



DOWN THE ERIE CANAL
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BOTTOM LUCK FARM
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LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS GILL ERVING WENDELL

Year 3
No. 41

50¢

The Montague Reporter

REPORTER@MONTAGUEMA.NET

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

AUGUST 25, 2005

Old Mill Program Will Keep Some Students in District

BY SARAH PEBWORTH
For some Gill-Montague students, the new school year will mean less of a commute. Rather than being sent to programs out of district, they will be educated in their own communities as part of the Old Mill Program.

Laurie Farkas, director of special education at the school district, has organized the new program for students with emotional and behavior disabilities. One immediate

result of partnering with School Based Services (SBS), an agency that runs programs for students with special needs in western Massachusetts, is that five students who were previously sent out of district for services will be served here.

Superintendent Sue Gee spoke of a sense, when students are sent out of district, that the home district is not as responsible for them. Asking,

see **SCHOOL** pg 10

Rusting Skate Park

BY PHILIPPE DEGUISE
TURNERS FALLS - As the hot midday sun bakes the asphalt surface, obstinate weeds emerge to claim back land that was once theirs. The wood ramps, colored blue to reflect the sky above, lie idle, paint flaking as they slide into oblivion. A locked gate and a gray metallic fence tries and sometimes fails to keep intruders from disturbing the decay and abandonment that is the skate park on Second Street in Turners Falls. A place once alive with the

whoosh of wheels, the release of pent up youthful energy and a competitive edge, the slow but steady decay of the park speaks of a prevailing ambivalence and an uncertain future.

A scant seven years ago, the skate park was built with the help of proud teen volunteers, financed by local donations and in-kind contributions from numerous local businesses. Young skateboarders had gone before the selectboard to gain approval for the

see **SKATE** pg 13

House of One People Ready on Ripley Road

BY AMANDA GARRISON
MONTAGUE CENTER
For those of you who have always felt the spiritual center of Montague lies somewhere just around the bend of the next dirt road, the end of August will bring a mark of confirmation with the completion of the new "Mother House" for the Zen Peacemaker Family. The building, located on the old

Montague Farm on Ripley Road, is actually a 200-year-old cow barn, and required about two years of patient renovation to arrive at its present immaculate state of readiness as a dharma center. Soon, people will be streaming to the rustic Montague Center locale from near and far to hear Zen masters speak, to study with the

see **BARN** pg 12

Montague Old Home Day Offers Parade of Village Charms

BY FRAN HEMOND
MONTAGUE CENTER

Old Home Days at Montague Center is a firm date each year for the village folks on a mid-August weekend. Each year since 1960, the diverse and solid little village that extends from river farms to hide-away residences in the hills, has gathered itself together around its triangular green, where varying groups support races, an auction, food booths, music and dance, craft tables, house and garden tours, and a parade. Those who have grown up here come back each year to note progress in the village, but not undue change.

The parade reflects the village and its neighbors. The generations change, but not the Boys Scouts and Girl Scouts and 4-H. Yesterdays Scout may well be manning the antique and handsome modern fire engines that



PHOTO: PHILIPPE DEGUISE

Clarkson Edwards rides a fine old tractor during Montague's Old Home Days parade.

normally rest quietly in their bays, assuring Montague and her good neighbors that their farms and houses are well protected. The library Friends and other groups enter

floats to advertise their wares.

Most of the antique cars have a local story to tell. Montague farmer John Bitzer's Model B Ford was purchased by

his uncle, Perly Johnson, who bought it in 1933 and was taught how to drive as part of the \$500 deal. Perly never liked driving, and sold it to John's father, Robert. In 1990, John "got it going again." He and the old Model B have been in the parade ever since. The tractors and trucks - old and new - brought our farms and businesses into the scene.

Trophies awarded in these categories include: Judges' Choice: Antique car, John Bitzer; Motorcycle, Kevin Bourbeau; Truck, Bill Doyle.

Following the vehicles in the parade were llamas from Apple Crest Farm in Millers Falls, stepping proudly down Main Street, colorful representatives of an expanding New England fauna. Horses have always been a popular feature. This year, debarking from their trailers at Stone's where they were stationed to wait for the parade to start

see **HOME** pg 12

NEW BOOK OF MONTAGUE HISTORY AND PHOTOS DUE OUT IN SEPTEMBER

BY SUE SAN SOUCIE
TURNERS FALLS -

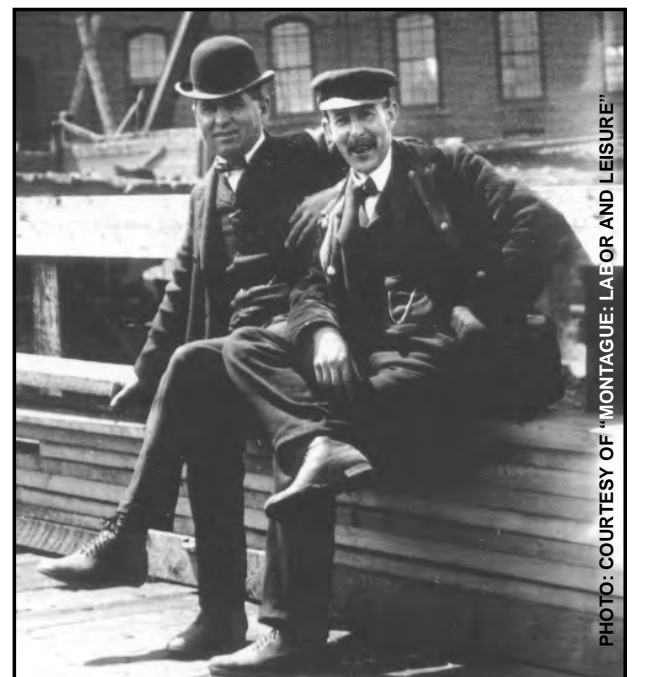
Montague history fans and collectors of old photographs will be very pleased to learn of author Kyle Scott and Arcadia Publishing's forthcoming release of another book in the series of *Images of America*. Titled *Montague: Labor and Leisure*, the book is scheduled to be released on September 7th, and will be available at local book stores, shops, and libraries. Scott partnered with local historian Peter Miller on the first in the *Montague* series a few years back. The new volume depicts

"the businesses, industry, and leisure activities" of Montague's five villages.

The book chronicles one hundred and thirty-five years of Montague history. Scott has selected archival photographs from his own collection as well handsome images from Northeast Utilities, Montague Machine, Mechanics Lodge of Freemasons, Russell Harrington Company, Montague Historical Society, the Sisters of Providence, and many local residents.

The book gives readers a glimpse of the building

see **BOOK** pg 11



Cover photograph from *Montague Labor and Leisure* by Kyle J. Scott

PHOTO: COURTESY OF "MONTAGUE: LABOR AND LEISURE"

PET OF THE WEEK Wanna Play?



Bingo

Hint: Look at the picture and tell me what this kitty's favorite pastime is. Bingo! If you said chin scratching, you're right! Bingo is a 5-year-old buff colored female with pale colored eyes and a slightly worried look about her. That might be because she is deaf and has to concentrate on other senses to know what's going on in the world around her. She cannot live with any other animals and must live indoors only.

She's a real sweet and fun cat. To learn more about adopting Bingo, please contact the Dakin Animal Shelter at 548-9898 or via email at info@dakinshelter.org.

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CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS

Montague Public Libraries Children's Summer Reading Program

BY LINDA HICKMAN

The Going Places @ Your Library Summer Reading Program at the Montague Public Libraries is drawing to a close. 343 children from Montague and surrounding towns participated. Highlights included a puppet show, "Jack in the Beanstalk," performed by the No Strings

Marionette Company, the Irish Magic Show and the three Summer Reading Program celebration parties. The annual costume party at the Montague Center Library was held on Monday, August 15th. The Millers Falls party was held on Tuesday, August 16th. By far the largest party was held in Peskeomskut Park in



Avery Palmer of Montague was one of many children who enjoyed horse and pony rides at the Carnegie Library's Summer Reading Program party in Peskeomskut Park on Thursday, August 18th.

Turners Falls on Thursday, August 18th. Crimson Acres Farm in Orange provided a farm animal petting zoo and horse and pony rides. They brought a baby pig, a goose, baby turkeys, ducks, baby rabbits, a donkey, a miniature horse, sheep, goats, an alpaca, a horse and a pony. Many of the children had never before ridden a horse or pony. Some of the children jumped up and down and squealed with excitement over the animals. The weather was perfect and



Joanna Browning, Zachary Kelly, and Kelly and Ashlie Gamache of Millers Falls made various arts and crafts projects at the Millers Falls Library Club throughout the summer.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES Aug. 29th - Sept. 2nd

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. Meal reservations need to be made a day in advance by 11 a.m. Messages can be left on the machine when the center is closed (863-9357). Mealsite Manager is Chris Richer. The center offers a hot noon meal weekdays to any senior. Transportation to the center can be provided. Trip coordinator is Jean Chase. Make trip reservations by calling 772-6356. Payment and menu choice is due three weeks prior to trip.

Monday, 29th
10:15 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11:00 a.m. Pace Aerobics
1:00 p.m. Canasta
Tuesday, 30th

9:30 a.m. Tai Chi at St. Anne's
Wednesday, 31st
10:15 a.m. Senior Aerobics
12:45 p.m. Senior
Thursday, 1st
1:00 p.m. Pitch
9:30 p.m. Watercolor painting
Friday, 2nd
10:15 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11:00 a.m. PACE Aerobics

ERVING Senior Center, 18 Pleasant St., Erving (Old Center School, 1st Floor), is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. For information and reservations call Polly Kiely, Senior Center director at (413) 423-3308. Lunch daily at 11:30 a.m. with reservations a day in advance by 11:00 a.m. Transportation can be provided for meals,

FACES & PLACES

DETOLD PHOTO

Michael Doddato of Northfield works meticulously on Tuesday painting the Power Town Apartments' sign on the corner of 4th and Avenue A in Turners Falls.



Summer reading program participants dressed up for a costume party at the Montague Center Library on Monday, August 15th.

it was a very enjoyable afternoon for children of all ages and their families

Children can still receive prizes for reading library books until school starts in Montague. Participation certificates are available at all three libraries.

The Montague Public Libraries and the statewide regional library system sponsored the summer reading program. The Gill - Montague Community Partnerships for Children sponsored the puppet show, farm animal petting zoo, and story hour refreshments.

They're Here . . .

2005 Turners Falls High School Girls' Softball State Champs T-Shirts!

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All profits benefit the TFHS girls' softball program. Order forms are available at Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls and at the TFHS office. Payment is due with each order, please.

Great gifts! Let's show our pride and support! Way to go, TFHS ladies!

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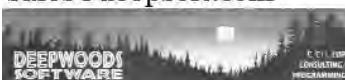
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POSTCARDS FROM THE PAST Plenty of Fish



BY LILLIAN FISK
MONTAGUE CENTER - Richard Clapp (left) and the Allen boys display their catch. The Allen boys were carpenters. Richard Clapp was from the prominent family on Federal Street. He owned a pond on the Allen boys' property.

POSTCARD COURTESY OF THE MONTAGUE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Reporter Romance Leads to Marital Bliss



Boysen Hodgson and Kendra Olsen

CHARLEMONT - Former Gill-Montague school committee correspondent Kendra Olsen and longtime *Montague Reporter* graphic design wizard Boysen Hodgson tied the knot on August 13th at the Warfield House Inn in Charlemont. The ceremony was almost as beautiful as the happy couple, who reside in Springfield. Congratulations, Boysen and Kendra!

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The Lore and Love of Wild Mushrooms

BY JOSH HEINEMANN
WENDELL - Lisa Winter and her family moved to Wendell from Norway a year and a half ago, and since then they have been spreading the lore and love of wild mushrooms to the locals. On Thursday evening, August 18th, at the Wendell town hall, and Sunday, August 21st in the woods of Wendell, Winter and her husband Knut Gaasland, daughter Linnea Winter and son Erik Winter, gave a mushroom class and a mushroom walk. The family also had a mushroom museum display at Wendell Old Home Day, a table covered with mushrooms of all shapes and colors, all gathered in town over a few hours.

According to Winter, there are three basic rules of mushrooming: Do not eat anything without positive identification from an expert. There is an *Amanita* that gives you a gastrointestinal upset which goes away after a few hours, and you think everything is

over; two days later you are dead.

If you find a patch of edible mushrooms, do not tell anyone where it is.

The mushroom you pick is only the fruiting body of the whole organism. The mushroom lives as a large mat of tiny threads, the mycelium that grows in the ground, in the log, in the tree. Picking a mushroom is equivalent to picking an apple.

Before the walk, Winter identified mushrooms people brought in, Milkies which spill a latex when the gills are sliced, *Russulas*, which crumble. Kate and I brought two curious pale orange top mushrooms we found next to a dirt road; they turned out to be Yellow-footed Chanterelles, the first Winter had seen in America.

On the walk she sent her two children off the trail, saying, "Find me a Milky," "Find me an *Amanita*." The rest of us soon scattered off the trail, and brought mushrooms back to the group. Maybe the highlight of the walk was finding a patch of



PHOTOS: JOSH HEINEMANN

An Amanita - A Deathcap (charming name)

Black Trumpets growing near a downed branch, nearly invisible in the leaf litter. There were enough for everyone to bring one or two home, and they were delicious. Maybe the highlight was just being out for a few hours learning more about the wildlife of Wendell.

A second class will be held at the town hall on Thursday, September 1st, at 7:00 p.m.



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Soldiering On

After a summer of haze and heat, the crisp late days of August bring clarity to the mind and eye. Looking across the river to the hills of Gill, you can nearly make out every tree, every leaf in the pellucid air.

The warm, welcome smell of crisping bacon wafts from the ventilation stacks on the Shady Glen, where Jimmy Zantouliadis has taken over the reins from his son George, the former manager. On the corner of Avenue A and Third, Richard Gobeil's new book store, Books and More, displays its wares in the proudly painted storefront

out for a vigil at dusk in front of the memorial flags and stones, holding candles and singing America the Beautiful. They were part of more than 1,600 such candlelight vigils around the country, including large gatherings in Greenfield, Northampton and South Hadley. People gathered in Montague Center, too.

Call it protest or solidarity; the vigils were organized in support of Cindy Sheehan, the mother who has been seeking another chance to talk with George Bush about the war that claimed the life of her son



PHOTO: CAROL FLANDREAU

windows of the remodeled Moltenbrey. The little pocket park on 4th Street is swept clean, the planters around the graceful Spinner statue still blooming after weeks without rain. Volunteers are tending planters up and down the Avenue, making the main street bloom again. The Farmers Market signs are up; soon the farmers will bring the fruits of the harvest to town for another Wednesday afternoon. It is good to be alive on such a day; all seems right with the world.

A little further down the street, a single flag has fallen among the crowded ranks in the memorial for American casualties in Afghanistan and Iraq. More than two thousand flags arc around the grim stone markers for past wars. Unlike the stones, the flags have no names attached to them, but they stand for U.S. soldiers who have lost their lives in these present conflicts. Veterans agent Leo Parent adds new ones each week, adjusting the count of young men and women who have died.

Last Wednesday, here in Turners Falls, more than 60 people turned

Casey, and 1870 other soldiers, at last count. Casey, an Army Specialist, was killed by small arms fire in Baghdad on April 4th, 2004.

For two weeks, Sheehan's simple act of camping on the road leading to Bush's ranch in Crawford, Texas crystallized the nation's fear and doubt about the course of our foreign policy. Not content to watch the high-noon Texas showdown unfold between the vacationing president (George Bush had enjoyed 319 vacation days in Crawford before embarking on his present 5-week getaway) and the grieving mother camping down the road from his ranch, tens of thousands of Americans came out of their houses last Wednesday to symbolically join her vigil.

The next day, we went about our lives, thankful for a break in the weather. In Baghdad, the heat stayed brutal, sandstorms howled, the chance of sudden death pervasive.

Rather than talk with Sheehan about his plan for bringing peace to this shattered land, where political and tribal leaders seem to hold a

fractured parliament together through sheer force of U.S. will, Bush chose to fly to Salt Lake City and deliver a pep talk to the VFW, urging America to stay the course. Sheehan went to her ailing mother's bedside.

But the question she asked hangs in the summer air, and will not go away. "Why did my son die?"

It is not enough for our president to vow to "finish the job" in Iraq, so the soldiers who have died there "will not have died in vain." Americans are right to wonder what the job is we need to finish in Iraq, and how we aim to finish it. Doubt intensifies with each passing car bomb. Why are we spending \$200 billion and more to occupy a distant desert land? Can it be the vast oil wealth - the world's second largest proven oil reserves - that lies beneath the false premises of weapons of mass destruction and terrorist connections that has 130,000 American troops hunkered down in the shifting shooting gallery of Iraq? How many thousand more Americans, how many tens of thousand more Iraqis, will die before we find the answer to Sheehan's question. "Why did my son die?"

As a returning Vietnam veteran, John Kerry asked the same question another way, before a Senate hearing in 1971. "How do you ask a man to be the last man to die for a mistake?" This is the question he should have asked George Bush when he ran against him last year, but his vote authorizing the war prohibited candidate Kerry from such a clear formulation.

The mothers and fathers of dead Iraqi war veterans have no such inhibitions. Their words are a breath of fresh air for a troubled land.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A Community Asset

The *Montague Reporter* is certainly an asset to our community. I continue to look forward to its arrival on Friday. Great job. - **Helen L. Stotz**
 Turners Falls

On the Cable Provider RFP

An Open Letter to the Montague Selectboard:

There are a lot of benefits to living in a town as small as Montague. munity cable television provider. This provider will be in charge of a local station that will be dedicated to local issues and ideas and events.

Although we do not have all of the best of everything, as is available in New York or Boston, we have a different quality of life. We don't have to wait for hours and hours in line at the post office; we don't often get stuck in traffic, even for one light cycle; and you, our town officials, are easy to access. Another advantage: our media outlets are focused on what happens to the little people, because we're all little people, and we're all around.

I know that you, the selectboard, are currently preparing an RFP to be issued for a com-

see **CABLE** pg 6
 And, more letters on pg 6

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GUEST EDITORIAL

Selectboard Responds on Landfill Concerns

BY ALLEN ROSS, Chairman, PATRICIA ALLEN and PATRICIA PRUITT

We are writing in response to a guest editorial entitled "Landfill in Montague - Yes or No" - which appeared in the August 11th issue of the *Montague Reporter*. This editorial strongly suggests that the Board of Selectmen, by moving ahead with its plans to issue a Request for Proposals for development of the landfill, is doing so without any concern for the potential risks, or any intention to educate and involve the public in the decision making process. This viewpoint couldn't be farther from the truth.

From the start, it has been the intention of the Board of Selectmen to explore the landfill option thoroughly, with the assistance of knowledgeable

engineering professionals, and to involve the public fully in the decision making process. Eighteen months ago, three potential landfill developers approached the board, entirely unsolicited, and asked if the town would be interested in developing the landfill site. Given the magnitude of the town's investment in the landfill to that point (nearly three quarters of a million dollars), the board felt it would be irresponsible not to evaluate the potential for developing the site, and possibly recouping some of the town's large investment. At the same time however, the board was fully cognizant of the environmental and other risks associated with any landfill project, and the importance of doing its due diligence before committing the town to a long-term

partnership with a solid waste firm. Illustrating its commitment to the public participation process, the board held a series of public education forums,

"the board was fully cognizant of the environmental risks and other risks associated with any landfill project"

each of which was televised on the public access cable. In response to the concerns raised at the forums, the board recognized the need to slow the landfill planning process down; to involve residents, as well as key

staff, in a critical evaluation of alternatives; and most importantly, to retain qualified engineers to assist the town in its evaluation of the many technical questions associated with the issue.

In October, 2004, the board created a landfill assessment committee and secured funds from town meeting to hire Camp, Dresser and McKee engineers to assist the committee in conducting a detailed evaluation of the landfill. During the past nine months the landfill committee, comprised of both staff and citizens, including a resident of the Turnpike Road neighborhood, has explored the costs and benefits of developing the landfill site. All of the meetings of the landfill committee have been open to the public, and regular

updates on the status of the project have been presented at televised selectboard meetings.

When it was established, the landfill committee was given the task of identifying development options that would not only have the potential to generate new revenues for the town, but also ensure that environmental impacts to the neighborhood and surrounding town were minimized. This balance between fiscal benefit and environmental protection is reflected in the language of the Request for Proposals (RFP) document prepared by the landfill committee, with the assistance of its engineers. While the evaluation criteria contained in the RFP place a high value on the financial package and eco-

see **LANDFILL** pg 7

The End of Local Access Debate?

BY JEFF SINGLETON

Well, we are finally reaching the end of the debate over cable access television in Montague. After numerous protests, petitions, packed meetings, letters to the editor, endless posts on MontagueMA.net, charges of "bias" and "back room deals", citizens scratching their heads wondering what all the fuss is about... after all this we can finally move forward to decide who our local cable television access provider ought to be.

The process for doing this has come to be known as the cable RFP process. For the uninitiated, RFP stands for "Request for Proposals." This is a document commonly used for the procurement of government services. The RFP is detailed and complex: it has a bureaucratic and legalistic look and feel. You can take a look at the much revised local access RFP on www.montaguema.net under the cable advisory board link on the left bar. At the heart of the RFP are clearly stated requirements that the applicant must meet, the materials that need to be submitted and - most importantly - the criteria that will be

used to make the final pick.

The key goal of this process is insuring the same standards are applied to all applicants. The goal is to avoid bias and outright corruption in the awarding of contracts. But the RFP also reflects what the government entity is looking for in a service - what it believes the town needs and values. The values incorporated in an RFP can be rather simple and straightforward, or they can be controversial choices about which there are widely varying viewpoints. I suspect the upcoming RFP to evaluate proposals for use of the town landfill will fall into the latter category.

This is also clearly true of the cable access RFP. Behind all the charges and countercharges there are two very different visions of local access television being debated. One view, which I hold, says that local access television should, whenever possible, be local. These stations were set up as community-based institutions to encourage local involvement in television, and in the govern-

see **ACCESS** pg 7

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THE SELECTBOARD CONTINUES TO REFINE THE CABLE RFP

(Note: *The Montague Reporter* is an independent project of Montague Community Cable, Inc.)

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CABLE

continued from pg 4

ensure the provider is an 'established' provider, in order to be sure the provider is of 'professional' caliber.

While everyone enjoys professionalism, I think it is important to point out that in certain circumstances professionalism needs to be weighed against other criteria. In this case, one competing criterion is localism.

For those of us who live in Montague by choice, many of us do so because we prefer the local to the professional. In other words, we sacrifice the benefits of living near top financial institutions and hoity-toity restaurants because we'd rather deal with Linda at Greenfield Savings Bank or Mike at Greenfield Co-Operative Bank. We like to order from Michele and Elaine at the Bellybowl, from Zach at Cup o Joe's, and from Matthew and Sarah at the Lady Killigrew. There is just something more human and more essential to being so local as to refer to merchants by first name; it lends something almost indescribably good to our lives here. We like that in our small town; we can support start-ups. We root for the little guy, because we are the little guy, and we do not like it when 'established' businesses come in to take business away from those who have toiled, sometimes for decades and for little reward, at our locally-owned stores.

The same is true for our town governments. We do not outsource our local governments to representation of more professional cities. We also do not require that selectboard members have proven themselves as selectboard members of other municipalities. We require a certain amount of professionalism from our town, and we are right to expect and demand it.

However, it is just as important that our selectboard represent the town by being members of it, and that we give new candidates a chance to win office.

Similarly, the process of choosing a cable access provider (which is by design a "local" provider) should weigh the benefits of a local, even provincial, operation. It is not enough that a provider be 'professional' or 'established.' If it were, we would simply hire a station from Boston to do the job. It is also not enough that a provider be local, otherwise only those in Montague would be eligible to win the contract.

It might be argued that any provider from Franklin County is sufficiently local. What I am arguing is that the *more* local a provider is, the better it is for our town, just as it is true that the more professional a provider is, the better it is for our town. Localism and professionalism must be weighed against each other; it is imperative that the RFP be balanced in its wording to reflect this trade-off.

The balance is especially tricky because there are two clear competitors, each with different strengths, and the trade-off becomes even more important when we see that the more 'local' provider (MCTV) is local because of their proximity and dedication to Montague, while the more 'professional' and 'established' choice (GCTV) is more 'professional' and 'established' in part because they receive funding from Montague. If MCTV were to receive the same funding GCTV receives, it would provide MCTV an opportunity to become established and an opportunity to extend the professionalism and localism they show in running the *Montague Reporter* to another medium, that of local television.

Looked at another way, if we want a provider to be both as local and as professional as possible, it is important to realize that giving the contract to GCTV would not make GCTV a more local provider; however, giving the contract to MCTV would give MCTV the opportunity to become a professional, established television outlet.

I am not advocating for the

gift of the contract to MCTV. I am, however, urging you, the selectboard, to be fair, and I think fairness in the case of a local cable provider is different than other RFPs the town might issue. This difference comes because the very charge of the provider is to be *local*. The RFP must reflect this, and must not prejudice professionalism over localism, especially when the contract itself will further the opportunity to demonstrate professionalism for whichever provider is chosen.

I am urging you, the selectboard, to reconsider any revisions that would bias the contract towards a provider that is already operating a cable access station. Organizations of media and information, as well as those of government, benefit greatly from the participation of the most 'local' individuals.

Patricia, Pat, and Allen, I know of no one who dreams of trying to find a way to replace any of you with selectboard members from Greenfield, just because one of them may have more experience running a town. I truly love that you live just around the corner. It is important to me. The same is true of the *Montague Reporter*; there is a great benefit in this kind of localism; it's a localism that should be reflected in the RFP. It is about local information, about neighbors and neighborhoods.

No one wants a television station to be shoddily run; but I also don't want a station that ignores my town when I have neighbors who have demonstrated their dedication to it.

I do not know of all of the drafts of the RFP or what changes have been made. I'm simply asking in this open letter that you consider the balance between localism and professionalism as you write the final draft.

- Christopher Janke
Turners Falls

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Old Home Thanks

The Montague Old Home Days and the Mug Race committees would like to extend a grateful thank you to all the residents of the town and sur-

rounding communities for their wonderful support.

- Ann Fisk
Montague Center

Streetscape Eyesore

Finally the long awaited streetscape project has begun in Millers Falls. Things are taking shape and cement was finally poured. The construction crew has done a good job, so as not to disrupt the daily activities of the residents. Traffic moved fairly well with the help of the special officers.

Many who had to detour down Crescent Street had a chance to see the beautiful homes and gardens which make it a great place to live. Unfortunately the former home of the late Ann and "Red"

Andrews has been neglected with first a pile of plaster and trash which took six weeks to remove, now furniture and other cast offs. The only attraction is for mice and now a family of skunks. Regrettably the current owner, who does not live there, doesn't have the same respect for his neighbors that Ann and Red did for over 31 years. It is not only an eyesore but a slap in the face to the neighborhood.

- Donald J. Collette
Millers Falls

Dog 'Souvenirs' Unacceptable

In case you haven't noticed, there is a flurry of activity in downtown Turners Falls. Amateur green-thumb gardeners have "adopted" the long neglected planters along the Avenue in an attempt to spruce them up. Combinations of annuals and perennials have replaced the drab patches of weeds, overgrown lilies and trash. Some of the planters are still waiting to be claimed and beautified, but hopefully other businesses, organizations or individuals will come forward to complete the effort.

And this commitment to improvement makes sense as new life and activity is coming to downtown Turners Falls.

Just this past weekend, a new bookstore opened while the Moltenbrey renovation, the Hallmark studio in the Colle and the bike path opening are

all part of a fresh new beginning.

What does not make sense is the lack of respect that some dog owners have for these improvements. There is nothing worse than working in a garden with souvenirs left behind by dogs, if you know what I mean. It amazes me that some dog owners would allow their pets - which must be on a leash by town ordinance anyway - to drop their calling card in or on a public way, and then just leave! It is these few pet owners that give all others of us a bad rap.

So please, let's all work together improving our downtown appearance by keeping the planters waste and trash free so we can all enjoy them!

Thank you.

- Linda Ackerman
Planter-adoptee

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LANDFILL

continued from pg 5

the financial package and economic development benefits being offered to the town by potential developers, the criteria are also heavily weighted in categories that measure how well the developer will: avoid significant impacts from noise, dust, pests and storm water runoff; limit air quality, water quality and other environmental impacts and nuisance factors during operation and final closure; use trucking routes that avoid residential neighborhoods to the maximum extent possible; avoid impact to wetland

resources; and use state of the art mitigation measures to minimize visual and auditory impacts to the neighborhood, among many other things. It is through this balance of environmental and financial impacts that the town hopes to attract a project that will not only provide a much-needed fiscal boost but will also be a good neighbor that will not cause problems for the town down the road.

The guest editorial expresses particular concern about the potential environmental and other impacts that will result if the town approves use of the landfill site as a repository for contaminated soils and ash from

incinerators. These are legitimate issues, concerns that can and will be addressed to the satisfaction of the public during the many public meetings that will be held throughout the RFP evaluation process, and in the permitting process, if and when a project has been authorized to proceed by town meeting. This process of public education will begin on September 7th (7:00 p.m.), when the board delivers a presentation on the RFP at the Turners Falls High School. It will continue in the fall months when the landfill committee conducts its detailed evaluation of responses to the RFP, and in January, 2006, when the board

presents the results of the RFP for public consideration. If a successful proposal has been found, then in March and April, the board will also conduct a series of meetings, at which time the public will have ample opportunity to ask questions about the specific project and the vendor that has been selected. This discussion will be followed by a town meeting vote on the matter in May, 2006. The process will only continue if it is approved by town meeting.

It must also be remembered that the public participation process does not end with a decision by town meeting authorizing the selectboard to

enter into a contract with a solid waste vendor. The successful vendor will then have to go through a rigorous process of environmental reviews by both local boards and state agencies. The project that is ultimately approved through this process will be strictly regulated by state and federal laws and guidelines, and carefully crafted contractual agreements that are designed to protect the environment and the community.

The board urges the public to keep an open mind on this issue during the RFP process.



ACCESS

continued from pg 5

mental, educational, and cultural activities of the city or town. A cable access provider must be technologically competent and organizationally stable, but these organizational aspects are a means to an end, not the central goal. Local control is not just a question of power: organizations rooted in a community do a better job of encouraging community involvement and insuring that cable income benefits the local community. Local control is in fact a community development issue.

The other point of view argues that local does not matter very much or that "local" could also mean "regional." Organizational stability and technological efficiency are valued most. If the station is clean, well-run, has good equipment people can use, why worry about "local?" This perspective appears to assume that larger regional organizations under centralized control will be more stable and technologically sound. They will produce "economies of scale" which produce more and better services. This vision also seems to reflect a great fear, apparently induced by perceptions of

Montague local access in the late 1990s, that a locally controlled organization might be a total disaster producing bad television and squandering the cable users' money.

I believe the latter view, while expressing a legitimate desire for stability, virtually defines local access television as we know it out of existence. But the question is, does the current RFP reflect a particular point of view in this debate?

Readers should look at the latest version of the RFP and decide for themselves. In my view, the current RFP has a pretty strong bias in favor of the view that "local" doesn't matter very much and that organizational stability is the "sine qua non" (in selectboard chair Al Ross's words) of local access television. I hesitate to say this because I know the cable advisory committee strove long and hard to produce a fair and balanced document. The original draft represented a fair compromise. But the most recent version seems pretty heavily weighted in favor of one vision.

For example, three of the eight criteria stress the need for organizational stability and proficiency. To me, this dominates the RFP to such a degree that it not only reflects one

view of local access, it gives a huge advantage to whichever organization happens to be running the station now. The criteria reflect what the town will primarily be looking for as we evaluate proposals. In this case, one view appears to dominate.

At the same time, any value attached to being a local community-based organization seems to have been eliminated entirely. "Local" is now defined as "the Franklin County area." To me, this creates an extraordinary bias in the RFP. I am not suggesting that local control should be the only factor or that it should be worded in such a way as to exclude the current provider, Greenfield Community Television. But to give no points at all to a community-based group seems to tilt the whole RFP process strongly in one direction.

Some selectboard members have suggested they believe in the concept of regional access television under centralized control. Other people argue regionalization is not inconsistent with - in fact would be enhanced by - local control. But there is nothing specified about regionalization in the RFP at all, so to my mind it is inappropriate for that question to be a factor in the decision. The regional vs. local question

has been hovering around the local access debate for years, but no one has been required to actually put forward a concrete proposal for discussion.

There are many good things about the RFP; indeed the document as a whole is a remarkable achievement for a volunteer board. Thankfully, it seems to require that the potential provider present a detailed plan and budget for the expenditure of Montague's local access funds. This addresses a core problem with both the current and previous local access providers. However, it is not clear to me how these plans and budgets will be evaluated and compared and how important they will be in the final decision. Again, the criteria seem heavily weighted in favor of stability, as opposed to all else.

Finally, there is no requirement the town meeting approve the local access contract. The decision seems to be left entirely up to the selectboard. But the current state of the RFP (and comments by selectboard members) suggests the majority has a strong bias in favor of regionalization under central control. So while the process is much better in some ways, the conclusion appears to be foredoomed.

The town recently received a

legal opinion saying the last local access contract was invalid because it was not approved by town meeting. Yet we are not going to send this one to town meeting? It doesn't make sense at all to me.

The document produced by the Cable Advisory Committee was an effort to compromise. The current version, in my opinion, has a strong bias in favor of one viewpoint, says little about a key factor (regional television) and appears to eliminate the role of town meeting.

At minimum, there should be a public hearing on the revisions to the RFP, so the local public, who will be the ones paying for and presumably watching - if not producing - local cable television in Montague for years to come can offer their opinions on the changing values expressed in the document. It is not too late to rectify them, to produce a truly balanced RFP that expresses both the values of local control and regional reach, organizational stability and community development, and produces a proposal the selectboard can act on and the town meeting can approve.



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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Only Six Building Permits til '06

BY IVAN USSACH

The town clerk has received a letter of resignation from Julie Wonkka, who served on the town's recreation commission, effective August 22nd. Later in the evening the board met with the recreation commission and jointly appointed two new members, Betsy Sicard and Jackie Young. The commission is now at full strength, although it has been without a chairperson since Lauren Bertrand resigned early

in 2005. Because the commission seats are elected positions, Sicard and Young will be required to run in the annual elections next spring if they wish to continue to serve.

The selectboard received a letter from the planning board concerning the zoning bylaw passed June 27th at special town meeting. That bylaw limits the number of new building permits that can be issued in one calendar year to 12. Because of the timing

of the recently adopted bylaw, the planning board has pro-rated to six the number of building permits that can be issued from July 1st - December 31st of 2005.

The selectboard reviewed four new regulations proposed by the board of health. The proposed regulations cover the following topics: shared wells and springs; public and semi-public swimming pool facilities; tanning facilities; and catering and mobile food cart operators. BOH

regulations do not require a public vote.

In other news:

The board reviewed a notice from the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District stating that the FCSWMD has been selected to receive the National Recycling Coalition's 2005 award for "Outstanding Government Program."

The board received a notice from the Commonwealth's

Executive Office of Elders Affairs stating that Erving's Council on Aging program will receive an additional \$400, bringing the total award for FY '06 to \$15,300.

On Thursday, September 1st at 11:30 a.m., the senior center will host a fundraiser for Meals on Wheels. The event is open to the public. Lunch will be \$6 per person. For reservations, please call 423-3308.

NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Bathers: Enter Fiske Pond at Your Own Risk

BY JOSH HEINEMANN

The back and forth about how often water quality should be tested at the town's recently acquired Fiske Pond property, and who should conduct those tests, landed on the selectboard's table again as their August 10th meeting opened. Don Chapelle and Charles Smith, of the conservation commission, and Harry Williston, of the board of health, continued the discussion, after planning board chair Deidre Cabral submitted a letter to the selectboard about her recent communication with Christopher Huskey in the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH). Cabral told the board Huskey stated it was up to the local board of health to determine what was and was not a bathing beach, and that the state would not mandate that Fiske Pond be designated as a swimming beach. Cabral recommended the town put up a sign saying, "Fiske Pond is not a public bathing beach. This is Conservation land. There is no testing of water quality. Enter the water at your own risk."

Selectboard member Dan Keller said he liked that wording, and suggested the sign be put up in the proposed information kiosk at the Fiske Pond parking lot. Chapelle thought a sign should be posted at the beach as well.

Selectboard chair Ted Lewis said the dawn to dusk regulation for keeping Fiske Pond open is flawed, and should be changed to specific times. He said, "If we say 'closed at 8:00 p.m.,' they will be out by 9:00 p.m., and that is reasonable." Smith said the conservation restriction specified dawn to dusk, but Chapelle said "we can change the sign." Chapelle also thanked Lewis for letting people use the trail through his land to get to the pond.

At the July 27th meeting, Lewis complained about "arrogant nude bathers" passing by his door and walking to the pond through his land. A discussion ensued with chief of police Ed Chase about whether public nudity constitutes a sex crime, and whether someone arrested and convicted of public nudity would have to register as a sex offender. At that meeting, Smith suggested posting a sign prohibiting public nudity at Fiske Pond, a suggestion the board agreed to.

(Perhaps the signs could be combined to read, "Nude bathers, enter or leave the water at your own risk.")

Health Agent Nominated

The board of health has not reappointed health agent Glen Ayers, and Williston nominated Elizabeth Swedberg for the position. Swedberg is assistant

health agent in Athol, and Williston said she is more rounded than Ayers; for example she is certified to do food testing. The selectboard approved her nomination.

FRCOG offers the services of their health agent as needed for \$65 an hour up to \$3200 per year. Keller and Lewis, the board members present, said the board of health could use the COG health agent as needed.

Craft Fair Planned

Phyllis Brooks asked to rent the town hall Saturday, December 10th, and Sunday December 11th, with a Friday evening set up for a second annual holiday craft fair. She asked for the same discount in the rental fee the fair organizers received in 2004, because it promotes Wendell businesses, \$50 a day as opposed to the normal \$90 a day. Both board members present agreed to the discount in spite of increased heating cost. Brooks filled out the application in the office, and Lewis said the cleaning deposit would be waived if the people running the fair cleaned up adequately.

Interim Town Offices

Thinking of housing town offices during construction of the library and new town office building, Keller said he had called Mahar superintendent

Eileen Perkins to see if Wendell could use any trailers freed up by the completion of the high school renovation. There are none. He called Triumph Leasing Corporation about renting two trailers for offices, plus a storage trailer for records; the trailers are 50 feet by 10 feet, and have electric heat, but they could be placed side by side to conserve some energy, and they could have skirts installed, with some insulation underneath.

The board received a letter from the zoning board of appeals asking for a clerk, mainly to do postings, but also for secretarial work. Lewis supposed every board would need a clerk, and Keller suggested putting the position on the warrant for a September special town meeting.

The conservation commission has requested permission to use the old library for meetings, once the new library is built. Lewis said the library trustees would have first say on that.

Finding Old Bullard Road

Lisa Hoag met the board with concerns about her south property line. The deed describing her property begins and ends with an old town road that connects from Locke Village road to Bullard Pasture road, but the front part of that road, closer to Locke Village road has been

obliterated by bulldozing and mowing by a neighbor on a field that extends onto her property. Further back from Locke Village road, the old town road is still clear because of stone walls on either side. "I just need to know where to start," she said. If the property next door is sold she is worried about losing land through adverse possession.

Lewis remembered walking on that road when he grew up in town. He looked up the 1986 town meeting that discontinued roads, and found that a section of Bullard Pasture Road had been discontinued, but not the road Hoag was referring to. The framed 1971 town map in the selectboard office showed the road clearly, labeled "Old Bullard Road." Keller said, in disbelief, "It looks like that road was never discontinued."

Hoag brought the tax map into the office, and everyone in the room looked at it. The property boundaries are marked in feet, and Lewis said if a survey pin could be located it might be possible to work back from there to locate the south line of Hoag's property. Keller suggested Joe Coll and Linda Hickman have a surveyed pin, and it might be possible to work from that. With the hope that surveying her property from a known pin would save Hoag a lot of money, the board adjourned early.

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NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Prominent Millers Eyesore Prompts Renewed Debate

BY PHILIPPE DEGUISE

In contrast to a number of turbulent and steamy selectboard meetings this summer, Monday night's session (8/22) took place in an atmosphere reminiscent of a lazy river on a perfect August evening. With only two of three members present and a light turnout, the evening provided ample time for everyone to have their voices heard. It was a breath of fresh air before a busy fall chock full of pressing matters and passionate opinions.

Dominating the agenda again was the Powers Block building in Millers Falls, owned by Richard Conley. Conley was not able to attend the meeting, but building inspector David Jensen was present and provided concrete answers to the selectboard's questions.

As he told the board on October 20th of 2003, discussing the same set of concerns, Jensen said Conley is currently operating under a work permit granted in 1999 for "emergency structural repairs" which allows him to complete repairs on the first floor diaphragm. "Then he has no more right to work on the building without permits," Jensen said. As for the bulge in the brick facade on the Bridge Street side of the structure, Jensen told the selectboard he felt the repair had been "poorly executed." The brick is poorly lined up and below grade the structure has not been repaired. However, Jensen said, "It is an aesthetic concern, but not a safety issue. I think it will be a long term repair."

The Powers Block building is an issue of concern for Millers residents because it stands out as the largest and one of the most visible structures in the center of Millers Falls. Currently, three fourths of the building is condemned. For the past eight years Conley has been working on and off to repair the building, at a speed many area residents find disturbingly slow. He has at times worked outside the parameters of the required permits and completed repairs in a manner not up to code, according to the building inspector. Recently Jensen warned Conley that the windows he had installed did not have safety glazing, a code violation. Given the choice by Jensen of removing these and

glazing them properly or covering them, Conley chose the latter.

When and if that piece of the project will be completed satisfactorily is unclear, since Conley is presently out of state and difficult to contact.

Jensen said he is working with Conley to complete work on the diaphragm as allowed under the permit. "How can we get him to finish that?" asked Pat Allen, sitting in for Al Ross as chair for the evening.

"I would pray someone would buy it from him," joked Jensen, who was clearly frustrated by the situation. "Had I had the foresight that this would take eight years, I would have never have allowed that," he said.

"We need to do something," responded Allen.

According to Marge Levenson, a member of the Precinct Two citizens group that has been pushing the selectboard to keep the Powers Block squarely on the agenda, there may be someone residing illegally on the third floor of the building, an area condemned as unfit for occupancy. Jensen responded that he had been to the third floor, but no one had answered the door. He said a search warrant might be an option.

In the meantime, Allen directed Jensen to meet with other town officials to discuss the best approach to expediting repair of the building, including involving the fire chief.

Unregistered Vehicles

In other matters, police chief Ray Zukowski appeared before the board to discuss another long-standing issue, that of unregistered vehicles. While some residents park such vehicles to store them for later sale, it is not legal to have more than one at a time unless garaged, according to a town bylaw. Exceptions are made in the



The Powers Block building in Millers Falls

bylaw for farm and contractors' equipment, or if they are stored out of sight. Violators are subject to a five dollar per day fine for each vehicle ten days after receiving a written notice from the selectboard. However, before the fine can be collected it is necessary to go to court to show probable cause. According to Zukowski it may take two to three months before a show cause hearing is held. If the court sides with the town, the owner of the vehicle must pay the fine covering every workday since issuance, in addition to each day it takes to obey the order. The process is drawn out and time consuming.

"We towed three unregistered vehicles on town property last week," said Zukowski. He explained that while the town had the right to tow on public property, it did not have the power to do so on private property. That has to be taken up by the property owner, unless the individual specifically contacts his department seeking help. Residents should contact the police department if they have concerns about unregistered vehicles.

Landfill Public Meeting

Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio provided an overview of the landfill project in a written statement. "The Town of Montague is soliciting proposals from qualified firms to design, permit, construct and operate a landfill, a residential recycling drop-off center and composting facility, and a leachate pretreatment facility, as well as to design, permit and construct closure of an old 'burn

dump' on Turnpike Road at the landfill site in the village of Turners Falls."

According to Abbondanzio, specifications for bidders will be available at Montague town hall on August 24th. There will be a mandatory pre-bid conference on September 15th at 1 p.m.,

with bids due on November 1st. The public is invited to a meeting on the landfill RFP on Wednesday, September 7th at the high school at 7 p.m. In the meantime, a five-member committee will be formed to evaluate the proposals. There are ten interested parties at this initial stage, Abbondanzio said.

Linda Morrow, owner of Yesterdays bar on Third Street appeared before the selectboard to inquire about having male and female reviews appear there. She has been contacted by a company that provides such entertainment. The shows do not involve nudity, Morrow said. Morrow stressed this type of entertainment would only take place occasionally, with patrons having to purchase a ticket to attend.

Police chief Ray Zukowski noted the town's bylaws do not currently regulate adult entertainment. Abbondanzio said there was nothing in Morrow's license prohibiting Yesterdays from holding such shows. Allen

and board member Patricia Pruitt voted to amend Morrow's license to allow "Jack and Jill parties, and male and female reviews, without nudity."

Neighboring business owner Chris Janke said, "I wish the selectboard had taken their time in amending the license and had given more consideration to the neighborhood. Yesterdays has not proved itself to be a good neighbor," in the past, he said, referring to frequent noise complaints about the establishment.

The town should look into drafting an adult entertainment bylaw soon, Allen said.

Robin Sherman has been working with the Brick House on a grant to promote the arts in Turners Falls. "We would like to get the word out to a larger audience," she said, referring to the various arts festivals that take place yearly, such as the Arts and Blooms festival.

Sherman said the goal was to promote the village as a destination, offering walking tours, a film festival and more music, all with a theme of river life.

Kathleen Burek was appointed to the agricultural commission until June of 2006. Her appointment fills the last vacancy on that committee.

The annual Franklin County Hazardous Waste Collection Day will take place on Saturday, September 24th. More information will be provided, but anyone who is interested may pre-register online at <http://www.franklincounty-wastedistrict.org> or by calling 772-2438. This is the perfect time to get rid of your pesticides, oil based paints, used batteries and other toxic items, for free.

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SCHOOL

continued from pg 1

"How can we include them in our community more?" lead the GMRSD to pursue the program. Having children from the district educated here helps the system build caring citizens in our community, Gee said.

Farkas said when she started in special education in the 80s students with special needs were often sent out of district, but that changed with state educational reform in 1993 and 1994. Then the push came to include all children in the mainstream of the school.

Gee said, "Massachusetts was at the cutting edge of trying to become more inclusive."

More and more schools are developing their own programs, whenever they get a critical mass of special needs students, Farkas said. She has seen the number of students who could

be served here grow in recent years, and knew their needs could be better met in their home district. For example, students can be placed in a variety of educational situations with close monitoring and increased flexibility.

In addition to lost tuition and high transportation costs, educational programs can average \$25,000 or \$30,000 a year for out of district placements, Farkas said. By keeping students within the district, those costs can be reduced, as overhead costs are shared by many students, and the money allocated for them can be more effectively used as benefits of the program - such as staff training - stay within the district. Additionally, Gee pointed out that many of the staff hired for this new program are from the area, so it helps the economy of the region.

Is the district creating an

expensive system for special education at the cost of programs for other students, asked Jeff Singleton, Montague finance committee chair. "The more you create special education, the more you create an attraction for people who want special education," he said. Still he expressed the opinion that local students should be served within the district.

Committee member Tony Guglielmi commended the holistic nature of the Old Mill Program but noted, in general, special education "is a high expense. We want to have this for the kids, but we're not getting the funding the federal government promised us."

Currently the program should break even, Farkas noted, but if students from out of district filled available seats at the GMRSD, the program would be able to offset costs.

The new program, which

expands upon one in place at Hillcrest Elementary for many years, includes a classroom for third through sixth graders and one for seventh through ninth graders. Each classroom will have a teacher focusing on academics and three interventionists, whose primary job will be to support learning by dealing with any behavior problems. The program overall is supported by a clinical coordinator and a program coordinator who are staff of SBS. Through an agreement with SBS, two seats will be available for students from other districts.

SBS provides training about how to best meet students' needs, and this can be carried over into other classrooms, Gee said. SBS also provide a framework for the program and many of the nuts and bolts of educating children, such as classroom rules, guidelines for staff, and other tools for effective class-

room coordination.

Parents are asked to be involved at a deep level. Through education sessions and biweekly parent groups, "we get to work with parents more consistently" and that helps keep the structures in place for the children during weekends and breaks, Gee said.

Twenty-one students are still scheduled to attend school out of the district this fall, down from a high of 36 mid-year last year. Considering these numbers, Farkas said the school district needs to ask, "Are we offering the best we can offer for the consumer? What does this child really need? How can we give it to them in the best way?" For some students, a school or program out of the district may still be the best choice



NOTES FROM THE GILL-MONTAGUE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Erving, Gill and Wendell May Use Turners High in the Event of Bioterror Threat

BY SARAH PEBWORTH

MONTAGUE - In the event of a bioterrorist threat, you may be told to proceed to Turners Fall High School. More likely, the newly designated emergency dispensing site would be put into use to provide vaccines or antibiotics for a small outbreak of hepatitis A or flu virus, or even for a mass inoculation, explained Jay DiPucchio, member of the Montague board of health. He attended Tuesday night's (8/23) Gill-Montague Regional School District committee meeting to outline the parameters of the new infectious disease emergency plan.

The Mohawk Area Regional Public Health Coalition, a consortium of regional boards of health, coordinates the program.

DiPucchio noted many cross-jurisdictional and geographical issues come into play, as in the event of an emergency the Turners Falls High School would be used for the approximately 12,000 people from Erving, Gill, Montague, and Wendell. Although the plan is still in draft form, "if something came up this fall," he said, "we'd pretty much have a map" for how to proceed.

Committee member Valeria Smith questioned DiPucchio about containment, and said, "It would be terrible if we contaminated all of our schools."

Schools are good locations because people know where they are, DiPucchio explained, and noted that many different agencies would be responding and assisting. While the pro-

gram is a federal initiative, and funded at the state level by the Homeland Security Act, local efforts are largely volunteer.

In other school news, a \$2,100 maintenance problem at the Gill Elementary School turned into more than a \$9,000 capital expense, according to Lynn Bassett, director of business and operations. The discovery of moisture under the carpeting in two rooms led to the removal of carpeting in two other rooms and additional unanticipated expenses. Bassett said she contacted the town to discuss the increased costs.

Beginning of school celebrations will be held at all schools, Superintendent Sue Gee reported.

Gee is working with the

Greenfield school system and many local employers to allow parents to be released from work so they may attend opening day events.

The celebration schedule is as follows.

Gill Elementary

Sept. 6th, 9 a.m., Meet with parents, staff, and students.

Great Fall Middle

Aug. 30th, 9-10 a.m., Breakfast and meet with teachers.

Hillcrest Elementary

Sept. 9th, 8:45 a.m., Breakfast for parents.

Montague Center

Sept. 2nd, 2:30 p.m. Reception

Sheffield Elementary

Aug. 31st, 8:30 a.m., Breakfast

in gym; 9 a.m. classroom visits; 9:45 a.m. all-school meeting

Turners Falls High

Aug. 30th, 7:30-8:15 a.m., Coffee and pastries for staff, parents, and students.

Road Construction

The town of Montague will be reconstructing the following streets starting the week of August 29th, 2005: Third Street and Unity Street from Avenue A to Scotty's Store and Park Street from Seventh Street to Unity Street.

There will be no on Street parking Monday through Friday during the construction; residents should expect detours and delays

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NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Highway Department Holds the Line

BY DAVID DETMOLD

Highway superintendent Mickey LaClaire informed the selectboard the town is due to receive \$92,575 in Chapter 90 highway funds from the state this year, down only a few hundred dollars from last year. He brought the board up to date on several repair projects around town at their August 22nd meeting.

"We're replacing the guard rail along Main Road," at the top of the hill. "Almost all the old cement posts were broken off at ground level." LaClaire has the highway crew replacing them with flex beam guardrail.

In front of town hall, LaClaire's crew has repainted the parking lanes, and painted one inch white stripes at the edge of each of the new front steps. At dusk, LaClaire said, people were having a hard time discerning the edge of the steps, which are made from a uniform gray composite decking.

As for the parking lanes, LaClaire said, "We did the lines with a hand roller, to save money. I think they came out pretty good."

Pursuing the cost saving theme a bit further, board chair Phil Maddern wondered if

LaClaire would consider doing the lane markings along town roads the same way. "You could sit on the tail gate of the truck."

Speaking of trucks, LaClaire said the highway's new dump truck is due to be delivered by the end of September. In other highway news, LaClaire said the department plans to reconfigure the intersection of Hoe Shop and Bascom Road when they replace the culvert there. "We'll turn Bascom Road at a 90 degree angle, so traffic will have to come to a full stop before entering Hoe Shop Road," he said.

In other business, the board received information about a Franklin County Solid Waste Management District grant application to the DEP for waste reduction measures, including recycling bins and school recycling programs. A new feature offered to municipalities and school districts in the grant this year is the possibility to purchase retrofit units for the tail pipes of diesel vehicles, including snow plows and school buses, to reduce particulate emissions. Jan Ameen, director of FCSWMD, said the \$1200 units, which function as catalytic converters, are mostly suit-

able for older model trucks and buses; \$7000 units are also available for models from '95 on, but require those vehicles to use low sulphur diesel fuel not presently available in Franklin County. The less expensive tail pipe retrofits, for older models, reduce 30% of particulate emissions; the more expensive units reduce 60% to 90% of tailpipe emissions, Ameen said.

But at the F.M. Kuzmeskus bus company, providing service to the Gill-Montague schools, company president Darlene Reipold said her fleet of 130 buses is one of the newest, and one of the cleanest in the state. "The vehicles we have are all year 2000 or newer. We already have cleaner burning engines. If you put a white handkerchief on one of our bus's tailpipes and let it idle for 10 or 20 minutes, you won't see a spot."

Town administrative assistant Deb Roussel said she had passed along information about the diesel retrofit aspect of the grant to the highway and fire department. Ameen said towns and school districts have until September 6th to notify FCSWMD of their interest in the grant.

Roussel informed the board

the state Alcohol Beverage Control Commission had sent an agent to Alan's BBQ on Route 2 to revoke the license held by Edwin Prondecki, Jr. for failure to pay meals tax from May 1997 through March 2005. The ABCC estimates Prondecki owes \$50,000 in back taxes for his establishment, which was shut down for code violations earlier this year, following an electrical fire.

The board signed a lease with Steve Hussey and the Four Winds School at Barton Cove, a private middle school operating out of the first floor of the Riverside Municipal Building on Route 2. Hussey, who said he expects at least 8 and up to 11 students to enroll this year, agreed to pay \$625 a month for use of the facility. Hussey asked whether he would be able to expand to include a summer program next year, and board member Anne Banash said the lease would allow for that.

BOOK

continued from pg 1

of the canal and the dam across the great falls.

Many of the mills are shown and several photographs reveal the working conditions inside these mills. Train aficionados will be glad to see the photos of Montague's early train stations

and trolleys.

One of the most interesting photos is a very rare depiction of the Farren House (later the Grand Trunk Hotel) that stood at the corner of Avenue A and Second Street, the former Cumberland Farms location (see below) The image shows several horse-drawn wagons in front, with many people stand-

ing around. Many local folks have friends and relatives who lived in this building before it was torn down in the 1970s.

Scott has done a wonderful job of including advertisements from local publications and local postcards which show business establishments and neighborhoods. This book also has many photographic portraits that enable the reader to see some of Montague's earliest families and developers, and some people of more recent notoriety. There are also several photos of the schools and churches throughout the villages and the children who attended these schools. Aerial views of the villages are also included.

This well done archival history of Montague is sure to be a big hit with local history fans and those who love old photographs. Perhaps we can persuade Scott to schedule a book signing at a local venue soon. Until then, tell your favorite bookstore to order extra copies, they'll be selling fast!



PHOTO COURTESY OF "MONTAGUE LABOR AND LEISURE"

This photograph shows the Farren House, which was built in 1874 by Bernard Farren. This hotel was a favorite spot for Canadian loggers and other river men during their stays in Turners Falls.



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PERSONAL INJURY, WILLS & ESTATES, WORKER'S COMP

HOME

continued from pg 1

neither the llamas nor the horses appreciated the others' company; both were apparently afraid of the 'strange animals.'

The Ridge Runners Riding Club based at the Sand Hill Ranch, and the Pony Pals from the Mt. Toby Riding Club were both represented by their talented young equestriennes. Horses had names like Tripper and Jack. A pony named Breezy drew a pony cart with a clown; a white pony was called Pork Chop, and his barnyard float was intricately designed.

Many others took time and effort to join in, including Liz Fisk, pulling an ornate pony cart with huge wheels. She was quite a sight, dressed as a giant



Bella Lattanzzi, left, and Ivy Muller share smiles on the "Fairy Float" following the parade at Montague Old Home Day.

lady bug in purple polka dots, with bobbing antennae. All the spectators appeared to love all forty minutes of a just right parade.

The 46th annual parade owed its success to Linda Ackerman who oversaw a committee including Barbara Thurman, Denise Coyne, Katie



The Oak Ridge Detachment of the Marine Corps League from Gill marched down Main Street in Saturday's parade.

Thurber, Louie Socquet, good 'Montague-ites,' friend Tammy Downes, Alix and neighbors who made it possible. Ackerman, and the many, many



Jackie Rastallis, left and Ann Fisk, right, represent Skunk Hollow Farm in the parade. In rear, Liz Fisk in ladybug costume with Erica Sabelamski in cowboy hat. Far right: Katie Rastallis.



Martha Edwards received a standing ovation at the finale of her "twist" to Swift Kick's version of "Wipe Out."



PHOTOS: MICHAEL MULLER

David Annear of the Turners Falls Fire Department drives Engine No. 3 in the parade, while John Annear rides alongside him. Smiling, in back, are John Mieczkowski with Jason Veandry.

BARN

continued from pg 1

Peacemakers and to join in their evolving work.

The Mother House is located on a 34-acre campus on what was once the dairy farm and sugarbush owned by Robert Ripley. Now, the converted cow barn will house gatherings, events, classes and offices for the Zen Peacemakers and their guests. With renovations complete, the first scheduled event will take place in the building on September 9th, featuring leading Kirtan chanter Krishna Das. Kirtan is a type of Indian chant, typically done in a call and response format, in which the leader sings a phrase, and the group repeats it. It is said to have the ability to bridge a direct connection to God.

The hall will also be the location of multi-faith retreats and spiritual practices. Some days it will be a monastery, other days a temple or a church.

According to event coordinator Jo Weaver, upcoming activities at the remodeled center will help to fund future Zen Peacemaking projects.

"October 31st is the official opening, [and] all people are invited to attend," she said.

Other events to take place will include morning yoga classes, to be held on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8 a.m. - 9 a.m. There will also be Zen meditation classes held Monday through Saturday, starting September 8th. These work-

shops will take place in the large, open common room of the Mother House. A list of scheduled events can be found at houseofonepeople.org.

The Zen Peacemakers community is a department of the Maezumi Institute founded by Bernie Glassman in 1996, which has grown tremendously. It is a national as well as international organization, with locations in Germany, Switzerland, Poland, France, Israel, Palestine, Belgium, and Japan.

"This community includes people doing social action... from many different places and countries," said Glassman, as he leaned against the newly finished walls of the old barn. As a Zen teacher, Roshi Bernie Glassman is also involved in social action around the "corporate" world, in inner cities, and places that require intense peacemaking, using the study and application of Zen. The members of his Dharma family have formed the many affiliate centers and groups around the world.

"Building this hub [was important] for the work the Maezumi Institute does around the world," said Glassman. The

center will be for all of the people who participate in peacemaking work for the Institute nationally and internationally.

"There are centers and groups throughout the world, led by Bernie Glassman," said Zen Peacemaker Family president Jim Bastien, who joined the Peacemaking Community



This renovated barn on Ripley Road will serve as the "Mother House" of the Zen Peacemaker Community. It will hold gatherings, events, classes and offices.

of WWII. This retreat consists of prayer, meditation, religious services and remembrance.

According to Glassman, the Auschwitz retreats began 10 years ago. They "bring people together from countries and cultures around the world. This event has had more healing than any other," the Peacemakers

have organized, he said.

Bastien agreed, saying "the Bearing Witness retreat is very powerful. It brings together people from all different faiths"...

"to bear witness to the diverse aspects of ourselves and others." This retreat is held in November; registration can be completed on the website.

The President of Poland

recently invited Glassman to lay a cornerstone for a new monument in Auschwitz with the logo of Zen Peacemakers.

There are various projects in the future for the Montague campus, including an area for children and an amphitheatre to hold performances and large audiences. In the meantime, performances will be held in the Mother House, with plenty of seating and balcony space for attendance.

The farmhouse that currently holds the Peacemakers' offices and meeting rooms, will now become a place where people can stay for a weekend or a weeklong retreat.

According to Bastien, there are many different ways to get involved with the Zen Peacemaker Community and to support their work. Individuals can volunteer their time to work in trouble spots nationally and internationally, week-long retreats, "schmoozing sessions" with Glassman, and other opportunities for study and practice with the Zen Peacemakers are described on their website.

Concert at the Hoop

An evening performance by Kirtan chanter Krishna Das will be held at the House of One People, 177 Ripley Road, in Montague on Friday, September 9th, from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$30 each. They may be purchased at the door, online at www.houseofonepeople.org, or by calling (413) 367-2080 extension 7#. Following the concert on Saturday the 10th and Sunday the 11th is a workshop led by Krishna Das and Roshi Bernie Glassman. Those interested should register in advance by web or phone.

SKATE

continued from pg 1

project. Less than five years later, in an advancing state of disrepair, the skate park closed its doors.

Since then it has been idle, except for the occasional dare-devils who climb the chain link fence illegally. While a crew from the Department of Public Works did swoop in a month and a half ago to remove a lightning-struck poplar with deliberate speed, they did nothing to mend the rotting ramps, slashed benches or cracked surfaces.

The skate park is located on land behind the former Chick's Garage on Third Street, purchased last year by sculptor and local businessman Tim de Christopher. "I didn't want to buy Chick's Garage, but I wanted the land. Francis Ahearn wouldn't sell the land separately," said de Christopher, who leases the 110 foot x 210 foot park to the town via the skate park fund. The town has three years remaining on the skate park's original ten-year lease. "They may decide to get out sooner, but I can't tell," said de Christopher. "I'm just waiting." He said he has tried to be a good neighbor and does not intend on terminating the lease early, at this point. "I'm sort of a steward of the neighborhood," he said, referring to his ownership of the Williams Garage across the street as well as the house next door to the park on 2nd Street, lately remodeled.

De Christopher's plan is to install the Cathedral Project on the site of the skate park one day, a monumental sculpture which "will tell an archetypal story of the human condition, as it has manifested through time, in its own unique way, in the village of Turners Falls," according to his website. He stated the project will take several years to complete and install, eventually becoming a "center of artistic activity within the community." Additionally, de Christopher hopes to include studio space, a gallery and café, or a small museum. The end result will be a "monument in a park-like garden setting," he said. At present the piece is progressing slowly, as de Christopher gives his attention to other ventures.

For the town, one of the main difficulties in dealing with the current and future status of the skate park is money. The park was placed under the supervision of the parks and recreation department in 1999, but the line item for maintaining the skate park was subsequently dropped, due to town budget constraints. "That money covered supplies and materials, but not labor," said John Dobosz, parks and recreation director. "We needed volunteers for that, which were hard to find," he added. Workdays were held to paint, clean and repair the skate park, but the number of volunteers was not always sufficient, and the weather sometimes worked against them. Teens who showed up for rainy workdays grew demoralized, although they did



PHOTO: PHILIPPE DEGUISE

Ramp to Nowhere

persevere for a time. Fundraisers were organized to pay the taxes on the property and to cover the cost of maintenance, but the sums were insufficient to guarantee the facility's long-term health. The last fundraising concert broke even and did not achieve its intended goal.

Another key issue, according to town administrator Frank Abbondanzio, is insurance. The town has a new insurance carrier who has yet to decide whether it is willing to insure the property as a skate park. "There is a question of whether additional things have to be done. What is necessary to bring it up to code?" said Abbondanzio. He said the town has been supportive of the park, but did not want to take on added expenses. "It is the preference of the selectboard (for park users) to fundraise," he said.

According to town treasurer Patti Dion, the taxes for the skate park, which include \$896.87 in real estate taxes and a fire district tax of \$191.26 are paid up until November, when the next installment is due. There is currently \$350 in the skate park account, some of it from donations and some of it from the sale of Montague magnets, for sale at town hall for one dollar.

While money is a concern, Jeremy Latch, a former Americorps volunteer at the Brick House teen center who dedicated his time to fixing the skate park two years ago, said the other main problem at the park is the deteriorating surface of the plywood ramps. While the ramps are still useable, he said they need to be resurfaced with sheet metal, treated with acid and painted. "A couple of skilled people over the weekend could do it," he said. Latch estimated the cost to be around two thousand dollars. According to Dobosz, who said he remains interested in the project, the cost could be twice as high as that for the sheet metal alone. His department does have the paint but would depend on volunteer labor to complete the work.

At the time it opened, the park was widely utilized by local skateboarders, bikers and rollerbladers. "The operation was smooth," said building inspector David Jensen, whose son Enoch was instrumental in its design.

"We got it open and kids used it pretty well," said police officer Bill Doyle, who donated his time to building the facility. "The more we built it, the more the donations came in."

But over time the issue of maintenance - relying on teenage volunteers - came to overshadow the initial excitement. In addition

to the growing damage to the ramps, Doyle said, "The original kids lost interest. No adults wanted to take the ball and roll with it. We tried meetings, but the kids wanted to use the park and not help."

This year, few parents or youth have contacted Dobosz about the skate park and a number of individuals who were instrumental in the initial organizing, fundraising and construction have gotten older and moved away. But Latch insisted, "If it were open, it would generate interest."

Jenny Gabrenas, mother of Winter Orion-Clark, an avid

skateboarder who was instrumental in first getting the skate park idea off the ground, and who later drowned in the Connecticut River with his friend Chris Gallegher, expressed dismay at the state of disrepair at the skate park and the town's ambivalence about its future. "It was Winter and Chris' passion, and they did all the right things to make the dream happen. Maybe not in his own lifetime, but for the benefit of other young adults or those who are young at heart. Those who grieve their loss poured their pain into the opening of the skate park. It hurts me to know that it has become a seemingly unloved space again, after all the positive energies it possessed."

Gabrenas went further. She spoke of "the positive community attention and civic pride the park could generate for Montague among young adults," and said, "I am amazed it has become an eyesore again. Kids need a safe outlet. The death of Winter and Chris cements this fact for me. They need a place they can congregate, not to put them out of sight, but so they feel safe, so they feel accepted, so they feel worthwhile."

Both Greenfield and Easthampton have active skate parks. According to Edward Piziak, director of parks and recreation for Easthampton, one key difference there is the ramps were

made of concrete and have lasted 10 years. Each year the town spends a couple of hundred dollars to patch the surfaces, which comes out of his maintenance budget for facilities.

In Greenfield the town does not account for maintenance of the skate park in its budget. Expenses are paid by money left over from a grant initially acquired to build the park. A skate park committee oversees fundraising and contacts the DPW when needed to repair the metal ramp surfaces and carry out other maintenance work. That facility appears to be well used, and may explain why there is less interest locally to reopen the Turners park. But not all local teens have transportation to the other area skate parks.

Latch proposed downsizing the Turners skate park by getting rid of some of the ramps. He suggested a smaller facility might work to provide an outlet for those who like to carve, grind and slide without the constant fundraising and maintenance that led the current state of affairs. In the meantime, the weeds will have their way with the asphalt, the resurfaced ramps will rust, and local skaters will seek their thrills on the sidewalks and streets of the villages.



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Low Bridge

BY HYRUM H. HUSKEY JR.

After arranging logistics and twisting myself into pretzel-shaped positions in the small spaces of my sailboat for more than six weeks, I finally declare Mandala ready to depart on a 500-mile, post retirement voyage to circumnavigate northeastern New York.

July 10th. We depart Coeyman's Landing on the Hudson River and motor eleven miles north in a hot afternoon sun. My son-in-law, Gregg Allbright, and friend Steve Huber are aboard as crew. We pass the Port of Albany where, in 1609, Henry Hudson anchored his ship at the rapids, and sent a few of his men to explore farther upriver. Native Americans chased them back in short order. Now, with the Federal Lock at Troy, Mandala can go up river beyond where Hudson stopped.

We enter the Erie Canal 183 years after it first opened in 1822. Our course is 160 miles west to Three Rivers Junction to meet the Oswego Canal for a 25 mile journey north to Lake Ontario.

We pass through five closely spaced locks, known as the Waterford Lock Flight. They lift the boat up a little more than 160 feet in two hours. At each lock, we enter the huge concrete chamber with some trepidation, but all seems peaceful once the boat rises to the top of the walls and we see the green park grass

beside us. Still, it can be difficult picking up the holding lines and we often had to use a boathook to grasp a line.

Shortly after leaving the fifth lock the overheating alarm on the diesel engine went off. Our position is just above the lock's dam, so out goes the anchor!

Investigation reveals a disintegrated alternator belt, which also drives the cooling pumps. I dig around in the spares locker and come up with a replacement. After installing the belt, we manage a late arrival at Blain's Bay Marina near Colonie, where we dock for the night after traveling only eighteen miles this first day.

July 11th. Crew discipline needs improvement! Getting them up tactfully is like wiping up molasses: a sticky, slow process. I finally get the boat underway at 10:00 a.m. and begin our first full day on the Erie Canal.

The Canal has been widened and deepened a number of times over the past century and a half, but there are still remnants of the



PHOTO: HYRUM H. HUSKEY JR.

"There is so much more to experience somewhere out there -- just over the bow."

early narrower canal. Portions of old locks and aqueducts can be seen at points along the way. Bicyclists are also a frequent sight on the nearby bike trail.

We negotiate locks 7 through 12 as we pass Schenectady, Scotia, Amsterdam, and Fort Hunter, New York. Abandoned General Electric plants line the canal bank, revealing a once vibrant economy now moribund. We pass a palatial home, which was reported in 1998 to have had a \$42,000 a month mortgage.

We spend the night at Lock 12 near Fort Hunter. I'm in my berth by 9:30 p.m., while my crew take a late night walk, managing first to witness a probable drug sale, and later, to find a local dive where they and former G.E. workers swap life stories. This does not bode well for an early departure in the morning.

July 12th. On the third day, we make only eighteen miles, passing through three more locks. The Conajoharie waterfront park looks inviting, so we stop for lunch. We tiptoe our way through a minefield of duck droppings on the new park's sidewalks and walk into the business district for lunch at Peruzzi's Market and Deli. Afterward, we motor on through a scenic rural area where we watch several Blue Herons perched on stumps, watching us. Occasionally a powerboat passes, leaving a following wave that

itches us up and down. We handle it by turning forty-five degrees and riding the rollers. Multiple bottles of water and canned colas disappear throughout a humid day.

At four o'clock we dock at St. Johnsville Marina and torture our neighbors by grilling hamburgers on the stern rail barbecue. A salad of

fresh cucumbers and tomatoes accompany the burgers. Then it's off to the marina's showers before we end our day in the cockpit, sipping wine and beers while darkness turns the water's color to black. This does not bode well for an early departure in the morning.

July 13th. Again, we get a late start after walking to a café in town for breakfast. Late morning finds us on rural portions of the Canal where it runs separately from the Mohawk River. Here, the banks are long and straight, and lined with natural stone. Small cave holes dot the waterline; likely homes for the small mammals we see around the water. We master locks 16 and 17 and stop at a canal park with a floating dock in Little Falls, New York.

I manage to locate the town's only optometrist who repairs my sunglasses at no charge. Gregg buys old medicine bottles at the local antique store, claiming he will be able to sell them at ten times the price on E-Bay because they have a devil symbol on the bottom.

We have Chinese buffet for lunch and I photograph an old house that hangs precariously above the rocky riverbed, near what was once a viaduct that carried the canal over the Mohawk River. We travel on, passing the touristy shop Gems Along the Mohawk, eighty-six miles from

where we entered the Erie Canal. We transit locks 18 and 19 and tie up to Lock 20 for the night. Supper is canned shrimp in a packaged Alfredo sauce, with canned brown bread and a bottle of wine. Crew discipline still not what it should be.

July 14th - 15th. Day five takes us on to Rome (New York) where we stop for a visit at historic Fort Stanwix. That evening we reach Sylvan Beach, a resort town at the east end of Lake Oneida, where we lay over for twenty-four hours and Gregg is picked up for his flight home to California.

July 16th. The next morning, Steve and I cross twenty-two mile long Oneida Lake under overcast skies. Winds from the east help push us across as we watch closely for the navigation aids that warn of shoals in mid-lake. At the western end, we stop for sandwiches and iced sodas at a waterside restaurant in Brewerton. Later, we pass through our final Erie Lock and reach Three Rivers Junction. A sign on the bank points left to continue on to Buffalo on the Erie Canal, or right to the Oswego River Canal to Lake Ontario. We turn right and twelve miles later dock, alone, on a deserted riverfront wall in Fulton, New York.

July 17th. After motoring twelve more miles up the Oswego River and passing through our thirty-first lock, we reach Oswego on Lake Ontario. That evening, Steve and I pull off the cockpit bilge pump, which has stopped working. After taking the pump apart, we find a small stick lodged in a flapper valve. We clean and reinstall the pump before finding dinner, taking showers, and falling into our berths for the night.

July 18th. As I leave Mandala for a few days home break, I give her a silent nod of approval for the last week of adventure and history. I also realize there is so much more to experience somewhere out there -- just over the bow.




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Saving the Rainbow Bug: Part II

Greetings, natural science fans! Last issue, we brought readers on an early August canoe trip with Great Falls Discovery Staff to Rainbow Beach in Northampton, one of three locations in the world where the Puritan tiger beetle (*C. puritana*) is known to live and breed.

This week we will look at the beetle's threatened habitat, and find out about steps being taken to save the endangered species.

BY STEVE WINTERS - NORTHAMPTON - Rainbow Beach was discovered to be an active habitat for *C. puritana* only in the mid 1980s. We have, according to Puritan tiger beetle expert Chris Davis, historical accounts that *C. puritana*'s range used to be much wider. But huge swaths of productive and protected breeding ground for *C. puritana* have been lost in the last 150 years to aggressive beach and shoreline development and beach erosion. Dams to control flooding along the Connecticut also destroy *C. puritana* habitat.

Human contact, if not collision, with *C. puritana* seems inevitable. Both human beings and Puritan tiger beetles love the beach; we both love to party. Humans crashing and crunching around the sand destroy the beetles' fragile burrow homes, and distracts them from their brief but all-important mating season. Perhaps worst of all, however,

are the beach fires. Like the proverbial moth to the flames, dazzled *C. puritana* fly to nighttime beach fires, thinking the fire is the sun. They perish in the flame by the dozens, if not hundreds. Signs on Rainbow Beach read "NO FIRES," but it's hard for many people to give up lighting the campfires they've enjoyed on Rainbow Beach for so many years.

Painting beetles

At about a half-inch length, *C. puritana* is a relatively small beetle but not, fortunately, microscopic. Most individuals show up quite well from a distance with binoculars - making *C. puritana* observing a bit like bird watching. To keep track of a variety of life cycle data, *C. puritana* are captured in the spring (soon after emergence from their pupal sleep) and carefully marked with Testor model paint. Davis showed us how it was done. With impressive grace and gentleness, he grasps the beetle by its long but strong hind legs. Using a fine paintbrush, he dabs some paint from a bottle and touches it lightly behind the head of the beetle. When he's finished painting, Davis' thumbnail, splattered with Testor colors, looks like an artist's pallet. Three colors dot the shoulders of the *C. puritana* and, like a rainbow bar code, tell scientists like Davis how old the beetle is, where it was found, and a host of other important data.

Following their new paint job, all *C. puritana* are placed in a recuperation area of moist sand where they are given time to "chill out," that is, to recover from the stress of handling and painting. Observing the little captive in the recuperation area also helps Davis monitor any damage or trauma he may have inadvertently inflicted. Serious trauma is rare. "We've lost just one," Davis said, "out of nearly 200 that we've marked." Nor does painting interfere with mating behavior.

How to look for tiger beetles After Davis' talk and painting demonstration, the 16 field trip participants are all game to try our hand at beetle watching. Once you adjust your eyes, *C. puritana* are not hard to spot. Testor paints show up well to the naked eye and binoculars bring out the color sequence needed for tracking purposes. One problem, however, is the neighbors. Another species of tiger beetle, *Cicindela repanda*, a slightly bigger and more rounded beetle, lives alongside and in harmony with *C. puritana*. Both beetles enjoy the same habitat, but *C. repanda* populations are common and widespread. After awhile you know the beetle you see is "just a repanda" and ignore it. Spotting a *C. puritana* with its rainbow neckband is another matter.

We worked with biologist Ashley Green of Turners Falls on the southern end of the beach.

Slow and easy is the method. The little beetles are all around you and they are easily spooked. In an instant, they run or, more commonly, fly off. For their size, they are the fastest running animals on the planet: a veritable insect cheetah. Green advised us to creep up from the south, so that we worked our way back to our canoes. I spotted one beetle with some kind of bright markings but couldn't get the darn binoculars in focus to read the color banding. Green took a look. "Blue-white-green," she said confidently, and wrote the beetle's location in her field notes.

All of us got a chance to observe *C. puritana* up-close-and-personal. If you are quiet and move slowly, the beetle will let you get within five or so feet of it. We were impressed and amazed. A boater roared by and called "beetles, beetles, beetles." I waved and smiled and lost the *C. puritana* I was tracking.

Saving *C. puritana*

What can ordinary folks do to help this little creature? Seeing them and learning about them is the first step. I had no idea a beetle could be so predatory, behaviorally resourceful, and lightning fast. Like birds, they are mesmerizing to watch.

Besides paddling out to Rainbow Beach with the scientists, how can you get involved? As the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection

(DEP) puts it, plants and animals that live on beaches are under great pressure from development and recreation. Remember that the beach you are on may be some creature's living room - tread softly and treat it with respect. (More information from Connecticut's DEP on the Puritan tiger beetle can be found at <http://dep.state.ct.us/burnatr/wildlife/factshts/ptbeet.htm>.)

Luckily, more and more people are getting the message about our endangered little guest. They're limiting campfires and following other regulations. And the efforts of scientists like Davis and Green to transplant the beetle to safer locations seems to be working, although more research is needed. If you would like to learn more about *C. puritana* or join the research and survey efforts sponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, please call the Great Falls Discovery Center at 413-863-3221.

Steve Winters is a hydrogeologist and environmental science educator. He lives in Turners Falls. Reach him at science_matters@yahoo.com.



WEST ALONG THE RIVER

Lost in the West of Ireland

BY DAVID BRULE

So here I am, looking up from the pebbly shore of a river quietly and quickly moving by me. A huge, ancient stone bridge arches the river, the town rising up the hill, McGillicuddy's Reeks, the highlands in this part of Kerry, and Ireland's highest mountain, Corran Tuathail, in the distance. Many's the pilgrim in Ireland seeking origins and roots, and doesn't this landscape look achingly familiar? Has my DNA carried the imprint of this village, or is it my imagination getting the best of me?

It's a long way from Killorglin to Millers Falls, but more than a hundred years ago two young couples crossed the

bridge above out of town, never to return, carrying ancient strands of DNA to America and eventually winding up in Millers Falls, and in fact, in our house along the river.

So I'm back here, again.

A day and a half ago, Stateside at the High School, students and teachers alike burst out the front door amid shouts, cheers, and screeching tires in the parking

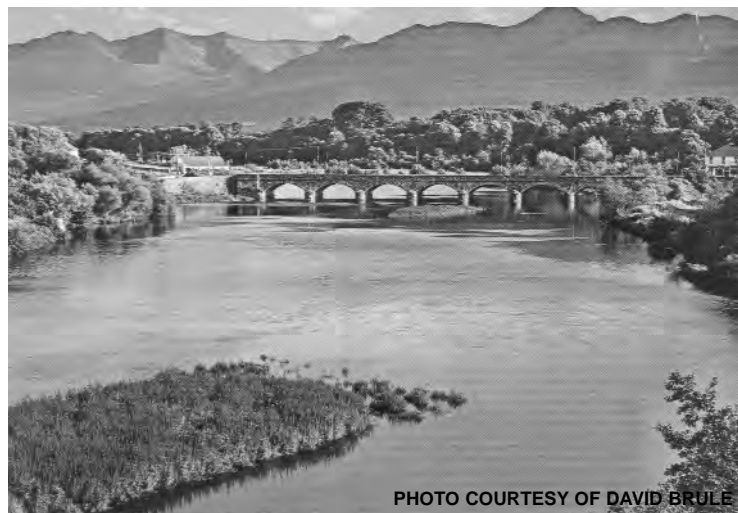


PHOTO COURTESY OF DAVID BRULE
The River Laune, Killorglin, County Kerry, Ireland.

lot. School was out for the summer. I tossed books, exams, and stress into the corner and hurled myself through space (and time)

Wow!" said my son some years ago after a first trip to Killorglin, " Now wonder they came to

to awake here on the banks of the Laune River, looking up at the ancestral town. My intention was to lose myself in the scenery, in the music, and the people of this part of Ireland. Such a pleasant project. Strictly therapeutic. "

Millers Falls! It looks the same!" and in fact it does, somewhat. The town rises up from a bridge over the river, with houses and shops and a lot of pubs going up Bridge Street to a small intersection and the parish church. One of Killorglin's main claims to fame (besides an occasional championship in Gaelic football by the local team, you guessed it, the Laune Rangers...) is Puck Fair. During the first week of August, a supposedly wild goat, horns, beard and all, is brought down from the Reeks and crowned King Puck The origins of this festival are lost in the millennia, but have roots in the observance of Lunasa, the first of August, see IRELAND pg 16

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Bottom Luck Farm

First Days



Bob Nichols' serial Bottom Luck Farm looks at the ups and downs of a communal hill farm in the late 60s. Passing resemblance to any local communal farms from that era, is, perhaps, coincidental. Bottom Luck Farm originally ran in the River Valley Voice; reprinted by permission.

BY BOB NICHOLS

THETFORD, VT - The farm bought by Radical Eye was in good shape. It had a barn, hayfields and woodlot. It had been farmed, but not profitably. In the end the old farmer had milked only 20 cows. The barn had a high-pitched roof and was made of hand-hewn lumber. Around back, the ground fell away sharply into abandoned pigsties and berry patches. From here the structure seemed enormous.

Inside the barn, with its lofty posts, there was a shadowy emptiness into which chinks of light fell.

In the morning, after spending their first night as proprietors of Bottom Luck Farm, the collective had gone out to explore the barn. There was some cobwebbed machinery of another age. The farmer had sold off his

tractor and hay baler and had left them one Holstein cow, in a stall at the bottom of the barn.

There was still hay in the barn. From the eaves hung a rope. It invited swinging. Bernie and Judy rushed down, leapt onto the pile and pulled the rope back in a long loose-swinging arc to the upper level, also full of hay. They swung out into the void, screaming.

The entire barn shook, and seemed to lean sideways.

"Let's not do it again," Jake suggested, "until we look at the underpinnings."

The old couple from whom



JAMES SCHLEY GRAPHIC

they had purchased the property were going to live with relatives somewhere out west. The new settlers had made friends with the

farmer, though the wife had kept her distance. The man liked the idea that they planned to farm.

He had left them some chickens. "You might as well have them, I got no use for them."

The clucking chickens roamed in and out between their feet. One of the stalls in the milking area had been wired off as a chicken coop. The door was open.

"Let's go inside and see if they've laid some eggs," Martha said.

"Eggs," Bernie said.

"Yeah, Bernie, chickens lay eggs," Dierdre said.

However, none of them had ever before seen an egg newly laid by a chicken.

"I don't think the mother lays the eggs in the open. I think she hides them."

"Separatism!"

Inside the coop with its pan of water and mash, there were three pale eggs. The air smelled of moldy hay and chickenshit.

"I found another one! Here in

the corner."

Dierdre already had an egg in her hand. The others were still gazing at the eggs, dun-colored and agate, deposited on the crossbeams. They seemed pale and fragile.

"Eggs," Bernie said, marveling. "Well, we might as well have them for breakfast."

Chickens in the yard. With the departure of the farming couple the chickens seemed to be the established residents and to provide continuity. With their beady eyes and gleaming metallic feathers - reds, oranges and sulphurs - they continued to run free in their own style, inside the barn, out on the driveway, and peevishly on the front lawn of the farmhouse. Within a month they were dead of a disease peculiar to chickens.

It had been agreed by everybody what should be done. They would transform themselves from being an urban collective - their main job had been making radical films - to a rural community in which they would support themselves on the land and continue doing some political activity.

There was broad agreement on how the farm should be run. Among the first arrivals there need be no formal meetings; that would come later. Friendly discussions around the supper table would suffice. Farm work would be shared out equally. Martha, who had been on a farm once (at a summer camp), would milk the cow.

On the first morning when they were frying eggs, Martha came into the kitchen breathlessly, carrying a pail.

"Milk," Bernie exclaimed, looking at it. "It's got froth on it." He dipped his hand in it. "It's warm."

"Was it hard?" Dierdre asked Martha. "I wish I'd watched."

"It took a long time. And my fingers got awful tired. I guess I'm a little rusty. But I'll get the hang of it and then I'll teach everybody."

"We can sell cream," Michael suggested. "To a creamery."

"How about changing the name to Cowslip Farm?"

"No. Bottom Luck Farm it is. Out of respect for the old farmer."

Continued next issue...

IRELAND

continued from pg 15

which honors the Celtic god Lugh. Basically it's an opportunity to carouse, drink too much, and participate in a week of merry mayhem, and every tinker and traveler, horse-trader, bachelor farmer as well as respectable merchants, returned Yanks, bogmen and turf cutters from miles around turn up to fill the streets and pubs. The Irish know how to throw a party, and this one has lasted for the past thousand years!

This manner of wildness isn't quite the sort I'm after though, but rather the walking and hiking down the lanes and in the hills, keeping an element of solitude mixed with a couple of quiet pints and an hour of good *craic* (that's good conversation and laughs) in the pubs where there's good music. But this is a good place to start.

A trip to the old cottage, out of town in the farming district, is part of the pilgrimage. The great-grandparents' homestead is still standing at the end of the road, and the first time seeing it was an emotional

event indeed. The place itself is on the edge of the family's farm, still owned by very distant cousins, and abandoned more than 20 years ago for a newer stucco house nearby. It was strange looking into the eyes of these members of a distant branch of the family. Kind of a reverse mirror image. Sets you to thinking, "If the ancestors didn't leave here five generations ago, that

could be me looking back at the strangers from America..."

The cottage is now a stable and storage barn, but nevertheless, climbing through a window and

moving about the old kitchen, touching the hearth and fireplace sends you spiraling back a hundred and fifty years. Well, at least the Old Ones had a roof over their heads. It's said that some families in the region lived in holes in the ground, with starvation or emigration the only way out. I have it easier though, with my next stop the Dingle Peninsula, and the easy living of summertime before me. So while the Laune rises and falls daily, with the tide from Dingle Bay reaching up to the bridge, flowing fronds and white flowers floating on the surface

in the current, swans arching under the bridge, back in the Millers valley, the river has been flowing high and fast during July and August, the rains keeping the river swollen, sustaining a riverside jungle of wild flowers and dogwood thickets. Full summer tends to be quiet in the bottom land, the wood thrush still one of the rare voices coming from somewhere in the summer rainforest of ferns, vines, poison ivy and maple saplings, the red-eyed vireo sings incessantly through the humidity, summer drones on.



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Patriots Run Defense Needs Work

BY LEE CARIGNAN

TURNERS FALLS - It's only pre-season, but the New England Patriots have some defensive concerns to attend to if they hope to become the first team in NFL history to win three Super Bowls in a row.

The Patriots are already feeling the losses of middle linebackers Teddy Bruschi and Ted Johnson, who unexpectedly retired before the beginning of training camp. The Pats have also lost their rookie middle linebacker Ryan Claridge to injury for the season. Claridge was a fifth round pick in April's draft.

The Patriots have given up a whopping 303 rushing yards in their two-preseason games including 196 yards while their starters were playing. Replacement middle linebackers Chad Brown and Monty Beisel have had a lot placed on their shoulders. Both players are still trying to learn the Patriots' complicated defense. With his speed and ability, Beisel has already shown promise in the first two games to lay a big hit on the ball carrier. Brown, a three-time pro bowler, is more experienced than Beisel at outside linebacker,

but has continued to struggle playing middle linebacker in the Patriots defense. He missed some tackles that resulted in some big plays for the Saints last Thursday night. The 13-year veteran has admitted he has been humbled this training camp while he continues to learn the Patriots' system.

Not all the blame can be placed on the middle linebackers. The Patriots talented defensive line needs to step it up before the regular season starts. The big three, Richard Seymour, Vince Wilfork, and Ty Warren have not gotten a chance to gel as a group yet this summer. Seymour missed the early part of training camp with a contract holdout and Ty Warren has been banged up of late and missed the Saints game. The Patriots will need all three of them healthy and playing at their top-level when the regular season starts, to help compensate for the loss of Teddy Bruschi and Ted Johnson.

You can bet the Patriots will be doing a lot of work the rest of training camp to try to shore up their run defense. Teams have won Super Bowls with positional weaknesses. The 2000 Baltimore Ravens won the Super Bowl with a below aver-



age quarterback. The 2002 Buccaneers and 2003 Patriots won the Super Bowl without a good running game. But if you cannot defensively stop the run in the NFL you won't win many games. Just look at the 2002 Patriots who finished 9-7 and missed the playoffs. The Pats, who were coming off their first Super Bowl championship couldn't stop anybody's running game that season. Age and bad free agent signings during the 2002 off-season caught up to the Patriots defense that season. The Pats would seem to have too much talent to worry about a repeat of 2002, but the early results are concerning.

With so many good defensive linemen on the Patriots roster, look for the Patriots to play more 4-3 defense when the regular season starts. The Patriots may also be looking to make a trade for a good run stuffing middle linebacker. Another move the Patriots may

consider would be to re-sign middle linebacker Roman Phifer, who is still available. Phifer has said he would like to play one more season and would love to finish his career with the Patriots.

Rookie first round pick Logan Mankins and third rounder Ellis Hobbs have had an impressive camp so far. Mankins has been as good as advertised when the Patriots drafted him out of Fresno State with the 32nd pick, and has been the starting left guard since camp opened. Hobbs has shown great speed on kickoff returns and had a 53-yard return in the Saints game. He also had a sack in the game on defense. Like most young cornerbacks coming into the NFL he still needs to improve his coverage skills. But he should be able to help the Pats this season on special teams and situational defense while he improves as a cornerback.

Doug Flutie seems to be the front-runner for the backup quarterback job. He was impressive in his debut against the Saints. Bill Belichick has said the position is still open, but Flutie has clearly been the best quarterback in camp after Brady. Rookie quarterback Matt Cassell has also done well in

camp and in his two-preseason appearances. This could be bad news for 4-year quarterback Rohan Davey, who could find himself on the chopping block when the Patriots make their cuts.

Wide receiver Tim Dwight has come on strong after a slow start to camp. Dwight had battled a foot injury early on in camp, and was rusty in his practice debut, dropping a bunch of passes. He has apparently turned things around and has looked good in both pre-season games and has gotten playing time with the starting offense. He had three catches for 69 yards including an impressive 45-yard reception against the Saints. He has also brought some life to the Patriots punt return squad with a nice 19-yard punt return. With fellow wide receivers P.K. Sam and Bethel Johnson still injured, Dwight has made the most of his opportunity and has moved up on the Patriots depth chart.

Las Vegas has the Patriots favored to win the Super Bowl once again this season at 3-1 odds. The Philadelphia Eagles are next at 4-1 odds.

THE HEALTHY GEEZER

So . . . Maybe I Have Diabetes?

BY FRED CICETTI

Q. I've been very thirsty lately and someone mentioned to me that this is a symptom for diabetes. Is that true?

An intense thirst is one diabetes symptom. Here are others: frequent urination, strong hunger, fatigue, unintended weight loss, slow-healing sores, dry and itchy skin, numbness or tingling in your feet, and blurred vision. However, some people with diabetes do not have symptoms.

Diabetes mellitus is a group of diseases characterized by high levels of blood sugar. Diabetes can create serious health problems, but diabetics can control the disease.

If you have diabetes, your body can't produce insulin or use it properly. Insulin is a hormone that helps control the sugar in your blood. Insulin is made by the pancreas, a large organ behind the stomach.

Your body converts most of the food you eat into a form of sugar called glucose, which is our main source of energy. If your body does not make enough insulin or the insulin doesn't



ILLUSTRATION J. HARMON

work the way it should, glucose can't get into your cells and remains in your blood.

High levels of glucose in the blood damage nerves and blood vessels.

This can lead to complications such as heart disease, stroke, kidney disease, blindness, and lower-limb amputation.

About 18.2 million Americans have diabetes. More than 8 million people 60 years or older suffer from the disease.

A small percentage of diabetics have type 1 diabetes, which usually occurs in people under age 30. Diabetics with this form of the disease cannot produce

insulin.

About 90 percent of Americans with diabetes have type 2 diabetes. It is most common in adults over age 40, and the risk of getting it increases with age. With this form of diabetes, the body does not always produce enough insulin or does not use insulin efficiently. Being overweight and inactive increases the chances of developing type 2 diabetes.

Type 2 diabetes can be prevented in people who are at an increased risk or have pre-diabetes, a condition in which glucose levels are higher than normal but not yet high enough for a diagnosis of diabetes. People with pre-diabetes are more likely to develop diabetes within 10 years and are also more likely to have a heart attack or stroke.

A recent study showed that people with pre-diabetes can sharply lower their chances of developing the disease through modest weight loss with diet and exercise.

That same study showed that changes in diet and exercise were especially effective in curbing the

development of diabetes in older people. In fact, the development of diabetes dropped by 71 percent in adults 60 and older who were enrolled in the study.

Because type 2 diabetes is more common in older people,

especially in people who are overweight, doctors recommend that anyone 45 years of age or older be tested for diabetes.

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

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Services

No Moss

by Bette Black

Across

- 4. Mick's first film appearance, with a great soundtrack featuring Ry Cooder.
- 6. Working prop on the cover of the Sticky Fingers album.
- 8. One of Mick's former wives.
- 11. Mother of Keith's children.
- 12. Keith's solo backup band are expensive ones.
- 13. 1997 album and tour titled *Bridges* to this place.
- 14. What Jack Flash is doing.
- 15. Bill who bought the commercial rights to the song *Start Me Up* to launch his new software.
- 17. Latest single is called this kind of Justice.
- 18. Time keeper in the world's greatest rock and roll band.
- 19. #1 radio hit of 1973 by the world's greatest rock and roll band.
- 20. Bottom end of the world's greatest rock and roll band.

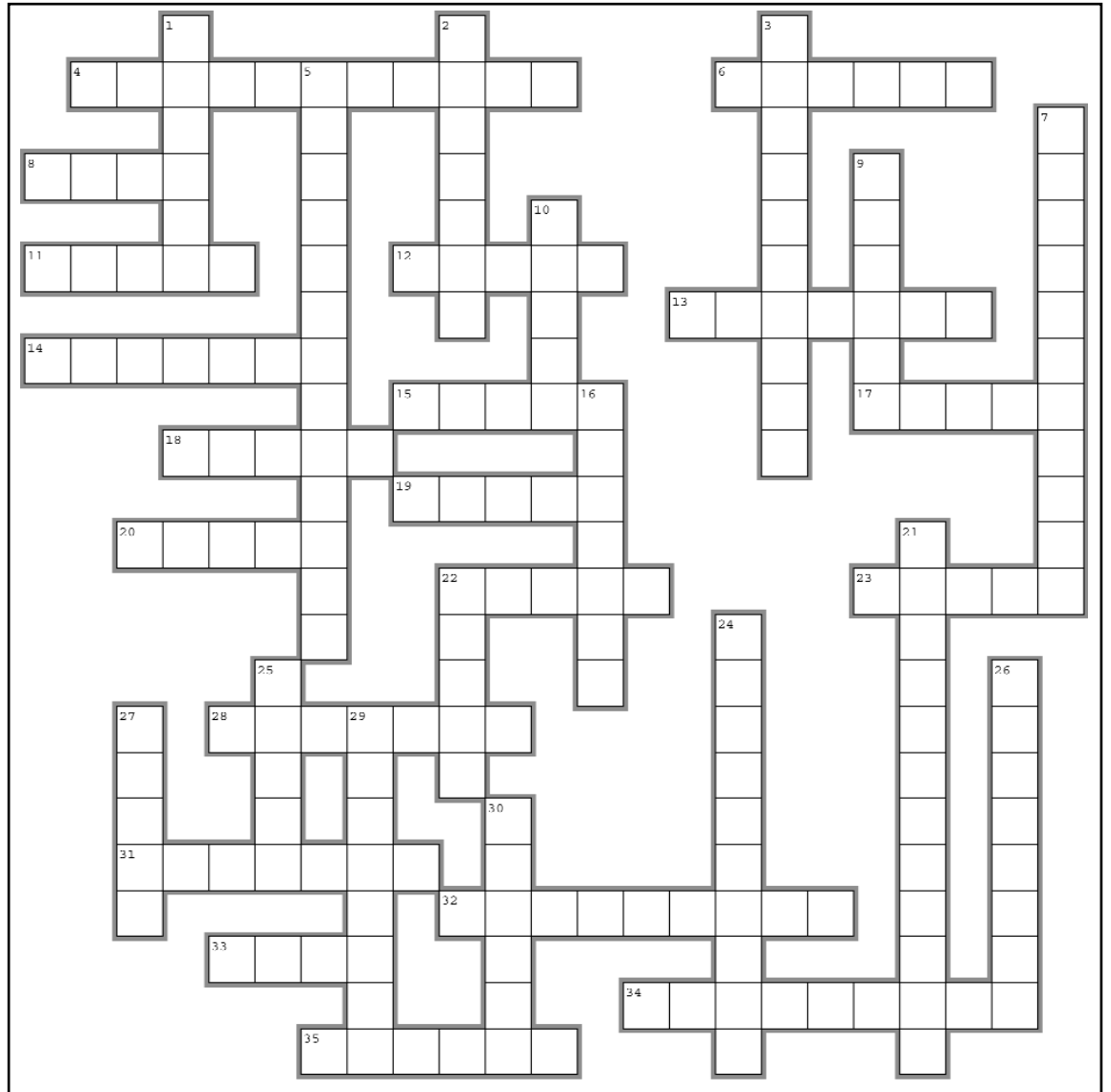
- 22. Logo emblem for the greatest rock and roll band in the world.
- 23. Band Ron was in with Rod.
- 28. Long time nickname for the Keith and Mick partnership, The Glimmer what?
- 31. I know it's only rock and roll but...
- 32. Mick is most proficient on this instrument.
- 33. Exile is on this street.
- 34. Gypsy barroom Queen from Memphis description.
- 35. Park that the greatest rock and roll band in the world just opened their current tour in.

Down

- 1. Ronnie's other job.
- 2. *Can't you hear me* doing this? Most classic riff by the other Mick.
- 3. Title of current tour and album.

Answers to last week's puzzle are on page 19

- 5. The greatest rock and roll band in the world.
- 7. Tour and album title of 1989.
- 9. The other Mick.
- 10. Jagger performed the *Dancing in the Street* song and video with him.
- 16. *Gimme* this.
- 21. I can't get none of this.
- 22. You're not the only one with these emotions.
- 24. New band Ron and Keith toured with in 1978 and performed 2 benefit concerts in Toronto, CAN for blindness treatment and research.
- 25. Color I want it *Painted*.
- 26. Futuristic film starring Mick and Emilio Estevez.
- 27. For whom *Sympathy* is offered.
- 29. Faithful former girlfriend of Mick.
- 30. Another of Mick's former wives.



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FRIDAY, AUGUST 26TH

A Bouquet of Music Concert Series - *Trou Vallie* - cello/flute. Concerts take place in Franklin Medical Center's main lobby or weather-permitting in the Ethel Lemay Healing Arts Garden. 164 High St., Greenfield. Noon to 1:00 p.m. (413) 773-2573.

Fourth Friday Contra Dance with *David Kaynor & Greenfield Dance Band*. Guiding Star Grange Hall, 401 Chapman St., Greenfield. 8:00 p.m. - midnight. (413) 367-9380.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 27TH

Annual Shelburne Grange Fair - BBQ, music, farm & craft exhibits, flea market, kids games, auction and more. At Fellowship Hall just off Route 2 in Shelburne Center. 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. 413-369-4350.

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

RURAL Renaissance Music Vocal Concert Series *Voices*, a performance by the Village Harmony Adult Ensemble II. This is the fifth summer that RURAL Renaissance has presented Village Harmony in Ashfield. Singing a cappella music from the American, Caucasus Georgian, Bulgarian, African and Corsican folk traditions, this final summer concert will be led by Patty Cuyler, Val Mindel and Frank Kane. At the First Congregational Church in Ashfield. 7:30 p.m. (413) 625-2082.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 28TH

Tomato Festival at Red Fire Farm, Granby. Sample dozens of heirloom and hybrid tomato varieties. Workshops, demos, marketplace, live music, refreshments and much more! For more information, visit www.redfirefarm.com.

14th Annual Antique Auto Show, sponsored by the Deerfield Lions Club. Channing Bete Company grounds, Routes 5 & 10, South

Deerfield. 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Rain or Shine.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 2ND

First Friday Contra Dance with *Moving Violations*. Guiding Star Grange Hall, 401 Chapman St., Greenfield. 8:00 to 11:30 p.m. 413-549-1913.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 3RD

First Saturday Contra Dance with *Wild Asparagus*. Guiding Star Grange Hall, 401 Chapman St., Greenfield. 8:00 to 11:30 p.m. 413-772-6840.

SEPT. 8TH through 11TH

157th Annual Franklin County Fair, Celebrating Our Agricultural Heritage featuring agricultural exhibits and competitions including cattle, poultry, sheep, draft horse pulls (Saturday) and oxen draw (Sunday), Fiesta Shows Midway, demolition derby (Sunday), museum, Roundhouse, parade (Thursday), Public Safety Parade & firefighters' muster (Sunday), musical entertainment (Fred Eaglesmith and others) and more. Franklin County Fairgrounds, Wisdom Way, Greenfield. 413-774-4282.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 9TH

Second Friday Contra Dance with *David Kaynor & Greenfield Dance Band*. Guiding Star Grange Hall, 401 Chapman St., Greenfield. 8:00 p.m. to midnight. 413-367-9380.

SEPTEMBER 9TH - 11TH

Theater Performance: *As You Like It* (Shakespeare) presented by the Shoestring Players. Held at The Station, Greenfield Energy Park at the end of Miles Street in Greenfield. Curtain rises at 6:00 p.m. 413-774-6051 x13. Friday, Sept. 9th to benefit Toxics Action, Saturday, Sept. 10th to benefit NESEA, Sunday, Sept. 11th to benefit The Pioneer Valley Humane Society. For more information call (413) 863-2971 or (413) 256-4678.

Sixth North Quabbin Community Musical - *Circus Minimus* by Dorothy Johnson and Andy Lichtenberg. Performance at the



Featuring more than 200 craftspeople and two quilt exhibits: A retrospective one-woman show by Dummerston, VT resident Eliza Greenhoe-Bergh and a Yankee Pride group show

1794 Meetinghouse, on the Common in New Salem. Friday and Saturday 7:30 p.m. & Sunday 2:00 p.m. Also Sept. 16th - 18th. 978-544-5200.

An evening performance by kirtan chanter Krishna Das on Friday the 9th, 7:30-10:30 p.m. at the House of One People, headquarters of the Zen Peacemakers, at 177 Ripley Rd., Montague. Advance tickets \$30, \$40 at the door. They may be purchased online at www.houseofonepeople.org, or by calling (413) 367-2080 extension 7. On Saturday the 10th and Sunday the 11th is a two-day weekend workshop led by Krishna Das and Roshi Bernie Glassman. Those interested should register in advance by web or phone. \$175 workshop fee.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 10TH

CHRIS SMITHER + Anand Nayak & Polly Fiveash, Saturday, Sept. 10th • 7:30 pm at Memorial Hall in Shelburne Falls. Smither has expanded the six-strings-and-footstomps delivery of John Lee Hooker into an elegant, original style that draws as much on the sweet jazz melodies of gypsy guitarist Django Reinhardt as the spidery swing of country bluesman John Hurt. He has been aptly described as "a wandering Zen troubadour with a blues guitar, a hot fingerpicking style and a gravelly voice that could make any material sound deep and cool"—Associated Press. \$18 advance/ \$20 day of show/ under 18 half price.

Sonya Kitchell performing live at Hooker-Dunham Theater & Gallery, 139 Main St., Brattleboro, VT 8 p.m.

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

ONGOING EVENTS

Now through October - Quinnetukut II River Tours One and ½ hour tours through the stunning French King Gorge on the Connecticut River. Charters also available. See the Barton Cove's eagle nest. Wednesday to Sunday. 11:00 a.m., 1:15 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. Northfield Mountain Recreation Area in Northfield. 800-859-2960.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Third Friday at the Falls on September 16th, featuring art openings, live music, food, special events and artisan demonstrations. Held throughout Shelburne Falls. 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Sixth North Quabbin Community Musical - *Circus Minimus* by

Dorothy Johnson and Andy Lichtenberg, September 16th - 18th. Performance at the 1794 Meetinghouse located on the Common in New Salem. Friday and Saturday 7:30 p.m. & Sunday 2:00 p.m. 978-544-5200

Charles Neville, Saturday, Sept. 17th at Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse, to benefit the coffeehouse.

4th Annual John Putnam Fiddlers' Reunion on September 17th, at the Greenfield Energy Park, at the end of Miles St., Greenfield. From Noon to 7:00 p.m., bring chairs. 413-774-6051 x 14.

Third Saturday Contra Dance on September 17th with *Blue Sky*. Guiding Star Grange Hall, 401 Chapman St., Greenfield. 8:00 to 11:30 p.m. 413-774-2830.

30th Annual Old Deerfield Fall Craft Fair and Quilt Fest on September 17th and 18th, featuring more than 200 craftspeople and two quilt exhibits: A retrospective one-woman show by Dummerston, VT resident Eliza Greenhoe-Bergh and a Yankee Pride group show. Memorial Hall Museum, Memorial Street in Old Deerfield. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Rain or Shine. 413-774-7476, ext. 18.

7th Annual North Quabbin Garlic and Arts Festival on September 17th and 18th - The Festival That Stinks. Over eighty vendors will delight you with amazing art, glorious garlic cuisine, regional agriculture, and renewable energy on an exquisite farm field illuminated by fall foliage. Two stages with music and entertainment, and aromatic activities abound for all ages. Likened to a big family picnic, this one-of-a-kind event celebrates the bounty of the arts, agriculture, and community in the North Quabbin region. Come taste glorious garlic cuisine such as turkey garlic chili, pulled pork with garlic baked beans, garlic ice cream (other flavors available for the more timid), burgers and hotdogs a la garlic sauce, and more. Also featuring raw garlic eating contest, demonstrations, and more. Held at Forster's Farm, 60 Chestnut Hill Rd., Orange. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

People's Harvest on September 18th- A Celebration of Native American Arts and Crafts, Music, and History. Celebrate the cultural roots of the area's first inhabitants, and some of the finest Native American talents. Catered Native American food, Native music, and a special preview sale of the arts and crafts, including pottery, basketry, weaving, painting, flute making,

stone carving, and more. Storytellers and Native musicians on stage and out on the grounds, history actors and work shops. The Vermont Institute of Natural History will bring down their live birds of pray educational show for an up close and personal look at these wonderful birds. At Schuetzen Verein picnic grounds at Barton Cove, off of Rt. 2 in Gill.

Hot Spot Teen Center

Monday - Ongoing Digital Arts Project, 3 - 5
Tues & Wed - Ongoing Music Project, 3 - 5
Thursdays - Technology Drop-in hours, 3 - 5
Fridays - Drop-in hours (unless a special event is scheduled) 3 - 5
Friday, August 26th - Open Mic cancelled this month. Stay tuned for the last Friday in September!
 These programs are free (except some 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 Resource Center • 24 Third St, Turners Falls

Memorial Hall Theater POT HOLE PICTURES

August 26th & 27th
Season of the Witch & Stiff Odds
 2 films, local filmmakers showcase - First, set in and around Shelburne Falls with local talent. A man returns to his home town for the funeral of a friend and becomes embroiled in some old-fashioned mischief on the way to the church on Halloween night. All along the way he is haunted (or blessed) by visions of a which as he slowly falls apart. Directed by Fred DeVicca. Not suitable for children. Second, Shelburne resident Caleb Allen presents punk/sci-fi/horror/comedy, where the Grim Reaper becomes a bookie and takes bets on who will be the next to die. Meet the cast and crew. Begins at 7:00 p.m. sharp, with folk trio Mad Agnes.
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- FOUR BROTHERS** R in DTS sound DAILY 12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00
- WEDDING CRASHERS** R DAILY 12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00
- CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY** PG DAILY 12:15 3:15 6:15 9:15
- THE SKELETON KEY** PG13 DAILY 12:15 3:15 6:15 9:15
- THE BROTHERS GRIMM** PG in DTS sound DAILY 12:30 3:30 6:30 9:30
- RED EYE** PG13 in DTS sound DAILY 12:30 3:30 6:30 9:30

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Carey Reunion a Highlight of the Summer



JOE PARZYCH PHOTOS

Family, friends and many former staff (pictured here) celebrated at John and Linda Carey's surprise party June 4th at the Schuetzen Verein

BY JOE PARZYCH

GILL - Back on June 4th, over 400 people showed up for a surprise party at the Schuetzen Verein for John and Linda Carey, the former owners - for 41 years - of the Shady Glen. An impressive turnout, since the only notice of the surprise event was spread by word of mouth, something like the way the Carey's built their business.

It was an emotional gathering, more like a family reunion than a party. Customers who had not seen each other in quite some time had happy re-unions as well. The

Carey's children and grandchildren were there, and most of the past employees of the long popular gathering place.

John and Linda did not get a chance to eat very much, as the crowd showering them with hugs, smiles and words of fond remembrance. John Zywna, Murph Togneri, Ray Zukowski and other town officials slaved over the hot barbeque. Looking back, it was one of the highlights of the summer. Here are a few photos from the day.



John and Linda hold granddaughter Karissa Fleming, age 3

Back in the days when loitering wasn't an issue, we were allowed to hang out at good old Shady Glen to meet our friends. But one thing will always stick in my mind. When I wanted to go to the beach with my friends and didn't have enough money, Linda opened the till and said, "Will \$50 be enough?" Off I went!

*Thanks Linda and John.
-Dick (and Pam) Bessette*



John Zywna at the grill

How about that round of midnight golf, now that you are retired?! -Cherri & Carl Johnson



Liz Gary still waits to serve you at the Shady Glen

*Dear John,
I remember you in school, taking (my daughter) Mary Ann to the prom. She thought the world of you and I do too. Happy retirement.
Love you. - Mary Sachs*

*Hi John,
It's been so good having you in our community and also for the many times you have helped with our bazaars at Our Lady of Czestochowa. Thanks, God bless and enjoy your retirement. See you in church!
-Bob Pietraszyk*



Thank you for being in my life as early as you were. That made my adaptation to this country easier. I'm so glad you both can enjoy your retirement and watch your grandchildren grow up! - Tatyana

Tatyana Bocharnikova, with Rene Stone in background

*There are no better people than John and Linda Carey.
-Perley and Jeannette Felton*



John Carey gives one old friend a hug, while Helen Terlikoski waits her turn.

The many days, the many years I walked the Bridge to the Glen; always a smile, a "Hi" for me. Great food, great help and customers made it family - Rene Stone

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