entergy Nuclear, is engaged in a formal permitting process with the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) seeking approval to boost power production at the plant to 120% of its original design capacity. Entergy also reportedly plans to ask for a 20-year extension of Vermont Yankee's operating license, now set to expire in 2012. The issue of where to store the plant's spent fuel rods - tubes of enriched uranium that

remain lethally radioactive and must be isolated from the environment for tens of thousands of years - is of growing concern.

Bales said there are approximately 25,000,000 Curies of radioactive Cesium, for example, in the spent fuel already contained in the storage pool on the seventh floor of the main reactor building, housed beneath an industrial steel roof. During the Chernobyl accident, by comparison, 2.5 million Curies of radioactive Cesium were released, rendering areas of the Ukraine uninhabitable, and leaving measurable traces throughout Europe. "It's a dangerous pool of stuff," said Bales.

"It's not storable," said selectboard member Phil Maddern, who expressed surprise the spent fuel rods were stored above

see GILL pg 14

PET OF THE WEEK**Spice Girl****Spice**

Spice is a two-year-old short hair cat in need of a good home. Looking for a little spice in your life? Step right up; she is just waiting for you! Spice is a diminutive tortoiseshell who likes other cats very much; if you've got a lonely cat at home she'd be more than happy to make friends. She would also be good with gentle children and maybe even dogs, she's so easy-going. To learn more about adopting Spice, please contact the Dakin Animal Shelter in Leverett at 548-9898 or via email at info@dakinshelter.org.

ERVING LIBRARY NEWS**Award Winning Artist to Give Pastel Workshop**

BY BETH BAZLER

ERVING - The Erving Public Library will host award winning artist Gregory John Maichack, on Tuesday, April 26th, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Maichack will offer an Introduction to Pastel Painting Workshop, for people ages 13 and older. Please call the library at 413-423-3348 to pre-register for this free class. All supplies provided; please bring a photo.

Maichack will offer an engaging, hands-on experience of basic pastel painting, as well as advanced techniques. All will try their hand at starting a pastel painting and will receive help tailored to their projects, whether landscape, still-life or portraiture.

Maichack will demonstrate the essentials of painting with pastels, and will display original pastel artwork to illustrate his talk. A demo of expressive pastel painting will detail how to achieve luminous color, volume, structuring and engaging composition, along with tips on creating impact.

Holyoke resident Gregory John Maichack is a portraitist and painter working primarily in pastels. Winner of several awards, including the Award of Merit from the Bennington Center for the Arts: Impressions of New England Show 2003. His work is represented by galleries from Kennebunkport, Maine to San Francisco, California.

Maichack is a faculty member of the Quadrangle Museum School at the Museum of Fine Arts in Springfield, MA and of the Guild Studio School at Eastworks. He also teaches adult education programs at local community colleges.

This project is supported in part by a grant from the Erving Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council. The Erving Public Library is located on Route 63, just south of Route 2. Library hours are Mondays 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 5 to 8 p.m., Tuesdays 3 to 6 p.m., Wednesdays 1 to 4 p.m., and Thursdays 5 to 8 p.m.

FACES & PLACES

Turners Falls's own Jeannette Paulin with the 2004 World Series trophy won by the Boston Red Sox. Paulin was born in 1918, the last time the Sox won the World Championship, and is a lifelong Red Sox fan. This picture was taken while the trophy visited the town at the Great Falls Discovery Center, April 3rd, the day before her 87th birthday.

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

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

Friday & Saturday, April 1st and 2nd - Preschool Adventure: 10 - 11 a.m. Preschool children with adults are invited to join activities with Suzanne de Lesdernier as

she explores matter at either or both events.

Saturday, April 9th - Trees in the Valley: 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Visitors are invited to join Sue Cloutier of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service to learn about important native trees in the watershed.

Saturday, April 16th - Drawing from Nature: 10 a.m. - noon, Annie Chappell, artist

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

Saturday, April 23rd - Invasive Plant Control: 10

a.m. - 4 p.m.

Saturday, April 30th - Leaping Lily Pads: 11 a.m.

Families with young children are invited to join Susan Russo of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service in activities to learn about a frog's life cycle at the Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls..

For further information, please call 413-863-3221.

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Advertising and copy deadline is Tuesday at NOON.

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

Subscription Rates:
\$20 for 6 months

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES April 11th - April 15th

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

Monday, 11th
9-11 a.m. Foot Screening. Nail trim and foot soak offered.

Donation of \$5 requested. Reservations necessary.

9:45 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11 a.m. PACE Aerobics

Tuesday, 12th
9:30 a.m. Tai Chi
10 a.m. Writing Classes

1 p.m. Painting Class with Louise Minks, instructor

Wednesday, 13th
9-11 a.m. Foot Screening. Nail trim and foot soak offered.

Donation \$5 requested. Reservations necessary.

10:15 a.m. Senior Aerobics
12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday, 14th
9-11 a.m. Health Fair at St. Anne's Community Room. Advance registration appreciated. Fasting for cholesterol screening.

1 p.m. Pitch

Friday, 15th
9:45 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. PACE Aerobics

Deadline for potluck dinner sign-up.

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

Monday, 11th
9:30 a.m. Exercise
9:45 a.m. Library
12:30 p.m. Pitch

Tuesday, 12th
9 a.m. Aerobics
9:30 a.m. COA Meeting
12:30 p.m. Oil Painting

Wednesday, 13th
10 a.m. Line Dancing
12:15 p.m. Bingo

Thursday, 14th
9 a.m. Aerobics

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

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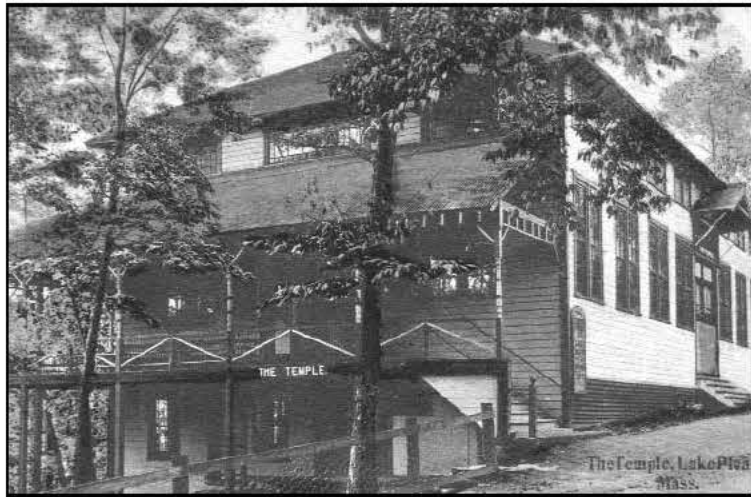
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Scenes from the Villages

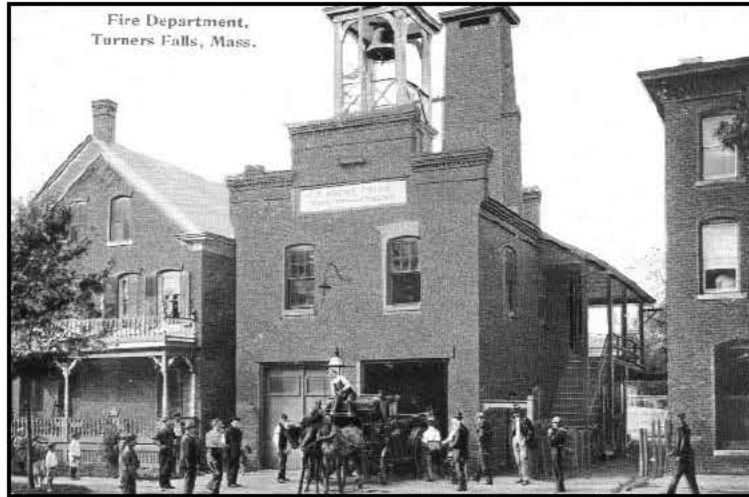
Lillian Fiske, of the Montague Historical Society, dropped by with some great old picture postcards the other day. Here are a few of them, showing scenes from yesteryear in the five villages of Montague. All the cards are from the collection of George Dyer, courtesy of the Montague Historical Society.



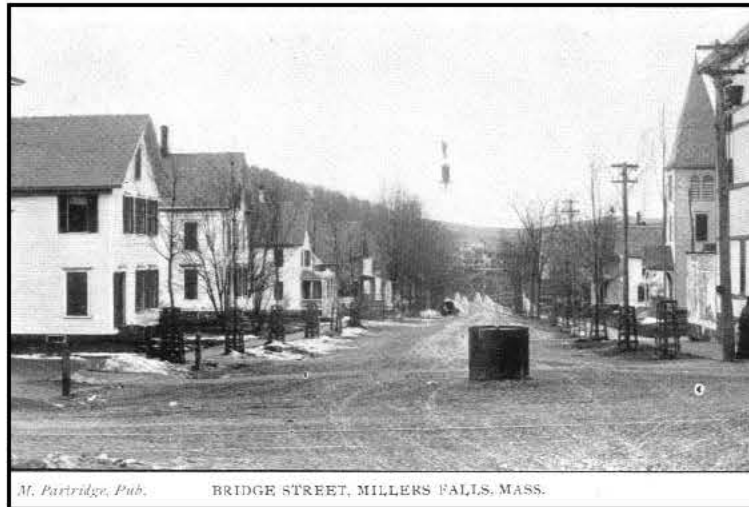
MONTAGUE CITY ROD COMPANY, MONTAGUE CITY, MASS.
Montague City Rod Company. Post card made for W. E. and W. A. Burnham, Montague City.



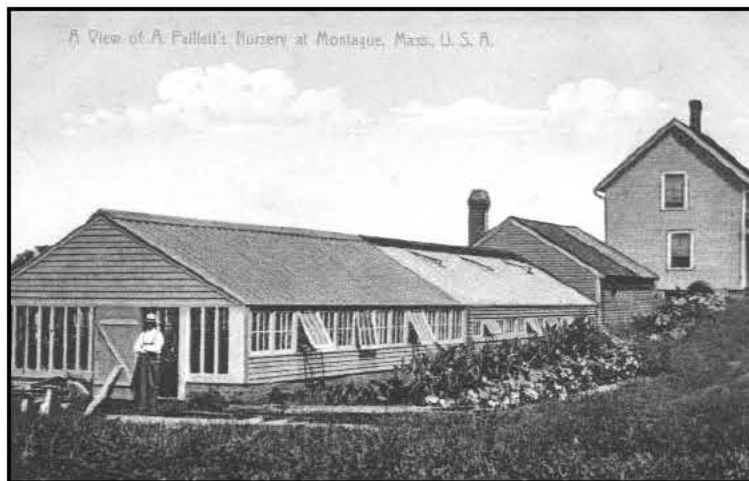
The Temple in Lake Pleasant. Dated 1915; published by L. E. Henry, Lake Pleasant.



Fire Department, Turners Falls, Mass.
Turners Falls Fire Department. Post card was mailed in 1911.



M. Partridge, Pub. BRIDGE STREET, MILLERS FALLS, MASS.
Bridge Street, Millers Falls. Post card published by E. M. Partridge.



A. View of A. Paillett's Nursery at Montague, Mass., U.S.A.
A Paillett's Nursery, Montague Center. Published by A. E. Martel, Turners Falls. This nursery, built by Auguste Paillett, circa 1893, was on Turners Falls Road, where the Bernardo horse farm was located for many years.

Stream Fluctuations and Amphibian Crossings

The next meeting of the Millers River Watershed Team will take place Tuesday, April 12th, at 1 p.m. at the Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main Street, Athol. Discussion items will include an update on the recently observed fluctuations in a stretch of the Millers River above Birch Hill Dam that are affecting dam operations, and identification of critical road stretches for amphibian crossings in the watershed and North Quabbin region. Watershed Team meetings are held monthly and are open to the public. For more information contact Ivan Ussach at (978) 724-0108, email ivan@millersriver.net; or call the Millers River Environmental Center at (978) 248-9491.

GILL-MONTAGUE --- GALA ---

On Saturday, April 9th at 8 p.m. at the Turners Falls High School Theater, the Gill-Montague Education Fund will host a Gala to benefit educational programs for Gill-Montague students. Tickets for the Gala are \$10 and are available at Equi's, Scotty's, all Gill-Montague schools, and World Eye Books in Greenfield. Please come and support our schools, and enjoy an evening of great music with family and friends.

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

BAKED STUFFED CHICKEN DINNER
Saturday April 16th
5:15 p.m.
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Adults: \$9
Children: \$5
Tickets: 863-2585
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Open Swim - Open House
Montague Parks & Recreation Department
MPRD would like to announce an Open House for their Open Swim program on Wednesday, April 13th at the Turners Falls High School Indoor Swimming Pool. Open House will be held from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. for Family Swim, and from 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. for Adult Lap Swim. Attendees will receive free admission for either session. Open Swim program information, as well as information on the benefits of swimming will be provided for those in attendance. For more information contact MPRD at 863-3216.

Put Play in Your Day!
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The Montague Reporter

24 3rd Street, Turners Falls, Mass. 01376

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"The Voice of the Villages"

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August, 2002

Spring Cleanup

On a sunny April afternoon this week, with a cool breeze blowing through the open windows of the town hall meeting room, fourteen people got together to plan a spring cleanup. The head of the DPW was there, along with the town administrator and the tree warden. Downtown business owners were there, along with the children's librarian, representatives of the Brick House, the Great Falls Discovery Center, the Housing Authority, some folks from downtown and some from the Hill. They had an ambitious agenda. The question asked was how to make the downtowns of Millers Falls and Turners Falls, and some of the main connecting roads of Montague look attractive again, not just for local residents, but for the many visitors we hope to see exploring our town in the coming months, as the Discovery Center, the Shea Theater, the Fish Ladder, the Art Walks, the farmstands, nurseries and specialty shops are augmented by the bike path construction getting underway along the canal, the new Hallmark Photography Museum and the soon to commence streetscape improvements in Millers Falls to create a draw for tourists regionally. Yet, with all the town of Montague has to offer, the first impression many visitors gain when they arrive on Avenue A is that of neglected planters, litter strewn walks, and the ever present calling cards of irresponsible dog owners. These are the apathetic hallmarks of a town with low self esteem, and it will take more than fourteen

well meaning citizens to alter them. It will take the combined effort of town government, the business community, and the neighborhood residents themselves to clean up our villages and help our downtowns thrive once more.

Representatives from all these groups were there that day, and they laid plans to replant the planters, bring in water to irrigate them, form litter patrols, and reach out to other store owners to take more responsibility for the appearance of the sidewalks in front of their businesses. The idea of a contest for the best planter was discussed. The group plans future meetings, and they will need help. Call Michael Bosworth at the Brick House, 863-9576, and lend a hand.

One man who would have appreciated their efforts, and helped in any way he could, will be sadly missing from our streetscape this spring. Sam Corey, the irrepressible veteran who zipped along on his wheelchair every day from Cup O Joe to his apartment overlooking the canal on Third Street, died last week after a long illness. He was a kind and gentle man who exemplified much of what is good in Turners Falls in his kindness and generosity in the midst of adversity. He knew most local residents by name, always had a good word in greeting, and bore his own trials with a stoicism that is hardly unusual in our community. He would have loved to sit and admire a sidewalk clear of impediments, seen the newly planted flowers bloom, and take pride in Montague again.



ARIEL JONES PHOTO

Sam Corey

Bubba & Carmine

(Sages of Barton Cove)

CARTOON BY DENIS BORDEAUX

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Food Drive Thanks

Thanks for the wonderful coverage you provided on the Richard Holbrook Memorial Food Drive. Please know that your support was instrumental in enabling us to deliver 1,090 pounds of non-perishables (as well as a \$100 check) to the food pantry.

Despite being familiar with the Survival Center's mission, I found the inset on the Survival Center to be very informative. I am sure that the thrift shop and food pantry will benefit in the months to come as a result of the increased public awareness provided by your

coverage. Again our most sincere thanks.

-Rebecca Frost
Northfield

We welcome your letters.

Letters must be 400 words or less and must be signed. Please include your name, address and phone number. Deadline is noon on Tuesday.

Montague Reporter

24 3rd St Turners Falls, MA 01376

(413) 863-8666 FAX (413) 863-3050

reporter@montaguema.net

American Dead in Iraq as of 4/6/05

US FORCES
Casualties in Iraq
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The Couple that Rides Together Abides Together

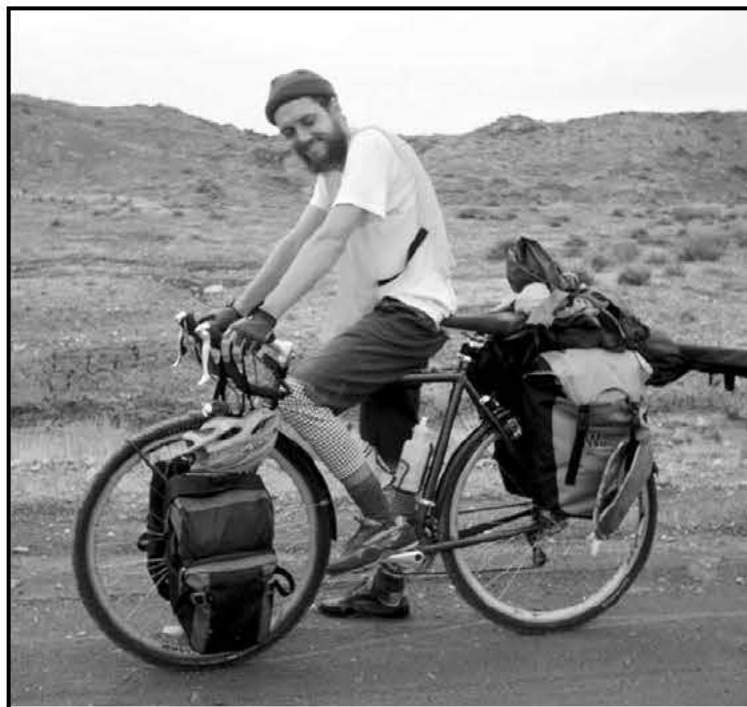
BY KATHLEEN LITCHFIELD CHARLEMONT - While bicycling 5,700 miles around the southern perimeter of the United States, Jeremy Latch and Catherine Ulitsky ate breakfast with a cowboy named Bobby Bell in Arizona, enjoyed a spaghetti dinner with homemade sauce prepared by Father Guido, a Roman Catholic priest

and we wanted to be outdoors for an extended period of time and to travel and meet people," said Ulitsky. "So traveling by bicycle seemed to fill all of our needs in terms of making this a journey of some kind, being self-sufficient and self-powered. And just being, at least in terms of locomotion, fairly autonomous."

Park in New Jersey. On touring bicycles weighted down with panniers, camping gear and jugs of water, the couple cycled through the central part of New Jersey and crossed into Delaware on a ferry. Riding along the Delaware seashore for a spell, they reached Maryland and spent a week basking in the sun and swimming at Assateague Island, a 32-mile barrier island known for the herds of wild ponies that roam its beaches. Continuing south, they rode through the Chesapeake Peninsula, west to Richmond, Virginia and then back to the coastal waters of North Carolina's Outer Banks. After Charleston, South Carolina, where a woman they met took them out for a pancake breakfast one morning, they visited Savannah, Georgia and cycled into Florida, where they met long-time cyclist Raphael Parker outside of Jacksonville.

The four days they spent cycling alongside Parker, said Ulitsky, were a continuous inspiration to her along the often challenging trip. Parker was in the midst of cycling 10,000 miles in the United States, China and Indonesia, talking to young men and boys about what they could do to prevent violence against women (visit www.tourforequality.org), said Ulitsky.

From Jacksonville, the couple continued south into the Florida Keys, where Ulitsky celebrated her 28th birthday



Jeremy Latch

watching the sun rising and setting at Bahia Honda State Park "while floating on crystal blue waters," said Latch.

After two weeks in the Everglades, where they canoed and kayaked, they continued along the Florida coast alongside the Gulf of Mexico. Past Alabama, where they saw firsthand the hurricane devastation their families up north experienced on television, the couple rode through Mississippi, where they hit the 3,000-mile point of their trip. They spent Christmas Day south of Baton Rouge and cycled on to Brownsville, Texas, the southernmost point where the U.S. meets Mexico. Following the borderline between these countries, Latch

and Ulitsky camped at Big Bend National Park in Texas for awhile, took a day off when four inches of snow fell in the desert, and then cycled northwest through El Paso and into New Mexico.

"It's desolate out there," said Latch, recalling how they carried enough water to last 20 or 30 miles to the next available site to refill their containers. The only people they saw during this long, hot and dry stretch were Army personnel in tanks riding around the desert, he said, although they quite enjoyed the sometimes 30-foot tall Saguaro cactus - native to the Sonoran Desert they were cycling through. They reached California and ended their journey in Carlsbad, where Ulitsky has family.

Throughout the journey, they averaged 60 miles of bicycling a day, camped out 99 percent of the time and lived outside in all kinds of weather. They suffered through flat tires, steep hills, cold mornings, rainy days and avoided being hit by logging trucks on the sides of busy roads, said Latch. Some cities they visited were very bicycle-friendly while others were completely unprepared for the two-wheeled touring vehicles.

Overall, both Latch and Ulitsky returned with a deeper faith and love for each other as well as a new appreciation for the greater community in the country.

"We learned a great deal about different areas of the

see BIKE TRIP pg 6



Catherine Ulitsky

from Malta, in Alabama, watched the presidential debates on televisions in pubs and spent the day before Christmas Eve, 2004 sleeping in the warm laundry room of a trailer park outside Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

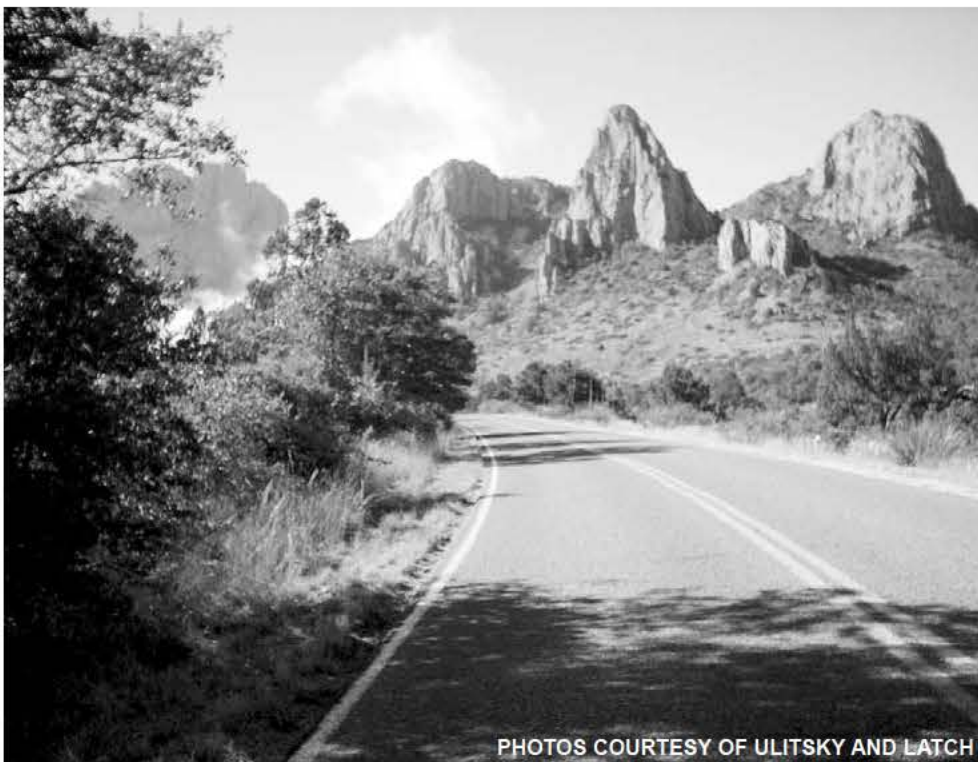
In addition to the incredible people this former Turners Falls couple met during their six-month bicycling excursion from New Jersey to Carlsbad, California, and the physical and emotional exertion required to complete such an ambitious undertaking, the trip brought the young couple closer together. Shortly after their return on February 24th, Latch and Ulitsky, now residents of Charlemont, engaged to be married.

Latch, former Brick House Youth Programs and Hot Spot Teen Center Coordinator in Turners Falls, had dreamed of traveling, but continually put it off to pursue his education. Last August, he and Ulitsky packed everything inside their downtown Turners apartment and hauled it into storage at their parents' homes in upstate New York.

"We were both at a point in our lives where we were looking for a change of some kind,

Latch and Ulitsky met in high school outside Albany, N.Y., and following college where he studied sculpture and she studied printmaking, the couple lived together in Millers Falls, Wendell and Turners Falls.

They began their life-changing journey on August 17th of last year at Cheesecake State



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ULITSKY AND LATCH

Chisord Basin in Big Bend National Park in Texas

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BIKE TRIP

continued from pg 5

country and what various communities are concerned about, and just saw so many similarities that people are concerned with everywhere," said Latch, including water, politics and the quality of life in their immediate communities.

"One of the most important aspects of our trip, beyond the cycling and the wonder of being able to experience and see so many beautiful natural settings, we were constantly in awe and humbled by people's incredible generosity and kindness," said Ulitsky. "We met many people who extended themselves to us in friendship and in hospitality, and that was truly an incredible experience."

Latch, who is already dreaming of what the next trip will hold in store, had similar thoughts.

"It was a great ride. I tried to just be thankful a lot and I continue to try. Here, you begin to take things for granted because it's warm and you can cook on a four-burner stove and drive anywhere, so quick, and get food. So I just try to remember how blessed we are," he said.

The couple also discovered a new appreciation for home, and plan to stick around for awhile. Latch works at Carriage House Designs in Turners Falls and Ulitsky is working as a printer.

"Throughout our trip we found ourselves loving where we were traveling but also developing a real appreciation for home," she said. "It became very clear that we both identified with the northeast and New England. We realized just how special all the things about this area were to us and are enjoying being back."



NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Big Brothers, Big Sisters Needed

BY DAVID DETMOLD - Christine Chmielewski, the new director of Big Brother, Big Sisters of Franklin County introduced herself to the Montague selectboard on Monday night, April 4th, and made an appeal for volunteers to meet the need for mentoring and companionship of some of the 65 young people on her organization's waiting list.

"Many of you have heard about us. Perhaps you have volunteered. You know what a great experience it is. Since the 1960s, the volunteers have really made a difference in the lives of children in Franklin County, by spending a few hours a week together with their 'littles', gardening, canoeing on Barton Cove, preparing Mothers Day

gifts for their moms, whatever you may enjoy doing." Chmielewski urged her audience to recall role models that had an important influence on their lives when they were growing up. "It felt good to know we had someone who mattered, whether a parent, a teacher, a coach, who helped us become who we are today."

Big Brothers and Big Sisters can return that gift to young people in our community who are in need of support and mentoring. To find out more about volunteering, Chmielewski asked those interested to call 413-772-0915.

In other news, town administrator Frank Abbondanzio informed the board that more money would be required to

pay ComCast to wire the Franklin County Tech School for a live feed for cable television. The board had set aside \$36,488 to perform this work some years ago, from cable user fees, but the recent estimate from ComCast put the tally higher, at \$39,717.

Jean Hebden asked why Montague cable users should foot the bill for a school that serves students from throughout the county. "Good question," replied board chair Pat Allen.

Town planner Robin Sherman notified the board that construction on the canalside bike path would commence next week. Expect some trees along the right of way to be cut down in preparation for the path.

Join Co-op Power, a Renewable Energy Cooperative!!!

Attend a free informational meeting and find out how to join a new renewable energy cooperative and secure products and services from local, consumer owned renewable energy facilities such as Northeast Biodiesel. Attend either: Monday, April 11th, 6:30 p.m., upstairs at Green Fields Market, 144 Main Street in Greenfield or Wednesday, April 13th, 7:00 p.m. at First Churches, 129 Main Street in Northampton For more info call 413-774-7599x121

WINDMILL

continued from pg 1

instruments may make you safer along with making the environment safer. "YES has designed simple, reliable instruments for the calculation of the need for airplane de-icing," Beaubien said. "Airports want to

keep passengers safe. De-icing is expensive and the antifreeze - ethylene glycol - is a pollutant that must be contained and cleaned up. The airlines do not want the expense of unnecessary de-icing. Often planes are de-iced when it is unnecessary and not de-iced when it is necessary. De-icing at the wrong time may actually make the plane ice up in flight. YES has instruments that take the guesswork out of decision-making that makes flying safer and keeps airlines solvent. YES instruments are at work at JFK, Newark, and LaGuardia airports. Bradley does not use them. Often de-icing decisions are made from visual observations at ground level; that's not what's happening in the upper air, and the decision is often wrong."

Asked why YES was founded, Beaubien gave a short history of the company.

"My brother Art and I started the company in 1989 in the basement of our parent's home in Montague, with the help of our father," he said. Their father, David Beaubien, is a

former employee of E E & G, who had an onsite hand in directing the cleanup of Three Mile Island after that atomic plant malfunctioned. He and his sons saw the need for accurate and reliable instruments that measure a variety of atmospheric conditions.

YES has come up with a simple, reliable snow and rain gauge with long-term stability. It has no moving parts prone to freezing or malfunction. Nicknamed "The Hotplate", the high-quality gauge resembles a couple of frisbees, back to back, with a heating element in the center. The company has state-of-the-art instruments that measure UV radiation, ozone depletion, acid rain, humidity, water vapor and other environmental conditions that affect us.

Ozone depletion has resulted in increased UV radiation. That's why you get sunburned more easily, and why skin cancer and respiratory ailments are on the increase. Acid rain is killing our forests, and the present administration seems bent on clearing our national parks

of trees, to prevent forest fires. That's unfortunate, because trees take in carbon dioxide, which is a growing component of the air we breathe, and give off oxygen, a diminishing percentage of the atmosphere.

You can view YES pyranometers and shadowband radiometers in the USDA UV-B Monitoring Program, operated by Colorado State University, by checking out: uvb.nrel.colostate.edu/UVB. Or you can visit instruments located at Turners Falls using their YESDAS WebAccess facility. "We develop and design the instruments, get the components made, assemble and market them," Beaubien said. "We use as many local companies as possible. Kustom Autobody in Turners does painting for us, and East Coast Chopper Works in Greenfield does our high tech plastic coating. We like to think globally but act locally."



Art Opening at GCC Downtown Center

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


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The Cup

This chalice, made of burnished gold, when not in use rests in the place of honor high on our old oak cupboard in our dining room here in Montague. A modest thing, the cup, with a small cross on the base in Chinese red, in the center of which there rests an even more modest diamond, which once adorned the engagement ring I placed on my wife's fourth finger forty years ago there among the unicorns sequestered in the Cloisters, who to this day look out over the fabled Hudson toward New Jersey. This was the same ring her girlfriends used to say was oh so cute and so adorable, and which seemed to wince under a Long Island canapé light. And to tell the truth, I'd be the first to go along with them, though the ring cost me twelve back-breaking weeks hauling bales of hay and rank manure down at Baumann's Day Camp in Merrick the summer after college, armed with a degree in English and--except for her-zero prospects for the future. A week before I left home to begin teaching in the inhospitable Chenango Valley, we drove down to Canal Street to a jeweler her father knew, where we found the biggest diamond two hundred and twenty bucks could buy.

Understand: I did what I could, and she, for her part, always made it seem as if it were enough, love filling the gap twelve twenties could not supply. And here's the thing: over the years, as I learned to make a living, and that a good one, I used to joke about the ring, though it strikes me as I tell this she never did. A year after I bought it we got married, exchanging vows I surely tested with the years. In time we watched our three sons elbow their way into the world, and saw our eldest enter Loyola's Company to become at last a priest. And as the time for ordination loomed, and the awful scandals broke his heart and ours, she took the little ring she had for so long treasured to a jeweler's down in Brooklyn, and had the baby diamond soldered to the cross there on the cup, a sign of something good that held against the years, where now, when the late summer sun spreads like blood-red wine across the dining room, it makes the little diamond shine, until it says straight out whatever diamonds say in that language only light and diamonds know.

15 August 2002

- Paul Mariani
Montague Center

Unlike My New Shirt

I do not breathe well.
I wrinkle, and am deeply stained.
It will not rub out.

After lunch
You run through me like a flaw
In fabric.

- Mark Rosenberg
Leeds

"In Thin Air"
for Ben & Judy

Sun rises
on the new laptop

Something must be learned
again today, if only

That distances differ
and confusion can fall

Between the ladder and the floor
sidewalk and door

In the sun's long shadow
sorrow finds no postponement

Nor pain, nor cessation of pain
the old ardor takes on the arduous

Together they dance
with ever tender glance

If the door closed
or light seeped through the crack

Or the little dog barked
and was not liked

Still there is new work to do
the strive for old perfection

To balance us on the long ride
back to what we insist is home

You teach us a phrase of
Shakespeare's
apropos of what's disappeared

Yet cupped between two palms
clasped tightly on the ride

Is all that is-
here and (in)visible as air

- Patricia Pruitt
Turners Falls

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

psalm of hollow extremities

if this psalm
were the ballad

of the 3rd st. alley,
it would begin

each wednesday
with the outrageous cry

of a tiny finch.
then I would put my head

in your mouth and ask you
to tongue my hair --

the world demands
our attention.

our discontent
demands everything else:

the dog, a clear
blue lake, the sun

trapped in the river,
the breeze

ripping it out.

- Christopher Janke
Turners Falls



ARIEL JONES

War

In the morning it was there,
looming over the valley;
black, cold, austere.
What was it for?
What would it do?
All the people of the valley
wondered and worried.
One thousand feet of ebony,
no sign, no entity.
Only a brooding sentence
of some unknown enemy,
waiting as Burnham Wood.

Each citizen paid homage
as its passing shadow
moved across their day
like a cloud.
They passed the hours
in silence,
as best they could.
As evening approached

the silver sun was cloaked
by its shroud.
When darkness dropped
it loomed over all -
the darkest part of doom -
until the moon rose up
in relief.

So at midnight it sat;
red flaming, fat,
on the obelisk's tip.
And from the swordlike edge
it seemed the sky had bled.
Then a dreadful voice came forth,
enough to wake the dead.
"Send me all your children!
Bring them to my doors!
For their hands are idle
and my survival
depends on them."

- Doug Turner
New Salem

Andrew Varnon wrote "A Bridge Detour" while living upstream from the Bookmill by the Sawmill River in Montague Center.

Patricia Pruitt is a member of the Montague Select Board. Her most recent chapbook is Windows.

Mark Rosenberg is from Charlottesville, VA and has taught at the UVA Writers' Workshop and at UMass Amherst, where he is working towards an MFA. He lives in Leeds, MA.

Christopher Janke's poems have appeared in Harper's among other places; he is Senior Editor of Slope Editions and owns Suzee's Third St. Laundry in Turners.

David Detmold lives on 4th Street and edits a small weekly newspaper in Turners Falls.

CONTRIBUTOR'S NOTES:

the poetry page



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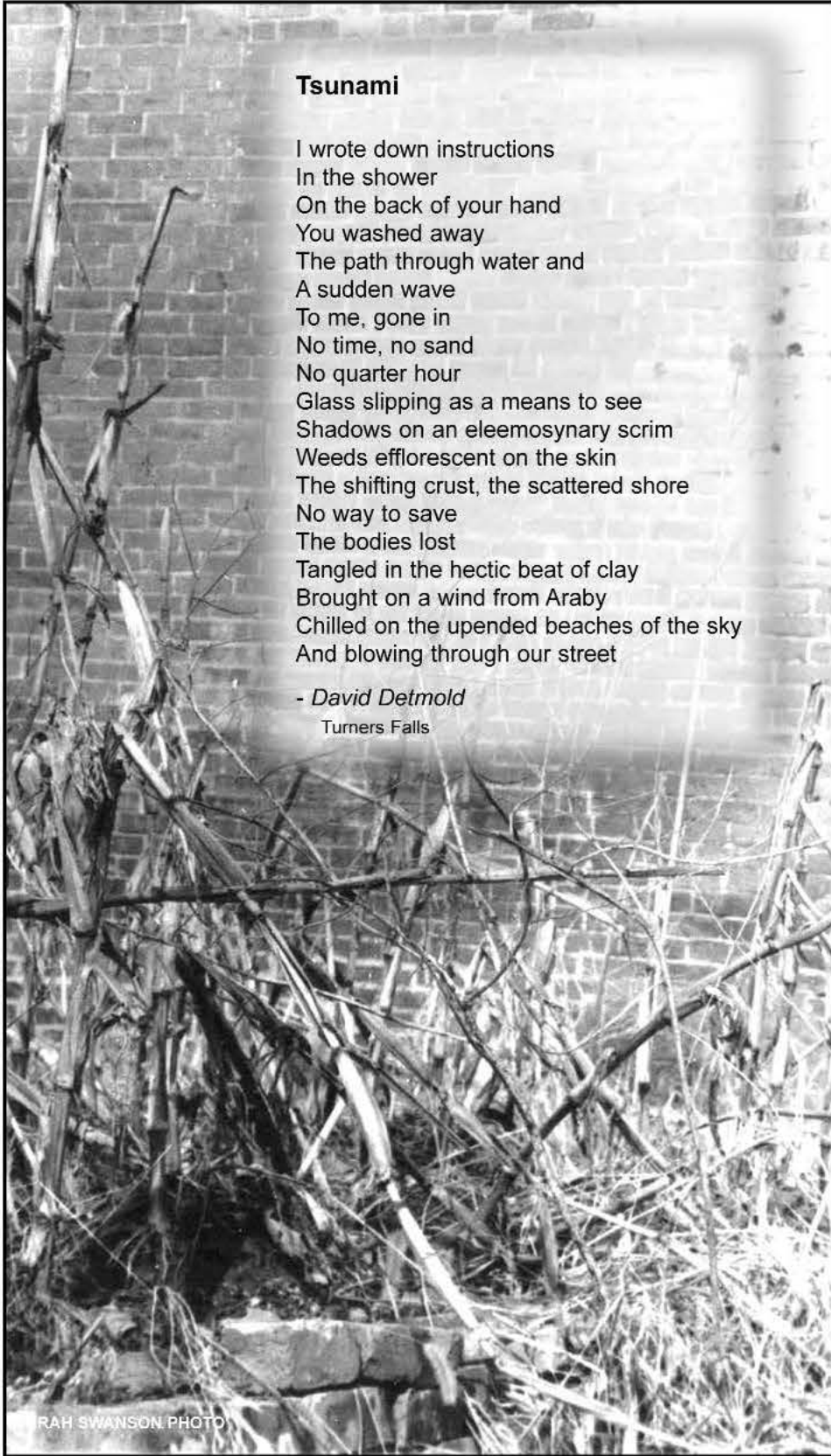
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Tsunami

I wrote down instructions
In the shower
On the back of your hand
You washed away
The path through water and
A sudden wave
To me, gone in
No time, no sand
No quarter hour
Glass slipping as a means to see
Shadows on an eleemosynary scrim
Weeds efflorescent on the skin
The shifting crust, the scattered shore
No way to save
The bodies lost
Tangled in the hectic beat of clay
Brought on a wind from Araby
Chilled on the upended beaches of the sky
And blowing through our street

- David Detmold
Turners Falls

April Woods

An accolade to Beech and Oak who cling to their leaves, winter long, on Stoddard's Wharf Road in Ledyard, CT

What spirits reign in April woods,
While snow still clings within rock-studded walls,
And birch and aspen sleep with empty arms?

Frail beeches survey all their solemn realm,
Pale wraiths that danced the winter storms away
Now rest in tattered gowns.

The solid oaks defy the silent scene,
Rust colored gnomes that dared the icy winds
With pugilistic rancor, clenched fists high,

Oh stand and cheer these players to the end
Who stage the last hurrah of yesteryear,
Who take with grace the final curtain call.

- Fran Hemond
Montague

The Bridge Detour

If you head South from town, you'll meander beside the river. The long wooden structures you'll see are tobacco barns -- this place is famous for asparagus. The reason why the soil is so rich is because it's the bottom of an ancient lake, carved out by a receding glacier.

Across the river is where the Indians ambushed the settler town, so long ago. Sometimes I tell my friends that we should renew the whiskey rebellion. Along the banks of the river, there are little cascades, streams galloping down the hillsides to join the slow parade.

Not long after you hit the numbered road, you'll pass through the center. That's where the shops are. That's where that little breakfast place is, where I had my one and only date with the papermaking teacher. It was a good date, I had thought, but then again, I thought getting lost on the way to the swimming hole was our good fortune. I never saw that swimsuit, but I've retained an iridescent curiosity.

At the end of winter, they fire up the boilers at the sugar shacks along this road, and you can see the smoke coming up from the chimneys, out of the windows, and even out the cracks in the roof.

- Andrew Varmon
Greenfield

Frances Hemond, mother, grandmother, housekeeper, gardener of sorts, lives in Montague where she spent much time when growing up.

Paul Mariani's fifteenth book, *Deaths & Transfigurations: Poems*, designed and illustrated by Barry Moser, will be published by Parcele Press in June. He and his wife,

Eileen, raised their three sons in Montague Center, where they have lived since 1969.

Doug Turner: 53, married to Sue, father of two, recently a granddad, housepainter, reporter, writer, poet, navy veteran, resident of New Salem since 1987.

CONTRIBUTOR'S NOTES:

the poetry page
will be a monthly addition to the Montague Reporter.

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Sheffield Celebrates Earth Week

BY DAVID DETMOLD
TURNERS FALLS - Students at Sheffield School will celebrate Earth Day early with a week of environmental education and activities next week. Earth Day, April 22nd, falls on a week of school vacation, and besides, it's never too early to rejoice in the return of spring and raise consciousness about the role mankind plays in the delicate balance of nature.

Fourth grade teacher Sue Smith, who has been the driving force in developing Sheffield's Earth Week activities for more than a decade, is back this year after a brief sojourn at the middle school. She has invited a number of guests to come in to give presentations to the stu-

dents on environmental issues, including Tom Ricardi, with his birds of prey, Micky Novak from the Cronin National Salmon Station in Sunderland, talking about efforts to reintroduce salmon in the tributaries of the Connecticut River, and Ginny Traub from the Department of Conservation and Recreation's Skinner State Park, presenting "Connecticut River Creatures and Features."

In fact, Smith said the emphasis this year will be on the Connecticut River. "We will focus on the historical aspects, and how this town grew from water power, and we will explore different habitats and the animals that inhabit the river and its banks. Earth Week helps

us teach the kids to see the world around us, and what better way to do that than by focusing on the river in our own backyard?

Sixth grade special needs teacher Steve Touloumtzis is providing invaluable support to Smith in the Earth Week activities this year, as he has for years past. He has helped the students transform a rubble strewn lot near one corner of the school into a "nice grassy wooded area. We hauled out seven barrels of broken glass and debris." Stewart's nursery has donated maple trees to help transform the landscaping around the school, and in the courtyard Touloumtzis said the students will be helping to plant black

locusts this year. Black locusts do well in the sandy soil characteristic of that part of town, he said.

"The school grounds used to look pretty dingy in past years," said Touloumtzis, but by putting their Earth Week awareness to practical use, it now looks greener and more inviting. He noted that the school is now recycling a high percentage of classroom and office paper, and he hoped the students were carrying the practice of "reuse and recycle" home with them.

The highlight of this week's events will be a grand parade from Sheffield to the Great Falls Discovery Center, complete with marching band and students carrying long blue ribbons

to symbolize the River. Andrea Donlon, the Connecticut River Watershed Council's "River Steward" will be parade marshal, accompanied by "Mr. Dan," the school custodian, who has a keen interest in helping the students practice better recycling and waste material handling. The parade will leave the school grounds around 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 12th, to arrive at the Discovery Center at 10:00 a.m., where the students will be greeted by guest speakers including the superintendent of schools, Sue Gee. Come join the fun, celebrate the Earth, and support the youngsters as they grow in their appreciation of the river, and the natural habitats "In Our Own Backyards."

SCHOOLS

continued from pg 1

is dotted with trees, bushes, benches, and variations of ponds, fountains, and gazebos.

Brittany Curtis, Shelli Humphrey, Kate Dobosz, Kylee Bristol and Haley Ozdarski are fifth graders from Mrs. Guy-Greene's class. "I think the project is pretty cool," said Haley Ozdarski. "It's all up to the students to design everything; we have to finish the big sketches Friday (April 8th)."

"It's going to look really good with the murals," said Shelli Humphrey. "It seems like it's going to take longer to finish than we thought, but it's fun."

"I liked drawing the plans," commented Brittany Curtis.

Mrs. Klaiber's students Dakota Albano, Stacy French and Haley Laramie agree. "It's cool," said Dakota Albano; "I hope we can have a fountain," added Haley Laramie.

"I think it's a great experience," said Christina Matteo. She and classmate Breanna

Miller are from Mr. Sadoski's fifth grade class. "I think it's fun to help make something other people will enjoy...hopefully it will be appreciated for a long time."

"It's fun to be able to draw what you like," added Breanna Miller. "It's good to do something for the community and the school."

Fourth graders Brianna Aubrey and Riley Howe are in Mrs. Rollins's class. "I like working on the project, I liked helping out," said Brianna

Aubrey. "I'm glad I was picked. It's a good idea to make it so other children will know we care."

"I like looking at all the ideas and putting them into one," said Mike Conant from Mrs. Smith's class.

The path is expected to run from the corner of the structure area at Sheffield, along the back edge of the field and through an opening in the fence into Hillcrest's playground fields, ending at the back door to the school building.

Fifth grade teacher Amy Bernard is coordinating the project at Sheffield. "Students on the mural committees were chosen from each classroom. The pathway design is being coordinated by student leaders from the 4th and 5th grades, with principal Chip Wood's assistance," she said.

The mural committees are hard at work, and students from both schools are pushing to meet the June deadline. We will keep you posted on their progress. Stay tuned.



ERVING

continued from pg 1

Community Development Corporation (CDC), but has not received final approval. In addition, Dubai said Wilson is seeking to raise the difference between the purchase price and the CDC loan, about \$60,000. The CDC has a \$150,000 cap on loans.

Dubay stated it is worth the extra money to preserve the integrity of the town and, while recognizing it could be a complicated issue, asked the board if there was some way the town could come up with the additional funds. One option he suggested was a revolving fund, if it was approved by voters and they agreed to "preserve structures." The town has a list of such historic structures, he said. "The buyer is quite motivated," he added.

Board chair Andy Tessier responded that in the past he had supported establishing a town fund for local historic

preservation, but "there was no support for it in town." An additional one to two percent on taxes would have been required to establish the fund, Tessier said.

Dubay replied that local attitudes could change as the area develops. He then asked if there were any other loan-type programs besides the excise tax. "Not that I know of," Tessier replied.

Wilson then spoke, telling the board the building's current owners want a guarantee the CDC will provide the loan, and they want it now. "I have days," she said, to pull this deal together. "I found out about the CDC one month ago. If I'd known about it I would have started two years ago, working on a business plan. But now I'm working seven days a week, sometimes 18 hours a day. This is serious. This building is very important to the town. It's been my dream to own this building. I can't imagine losing it to a fast-food chain."

Wilson added the CDC has paperwork showing she has earned enough the last three years to support the loan. But, she said, that is not good enough for the current owners, Barbara Bumpus and Norma Charbonneau of East Prospect Street. Tessier suggested the board attempt to expedite matters by contacting the CDC and expressing their concern about the building and the loan. Wilson said getting the additional \$60,000 in hand would also make the CDC move faster.

The restaurant discussion then turned to consideration of the May 4th annual town meeting. Dubay noted the restaurant property includes two lots, one for the parking lot and one for the building. He suggested perhaps the town could purchase the parking lot, which would benefit the town by ensuring dedicated parking in a central part of the town. Wilson presented papers showing the assessed value of the parking

lot parcel to be \$26,900 and \$112,800 for the building parcel. Tessier said the town is restricted in being able to spend no more than 10 percent above the appraised value.

Once again, Wilson stressed the need to get a concrete date from the CDC, and Tessier said administrator Tom Sharp would call Alan Singer at the CDC.

Dubay said the town currently has no zoning bylaw to protect against the destruction of properties, even historic ones. "The Depot was the internet of the 1850's," he said. "It put us on the map and brought people together." Attracting tourists is important to the town's future, he said. "Erving is a destination!"

Reached after the meeting, Bumpus, the Boxcar building's co-owner, replied to a question about the apparent urgency of selling the property by saying, "We're in no big, no immediate rush. We're trying to work things out with Toni." She then suggested Yankee Realty be

contacted for additional details.

"Things are up in the air right now," said Cheryl Ingersoll of Yankee Realty in Greenfield. "I'll know more in a few days," Ingersoll said, concerning "when the purchase will happen, and who the purchaser will be. I'm obliged to give that information to the owners first."

After the visitors left, the board ran through a number of routine business items. These included final review of the board's and administrative coordinator's submissions to the town's 2004 Annual Report, which goes to the printer next week and will be distributed at the May 4th town meeting.

The report will be dedicated to Ms. Jean M. Smith, who retired from her most recent town position after serving the town for 25 years. During that time she "wore many hats," including serving as a select-woman from 1985-90.



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THE HEALTHY GEEZER

Do Grandparents Get More Colds?

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - Q. Do grandparents get more colds than seniors without grandchildren?

Sniffing in Schenectady

A. I was unable to find any specific data on grandparents and colds. However, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases reports that, in families with children in school, the number of colds per child can be as high as 12 a year. NIAID also reports that all people older than 60 average fewer than one cold a year.

Put those over-60s in those homes with school children and it doesn't take a mathematician to figure out that the number of colds in grandparents will jump significantly.

Any grandparent will tell you that being around their little

treasures has made them sick. My five preschool grandchildren are generous with all the viruses they get from their friends at daycare and play. My personal physician, also a grandfather, says that one of the problems is that these walking petri dishes come up with new germs older people haven't developed antibodies for.

What are you supposed to do when one of the darlings comes up to you with a runny nose and asks for a hug? Well, if you understand the hazards, perhaps you can formulate a plan that works for you around the miraculous children of your children. Obviously the best course of action is to stay away from grandchildren when they have colds, but any grandparent knows that's next to impossible.

There are two ways you can

catch a cold:

1. Inhaling drops of mucus full of cold germs from the air.
2. Touching a surface that has cold germs and then touching your eyes, nose or mouth.

So, avoid close facial contact with your ailing grandchildren. Use some restraint. If the child needs comfort, limit yourself to hugs that don't put you in the position of inhaling their germs.

Washing your hands thoroughly and often is important. Washing with soap and water doesn't kill the cold virus, but removes it. The scrubbing is more important than the soap. Also, if you can, try to avoid touching your face after you have been around a child who has a cold.

Rhinoviruses can live up to three hours on your skin, and on objects such as telephones and

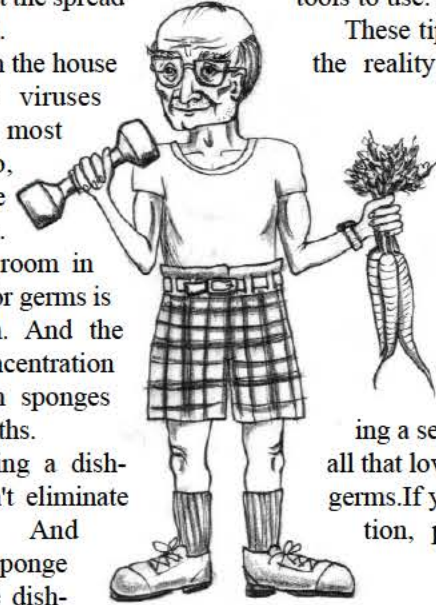
stair railings. Cleaning environmental surfaces with a virus-killing disinfectant might help prevent the spread of infection.

Where in the house are these viruses found most often? No, not in the bathroom. The worst room in the house for germs is the kitchen. And the greatest concentration is found in sponges and dishcloths.

Laundering a dishcloth doesn't eliminate germs. And putting a sponge through the dishwasher makes it look clean but doesn't remove the infection. Instead, moisten

the sponge or dishcloth and microwave it for two minutes. Then you'll have safe, germ-free tools to use.

These tips will help, but the reality is that you're going to catch some colds. They're the price of being a caregiver. It's the price you paid as a parent. Now you're having a second chance for all that love...and all those germs. If you have a question, please write to



fredcicetti@gmail.com.

Highlights of the Montague Police Log Breaking and Entering

Thursday 3-31

7:15 a.m. Report of vandalism at Unity Park. Graffiti sprayed on field house. Under investigation.

7:59 a.m. Report of a motor vehicle accident by the Housing Authority on Canal Street with property damage. Vehicle was towed and impounded. Under investigation.

Friday 4-1

1:48 a.m. After a motor vehicle stop on 11th Street, [redacted] was arrested and charged with operating

after suspension of license and speeding.

Saturday 4-2

4:18 p.m. After a motor vehicle stop on Montague City Road, [redacted] was arrested and charged with operating after suspension of license.

Sunday 4-3

11:39 a.m. Report of vandalism at the Four Rivers Credit Union. ATM machine damaged. Under investigation.

11:45 p.m. Report of a breaking and entering at the

Brick House on 3rd Street, Turners Falls. Under investigation.

Monday 4-4

12:12 a.m. Fifteen-year-old juvenile male summonsed on charges of breaking and entering in the night time, larceny from a building, and larceny over \$250.

5:38 a.m. Report of a breaking and entering at an 11th Street address. A shed was thought to be entered. No entry found. Under investigation.

10:07 p.m. Report of disorderly conduct at a 3rd Street address. Intoxicated woman found on a porch. Put in protective custody.

Tuesday 4-5

12:08 p.m. Walk-in to station reported a larceny at a Greenfield Road address. A pistol was stolen. Under investigation.

7:30 p.m. Assisted other agencies with a suicide situation at Barton's Cove.

Wednesday 4-6


7:50 a.m. A 15-year-old male juvenile was arrested on a straight warrant at TFHS.

Dog Bites Two

A black Labrador retriever registered in Millers Falls and running loose bit two people Tuesday. It was originally thought to have bitten three people, but that information was corrected. No information was available about the seriousness of the wounds, but the bites were treated at an area hospital.

The dog was caught by Montague animal control officer Allen Foster and remains in his custody, according to Montague Police. The police spokesperson did not know if the dog's owner would be cited. The dog is current on all of its shots.

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Saul Bellow Dead at 89

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH

BRATTLEBORO - I had the honor of meeting Saul Bellow at a literary festival in Brattleboro a few years back. I got a two of photos of him - one when he was joking with Malachi McCourt. Bellow was in declining health even then, but despite his frail condition, he still had his sense of humor and a glint in his eye. The glint may have been more of a gleam. The woman standing behind Bellow, whose face is blocked by McCourt, but whose hand and wedding ring are displayed, is Bellow's fifth wife, not his daughter or granddaughter as I had assumed. She gave birth to Bellow's daughter when he was 84. He has two sons in addition to his daughter, now 5.

Though Bellow is considered a Jewish American writer, he maintained that he was an American who happened to be

Jewish. Actually, he was born in Quebec in 1915. His parents had immigrated to Canada from Russia where his father had working imported dates, figs, and related items.

In Canada, the elder Bellow worked as a bootlegger until he was beaten, in 1924, badly enough to make him want to move to Chicago. Saul was nine. The Chicago neighborhood was not a big improvement over the rough neighborhood they



Malachi McCourt (left) is talking with Saul Bellow at a recent Brattleboro Literary Festival. The woman's hand displaying a wedding ring belongs to Bellow's fifth wife.

left in Canada, but it gave him a lot of material for his novels.

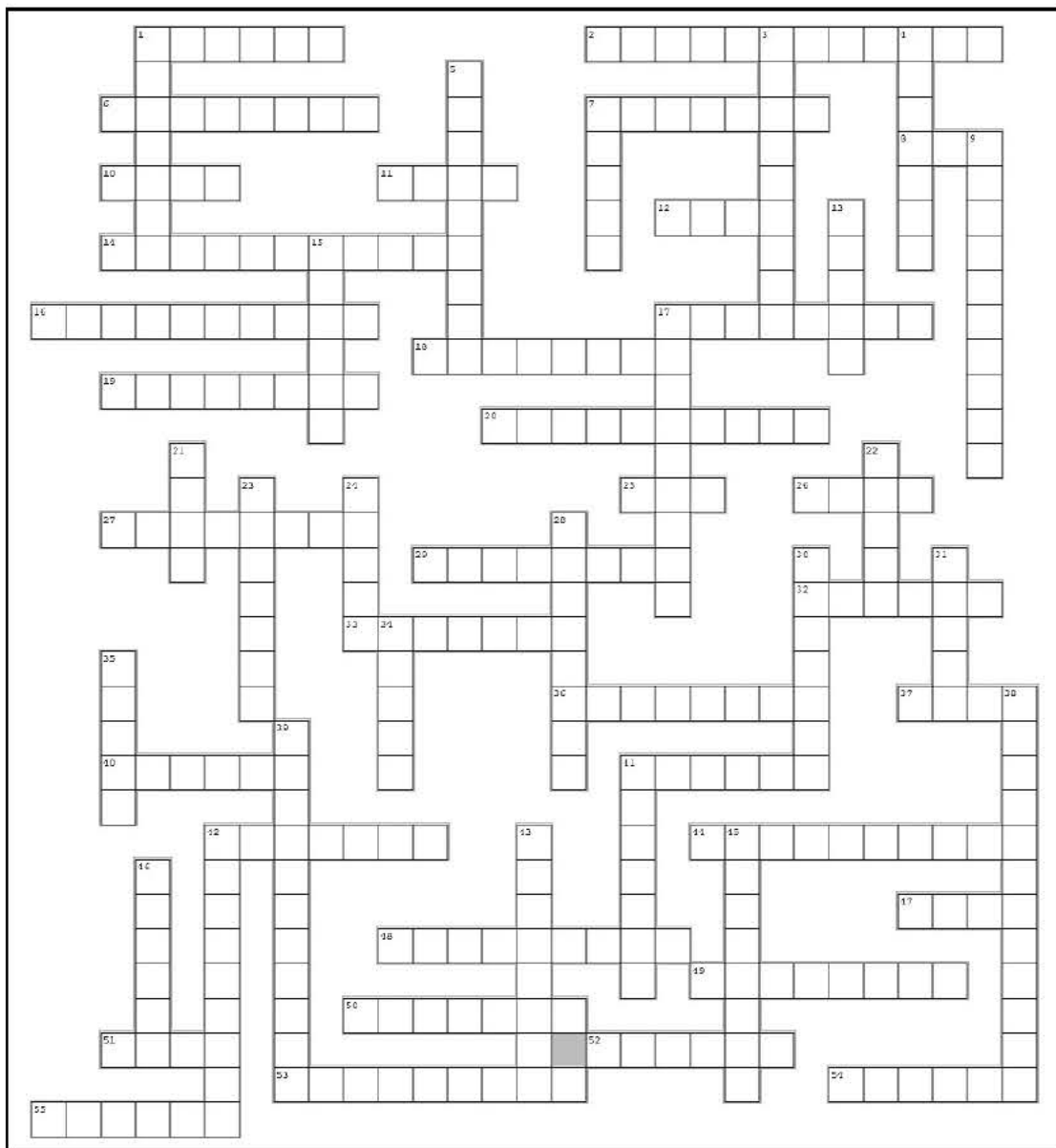
Saul's mother died when he was 17. Her death had a great impact on him. At 18 he enrolled in the University of Chicago, transferred to Northwestern University and graduated with honors in 1937. He went on to graduate studies at the University of Wisconsin. He taught at a teacher's college in Chicago for four years before joining the Merchant Marine in 1944,

during WWII. While in the Merchant Marine he wrote his first novel, the Dangling Man, which reflected his growing up in impoverished neighborhoods in Canada and Chicago. After the war, he taught at the Universities of Minnesota, New York, Princeton, and Puerto Rico. He went on to write 93 books and win many awards. He won a Nobel Prize in Literature for *Humboldt's Gift*, (1975).

Many of Bellow's novels reflected life in the seamier sections of Chicago and his many tumultuous marriages and divorces. When I spoke with Bellow in Brattleboro, he said he was not currently working on a novel, but was still writing, still using a typewriter, never having considered a computer.

Sail, ho!

by Bette Black, edited by David Detmold



Across

1. Lever used to turn the rudder.
2. A flamboyant swordsman.
6. On-deck compass case.
7. Heavy matter at bottom of ship's hold
8. To deviate wildly from course.
10. Rudder, tiller and wheel.
11. Left side of a ship.
12. Weatherdeck at the stern.
14. A trading ship.
16. Sailor's quarters aboard ship.
17. Cheap passenger accommodations.
18. Sailor's luggage.
19. Commissioned officers' dining area
20. Flag used by pirates.
25. The Captain's diary.
26. Onboard loo.
27. Often ornate part of a vessel's stern.
29. A large beer glass, generally holding a pint or more.
32. Lightly armed government vessel used to prevent smuggling.
33. Northernmost star in Ursa Minor.
36. Lengthwise middle line of a vessel.
37. The low tide.
40. Innovative hull sheathing material.
41. It guides or governs a course.
42. Gaff-headed sail set from the aftmost lower mast.
44. Two-masted vessel, square-rigged on both masts.
47. Long spar used to extend the foot of certain sails.
48. Soft sandstone for cleaning decks.
49. Island group including the southernmost Lesser Antilles.
50. Island group including the northernmost Lesser Antilles.
51. Patron saint of seasickness.
52. Officer on board responsible for accounts and provisions.
53. 1984 film with Anthony Hopkins, Mel Gibson, Sir Laurence Olivier, Daniel Day-Lewis and Liam Neeson.
54. Deficiency treated with lime juice.
55. Three-masted vessel with only fore-

and-aft sails on the mizzenmast, the other two masts being square-rigged.

Down

1. Ancient Greek or Roman galley having three tiers of oars.
3. Instrument trilled to announce the captain boarding or leaving ship.
4. Hooked cord used for firing cannon.
5. Short piece of ordnance of limited range developed in Scotland.
7. Fasten by winding around a pin.
9. Large sailing ship or one of its crew.
13. Shallow place in a body of water considered a navigational hazard.
15. British Admiral who defeated the French fleet in the Battle of the Nile.
17. The right side of a ship.
21. Head closer into the wind.
22. Boat propelled by sail or motor used for pleasure trips.
23. Square-rigged war vessel between a corvette and a ship of the line.
24. Single-masted fore-and-aft-rigged sailing boat with a single headsail set from the forestay.
28. Steersman of a ship's boat.
30. Opening for water run off.
31. Small anchor that steadies a vessel when riding at harbor.
34. The lowest deck in a ship having four or more decks.
35. Viscous substance used to cover the caulked seams of wooden vessels.
38. Boy employed in gunnery supply.
39. Battleship with a main battery composed exclusively of 10-inch or greater caliber guns.
41. Tackle used to support and control masts, sails and yards.
42. He loads and unloads ships.
43. Large spar projecting afore.
45. Small ropes which traverse the shrouds forming a ladder.
46. Destructive beetle woefully found among ships' victuals.

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OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

The World Awaits You at Montague Center Library

BY FLORE

When you enter a library, have you noticed the reflective quietness surrounding its rooms? Just after turning the front doorknob, in fact, many of us adjust to tiptoes. Even lowering our voices, in some kind of reverence. Especially if the building has offered many years of devoted service.

Take the little library at Montague Center. Its gold gothic lettering above the entrance immediately draws your attention. Would you care to know who is at work behind its walls? Ready to meet her? Go past two

doors and you are in! Its shiny wood "parquet" sings of a multitude of visitors. At its very end stands a counter, where Judi Ketchum officiates welcoming, with a Mona Lisa's smile, all kinds of eager readers. Could you imagine a library without that friendly knowledgeable touch? She will right away modestly point out she is "only an assistant librarian" as one needs to have a degree in library science in order to wear the official label. Judi Ketchum has been holding the rudder there since 2003, replacing Anna Green, also a whiz of a librarian.

When asked what people are most interested in reading, Ketchum said: "Reading brings discoveries of other ways of life. It reveals new worlds. It becomes sort of a vacation for the mind."

An avid reader, Ketchum was drawn to literature as a child by the discovery of Robert Newton Peck's children's books. She "gobbles up everything interesting, even if it's not on the best seller's list, but induces one to think." As a rule, "the people of the village come at least once a week, checking out movies, a favorite section, popular books,

and books on tape." Others browse the section on local history, spending time to take notes on who lived where, when the heroic ancestors made do with what they could raise from the land. I learned "the book buying selection is done by the Carnegie Library in Turners Falls.

Once a year, local writers and poets are given "carte blanche," and invited for a reading and book signing at one of the branches of the Montague public libraries. This year, the event took place at the Millers Falls library. The library's summer

reading programs features storytellers who fascinate the imagination of children and parents alike. If you are looking for a special title, ask Ketchum, she will look for it! Even if you have forgotten the name of the author or who published it.

What are gifted librarians made of? Patience and a way to listen to people's requests and maintain a steady cruising speed ahead. Sailing hours of this great place, the Montague Center library, are Monday and Wednesdays, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. - 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The phone number is 413-367-2852.

LEARNING TO FLY FISH Part 3

A Birthday Fish

BY ARIEL JONES

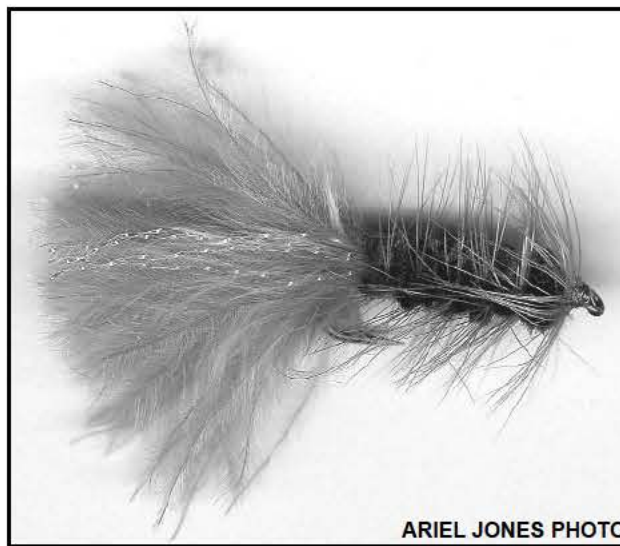
MONTAGUE - It was a perfect day. My friends gave me a box of flies for my birthday, which thrilled me. They were beautiful!

Tom and I set off in the afternoon. This time we went to the Swift River, and it was very different from my experience in the Ware River. First of all, I was wearing waders, the water was shallower and clearer, and I did not feel so vulnerable. From practice, the rod and the line had become more familiar. I was beginning to feel more

committed to really learning how to fly fish, and stopped trying to remember everything all at once. And the clarity of the water allowed me to actually spot trout!

This was an amazing experience, completely different from wading and casting in the murky Ware: seeing the fish, not just assuming they were in the water somewhere. (My feelings about the Ware River are very different now, but that is for later.)

I had barely begun to cast when I felt a pull on my line



ARIEL JONES PHOTO

"What fish think they are hitting when they hit a Woolly Bugger is somewhat a mystery." Cameron Larsen, fly tier.

and realized that a trout had struck and was hooked. I was so stunned that it took a moment to figure out what to do. I had

him in, remove the hook and admire this lovely little rainbow who had offered himself up to

been me for my birthday. Holding him gently in the water while removing the hook, we released him back into the river and he swam off.

There was no escaping it now. I was hooked, and not to be released. I didn't catch another that day, but I had a great time. Learning to fly fish became much more real, not so overwhelming. It is impossible to learn everything at once. You just keep going out, and each time is different from the previous one. Each time you learn something else, get a little more comfortable with the environment of a river, how to walk safely in it, and eventually, how to read the water.

I m a n - aged to bring - continued

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Walker Trade Good Move for Celtics

BY LEE CARIGNAN

TURNERS FALLS - It was just a month ago the Celtics director of player operations, Danny Ainge, needed security around him to attend Celtics home games. After all, he was the one who had traded three-time all-star forward Antoine Walker to the Dallas Mavericks at the beginning of the 2003 season. That trade and a push toward rebuilding turned the Celtics into a boring team, barely playing .500 ball. In a city where world championships are becoming routine, .500 ball doesn't cut it. The fans took their frustration out on Ainge causing him to feel the heat for his team's poor performance. Then, on February 24th, Danny Ainge pulled off a trade to get Antoine Walker back. After the trade he was being compared to Red Auerbach by some fans.

The trade does have Auerbach slyness to it. The

Atlanta Hawks acquired Walker from Dallas last year. The Celtics traded Gary Payton, two lesser-known players, and a first round pick to the Hawks to get Walker back. Then the Hawks cut Gary Payton, and the Celtics re-signed him. The Celts then regained a first round pick by trading Jiri Welsch to the Cleveland Cavaliers. The Celtics ended up getting Antoine Walker for basically nothing. On top of that they managed to keep all their promising young players and Raef LaFrentz, who they acquired in return for Walker in 2003. It seems the Celtics are finally heading in the right direction.

Walker's return paid immediate dividends, with the Celts winning 11 of their first 12 games with Antoine back in the lineup. They have struggled with their defense lately, losing five out of their last six games, including Sunday's tough 97-93



loss to the Philadelphia 76ers. They still have a comfortable lead in the Atlantic Division, three games over Philadelphia. The Celtics would have the third seed and home court advantage in the first round, if the playoffs start today. They are now legitimate contenders in the Eastern Conference. They should have a chance to make a deep run in the playoffs, but will be heavily challenged by the Detroit Pistons and the Miami Heat for a shot at the NBA Finals.

Antoine Walker, who is 28 years old, was originally drafted out of Kentucky with the sixth overall pick in the 1996 draft by the Celtics.

He is a three-time all-star, making the all-star team in 1998, 2002, and 2003. Last season, Walker averaged 14 points, 8.3 rebounds a game for the Dallas Mavericks. This year, he was averaging 20.4 points with the Hawks and hauling in 9.4 rebounds a game, two rebounds better than any other Celtics player. Walker has improved the Celtics inside game and has helped take pressure off Paul Pierce on and off the court. Walker knows he won't be able to take as many three-point shots as he used to. Taking too many three-point shots is why Ainge originally ran him out of town. Walker appears to have matured since his first stint with the Celts and wants to do whatever he can to help the team.

Antoine Walker will be a free agent in the off-season. It would seem to be in both parties' best interests to get a deal done. Having gotten a taste of playing for other teams, Walker seems to have settled back in with Boston and would probably love to stay with the Celts for the long haul. Danny Ainge has seen the difference Walker has made for his team. The owners have seen the ticket sales increase since the Walker trade. How the Celtics and Walker play the rest of the season will determine if Ainge decides to sign him to a long-term deal. There should be plenty of competition from other interested teams.

Danny Ainge will have some important decisions to make this off-season. Meanwhile, the Celtics are playing competitive ball again.

THE PERSISTENT GARDENER

The Coming Spring

BY WOODY BROWN

MONTAGUE CITY - Not everybody enjoys gardening. I remember some time ago telling my boss how I looked forward to the coming spring and getting into the garden. His face and nose wrinkled as if he had suddenly smelled something bad. Needless to say we didn't have any lengthy discussions of flower growing or tomato varieties.

For those of us who do enjoy gardening our season is coming on! Seeds and tiny plants will soon be carefully placed in the chosen dirt. Our time of year will have arrived, complete with dirty fingernails and hopes of beauty and a bountiful harvest.

As I've said in past columns, don't be too frisky in preparing

this year's garden space for those plants and seeds. Hopefully, you turned your plot over last fall. Now just scuff it up with a rake. Then smooth it out and plant the seeds according to the directions on the seed packet. If there are no directions, a simple "rule of thumb" is to barely cover small seeds with soil. Larger seeds should be planted no deeper than ¼ to ½ an inch.

Most plants should be placed in the soil at the same level they were in the pot they came in or that you grew them in. Tomatoes are an exception. You can plant tomatoes deeper. They'll do well if you set them down to the level of the first true leaves. The reason for this



exception is that tomato stems, unlike most flower and plant stems, will send out roots. Roots will grow out of the stem and give your developing tomato plant an improved food source.

The garden plot should be moist, but it is not necessary to soak it. In fact, soaking is a bad idea; it could harm the plants. Too much water damages gardens. This is a fact all through the growing season. Although it's true that the garden should not be allowed to dry out, it's also true that the plants can drown with too much water.

Plant roots need oxygen. If the soil is clogged with water, oxygen is kept out. You may sometimes see gardeners with spiked shoes walking around their lawns. The reason for this is to allow air (notably oxygen) into the root area of the grass. One of the benefits to breaking the garden surface with a hand cultivator is

to allow oxygen into the area below the surface. Of course, this is also a method of weeding.

So, the plants are in the ground; the ground is reasonably moist and weed free. That's about it. You can side-dress if you want with some organic, liquid fertilizer from time to time. You will also have to keep after those pesky weeds that seem to come on no matter what you do. But that gives you the opportunity to inspect and monitor your plant children.

We'll talk about insects and diseases at another time. They are not enjoyable guests in the garden, but they can't really be "show stoppers" either. Happy gardening!

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GILL
continued from pg 1

ground.
Fuel rods are replaced regularly at operating nuclear reactors, and used rods are stored onsite, in the absence of a national repository. Available storage space in Vermont Yankee's spent fuel pool will run out by 2008, said Bales, unless the NRC permits Entergy's request for a power uprate, in which case the rods will be used up more quickly, filling up the spent fuel pool by 2007. If Entergy receives an extension of their operating license for any length of time, the issue of where to store the spent rods will become even more critical for the plant's

owner.
Consequently, Entergy has advanced a plan, now under review by the Vermont state legislature, to store spent rods in dry casks, made of hardened concrete, above ground, on the plant's riverside property. Bales said, "Once it's put in dry casks, it's not easy to remove. The problem with this plan is the above ground casks are going to be set up like bowling pins. We need some reassurance it's not going to stay there forever."
The half-life of Cesium 137 is 30 years, which means it will take 30 years for half the 25,000,000 million Curies of radioactive Cesium to decay, 30 more years for another half of that element's radioactivity to decay, and so on, until it finally

becomes environmentally benign. The half-life of plutonium 239, on the other hand, which is also a component of spent fuel rods, is about 24,100 years.
On April 6th, the National Academy of Sciences released a declassified study, which finds that pools storing highly radioactive waste at the nation's nuclear power plants are vulnerable to terrorist attack. Congress commissioned the study over a year ago, but its release has been held up since last summer by the NRC, which disagrees with the Academy's findings.
The selectboard agreed to send a letter to the Vermont legislators considering Entergy's plan for dry cask, above ground storage of spent fuel rods, and to the governor of Vermont, as well as local Massachusetts legislators. The board will urge the legislators to "exercise all the caution they can" in their ruling on Entergy's request. A public hearing on Entergy's plan for long-term storage of high level nuclear waste on the banks of the Connecticut River will be held at Brattleboro Union High School on Thursday, April 14th at 6 p.m. Members of the pub-

lic, and public officials will be given two minutes to comment on the plan.
Coincidentally, shortly after Bales left, the selectboard received a courtesy call from Gill emergency response coordinator Jason Edson and Ken Plummer from the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA). Plummer dropped by to introduce himself to the board and to familiarize them with the resources his agency could put at their disposal in the event of an emergency.
"We coordinate the resources of local, state, federal and even volunteer agencies," Plummer told the board, "in the event of natural disasters, on the civil side, or man-made disasters, on the nuclear side." Plummer's area of expertise within the 70-person state planning agency is in the area of "offsite planning for public safety in the event of nuclear disaster."
"Are you involved in the uprate request from Vermont Yankee?" prompted board member Ann Banash.
"I'm glad you asked," said Plummer. "We're not pro or con. The NRC has oversight of onsite activity (at Vermont Yankee). We are in charge of offsite planning, and we have no power over the uprate process."

radiation in it and it's coming your way," then an order to evacuate the town may be issued. In that case, Plummer suggested the board should be prepared to carry on town government functions at a secure location: Greenfield Community College.
"There is a room at Greenfield Community College where you and the town fathers from other affected communities can gather, a room with desks and a telephone, and so forth. You may want to take what's important from town hall with you."
Members of the board began laughing again, at this point.
Plummer carried on. "You and the town fathers from the other seven governments (of towns in the evacuation zone), would all go down to GCC to wait for whatever next steps you need to take. You might not want anybody entering your town. The community would be cleared out and safety officials, police officers from southern towns and state police would be posted at the entrances to your town to stop people from coming in. Even the National Guard would be available if we need them."
Plummer assured the board there was a "huge pot of money out there" that would kick in to assist localities like Gill affected by a nuclear accident. Each operating nuclear reactor is required to contribute annually to a pool of funds held in reserve for such an eventuality. "You shouldn't worry about money," he advised them.
He also noted that Vermont Yankee contributes \$5,000 a year directly to the offices of the emergency planners in surrounding towns, "to buy a radio, or tables for the emergency operating centers, and so forth. All of the towns are extremely appreciative of what Vermont Yankee is doing," Plummer said.

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FRIDAY APRIL 8TH

Film at Sheffield School

The Montague Police Department and the Montague Recreation Department presents *The Incredibles*, rated PG, at Sheffield School Auditorium. The doors open at 5:45 p.m. with the feature picture at 6:00 p.m. The family movies are funded by the Montague Lodge # 2521 of Elks and are designed to provide a family night out without cost to families. Parents are encouraged to attend with their children. The movies should end at approximately 8 p.m. Please attendees bringing refreshments limit their items to bottled water and dry snacks only to prevent messy clean ups. *The Incredibles* follows the adventures of a family of former superheroes rediscovering the true source of their powers -- in one another.

The Brick House and the belly-bowl restaurant present an

Acoustic Open Mic

at the Bellybowl from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. 104 4th Street; call the Brick House at 863-9576 or the bellybowl at 863-4064 for more info.

SING IT WITH MUSIC

Final concert of Music in Deerfield's 26th season, 8 p.m. at the Sweeney Concert Hall at Smith College. Don't miss this venue of talented local musicians playing with the Miami String Quartet. Works to be performed include the Quartet in A major by Beethoven, Bela Bartok's Fifth Quartet, and Ravel's Quartet in F major. Please call (413) 625-9511 for reserved seating information. Tix: \$20 advance, \$24 at the door, Children, Undergrad Student \$9 at the door.

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, APRIL 8TH & 9TH AND APRIL 15TH & 16TH

The Country Players present Tennessee Williams'

CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF

This is a 50th Anniversary production of the classic drama at the Shea Theatre at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$12 for general admission and \$10 for seniors and students, and are available at World Eye Bookshop or by call-

ing the Shea Box Office at (413) 863-2281 x1, mature audience only.

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY APRIL 8TH & 9TH

Media Arts Cafe features the film *All About My Mother*, directed by Pedro Almodovar, (not rated), a foreign film with subtitles. Winner of nearly every major foreign film award of 1999, this is Almodovar's most mature and moving film. \$10 general admission, \$8 seniors, \$6.50 students. Ticket price includes beverage. Comfortable couches and cafe table seating. State-of-the-art audio/video system. One show at 7:30 p.m. each evening. Located in the Green Trees Gallery, 105 Main St., Northfield. (413) 367-2736.

FRI, SAT AND SUN APRIL 8TH, 9TH & 10TH

The 24th Annual

Better Living Show

sponsored by the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce featuring products and services for home improvements, leisure activities, new cars and more. At Indoor Action, Routes 5 & 10 in Greenfield. Friday 4:00 to 8:00 p.m., Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (413) 773-5463.

SATURDAY, APRIL 9TH

The Pioneer Valley Symphony, Paul Phillips, Music Director and Conductor, presents

SCOTTISH ADVENTURE

featuring James Buswell, violin soloist. 7:30 p.m. at Greenfield High School. Tickets \$5 - \$18, available at World Eye Bookshop in Greenfield, Broadside Bookshop in Northampton and online at www.pvso.org and at the door.

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY APRIL 9TH & 10TH

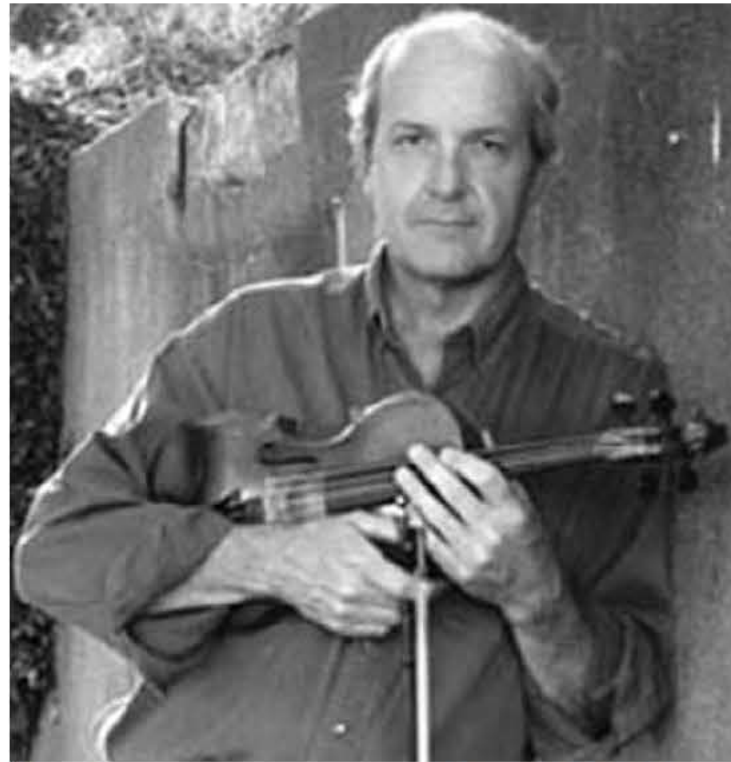
Gill-Montague GALA

This family-oriented festival of sound, presented by Gill-Montague Education Fund, in partnership with Nick Waynelovich, promises to be an evening filled with many exciting and entertaining performances. Turners Falls High School Theater, 222 Turnpike Rd., Montague. 8:00 p.m. (413) 863-9341.

SUNDAY, APRIL 10

It's the 42nd Annual RIVER RAT RACE!

presented by the Athol Lions Club. Race on the Millers River between Orange and Athol. Canoe race on Saturday and Sunday Kayak race. Parade information: 978-249-8275.



Randal Bays to perform at Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse, 7 p.m. Saturday, April 30th

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13TH Spring 2005 Series Mid-Week Music featuring Francis Doughty, guitarist. Concert held in All Souls Church located at 399 Main Street in Greenfield. 12:15 to 12:45 p.m. 413-773-5018

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

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

WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY, APRIL 20TH & 21ST

GCC presents an evening of drama and comedy

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

SATURDAY, APRIL 23RD

VUSI MAHLASELA THE VOICE OF SOUTH AFRICAN FREEDOM

7:30 p.m. at Memorial Hall. Vusi has been nominated for Best Male Vocalist in South Africa, and is described by Dave Matthews, as "the Woody Guthrie or Bob Dylan of South Africa." During the struggle against apartheid, Vusi was an activist and voice for freedom, culminating in his powerful per-

formances at Nelson Mandela's 1994 inauguration and in the documentary film, *Amandla!* Shelburne Falls! \$15 advance / \$18 day of show / under 18 half price!

THURSDAY, APRIL 21ST Papermaking in Montague Presented by the Montague Historical Society and featuring Brad Peters, former public relations director of International Paper Company. 7:00 p.m. at the Great Falls Discovery Center, Avenue A, Turners Falls.

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

Hot Spot Teen Center

Monday - Ongoing Digital Arts Project, 3 to 5 p.m.
Tues & Weds - Ongoing Music Project, 3 to 5 p.m.
Thursday - Technology Drop-in hours, 3 to 5 p.m. and Movie Night, 6 to 8 p.m.
Friday, April 8th - Open Mic at bellybowl restaurant, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 9th and 10th - ACT Stavros Community Service Project, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., call Jen for info at 863-3548

These programs are free (except some skate trips) and open to local teens. Some require permission slips. For more info about any of these events or programs please call **Jared at 863-9559**. Hot Spot Teen Center is in The Brick House Community Center 24 Third St, Turners Falls

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 2. **THE RING 2** PG13
 DAILY 9:00
 3. **FEVER PITCH** PG13 in DTS sound
 DAILY 6:00 9:00
 MATINEE SAT, SUN, & WED 12:00 3:00
 4. **THE PACIFIER** PG
 DAILY 6:00 9:00
 MATINEE SAT, SUN, & WED 12:00 3:00
 5. **GUESS WHO** PG13
 DAILY 6:15 9:15
 MATINEE SAT, SUN, & WED 12:15 3:15
 6. **BEAUTY SHOP** PG13
 DAILY 6:15 9:15
 MATINEE SAT, SUN, & WED 12:15 3:15
 7. **SIN CITY** R in DTS sound
 DAILY 6:30 9:30
 MATINEE SAT, SUN, & WED 12:30 3:30
 8. **SAHARA** PG13 in DTS sound
 DAILY 6:30 9:30
 MATINEE SAT, SUN, & WED 12:30 3:30

Answers to last week's crossword puzzle, "Kipling's World"

Across	Down
2 SINGE	1 DAIS
4 BANDARLOG	2 SEAHORSE
8 CHIRP	3 EUREKA
9 WIRELESS	5 AVAST
12 ESCAPE	6 BRATTLEBORO
15 PHANTOM	7 PORTENT
17 BEAR NECESSITIES	10 CATHEXIS
19 TAME	11 MITOSIS
20 KAA	13 MUSEUM
21 GYPSY	14 BEAST
22 COBRA	15 PUCK
25 UNA	16 MUM
26 INDIA	18 IRON
28 VIRESCENT	21 GARDEN
29 DOUBLOON	23 LAW OF THE JUNGLE
31 PARVIS	24 JACKAL
33 HUMPH	27 AVERT
39 TRADE	30 BATHURST
40 BOMBAY	32 FIRE
42 KEN	34 HAZEL
43 ALIKE	35 DHOLE
44 GOOD HUNTING	36 CHANGE
45 BLACK	37 HOLIDAY
46 VICTROLA	38 BAPTIZE
	41 JONQUIL

Mabel Zobel
 By Sandra Facto

If you can read this, you're to close!

Bird Time on the Ponds

BY FRAN HEMOND

MONTAGUE CENTER - March 20th was the first day of spring, when the night and the day are about equal. Here in northerly New England with our relatively short warm season, the creatures who share the Earth with us, must plan the survival of their species. This March day was a time to remember.



Last year, a little hooded merganser, "Cupcake," (perhaps her rusty crest on a gray and white body reminded me of chocolate frosting on a cupcake) stopped by in late winter, and brought her handsome mate for a couple of swims.

This year Cupcake had not appeared. The only Hoodies seen had been a small flock off Unity Park in the Connecticut River one stormy day, breasting the waves as they headed for Bartons Cove while the gulls and Canada geese stayed sheltered in the lee.

So, on the first day of spring, when a pair of hooded mergansers flew from the South Pond as a car drove into the yard, she leading, my thought was, "Perhaps she's back."

That next day, a Monday, must have been bird day everywhere. Twelve Canada geese spent a day in the sun on the South Pond. Two other big geese had orchestra seats on the North Pond for the parade that was to take place. Looking down from on high, other birds must have seen gatherings that looked safe and hospitable, and decided to join the crowd. The bachelor black drakes who have wintered here flew in, plopped themselves down on the east shore and became fat lumps of black fluffed-up feathers rather than their usual trig selves. An

assortment of mallards took a more active part in the coming parade. Six lovely hooded mergansers joined the group. One pair; the others: three drakes and a duck. The demonstration of skills seemed to be a contest for her favor. Time and the human mind put pattern into events, but indeed this was a casual parade, with some obvious parts being played.

The gander acted as sentinel. His long neck was a telescope set on high, and he seldom relaxed. The blacks were silent spectators, the mallards took part as swimmers and preeners, but were careful not to get in the way of sharp merganser bills.

The mergansers were the chief actors. They swam in the sun, a drake in the lead, the others in changing random pattern. It was swim, everybody swim, climb out on a floating branch and preen, all at once. Or dive simultaneously, and pop up yards away. And that afternoon some mallards who seldom do more than dip and tip were diving underwater in a pale copy of their guests. The female mergansers took no lead in the activity. But they took part, and sitting in the sun on a beaver-cut branch, their white underneath contrasted with their gray back and rusty crest, on high, they

were really the stars of the party. The drakes looked equally elegant as they sat on the branches and flapped their black wings, showing their beautiful rusty, white and black pattern. It was an orderly scene. The only unruly bird was a mallard drake who scattered a group of his own kind by a precipitous fly-in. The Canada gander had secured a peaceful party.

The next day, the twelve Canada geese in the South Pond were gone, as were the two who had supervised in the North Pond. Two mallard drakes appeared, bringing their own girls. Only five mergansers showed up: Cupcake and her mate, along with two drakes and the lone attractive duck. One merganser drake did not appear. The lead merganser swam with his head held low, and after a bit of time he flew off toward the river. So, on this day the big party was over and these mallards and mergansers spent a peaceful morning on North Pond. They have not been back. Bird time on the ponds is over. There was a winner and a loser in an apparently orderly accommodation. And it's Godspeed until next year when birds flying high sight a couple of big puddles that may serve for a rest on their long flight north.

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Know Your Eclipses

BY FLORE

Two important eclipses are taking place this month, so be aware, star gazers! An annular total eclipse of the sun on April 8th, visible in New Zealand, part of Antarctica, Southern United States, Central America, the Caribbean, and South America except in the eastern and southern parts. And! a penumbral eclipse of the moon April 24th. Don't feel disappointed if you can't see it; put on an Alan Parsons Project CD instead: On the Dark Side of the Moon. Great stuff, to make you Wish You Were There!



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