



## ABANDONED & RUSTING

Does Montague want a skatepark?  
see page 7



## VALLEY FAULT LINES

Neighborhood Geology  
see page 16

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

Year 4  
No. 20

50¢

# The Montague Reporter

REPORTER@MONTAGUEMA.NET

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

FEBRUARY 23, 2006

## Cold Brook Farm Celebrates a Centennial

BY FRAN HEMOND

**MONTAGUE CENTER** - A hundred years ago, the February 3rd, 1906 *Turners Falls Reporter* tells the story in the manner of the day.

"It was a pleasant surprise to Selectman Fred Field of Greenfield Road when about 100 of his friends from the village and community gathered in his fine new house, just completed, last night. The house was inspected and admired by all. Miss Florence Rockwell

The success of the evening was due to the efforts of L. S. Field (Marian Lombard's and Florence Smith's father, who owned the village store) and A. M. Lyman."

Cold Brook Farm had burned the afternoon of April 4th, 1904, when a lantern overturned or exploded when owner Fred Field was thawing frozen pipes. Eighteen head of cattle and all the buildings were destroyed. The family had spent more than a year at the

Demon house on Central Street in the village while they rebuilt. The new buildings were planned good distances apart, because the close proximity of the barns and mill, certainly an advantage in winter, had facilitated the spread of the fire. The wood for the new buildings was cut in the woodlot at the North Pasture. And they



PHOTO COURTESY OF FRAN HEMOND.

*Cold Brook Farm in 1890, prior to the fire of 1904. Aunt Minnie, Rosa and baby Kenneth C. are on the lawn.*

read Longfellow's "Hanging of the Crane," after which A. M. Lyman presented Mr. Field with a generous sum of money. Light refreshments were served.

initiated the spread of the fire. The wood for the new buildings was cut in the woodlot at the North Pasture. And they

see COLD BROOK , pg 9

## Residents Seek Redress on Riverview Property Taxes



PHOTO: BILL BONNETTE

*Houses to the east of the Old Red Bridge abutment, on Barton Cove (along the shoreline marked by solid line, above right) fall in the new Riverview property tax district. These properties' land values have risen sharply, while the land values of houses facing west, (marked by dashed line, above left), with a similar view of the river, have remained the same.*

BY DAVID DETMOLD

**GILL** - Bill Bonnette, a resident of Riverview Drive, and his sister Geri Johnson, came before the board to renew complaints of excessive and inconsistent property valuations in the recently designated Riverview District. Bonnette, who said his tax bill has doubled in the last two years, said the quarter acre lot his modest wood frame house is built on is now

valued at \$141,000, up from \$30,000 two years ago. Two doors down, another quarter acre plot on the river remains valued at \$30,000, he said.

He brought along a laptop computer and spent some time showing the board aerial photos he had taken of the neighborhood, and detailing property values for each small plot, some of which fell into the new district, while others, with similar

views of the river, did not. Bonnette, a flight instructor at the Turners Falls Airport, said he is currently paying \$170 extra each month just to support the hike in his property tax bill.

Bonnette said his neighbor's quarter acre lot was valued at \$140,000 although he didn't even have parking, due to the fact there is a

see GILL, pg 8

## FARMWIFE'S JOURNAL

### February - the Waiting Season

BY P. CROSBY

**GILL** - This is the waiting season on the farm, and we continue to wait for the combination of early spring signs that says it's time for sugaring. Whatever the thermometer may suggest some days, and even though multiple flocks of geese are simultaneously circling, the chickadees have begun their 're do' mating calls, and the cardinals are piercing the air with feisty song, our anticipation of

the day when the first taps will go in is confined for the present to the rattling and stacking of buckets. There's also a need to clear the sugarhouse of a few years' worth of stored wool, spinning wheels, bicycles, and boxes.

It's been three years now since we've sugared, having dropped it when the first of our two older children left for college. Using traditional taps and buckets instead of tubing, it's a particularly labor-intensive task, and help can be hard to come by for clearing the bush, prepping the kindling, collecting the sap, and feeding the furnace, let alone for the ceaseless and seemingly endless, if initially pleasurable, tending of the pans.

I met my husband over an evaporator twenty-six see JOURNAL, pg 9



MARY AZARIAN

## Annie: An American Fairytale at the Shea

REVIEWED BY DAVID DETMOLD

**TURNERS FALLS** - There is something peculiarly American about the plot line of *Annie*, as there is something essentially British about *Oliver*. In *Oliver*, a nine-year-old ragamuffin escapes the penury of the orphanage and indentured servitude to be adopted by the prince of thieves, Fagin, and his gang of pickpockets. *Oliver* is made to survive using his pluck and his wits. He is rescued from a murderer, and finds a personal fortune in the end. In *Annie*, a cute little 11-year-old orphan cashes in on her dimples and charm, gets adopted by a billionaire

capitalist - appropriately named Daddy Warbucks - and ends up saving the entire country from the depths of Depression.



Daisy Whitcomb Skelton and uncredited canine companion in *Annie*

Which plot line makes for better theater? That is debatable.

What is beyond doubt is the ability of a talented

cast of community players, under the guidance of director Nick Wayneovich and the choreography of Kimberly Wayneovich, to bring the two-dimensional cartoon characters of Harold Gray's comic strip to life on stage at the Shea Theater, where Ja'Duke Production's *Annie* enjoyed a rousing opening weekend on Friday and Saturday, February 17th and 18th. Singing and dancing orphans in pre-welfare, pre-Roe v. Wade America: what's not to like?

They are all here: the bald, imposing titan of high finance, Warbucks,

see ANNIE, pg 9

**PET OF THE WEEK****My Wanderin' Days  
is Through****Milo**

Milo is a four-year old brown long-haired cat in need of a good home. Milo just loves a big scratching and rolls on his back like a big lush! He can be both gentle and loving and pretty playful too. He's done with the stray cat strut and ready to live as a happy housecat.

For more information on adopting Milo contact the Dakin Animal Shelter in Leverett at 548-9898 or via email at info@dakin-shelter.org.

**Gardening Workshop**

On Sunday, February 26th, a workshop: "Locally Grown, In Your Own Backyard" will take place at Woolman Hill. To grow more of your own food or improve your garden, join John Howell, UMASS Extension vegetable specialist, for a presentation on home gardening. Sunday, 3 p.m. at the Woolman Hill Meetinghouse, top of Keets Rd. in Deerfield, for a \$5 fee. This talk is co-sponsored by the Pioneer Valley Post Carbon Council and Woolman Hill. For information, call (413) 648-9158. For directions, go to www.woolmanhill.org.

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**MONTAGUE LIBRARY NEWS****Animal Tracking**

**MONTAGUE CENTER** - An animal tracking program for families will meet at the Montague Center Library on Saturday, March 4th, at 10 a.m. Children of all ages and their families are invited to look for animal signs and explore the Montague Center Conservation Land with

Environmental Educator Dawn Ward. In case of unpleasant weather, a fun hands-on tracking program will be held inside the Montague Center Library. The event is co-sponsored by the Community Partnerships for Children. For more information, please call 863-3214.

**WENDELL LIBRARY NEWS****New Mayor Mystery on Tap**

**WENDELL** - *Winter is on the wane in Northwestern Vermont. The moon hangs bright and cold in the silvery night sky over hundreds of square miles of a peaceful, dormant landscape. Bobby Cutts - young, heartbroken, and unable to sleep - enters the family barn to tend to the beasts within... and encounters the last nightmare of his life. Suddenly and explosively surrounded by bolts of fire racing in all directions, Bobby and the entire herd perish in a searing, stampeding, Hellish circle of flames.*

*Called to the scene, Joe Gunther instantly recognizes*

*arson. But why, and by whom? Before his investigation is over, Joe will engage in a deadly game of chess that transcends mere police work, and confront an opponent whose final mission in life is to destroy the woman closest to Joe's heart.*

Yikes! Don't miss out on all the fun. Join the New Salem - Wendell Book Connect, read the new Archie Mayor novel, *St. Albans Fire*, discuss it with other readers, and come meet the author on Thursday, March, 23rd, at 7 p.m. at the Bullard Farm Conference Center in New Salem. More info: 978-544-3559.

**Winter Olympics? No, it's the...  
Old Toboggan Run at Unity Park!**

*This photograph was taken sometime after 1922.  
Note the bandshell, moved from Avenue A.  
The postcard was donated to the Montague Parks and  
Recreation by Bernie Fournier, 3/22/84.*

**SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES Feb. 27th - March 3rd**

**MONTAGUE Senior Center**, 62 Fifth St., Turners Falls, is open Mon. - Fri. from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. Make meal reservations 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. Special trip coordinator is Jean Chase. Make trip reservations by calling 772-6356. Payment and menu choice is due three weeks prior to trip.

**Monday, 27th**  
10:15 a.m. Aerobics  
11 a.m. PACE Aerobics  
1 p.m. Canasta  
**Tuesday, 28th**  
9:30 a.m. Tai Chi

**Wednesday, 1st**  
10:15 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
12:45 p.m. Bingo  
**Thursday, 2nd**  
10 a.m. Coffee/conversation  
1 p.m. Pitch  
**Friday, 3rd**  
9:15 a.m. Tap and soft shoe dance, open to the community, reservations and fee apply  
10:15 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
11 a.m. PACE Aerobics

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

## FACES & PLACES

Yours for the Taking  
on 4th Street!

DAVOL PHOTO

This beautiful all-weather sofa has the rich upholstery and plush tones of fine furniture, left on the sidewalk in the rain and snow for two months in the heart of Montague's business district.  
Some things improve with age!

**Program Instructors Needed**

Instructors needed in arts and crafts, health and fitness, family-based programs.

Montague parks and recreation is looking for experienced and highly motivated individuals to help offer new programs. Whether your skills are in arts and crafts, fitness, line dancing,

or anything else you can teach to others, we're looking for you! Compensation is negotiable.

If you are interested, or know of someone that may be interested, MPRD can be contacted at 863-3216 or recdir@montague.net.

**Extra Help for Medicare Part D**

**BY ANNA VIADERO** - There is still time for seniors to apply for extra financial help with Medicare Part D premiums, deductibles and co-pays. Seniors can still apply even if they're already selected a drug plan.

This extra help comes from the Social Security Administration and could be worth an average of \$21,000 per

year for those who qualify.

Call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) to see if you qualify or to request an application.

If you need help filling out the application call the SHINE program at Franklin County Home Care at 413-773-5555 or 978-544-2259. SHINE can also help with you Medicare Part D research and choice.

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vided for meals, Thursday shopping, or medical necessity by calling Dana Moore at (978) 544-3898.

**Monday, 27th**  
9:30 a.m. Exercise  
9:45 a.m. Library  
12:30 p.m. Pitch  
**Tuesday, 28th**  
9 a.m. Aerobics  
12:30 p.m. Oil Painting  
**Wednesday, 1st**  
9:30 a.m. Line Dancing  
12 Noon Bingo  
**Thursday, 2nd**  
9 a.m. Aerobics

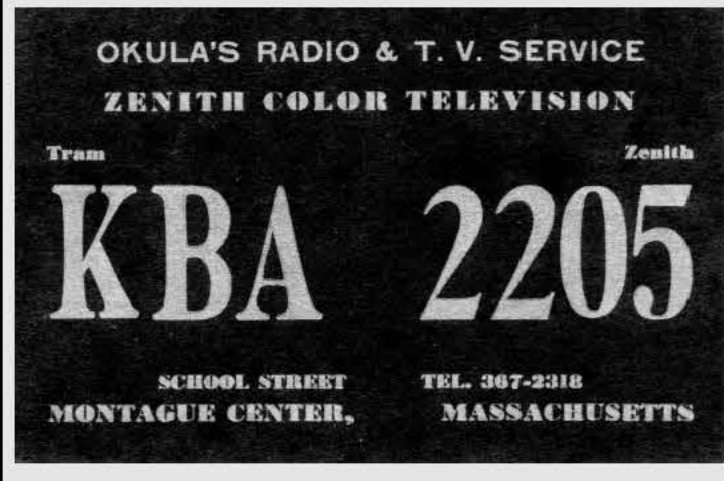
**WENDELL Senior Center**, located in the town offices on Wendell Depot Rd. Call Kathy Swaim at (978) 544-2020 for info, schedule of events or to coordinate transportation.

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## POSTCARDS FROM THE PAST Peter O’Kula’s Shop



**BY LIL FISKE** - When I came to Montague Center in 1947, Peter O’Kula had a shop on School Street, between his home and Newton’s Chevrolet business. Yes, we did have a car dealership in Montague. On the back of the card the address to send the card to is Citizen’s Radio Station and Mr. O’Kula asks others to “Please send me your Card” and “Happy Collecting.”

*Card courtesy of Lillian Fiske.*

## Writing Workshop Starting Soon

“Coping Creatively in Troubled Times - Building Community”

- Settle your mind through writing, connect with others, construct coping strategies and diminish isolating factors that enforce separate struggles in rural environs.

- Address how to deal successfully with troubled times while maintaining the ability to participate productively at home and in

the community.

- Enjoy, practice, develop and share writing skills.

- Support creative, more effective writing and public presentation.

- Encourage and appreciate individualized writing styles.

Sessions will be once a week for four weeks, approximately eight participants, directed by Nina Keller. There will be warm up exercises, mini-lessons, dis-

ussion, writing, sharing and private meeting upon request, to analyze, assess and suggest possible improvements for writing skills.

Contact Nina Keller 978-544-2857. Suggested time: Tuesday nights 7:00 - 9 (or by request of class). March 14th, 21st, 28th, and last night to be decided. Free! Funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council and the Wendell Cultural Council.

## ‘Acupuncturists Without Borders’ Benefit

**TURNERS FALLS** - Licensed acupuncturist Karen Adams, owner of Four Directions Healing Arts Acupuncture, will host a fundraiser to benefit “Acupuncturists Without Borders” (AWB) on Fat Tuesday, Feb. 28th. Visitors to Four Directions will enjoy free gumbo and New Orleans-style jazz music all day long, as well as having the opportunity to learn about AWB and purchase raffle tickets. The raffle will be held at 5:30 p.m.; all proceeds will benefit AWB, a group that on Monday was forced by the Louisiana Board of Medical Examiners to cease its volunteer efforts in Louisiana, citing “absence of a demonstrated need” for relief work by out-of-state volunteer acupuncturists.

AWB volunteer out-of-state licensed acupuncturists have been providing free acupuncture treatments for stress, trauma and insomnia at numerous locations in New Orleans and surrounding areas, from health clinics to emergency operations centers.

To date, over 4,000 free treatments have been performed, according to informa-

tion from AWB. The group planned to provide thousands of additional treatments over the coming months.

During her nine-day visit to New Orleans last fall, Adams treated 100 people with “auricular” acupuncture, which is done on the ear.

“That’s the beautiful part of this kind of acupuncture -- you can see a lot of people,” she said. “The Chinese found that there is a place in the ear that corresponds to every place in the body. This protocol was originally used to treat addictions. . . and works on the area of the brain that affects trauma.”

To support the work of AWB, local residents are encouraged to visit Four Directions Healing Arts Acupuncture at 112 Avenue A on February 28th.

Donations for the raffle will include gift certificates and items from: Cup o’Joe, Arnie’s Used Furniture, Equi’s, Books & More, DiPaolo’s, Aubuchon’s and Jack Nelson. Adams will also donate five free acupuncture treatments.

For more information, call Adams at 863-8033.

## Walk to Vermont Yankee HQ on Sunday

On Sunday, Feb. 26th at 12:30 p.m., walkers will assemble at the Brattleboro Food Coop (park in parking garage, not in Coop lot) for a 1 - 4 p.m. walk.

The New England Peace Pagoda, with the support of Citizens Awareness Network (CAN) and Traprock Peace Center, are conducting a walk from downtown Brattleboro, up Route 5 to Vermont Yankee’s corporate headquarters on Old Ferry Rd.

While the walk protests the pending uprate of the Vermont Yankee nuclear reactor, it is also part of the Peace Pagoda’s “Walk for a New Spring” to draw attention to the dangers of nuclear weapons and nuclear power and how both jeopardize the hope for world

peace. This walk demonstrates people’s commitment to being Green by 2015. We need sustainable and affordable energy solutions that can bring jobs and prosperity to our communities rather than increased danger and more nuclear waste. Info: Citizens Awareness Network, 339-5781, or Nipponzan Myohoji Buddhist order, 413-367-2202.

### Walk for a New Spring

“A Walk for a New Spring” began Monday, February 20th, at the Peace Pagoda in Leverett, Massachusetts. Walkers organized by the Buddhist order Nipponzan Myohoji have undertaken a pilgrimage for peace that will culminate March 22nd in Boston. Walkers will spend Sunday, February 26th, in

Brattleboro, Vermont, where they will progress from the Brattleboro Town Hall to the headquarters of the Entergy Corporation, which manages Vermont Yankee. The intention of the day’s walk will be to encourage the shutdown of the power plant. Entergy seeks a twenty percent power production increase despite officially measured dangers of the aging plant, which is scheduled for decommissioning in 2012. The walkers will stay in Orange, Massachusetts, at Seeds of Solidarity on Monday, February 27th. A program about the dangers of the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant is scheduled that evening in Wheeler Memorial Library, Orange, under the auspices of Nipponzan Myohoji.

## Women in Jazz/Women in Song A Concert in Three Acts

Patty Carpenter  
Yasko Kubota  
Verandah Porche  
Scott Shetler  
Sasha Starr



Melissa Shetler  
Ellen Powell  
Claire Arenius  
Molly Welch  
Emily Coutant

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## Spring is Here?

Last week, daffodils were coming up against the south facing wall on 4th Street, where they typically first peak through in March. They made their appearance on February 15th this year. This week, reports of robins, trees in bud, and the early blooming tree by Couture Brothers showing signs of

bursting into flower. Dare we say Spring is almost here?

We're not sure why the environmentalists keep complaining about global warming. So, what's a few island nations in the South Pacific, give or take? Maybe we lose Manhattan. But from a New England standpoint, it ain't so bad!

## Meanwhile, Back at the Book Mill

For those of you who still managed to come down with a mild case of cabin fever this winter, we have found the perfect antidote. Whether it's modern jazz or noir westerns you favor, the Dead of Winter film series at the Book Mill has it all. If you're tired of bowling alone, find a seat with the rest of the cinephiles upstairs in the old Martin Machine mill, now home to thousands of used books and a couple of great restaurants. March films feature Buster Keaton, Clint Eastwood, Gregory Peck and Ingird Bergman. Last week saw the original Batman cast in a crazy

full length film, with Adam West, Burgess Meredith, Cesar Romero and Lee Merriweather in a delicious Cat Woman outfit. 'Holy leopardskin, Batman, this kitty is to die for!'

It's a neighborly gathering, with children passing out bags of popcorn, odd sight lines framed by beams and bars of the old machine works, and impromptu commentary from the audience. The best part is the movies, starting at 7 p.m. each Sunday, are free! That leaves plenty in your wallet to sample the delicacies downstairs, or the used books lining the walls.



## Making Movies

Or, what the heck, if you're tired of the Hollywood product, make your own movies. MCTV invites all local public access producers and interested others to join a potluck at the 2nd Street studios on Thursday, March 2nd, at 6:00 p.m. to network over food and soft beverages, and discuss show production and possibilities for

Montague's Channel 17.

If you have an idea for a show and are ready to take it to the big time on Montague's public access channel, if you know how to use a camera, or if you are simply interested in participating somehow, please stop by.

Bring a dish of some kind if you can, or just bring yourself.

We welcome your letters.

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## The Montague Reporter

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## BORDEAUX WHINE

BY DENIS BORDEAUX 06



Despite Congressional inquiries into price gouging, in 2005 Exxon-Mobil raked in a record-breaking \$36.2 billion in corporate profits! Not bad.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### America on Shaky Ground

When is the madness going to stop in America? We at one time were looked up to. Now we are the most hated nation in the world. Our country is run by Cheney and his puppet Bush. The Senate and Congress have allowed these two to kill over two thousand of our young men, and spent over four hundred billion dollars in a false war. It may be time to change the people in Washington, starting with John Olver who has done nothing for us and won't explain to me why we give so much money to foreign countries, calling it aid. We in America need the aid, John.

Now they have turned over our seaports to the same people who caused 911. It's a safe haven for them to get more drugs into our country. Just think of all the health care that four hundred billion dollars could have been used for. Look at the corruption in Washington. We really need a change! Great empires have fallen; America is now on shaky ground. We must do something before it is too late. Why isn't our government doing something to get America off drugs and crime?

Why can't we go back to being great like we were years ago? One possibility for change is at the polls in November.

- Theodore Graveline  
Gill

## Terrorist Surveillance

I am reporting that as of today, Wednesday, Feb. 15th, 2006, I have seen no terrorist, nor sign of terrorist activity, in Shutesbury, Leverett, Montague, Sunderland, Deerfield, Greenfield or Hadley (all cities or towns in Massachusetts). I have begun a

record of local terrorist activity as witnessed by myself and I will keep you informed as to what I discover. I welcome any assistance in this endeavor from you or your readership. Thank you.

- Anne Flaherty  
Shutesbury

**American  
Dead in  
Iraq  
as of 2/22/06**



## MONTAGUE HISTORIC PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION PROJECT

The Montague Historical Commission and the Massachusetts Historical Commission are continuing their work on identifying historic resources throughout the town of Montague. The goal is to identify historic resources community-wide, determine which properties should be further documented and increase the interest in protecting important buildings and landscapes in Montague. This project is similar to other projects either completed or underway in western

Massachusetts, in towns such as Florida, Granby, Blandford, Heath and Plainfield.

An extensive list of historic buildings, farms, burial grounds and landscapes has been developed for all five villages. The next step is to digitally photograph each historic resource from the public way.

Already, hundreds of historic buildings have been photographed in Montague. However, with five villages and very extensive historic resources throughout the town, the project is far larger than

other similar projects in western Mass. With the help of a student intern from the University of Massachusetts this coming year, the identification project will pick up speed.

If you would like to know more about this project or help take pictures of historic buildings, please contact Christopher Skelly, Director of Local Government Programs at the Massachusetts Historical Commission by email at Christopher.Skelly@state.ma.us or by calling 413-834-0678.

## BASEBALL & GIRLS SOFTBALL REGISTRATION

Montague parks and recreation department registration begins on Monday, March 6th for boys and girls in grades K thru 6 for baseball and softball programs.

Montague Independent Baseball serves youths from the ages 6 - 13 within three different skill-levels: Rookie League, ages 6 - 8; Farm League, ages 8 - 11; Youth League, ages 11 - 13. Parents are needed to help coach and umpire - no experience necessary; training provided.

Our Rookie League is offered for girls in grades K - 2;

intersquad games are played Saturday mornings. Montague residents = \$20, Non-residents = \$25; the fee includes hat and shirt. Senior League Teams, grades 3 - 6 play against area towns in the Small Town League. Games are held in May and June. Fees: Montague residents = \$35, Non residents = \$40; fees include hat, shirt and pants). Parents are encouraged to help coach and umpire - no experience necessary; training provided. Registration is ongoing until Saturday, April 8th. For more information, call MPRD at 863-3216.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### To the Brattleboro Police:

This is an open letter to the Brattleboro Police to express my gratitude for their considerate and kind treatment of the eleven of us who were arrested at the Entergy-VT-Yankee headquarters in January.

Being arrested was a new experience for me. The last time I had been inside the police station was as an elementary school teacher in Brattleboro on a class field trip. It still looked the same and I remember how impressed the children were, the pictures they drew and the stories they recorded in the classroom. Some decided they wanted to be police officers when they grew up.

Both the children and I were impressed with the many ways that our local police support and care for the community. Those field trips and the time spent on

them were a good investment of your time.

But, I question the need for Brattleboro police to take time away from safeguarding the people to protect a large corporation from engaging in a dialogue with peaceful and non-violent protesters.

Our intention on that day was to deliver a letter asking company executives to talk with us about ways VT-Yankee could change from a nuclear facility to a producer of renewable or green energy.

Why won't Entergy allow that to happen? Why should the police be called in to prevent it?

I don't expect to be arrested again, but I'm continuing my protest about the way the voices of the people in our area have been ignored by a rich corporation which seems to be succeed-

ing in buying off our politicians and some citizens with big donations. But the fact that Entergy has chosen the least expensive option for dry-cask storage, rather than the safest for containing the radioactive waste that will most likely remain permanently on the banks of the Connecticut River, shows their disdain for long term safety.

Every Thursday from 4-5 p.m. there is a Green Energy Vigil at the Wells Fountain in Brattleboro. Our aim is to have someone there every week at that time until Entergy agrees to close VT-Yankee on schedule in 2012. If there are people reading this who would like to come and stand with us, you are welcome to join us any Thursday.

- Mary Alice Herbert Putney, VT

## Workforce Development Leaders

The Franklin Hampshire Regional Employment Board is looking for 'a few good firms' to recognize as 2006 Workforce Development Leaders in the Franklin, Hampshire and North Quabbin Area.

The FHREB--the community board that oversees public employment monies for the Franklin, Hampshire and North Quabbin area - looks for some (not necessarily all) of the following characteristics when selecting companies:

- ♦ a company that is generally known as 'a good place to work'
  - ♦ a company with a reputation for 'investing' in its workers
  - ♦ a company that is private sector but public-spirited, visible and active in the community.
- Companies can be nominated for this award by any member of the community, including but not limited to employees, other companies, those associ-

ated with economic, business or workforce development, educational institutions, or human service agencies of various kinds.

Please send nominations by Friday, February 24th to FHREB, One Arch Place, Greenfield, 01301, or e-mail to fhreb@crocker.com with Workforce Leader in the subject line. Just write a few lines about the company and why you think they deserve recognition as a leader in this way. Include your phone number so we can call you for more information. REB committee members will consider all nominations and make the final choice.

There is no obligation on the part of selected employers, except to be the recipient of a plaque from the Franklin Hampshire Regional Employment Board to recognize their workforce development leadership. For more information, call the REB at 413-773-1835.

# Early Days of Turners Falls Part IV

From a speech given by Charles Hazelton to the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association, February 23rd, 1926. In 1867, Hazelton was engaged to help engineer William P. Crocker lay out the power canal and streets of the village of Turners Falls.

During the winter of '67 and '68, a school was run in the basement room of the brick house owned by the Goddard estate, located near the upper suspension bridge [to Gill]. The number of pupils was twelve - the teacher was Miss Susan Rowe, daughter of George

Rowe of Montague.

Just as a matter of comparison, today in the village including Montague City, there are eight school buildings, forty teachers, about fifteen hundred pupils, including the parochial school, and the annual appropriation to pay for the same is about \$150,000.

The first school-house built was the wooden building now standing on the alley between Second and Third Streets, and owned and used by the Society of Hermann's Sons. The Oakman School house was rebuilt in 1874, the first building

having been destroyed by fire.

The first church was built by the Catholics, a one-story wooden building, painted white, located on L Street, in the rear of the present rectory. The next was the Methodist Church on Fifth Street. The Baptist Church on Prospect Street was built in 1872, and the German Church on K Street in 1874.

So far as I have any knowledge, the first religious service held in the village, and which I attended, was held in a boarding shanty kept by Mrs. Julia Horrigan for men employed in the construction of the canal

located near the river bank, where the Griswold Cotton Mill [Railroad Salvage] now stands. Father Robinson came over from Greenfield and said Mass there at ten o'clock one Sunday morning in the fall of 1868, soon after the work on the canal was started.

A fire department was organized in 1871. The first chief engineer was Nathaniel Gilmore, who came to Turners Falls from Bellows Falls, and had charge of the work in the foundry of the Clark & Chapman Machine Co. The first piece of apparatus was a second-

hand steamer, bought of the City of Fitchburg, and named 'Alvah Crocker'. The first water supply of the village was furnished by the Turners Falls Company through an aqueduct system supplying water pumped from the river.

The houses built on the upper level of the place, however, could not be supplied in that way. They had to depend on cisterns filled with rainwater from the roof. A permanent and complete supply was introduced from Lake Pleasant in 1886.

*Continued next week*

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## NOTES FROM THE GILL - MONTAGUE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

# No Action Taken on School Configuration

**BY PATRICK RENNICK** - The Gill - Montague school committee meeting voted to dissolve the elementary school configuration study group, formed in 2003, at their February 14th meeting. The elementary study group had suffered a period of flagging attendance over the last year. A final report, compiled by committee member Mike Langknecht and Superintendent Sue Gee, drew on the "community values" articulated by the configuration committee to score various alternative set ups for the district's elementary schools. "We were not charged with making a recommendation; we were charged with exploring the alternatives, and we did that," Langknecht said, after the meeting. Using a "matrix" to compare as many as eight different configurations, the report gave the highest score to a configuration with a 200-student elementary school in Montague Center, and 235-student elementary school at Sheffield, and a 100-student school in Gill, all K-6, Langknecht said. The school committee took no action on the report, and thanked the configuration committee for its work.

"This reminds me a lot of the original building committee I once served on," said school

committee chair Mary Kociela. "We met for a year and did some really good work, but by the end we were struggling."

One member of the configuration study group who was critical of the process was Sally Shaw. "The process laid out by the board was not followed," she said. "The matrix was never shown to the public." School committee member Ted Castro-Santos added, "We have documents with information that is limited, not exhaustive. Work has been done and we have made progress. However, if we are to act on anything we would need a great deal more."

The board passed a motion to dissolve the group, while tabling the idea of a possible reconfiguration of the elementary schools for the future. In recent statements, Superintendent Gee has made it clear she does not favor closing any district schools at this time.

Former configuration study group member Jeanne Weintraub, a Montague Center parent, noted this is the fifth study of Montague's elementary school configuration since 1990. "It sounds like history has is repeating itself," she said.

The Gill-Montague schools

currently have four elementary schools, a K-6 school in Gill, a K-3 in Montague Center, a K-2 at Hillcrest, and a 3-6 at Sheffield.

### '07 Budget Described

Budget subcommittee chair Valeria Smith described the school committee's preliminary '07 budget, which comes with a \$1 million increase in operating expenses as a "preliminary budget reflective of level services." Costs are being driven by rising energy and insurance bills. She also said the proposed budget promises 1.66 new art positions: one fulltime art teacher to be shared among the district elementary schools, and a 2/3rds equivalent to bring the part time art teacher up to fulltime hours in the secondary schools.

"Just like our home budgets the schools are being hit by the same increases in health insurance and utilities. We've agonized over this budget and still we have decided that our schools really need the arts."

### Recycling Update

Student council representative Ali Urban reported the student-initiated recycling program at the high school and middle

school is now in its third week and "going really well." Taking matters into their own hands, the students and staff materialized 50 recycling bins from a helpful state agency, and organized parent volunteers to deliver the recycled paper to the town transfer station.

The project has recently enlisted the aid of the Montague highway department. After being contacted by the students, highway boss Tom Bergeron agreed his crew would pick up the paper recycling at the school, relieving the volunteers of the job of transporting it.

### Safe Homes

Student council member Lauren Tela brought the committee up to date on the Safe Homes Project, a student-initiated program to establish drug and alcohol free after school socializing with the backing of participating parents.

"We are planning to offer contracts for the Safe Homes project during the intermission of the school production of *Grease* in March," said Tela. "The contracts will help to establish a network of parents who will agree not to serve drugs or alcohol to children." The contract also calls upon parents to supervise social gatherings that take place at their homes and to monitor when their children go out and with whom.

The student council is also tackling issues at the school cafeteria regarding less than healthy menu selections and early closing times. As a result of the students' actions, certain menu items have been replaced, and the operating hours of the cafeteria have expanded.

The committee complimented the students on their efforts. "It's nice to see that you got rid of these issues quickly before they became too big," said Kociela.

### Laurie Farkas Honored

The board extended praise for the years of service to the district of former special education director Laurie Farkas, who has resigned to take a similar post in Hampshire County. Nancy Curtis has been appointed interim special education director, until the end of June. Curtis has experience with many other schools in the

region, including Belchertown and Ware.

"When I look at some of the things Laurie has done, I realize I have some big shoes to fill," said Curtis. This year, Farkas steered the G-M schools toward a course of educating more special ed students in the district in the Old Mill program, which has realized a \$150,000 savings in out of district placement costs. That money is now spent on paraprofessionals to work with students in the district.

### VY Evacuation Plans

Superintendent Sue Gee began discussion on evacuation planning in the result of a Vermont Yankee disaster and for general emergencies.

"We have looked at the Gill plan and we realized that schools not covered are still in close proximity to the plant," said Gee. Community concern has led the school committee to call on the selectboards in Gill and Montague to place warrant articles on upcoming town meetings, to expand and strengthen evacuation planning, which the boards have done. The next step for the town will involve the formation of a sub-committee for the purpose of acquiring grants for the purchase of "tabletop simulations." These simulations allow planners to view simulations of the evacuation procedures of various emergencies. "We had a very lively conversation. We had to keep bringing in chairs from the office to seat more people." Gee plans to pursue funding for an all-hazard evacuation plan including nuclear, chemical, flood, etc. "We do have emergency plans now that evacuate the kids from the schools and into strategic places. But, these will not be enough in the event of other emergencies."

### Bourbeau Appointed

Deb Bourbeau was appointed by a majority vote to the school committee. She spoke to the board about her hopes for the school district.

"Our new school is gorgeous and it will help to draw students," said Bourbeau. "A lot of our reputation is how we look to other people. I want our school system to be attractive so people want to come and live here. It is very important to stay on top."

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

# Meat Wagon On the Loose

### Tuesday 2-14

5:02 p.m. After a motor vehicle stop, [redacted] was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license.

### Wednesday 2-15

2:02 a.m. Report of a barking dog at a North Street address. Officer made contact with owner. Dog brought in.

7 p.m. Officer assisted disabled motor vehicle on Route 2.

### Thursday 2-16

2:40 p.m. Report of subjects selling meat from white box truck on Northfield Road in violation of town by law. Unable to locate vehicle. Notified Northfield Police to be on the look out.

### Friday 2-17

7:05 a.m. After a motor vehi-

cle stop on North Street, a criminal application was issued to [redacted] charging unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle and speeding.

11:40 a.m. Report of a tree down on a house on Mountain Road. Fire department on scene. Inside OK.

6:50 p.m. Report of a car vs. deer accident on Route 2. Very minor damage to vehicle. Operator advised of options.

8:30 p.m. Report of a large tree blocking Mountain Road. Tree Warden on scene. Tree removed.

### Saturday 2-18

6:15 p.m. Report of a disabled motor vehicle on Route 2. Area searched. Unable to locate.

### Monday 2-20

11:00 a.m. Officer observed collie type dog loose and in

roadway on Route 2. Located owner at a West Main Street address. Owners advised of by laws.

3:40 p.m. Phone call from resident on Forest Street reporting some one has taken a bush from her property. Resident unsure the exact date. Stated some time in the fall.

### Tuesday 2-21

7:45 a.m. Report of a possible chimney fire at a West Main Street address. Fire department on scene.

3:10 p.m. Report of a tractor trailer that had lost its trailer at the intersection of Moore and Prospect Streets. Rose Ledge contacted.

4:24 p.m. After a motor vehicle stop on North Street/Church Street, [redacted] was arrested and charged with operating with a suspended license and speeding.

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**NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING**

# Does Montague Really Want a Skatepark?

**BY PHILIPPE DEGUISE** - Abandoned and rusting for the last two years, the town's skate park on 2nd Street may finally get a new lease on life. Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio told the selectboard at their February 22nd meeting that the town's insurer had visited the facility and deemed it useable with some modifications.

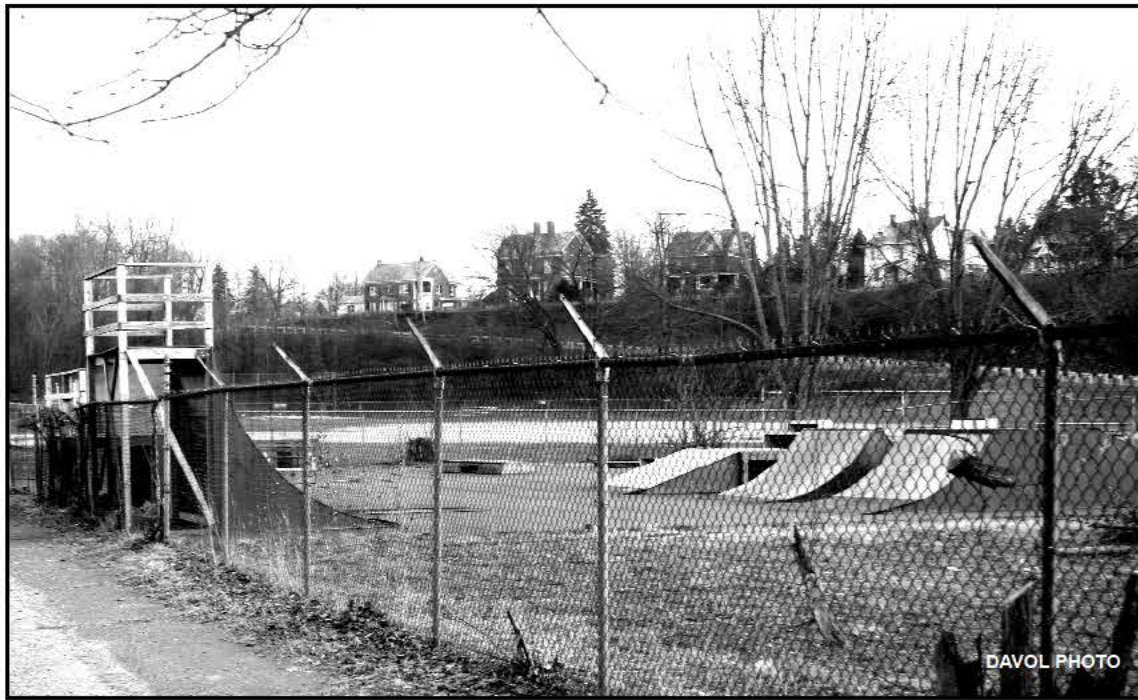
As a result, the selectboard called for an accounting of costs associated with reopening and maintaining the facility, and for a meeting to gauge the community's interest in doing so.

On February 16th, a representative from the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association visited the skate park to determine the feasibility of providing liability coverage should the facility reopen. "He didn't seem bothered," said Jon Dobosz, director of the Montague parks and recreation department, who accompanied the MIAA representative. "This place can definitely reopen," he added.

According to Dobosz, the only recommendation made was to remove two ramps in disrepair. The MIAA will forward a letter to the town outlining its expectations and willingness to provide insurance for the park.

According to Abbondanzio, the MIAA stated its desire to have three things in place for the skate park to be insured. These are supervision, the wearing of protective gear, and written rules and warning signs. However, the enforcement of these proved difficult when the skate park was open in past years. According to those who regularly visit the skatepark in Greenfield, parents can be seen providing some degree of supervision. Other than that, the wearing of protective gear is left up to the individual.

"Will we be covered liability-wise?" asked selectboard member Pat Allen. Until the MIAA clarifies its position on the town's exposure in the event skaters fail to comply with the rules, no decision can be made. In any event, guidelines regarding safe behavior at the skate park could be difficult to enforce given limited resources, an issue which deviled the park in the past.



After a heyday when it first opened in 1998, Montague's skatepark has been locked and idle for more than two years.

"Do we have the money to do repairs?" asked Allen. No one seemed to know how much money was left in accounts to expend on the skate park repairs. "We need to get more information regarding costs and funding resources," she said.

In the meantime, Tim de Christopher, who holds the lease on the land where the park is located, said he needed some clarity as to who is responsible for maintenance. "I am concerned about the maintenance of the fences and such. I have spent a fair amount of money on maintenance," he added. With less than twenty months left in the town's lease on the skatepark, which has a renewal option, de Christopher said he doesn't know who makes decisions about the park.

"Do you really want a skate park?" asked Allen the viewing audience.

It was suggested that the parks and recreation department call a meeting in the spring to determine interest in the project. For now insurance letters and financial figures will serve to guide the town in determining the feasibility of reopening the skate park.

**Sewer Dept. Leaks**

Bob Trombley, superintendent of the water pollution control facility came before the selectboard to seek approval for an engineering study for a new roof for the facility's administration building. According to Trombley, the 25-year-old roof

currently leaks in nine separate places and the location of the leaks is very difficult to determine due to the roof's type of construction.

Based on a budget of \$86,250 approved by town meeting for the project, Trombley proposed a budget of \$25,000 to hire an engineering firm to oversee the process of putting together specifications,

bidding and recommending a contractor. Both the selectboard and Abbondanzio were apparently surprised by the elevated price tag and urged Trombley to go back to the drawing board.

Trombley is reviewing the options for a new roof, but said he does not have the time to engage in the kind of details an engineering firm can. Additionally, because it is not

certain what if any damage has been done to the building itself as a result of the leaks, a degree of expertise is required.

The new roof will be much lighter and easier to repair and maintain, but according to Trombley, the cost for the installation could come in at around \$50,000. He will return to the selectboard next week with his findings.

**Greenfield Road Stalls**

There is still no progress on the Greenfield Road project, according to Abbondanzio. He has not received a letter from Mass Highway summarizing its intentions. Allen suggested that if the town had not received anything within two to three weeks, a call to local legislators would be in order.

The Railroad Salvage building is being studied to determine what if any parts of the structure can be, well, salvaged, following the collapse of part of the roof earlier this winter. The owner, Gary Kosuda of Fort Lauderdale, Florida visited the site last week and said he hopes to save it, but will wait to see the engineering report.

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG**

## Under the Influence

**Thursday 2-16**

6:52 p.m. Report of a larceny at an Avenue B address. Caller reports a past theft two weeks ago. Report taken.

**Friday 2-17**

12:34 a.m. After a motor vehicle stop on 3rd Street near the Exxon, [redacted] was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle under the influence of liquor (2nd offense), possession of an open container of alcohol in a motor vehicle, and a number plate violation.

12:42 p.m. [redacted]

[redacted] was arrested on a default warrant.

6:13 p.m. After a motor vehicle stop on Gunn Road at Federal Street, [redacted]

[redacted] was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle under the influence of liquor (2nd offense).

**Saturday 2-18**

11:39 a.m. Report of an environmental incident at a West Chestnut Hill Road address. Smoke seen in the distance. Found to be someone burning brush.

1:39 p.m. Report of a drug violation at a 2nd Street address. Caller reports that neighbors are smoking pot. Officer found nothing.

**Sunday 2-19**

2:53 a.m. After a motor vehicle stop on Millers Falls Road, [redacted]

[redacted] was arrested on a default warrant and also charged with operating a motor vehicle with a suspend-

ed registration. 8:50 p.m. Report of an assault at a 3rd Street address.

[redacted] was arrested and charged with domestic assault and battery.

[redacted] was arrested and charged with domestic assault and battery and assault and battery with a dangerous weapon.

**Monday 2-20**

2:52 p.m. Report of trees on wires on Greenfield Road. Phone company and tree warden notified.

5:09 p.m. Report of a domestic disturbance at a Bridge Street address. Found to be verbal only.

**Tuesday 2-21**

1:01 p.m. Report of a tractor trailer stuck on the White Bridge. The driver was able to clear it himself.

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## GILL continued from pg 1

fire hydrant in front of the lot. "I let him park in front of my house," Bonnette said.

Johnson, an Oak Street resident and realtor whose home is also in the new tax district said, "We've been hearing people say this isn't right for the past two years. Here's the second round of bills coming in. But no attempt has been made to correct the situation. There's got to be some place you can turn." Johnson is part of a group of seven residents appealing the creation of the Riverview tax district in court.

"I know we are all sympathetic," said board member Ann Banash. "But we are not the ones who set the rates."

"I can't pay this," Bonnette replied.

The three assessors who were in office when the Riverview district was established in 2004 have all since resigned. There is an opening on the current board of assessors, and selectboard chair Phil

Maddern urged Bonnette to consider running for it.

The board said they would be asking town meeting for \$65,000 for updated assessing software and the services of an outside agency to assist the town in completing a townwide revaluation this year.

The Riverview district, which features sharply higher property values for some 30 landowners from Munns Ferry Road down the river to the point where Riverview Drive rounds the bend at Bartons Cove, was established after the board of assessors deduced a rise in property values for homes overlooking those sections of the river, following a handful of high ticket property transfers there. Among those was the sale of a two-family home next door to Bonnette, which changed hands recently for \$325,000, he said.

"There goes the neighborhood," Maddern said.

"I was hoping I'd win the Powerball lottery the other night, because I would have

bought a house next door to each one of you," for an exorbitant sum, Bonnette responded.

### News Steps for Town Employees

Chief of police David Hastings, acting in his capacity as head of the Gill personnel board, came before the selectboard on February 21st to discuss the proposed new classifications for the positions of police sergeant and town administrative coordinator. On February 6th, the selectboard had voted unanimously to support the personnel board's recommendation to move those positions up one grade, to reflect increased duties or responsibilities in their job descriptions. However, Hastings pointed out, the selectboard had not made a motion to adjust the steps within the new grades at which the two employees would be compensated. If they were to remain at their current steps at the higher grades, Hastings said, it would cost the town approximately \$13,000 more for salaries during the upcoming fiscal year.

The board thanked him for bringing the matter to their attention, and agreed to adjust the steps of the two employees to the level nearest their current pay, without either employee actually losing compensation, as they move to the higher grades.

"When employees go up a grade, they have increased responsibilities and some increase in pay," Hastings said.

While Hastings was present, he brought up the matter of his contract renewal, due for review in about three months. The board had previously indi-

cated they expected no major changes in the contract, and Hastings said he was satisfied with it, but would like the board to formally ratify it for the next three years, rather than let it automatically renew.

Before he left the room, board member Anne Banash asked if he would look into the matter of an excessive number of unregistered vehicles within sight of the public way on Mountain Road, at the property of Nathan Duda. "There have been complaints," Banash said.

Hastings asked if the board would like him to address a similar problem at the property of Raymond Steele, on Main Road, at the same time, and they replied affirmatively.

Fire chief Gene Beaubien informed the board of new state requirements for all residences to have carbon monoxide detectors installed within ten feet of every bedroom, on every floor, by March 31st. Beaubien said the new regulation would be enforced at the point of sale, or resale, of residential property.

Highway superintendent Mick LaClaire received the board's approval to purchase a nine-wheel roller for \$1725, to assist with putting down oil and stone, and for smoothing dirt roads in pothole season. LaClaire said owning a roller, rather than renting one, would save the town money in the long run.

### Which Way is Hoe Shop Road?

LaClaire updated the board on efforts to stem the repeated theft of street signs in the town. The Grist Mill Road sign recently went missing, he said, while the sign on Hoe Shop Road in West Gill had been stolen seven times in the past year. But LaClaire said the highway department's recent efforts to secure the sign atop the pole seemed to have worked. He described a system of fine threaded bolts and double brackets, and hack sawed ends that seemed to have foiled the most recent attempts to steal the popular Hoe Shop Road sign. "They dented it, but they

haven't got it off yet," he said.

If this method fails, LaClaire said the next recourse would be to electrify the sign, although he seemed to be joking when he said it.

The board unanimously agreed to put a motion on the town meeting warrant to ask local legislators, Vermont authorities, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to increase the zone for evacuation planning for the nearby Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant. The request was initiated locally by principals at regional elementary schools, who are concerned that families trying to pick up their children following a radiological emergency at the 33-year-old reactor would be confused about where to find children at different grade levels, since only the Gill elementary school is covered by the current, 10-mile evacuation plan. Besides failing to cover other GMRSD schools, the current plan has been criticized for failing to include adequate stockpiles of potassium iodide, and over concerns that parts of Greenfield Community College, the destination point for town officials and county adults (school children are supposed to be bused to Turners Falls High School), is undergoing construction for asbestos abatement for the next two years, and may be off limits for health reasons.

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

## Cows Causing Chaos

#### Wednesday 2-15

10:40 a.m. Received report of possible phone scam, from a North Cross Road residence.

11:01 a.m. Report of loose cows on Main Road.

3:15 a.m. Report of loose cows on Main Road.

3:20 a.m. Report of a vehicle vs. cow accident on Main Road, damage over \$500.00.

4:40 a.m. Report of loose cows on Main Road (again) owner advised to fix fence or charges will be brought.

#### Thursday 2-16

8:00 p.m. Report of possible illegal burn in Riverside section of town; fire department advised.

10:32 p.m. Assisted Bernardston police with domestic dispute on Bald Mountain Road.

#### Friday 2-17

8:50 a.m. Report of illegal trash dumping on Walnut St.

12:15 p.m. Report of suspicious subjects at Main Road business; same transported from scene to Greenfield.

5:50 p.m. Report of trees blocking Main Road; removed.

6:10 p.m. Report of tree on power wire on River Road.

8:29 p.m. Assisted fire department with reported vehicle fire on Main Road.

10:10 p.m. Assisted removing a portable carport from French King Highway, that had blown into roadway.

#### Monday 2-20

10:10 a.m. Assisted with building alarm at PVRS in Northfield.

5:20 p.m. Received report of two unattended fires on Chappell Drive, fire department advised.

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**COLD BROOK**  
continued from pg 1

had the cider mill, a prime source of revenue, ready for business by the fall of 1904. At the time of their return to the farm in 1906, the Fields were planning for the 'summer boarders from New York' to once again populate the three-story house.

To the modern world it may seem strange that the *Turners Falls Reporter* makes no mention of the family, without whose help Fred could not have returned Cold Brook to its status as a productive farm. His wife, Rosa, was a mainstay. She was the fabulous cook who kept the New York 'guests' coming year after year. With Fred's sisters,

Manerva Crafts and Nan Field, Rosa canned the great quantities of green beans and tomatoes and corn that lined the shelves in the cellar, kept the house spotless, made hooked rugs and still had concern for her neighbors. The women did not go to the barn or the fields, but in asparagus time, it was Rosa who supervised the bunching of asparagus in the mill, the choice of straight plump stalks, and the proper tie in red cord and the label of the finest available for the Boston market.

Fred's sons, Kenneth, 14 and Franklin, 9, lived in an age when children were essential contributors to farm life and grew up with skills not known to later generations. Daughter Alma was five, and Rebecca

was born in March 1905, when rebuilding was in full swing. A rather insensitive village lady suggested to Rebecca some years later that her appearance at that time was hardly helpful.

To Fred, family was help and inspiration. The farm must continue.

And here we are in February 2006, celebrating the man and his family who restored Cold Brook Farm after



*Cold Brook Farm, pictured in the 1990s*

complete devastation, along with the town that helped make it worthwhile.



**JOURNAL**  
continued from pg 1

years ago at his father's farm. Mr. Hatch had enough helping hands - between family, boarders, and neighbors - to prefer keeping the fire going night and day until the season was done, and some of us spent many midnights toasting in the glow of the furnace, taking a walk under the March-bright, wind-blown stars to cool ourselves off, drinking sweet sap stirred into our coffee mugs, and rolling into bed at dawn with stomachs

full of Mrs. Hatch's home-fried doughnuts.

Ready-to-hand help is slim now, but this year the timing seems right to take it all on again, night-owl young people available or not. The grown-up cows are taking a well-deserved rest before they freshen anew and get turned out on green grass that will make their milk especially prized. The two youngest, Blossom and Nutmeg - born January '04 and March '05 respectively, are young ladies now, but won't be bred till fall, and they require little care

except hay and silage and an occasional night in the stall on a rare bitter night.

Our real pride and joy in terms of production in this bare season are our Delawares, a wondrously soft, plump, snowy-breasted breed of poultry new to us, but never to be overlooked again in the munificent pages of the *McMurray Hatchery* catalog. They make a stunning contrast to their more mundane Black Star cousins in the coop, whose eggs at this point are a little smaller, though their rich brown color, perfect shape, and

early and steady appearance in the nesting boxes make them, too, a delectable favorite with all of us.

We are two Delawares short of a dozen, however, as of last week, because another sign of the winding down of winter is the emergence in our far pastures of some familiar hungry predators.

While we haven't yet sighted the bobcat or coyote of past seasons, tracks in the Lincoln's birthday snow showed a fox is making the rounds, and now we have a swatch of stomped white

feathers and an abruptly lower head count as evidence of his successful sniping.

So we'll begin it again soon - the chopping and hauling and loading, the steaming and pouring - as will many of our neighbors across the county, and it won't be long after that before plowing and planting will be begging for attention. Best to take a deep breath now and settle back with a good book to doze over. When nature starts to call, it clamors.



**ANNIE**  
continued from pg 1

who finds he has a heart after all; the vindictive, alcoholic harpy Miss Hannigan, who runs the orphanage like a Nazi prison camp; FDR, seeking hope for his out-of-work countrymen, and finding it in the cheerful nostrils of the curly-haired waif with a heart of gold, little orphan Annie.

*Oliver's* gold locket has been replaced by *Annie's* silver one, left by her mother doorstep where she abandoned the child in 1922. Eleven years later, Annie has become the surrogate mom to a roomful of unbearably cute (that Molly, especially!) foundlings, who take comfort

from her in the face of Hannigan's unbearably cruel administration. The source of Annie's unquenchable optimism lies in a letter the locket contains, but this proves to be an illusory will-o-the-wisp that leads Annie, Warbucks, and soon the entire country on a wild goose chase. But as is the way with most cherished dreams, in their pursuit, rather than their realization, lies redemption.

This is a play filled with the clichés of Adam Smith economics and tap dancing homeless people, who warm our hearts as they huddle around the ashcan fire under the 59th Street Bridge while Manhattan freezes through the worst winter of the century. There are a dozen Hoovervilles

in the City, and millions out of work. Still, by the final curtain, even a dyed-in-the-wool Republican warhorse like Warbucks (David Neal) is singing a Socialist tune, as he enthuses with his newfound soulmate FDR, "I know the Depression is depressing, but we'll get a New Deal this year!"

Throughout, the dance routines are uplifting, and marvelous fun. Each of the orphans' song and dance numbers are worth the price of admission in themselves. And who trained that dog!?

The subplot of scheming would-be relatives trying to force a claim on Annie's deep pocketed benefactor is enlivened with great bits of comic dia-

logue, such as when Rooster (B.J. Kulp, a natural comedian) introduces his latest floozy (Kimberly Waynelovich) to his sister as "Lily St. Regis, named after the hotel."

"Oh, really," shoots back the brassy Miss Hannigan (Lisa McCarthy), "which floor?"

The vocal talents of Warbuck's personal secretary, the beautiful Grace Farrell (Judith Dean Kulp), are one of the highlights of the production. Her voice rings clear and true on every song she sings.

The star of the show, naturally, is the sunny optimist herself, Annie, played with unquenchable ebullience by Montague's own Daisy Whitcomb Skelton. She has a very tender alto, hitting all the

right notes from her very first number, "Maybe". Her delivery, imbued with just the right touch of *Weltschmerz*, would bring a smile to the mug of Bertolt Brecht.

Through most of the play, the rest of the cast seems to simply array themselves around their young star and bask in her glow. She even manages to cheer up the fusty Cabinet meeting at FDR's White House, dispelling the gloom of German Fascism, dust storms, and the stock market crash with a few bars of "Tomorrow!" Perhaps we should introduce her to W.

*Annie* continues on Friday and Saturday, February 24th and 25th. Call for reservations: 863-2281. Sunday's matinee is already sold out.




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# Great Falls 2nd Quarter Honor Roll Adams Scholarship Winners

## HONOR ROLL - GRADE 7

### First Honors

McKenna Brunell  
Erin Casey  
Jordan Charboneau  
Kristy Dunbar  
Nicole Fuller  
Brooke Hastings  
Vance Herzig  
Julie Howard-Thompson  
Jack Hubert  
Kelliann Humphrey  
Katherine Kuklewicz  
Joseph Lafleur  
Daniel Skarzynski  
Andrew Turban  
Taylor Varilly  
Natasha Vaughn  
Savannah Yates

## HONOR ROLL - GRADE 7

### Third Honors

Brandon Ambo  
Nichole Baxter  
Anna Bocharnikova  
Katherine Burgin  
Sarah Crowell  
Jacob Eugin  
Tyler Howe  
Aubryanna Hyson  
Lucas Longo  
Emily Mailloux  
Yirka Mercado  
Elysia Ollari  
Kenneth Rounds  
Conner Scott  
Joseph Sikoski  
Meghan Smith  
Kayla Weller  
Danielle Whiteman

Dustin Rivard  
Ashley Sears  
Yaritza Torres  
Alex Westfall

## HONOR ROLL - GRADE 8

### Second Honors

Juliana Aprileo  
Eric Bastarache  
Amanda Carlisle  
Ashley Gibson  
Megan Grimard  
Tiffany Henry  
Jacob Lapean  
Carlyn Perry  
Elena Rushford  
Sarah Underwood  
Matthew Wozniak

## HONOR ROLL - GRADE 8

### Third Honors

Ashley Bailey  
Jaryd Buzzell  
Daniel Cruz  
Lucas Foley  
Tyler Hobbs  
Samantha Horan  
Chanel Jones-Garrett  
Cassandra Kazar  
Jabes Mercado  
Christopher Poirier  
Andrew Reed  
Justin Sessions

## HONOR ROLL - GRADE 7

### Second Honors

Zhanna Bocharnikova  
Makayla Dolhenty  
Uriah Forest-Bulley  
Sarah Foster  
David Garcia  
Taylor Howe  
Kelsey O'Brien  
Katarina Palso  
Ryan Pelis  
Derek Sicard  
Kelsey Waldron

## HONOR ROLL - GRADE 8

### First Honors

Jill Bernard  
Donna Lee Bettencourt  
Emma Butynski  
Danielle Dolhenty  
Moriah Fahey  
Matthew Garber  
Olivia Nicotra  
Sergiu Placinta  
Evan Pleasant  
Cayla Pollard  
Kathleen Rinaldi

Congratulations to the following students in the TFHS Class of 2006, who received letters from Governor Romney, awarding them with the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship.

This scholarship is based on a student's performance on the grade 10 English language arts and Mathematics assessments of the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS).

The students have scored in the advanced category in one test, in the proficient or advanced category in the second test, and have a combined score on these assessments that ranks in the top 25 percent of students in the district.

The students now qualify for a tuition waiver for eight traditional semesters of undergraduate education at the University of Massachusetts, the seven state colleges, or fifteen communi-

ty colleges. Superintendent Sue Gee and principal Rob Morrill join the governor in congratulating these high performing students:

Kara Banash  
Thomas Demers  
Tyler Deruiter  
Matthew Felton  
Vera Foley  
Julie Girard  
Jared Johnson  
Ashley Laramie  
Kimberely Lastowski  
Paul Marguet  
Maxwell McAuliffe  
Adam McCarthy  
Abigail O'Gara  
Brianna Pecor  
Anna Perry  
Derrick Rawson  
Rebecca Rollins  
Travis St. Peter  
Andrew Stewart  
Michael Tombs  
Nathan Underwood  
Aiden Verdery

## Urban Wins Maryknoll Essay Contest



Ali Urban of Millers Falls receives a certificate of merit from Maryknoll Father Frank Breen at Our Lady of Czestochowa Church in Turners Falls on Feb. 12th.

The Turners Falls High School sophomore received the Bishop Patrick J. Byrne Award for her essay on justice and mercy.

She was the first-place winner in the annual Maryknoll essay contest, which had more than 6,800 entries in two divisions.

## Strong Swimming Champ



Kaitlyn Kociela, 19, of Montague, continued to drop time and record personal bests in all her races again this year at the 2006 New England Intercollegiate NCAA Division II & III Regional Swimming & Diving Championships at Western New England College in Springfield, MA. Swimming for Eastern Connecticut State University, she was 20th in the 500 freestyle with a time of 5:47.29. She came in 13th in the 1,000-yard freestyle with a time of 11:46.76. She was 12th in the 400-yard individual medley, with a time of 5:19.24, all personal best times.

She also swam the freestyle leg of the 400-yard medley relay, that came in 11th at 4:27.89, and broke the Eastern Connecticut State University school record. Kaitlyn is a sophomore.

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# Upcoming Events at the Great Falls Discovery Center

## March and April: Art in Nature

Photographic images by Tom Whalen are on display in the Great Hall at the Great Falls Discover Center, 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls. General Exhibit Tours are held at the Great Falls Discovery Center every Saturday at 11 a.m.

**Special Programs:** All programs will be held at the Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls, unless otherwise noted. Please contact the GFDC at 863-3221 or <http://www.greatfallsma.org> for more information.

## March 2nd, Thursday, 7-8 p.m.: Florida Everglades Wildlife

Join librarian/photographer Linda Hickman on a slide show journey to the Florida Everglades and Keys. The program is designed for elementary age children through adults.

## March 4th, Saturday, 1-2 p.m.: Spring Birds Arrive

Waves of spring migrants will soon be flooding the valley and our summer residents are

setting up their territories.

Key stop-over sites for future bird walks will be highlighted in this talk by Silvio Conte Refuge staff and reference materials will be provided.

## March 11th, Saturday, 1-2 p.m.: Fabulous Fakes

Join Gini Traub, Regional EE Coordinator for the Mass DCR, as we create "rocks" using everyday foods, to learn what the words, igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary mean. This program is designed for school-age children, their families, and the child in all of us.

## March 14, Tuesday, 7 p.m.: The Shortnose Sturgeon and the Holyoke Dam

Boyd Kynard, U.S. Geological Survey Researcher from the S. O. Conte Anadromous Fish Research Station, will describe dynamic history and current status of this endangered fish. A \$5 donation is appreciated. Please pre-register by calling 413-863-3221. This is part of the VEEC Lecture Series Held at the Great Falls Discover Center, 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls.

## March 17th, Friday 10-11 a.m. and 11 a.m. - Noon: St. Patrick's Day is for the Birds!

Come join Susan J. Russo of the Silvio O. Conte NFWR and Gini Traub of Massachusetts DCR to learn through hands-on activities what St. Patrick's Day and birds have in common. Program geared towards 3 - 7 year olds, all are welcome.

Parents please make sure your child is dressed to get a little messy!

## March 23rd, Thursday 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.: Spring Cleaning and Healthy Yards Naturally!

Time to give your home a spring cleaning? Planning a garden? Do you need healthier grass or new landscaping?

Learn how to keep your home clean without toxic cleaners. Try a safe and healthy approach to greener lawns, gardens, and landscapes. Come learn about natural products and methods for a safer home and healthy lawns and landscapes. Lots of hands-on tips will be provided. A compost bin will be given away. For more information contact Athena at the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District, 772-2438 or [info@franklincounty-wastedistrict.org](mailto:info@franklincounty-wastedistrict.org).

## March 25th, Saturday, 1 - 2 p.m.: Before there were Stores

Join Gini Traub, Regional EE Coordinator for the Mass DCR, for hands-on activities for school-age children, their families and the child in all of us.

We will use natural materials that met some everyday needs of early settlers.

Make twine and rope. Sip birch-twig tea. What makes slippery elm slippery, and how is that useful? We will discover the answer!

## March 28th, Tuesday, 1 p.m.: Uncommon Loons

Rose Maconi, Mass Aquatic Conservation Society, will introduce us to the Quabbin Loon population and discuss their populations state-wide. A \$5 donation is appreciated. Please pre-register by calling 413-323-7221 x 493.

This is part of the VEEC Lecture Series. This program is held at the Quabbin Visitor Center in Belchertown.

## The Eagles Are Back!

**GREAT FALLS** - A pair of eagles has once again returned to their six-foot wide nest high atop a tree on Barton Cove on the Connecticut River.

They are busy making their seasonal preparations for laying eggs. The public can watch the progress of this mighty duo by way of the Eagle Cam, a solar-operated camera that has been positioned above the nest to provide live coverage of their activities. The Eagle Cam is provided in a partnership with the Silvio O. Conte National

Fish and Wildlife Refuge, Northeast Utilities, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife, Comcast and MCTV. The Eagle Cam can be viewed online at <http://www.nu.com/eagles>, a live feed at the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls, or on Channel 17 local cable access.

On February 24th, and 25th at 11 a.m. you can come to the Great Falls Discovery Center for Eagle programs.

For more information, call Sue Cloutier at 413-863-3221.

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# New Sox Start Spring Training

BY LEE CARRIGAN

**TURNERS FALLS** - You don't need robins to know spring is just around the corner once the 2006 Boston Red Sox begin spring training down in Fort Myers.

The Red Sox are coming off a 2005 season in which the team won 95 games and tied the Yankees for first place, only to lose out on the tie breaker and make the playoffs as the wild-card. But the season ended with bitter disappointment as the Sox were embarrassed in the first

round of the playoffs, getting swept by the Chicago White Sox. The Sox had plenty of issues last season with their bullpen and team defense. In the playoffs, those inadequacies came home to roost.

The Red Sox will go into spring training with a very different team than the one that was swept by the White Sox last October. Red Sox management, unhappy with their defense, made wholesale changes to their infield by replacing everyone during the off-season. Mike



Lowell, who came over in the Josh Beckett trade, will play third base this season. Free agent Alex Gonzalez will replace Edgar Renteria at shortstop. Renteria was a disappointment last season, committing 30 errors and struggling at the plate for much of the year. Gonzalez is a former Golden Glove winner, who should prove to be a defensive upgrade. At first base, the Red Sox will have another Gold Glove in J.T. Snow, who will platoon with former third baseman Kevin Youkilis. At second base the Sox will field newly-signed free agent Mark Loratta.

The Sox will have a new look in their outfield too. No longer will fans see long hair streaking through the air for fly balls in center field. Fan favorite Johnny

Damon signed a four-year, \$52 million contract with the arch enemy New York Yankees. The Red Sox felt that was too high a price tag for a 32-year-old outfielder on the downside of his career. The Sox may have hit a home run in a trade with the Cleveland Indians for center fielder Coco Crisp. Crisp is six years younger, with more speed, and on the upside of his career. He also comes at a much better price tag than Damon. Crisp hit 16 home runs and batted .300 with 15 stolen bases last year. He will be the Red Sox leadoff batter this season.

The big move during the off-season may turn out to be the trade to get Josh Beckett. Beckett is a hard throwing right-handed pitcher who is entering the prime of his career at 26 years old. The Red Sox are hoping he will become the ace pitcher they haven't had since Pedro left. Last year Beckett had 166 strikeouts in 29 starts and pitched 178 innings for the Florida Marlins.

The Sox have also added some new arms to the bullpen. They signed veteran free agents Julian Tavarez and Rudy Seanez, and received David Riske in the Coco Crisp trade. The Red Sox are hoping the three of them can help solidify the bullpen along with incumbents Mike Timlin and Keith Foulke. If not, young pitching prospects Jonathan Papelbon and Craig Hanson will be pressing to make the roster this season.

Time will tell if these changes will result in an improved ball club that can compete for a World Series title. On paper the

pitching looks better, and the infield defense should improve. The Sox will still have Manny Ramirez and David Ortiz in the middle of the lineup. They are still the most dangerous 3 - 4 hitting combination in the league.

The biggest key for 2006 will be the health of pitchers Curt Schilling and Keith Foulke. If Foulke can rebound in '06 from the worst season of his career, he will help solidify the back end of the bullpen. Foulke never got on tract last season and finished with a 5.91 ERA. A healthy Curt Schilling would help solidify the front of the rotation if he is healthy. Last season Schilling came back too soon after his ankle surgery and was never the same, finishing with a 5.69 ERA. Schilling said his ankle feels completely healed going into spring training this year.

In the American League East the Toronto Blue Jays look like they're ready to contend with the Red Sox and Yankees. They have been rebuilding recently and have put more money into the team this year. They have increased their player payroll to \$75 million from \$45 million last year. Of course the Yankees are once again the favorites going into the spring. The Bronx bombers have improved their bullpen and still have the best lineup in the league. The key for the Yankees will be if they can keep their starting rotation healthy this year. The Baltimore Orioles and Tampa Bay Devil Rays did not do much during the off-season; they look to be the bottom feeders in the American League East.

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**FINDING BALANCE: HEALTH TIPS FOR A HAPPY LIFE**

**Take A Breather**

BY JENNY CHAPIN

**MONTAGUE CITY** - When I was a kid, my mother was always doing something: sewing her own clothes, making Hallowe'en costumes, baking bread every Saturday and desserts every night, planting gardens, renovating the kitchen when there was finally enough money. Even sunbathing in the backyard was an opportunity to study German. It was only in her late 60s that she started staying in bed past 6:30 a.m., and she loves the luxury! It's not uncommon now for her to spend a rainy day curled up on the sofa, reading - and she encourages me to do the same.

"What about the vacuuming?" I lament, having learned at her knee how to get the chores done first.

Her response: "It can wait;

sit for a while with your book. How about some hot chocolate?"

Most of the people I know have a goal of a healthy balance between work and play, social time and solo time, movement and relaxation. We put out a lot of energy taking care of family, working, dealing with the endless variables of daily life, so it's important to get nourished ourselves, in order to be able to keep giving.

Since taking care of ourselves is usually one of the first things that goes when we're busy or stressed out, it can be helpful to make a list, a reminder of what you really enjoy. Then, when you feel the need to slow down and relax (which should be every day!), just look at your list. In case you have trouble starting your own list, here are some suggestions.

You don't have to be a yoga student to enjoy some wonderful and easy restorative yoga poses. Restorative poses help calm your nerves, relieve fatigue, and offer complete relaxation to your body and mind. A couple options:

Lie on your back on the floor and put your legs up on the wall. Put a folded towel or blanket under your head and, if you like, under your rear end, for additional comfort. Place your arms on the floor, palms face up. Close your eyes and rest for five minutes.

Kneel on the floor with your knees slightly wider apart than your hips, and your big toes together. Take your hips back to your heels, and bend forward. Stretch your arms forward, or bring them down by the outer edges of your legs. Rest your forehead on the floor or a blan-

ket, close your eyes, and be aware of the breath moving in and out.

Take a hot bubble bath. Turn the lights down, add a few candles, and let the heat of the water ease tension and weariness from your muscles and bones.

Walk outdoors. Get some fresh air, lift your eyes up and look at the world around you, listen to the birdsong, the wind in the trees. This earth is so beautiful, and that beauty can uplift our spirits.

Play with your pet. That's right, get down on the floor with them, watch how they play, and join their games! Dogs and cats are marvelous reminders of the importance of play, not to mention great teachers. When my head is overfull of everything I'm trying to keep track of, my dog is the best for bringing me

back to the present moment, laughing at her pleasure in being outdoors or getting a tummy rub.

Make a cup of tea, sit with your feet up, and look out the window at whatever passes by. Let your thoughts move through your mind like clouds moving across the open sky.

Whatever you do, take time every day to renew and refresh yourself with a breather. You'll be so glad you did!

*Jenny Chapin is a resident of Montague City, and a certified acupuncturist, Zero Balancer, and yoga teacher, practicing in Franklin County for seven years. If you have a topic of interest about holistic health, email to: jgchapin@crock-ker.com*

**THE HEALTHY GEEZER**

**Treating Back Pain**

BY FRED CICETTI

**LEONIA, NJ** - This is the last of a three-part series on back pain. The first two columns dealt with causes and prevention. This one is about treatments.

Treatment for back pain generally depends on whether it is acute or chronic. Acute back pain usually gets better on its own.

Treatment for chronic back pain is either non-surgical or surgical. In most cases, back pain does not require surgery.

The following are common non-surgical treatments for chronic back pain. They have varying degrees of support from the medical community. You should seek your own doctor's advice about any of them.

- Hot or cold packs can be soothing.
- Exercise can help ease chronic pain and perhaps

reduce the risk of it returning.

- Medications are used to treat chronic back pain. These include over-the-counter pain-relievers such as Tylenol; nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) such as ibuprofen that relieve both pain and inflammation; prescription narcotics such as oxycodone; topical analgesics such as Ben Gay; muscle relaxants and certain antidepressants.

- Traction, which employs pulleys and weights to stretch the back, pulls the vertebrae apart to allow a bulging disc to slip back into place.

- Injections into nerves, spinal joints or specific areas of pain.

- Spinal manipulation refers to procedures in which professionals use their hands to treat the spine or surrounding tissues.

- Transcutaneous Electrical

Nerve Stimulation (TENS) involves wearing a small box over the painful area that directs mild electrical impulses to nerves there.

- Acupuncture, which involves the insertion of thin needles at precise locations, is used to relieve pain.

- In acupressure, no needles are used. Instead, a therapist applies pressure to points with hands, elbows, or even feet.

- Rolfing is a type of massage involving strong pressure on deep tissues in the back to relieve tightness.

Some of the conditions that may require surgery include:

- Herniated, or ruptured, discs that are damaged and irritate nearby nerves.
- Spinal stenosis, the narrowing of the spinal canal.
- Spondylolisthesis, a condition in which a vertebra dislocates.

- Vertebral fractures caused by trauma or crumbling of the vertebrae.

- Degenerative disc disease brought on by aging.

Following are some commonly performed back surgeries:

- Laminectomy/discectomy in which part of the lamina, a portion of the bone on the back of the vertebrae, is removed. The herniated disc is then removed.

- Microdiscectomy removes a herniated disc through a small incision in the back. The doctor uses a magnifying microscope in this operation.

- Laser surgery. During this procedure, the surgeon inserts a needle in the disc that delivers a few bursts of laser energy to vaporize the tissue in the disc. This reduces its size and relieves pressure on the nerves.

- In a laminectomy, the doc-



ILLUSTRATION JESSICA HARMON

tor makes a large incision down the affected area of the spine and removes the lamina and any bone spurs, which are overgrowths of bone, that may have formed in the spinal canal because of osteoarthritis.

- In spinal fusion, two or more vertebrae are joined together using bone grafts, screws, and rods to stop slippage of an affected vertebrae.

- Disc replacement: When a disc is herniated, one alternative is to remove the disc and replace it with a synthetic disc.

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

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHIN ILLUSTRATION

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH**  
Mason Jennings solo acoustic at Memorial Hall in Shelburne Falls with Birdie. 7:30 p.m. Mason Jennings is one of the most original and non-formulaic song writers of our day. His poetic lyrics demonstrate an independence of thought and expression, and his song structures and melodies are somehow equally catchy and unconventional. (www.mason-jennings.com) \$17 advance/ \$20 door

Espresso Jazz will perform at the next *A Bouquet of Music Series*, from noon - 1 p.m. in the Franklin Medical Center's main lobby. The public is invited to join patients, their visitors, and hospital staff for this mid-day concert. Refreshments will be served. Vocalist/ guitarist, Sandi Russell, and bassist, Barbara Hilton, will perform light jazz, blues, and swing standards from the Great American Songbook.

**FRIDAY AND SATURDAY  
FEBRUARY 24TH & 25TH**

Ja'Duke Productions presents *Annie*, one of the world's best-loved musicals. Performances at The Shea Theater, Ave. A, Turners Falls. 8:00 p.m. 413-863-2281 x2.

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH**

Centerstage Karaoke & Entertainment Enterprises (Where the Spotlight's on Fun!) Saturday, February 25, 2006 6pm - 8:30pm at bellybowl 104 4th Street, Turners Falls, MA Co-Sponsored by The Brick House Community Resource Center & bellybowl

Join Joan Milam and Dave King as they explore winter in north-central Massachusetts. We will look for animals and their tracks, winter insects, and birds that endure the cold winter temperatures of our region. We will discuss the stresses facing plants and animals during the coldest months of the year and the numerous survival strategies and adaptations they employ in response. Experience level will be for beginners. Families and seniors are encouraged. Meet at New Salem General Store, 10 a.m. Please call leaders at 413 549-4019 to register - limited to 10 participants.

**Mardi Gras Celebration** at All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church at the corner of Hope and Main St., Greenfield. Take a stroll down Bourbon St. All Souls Unitarian-Universalist Church is transformed into the bustling French Quarter for its yearly dinner and auction fundraiser. Complete with Cajun cuisine, live jazz with Dick Hurlburt and Gene Clark, mask making, a New Orleans café, a children's cos-

tume parade and more. Get a tattoo or visit the fortuneteller in one of the many theme rooms. A portion of the proceeds will go towards ongoing Gulf Coast hurricane relief efforts. Mardi Gras starts at 5:30 p.m. with *hors d'oeuvres*, music and viewing of auction items. Live and silent auction follows dinner. Tickets are \$15 in advance; \$17 at the door; \$5 for children 12 and under. Free for children under 5. Admission includes multi-course meal, entertainment and Mardi Gras beads. Young and old are encouraged to dress in festive green, purple and gold, the traditional colors of Mardi Gras. For



*The Juice Pops perform free "grown-up friendly" show for kids at Mocha Maya's Coffee House, Shelburne Falls, on Sunday, February 26th, 1 - 3 p.m.*

more information or to purchase tickets, call 413-773-5018 or visit [www.uugreenfield.org/mardi-gras/](http://www.uugreenfield.org/mardi-gras/). Tickets also available at World Eye Bookshop. The snow date for the event is Sunday, February 26th.

Orion String Quartet performs works of Mendelssohn, Debussy and Zwilich. Concert preceded by Concert Conversation in Earle Recital Hall (broad overview of the music and how the musicians interpret the music performed at the concert - 7:00 p.m.) Sweeney Concert Hall, Smith College campus, Northampton (8:00 p.m.). 413-774-4200

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH**

"Honoring Our Elders": The Annual NMH Student Concert to Benefit Meals on Wheels. 3 p.m. at The Chapel, Gill campus. Concert will feature the NMH Jazz Band, the NMH Orchestra and Concert Band, and a Mozart Piano Concerto. Admission is free. Light refreshments will be served. Donations will benefit Meals on Wheels, the program of Franklin County Home Care Corporation home-delivering meals to 1,000 fragile elders across Franklin County and the North Quabbin region.

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**Montague Family Dance** at the Grange #141. 4 - 5:30 p.m. with caller Tim Van Egmond. Family-style Contra Dancing for all ages with easy instruction geared for little feet. Lots of fun, humor and some singing games too. Great for 3-10 yr olds and their parents. Always on the last Sunday of each month. \$5-10 donation per family, includes a snack.

Rock music for the kids! Come spend a special afternoon with your children and **The Juice Pops**. The Greenfield-based "grown-up friendly band for kids" will perform a FREE show at Mocha Maya's Coffee House, 47 Bridge St., Shelburne Falls from 1-3 p.m. All original songs contain a colorful blending of reggae, 80's pop, jazz, folk and rock. For more information, call Mocha Maya's at 413-828-1413 or visit [www.thejuicepops.com](http://www.thejuicepops.com).

**THURSDAY, MARCH 2ND**

Open Mic at Rt. 63 Roadhouse with Peter Kim, Jimmy Arnold and Mary Kate, no cover. Federal St., Millers Falls. For more info call (413) 659-3384.

**FRIDAY, MARCH 3RD**

2nd Annual Hold 'em for Hospice Texas Hold 'em Poker Tournament held at St.



*Patty Carpenter (l) and Melissa Shetler are part of the Women in Jazz Combo performing with many other artists on Saturday, March 4th at the Shea Theater in Turners Falls.*

Kaziermarz Hall, 179 Avenue A, Turners Falls. 50% of the registration fee will be awarded in cash prizes and 50% will be donated to Hospice of Franklin County. 413-774-2400

**Aquamarine** gala opening to benefit the Franklin County Community Coalition for Teens at the Greenfield Garden Cinemas, 7 p.m. **Dress for the**

**Red Carpet, this is a premiere!** The movie is rated PG and is directed by Elizabeth Allen who has local connections in the area. For more info visit [www.aquamarinemovie.com](http://www.aquamarinemovie.com). To watch the trailer visit [www.movies-aol.com](http://www.movies-aol.com). Advance adult tickets \$10, \$12 door, \$6 youth. Must be purchased from CCT - call 413-774-3167 x101. All movie proceeds generously donated to CCT by Greenfield Garden Cinemas! The People's Pint, China

Gourmet, Herm's, Famous Bill's, and Mesa Verde will donate 10% of your March 3rd food bill to CCT if you bring your movie ticket or a flyer!

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

Three Views, an exhibit/reception featuring paintings, sculpture and installation works of three local artists: O (u) BLI (e) TER-ATE: disiterations and fragments by Bernard Banville; The Inverse Order of Alienation, by Steve Random; and Trinity, by Christopher Willingham, will be held at Gallery 17, 8 Deerfield Ave., Shelburne Falls, from 6-10 p.m. The Iron Bridge Writers, led by Edite Cunha, will perform short readings from recent works from 7 to 8 p.m. Refreshments will be served. No admission charge.

**FRIDAY AND SATURDAY  
MARCH 3RD & 4TH**

Pottery Seconds & More Sale sponsored by Artspace Community Arts Center, featuring potters, woodworkers, glassblowers and others. Greenfield High School, Lenox Ave., Greenfield. Friday 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. and Saturday 10:00 to 2:00 p.m. 413-772-6811.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 4TH**

An evening of music featuring over 17 performers will take place at the Shea Theatre in Turners Falls. The concert, drawing talented musicians from around New England, features the Women in Jazz Combo with Patty Carpenter and her daughter, Melissa Shetler; Yasko Kubota, piano; Ellen Powell, bass; Claire Arenius, drums; and Scott Shetler, sax and clarinet. The concert will also feature new songs written and performed by Patty Carpenter and Verandah Porche. The Pioneer Valley Performing Arts High School Super Group, under the direction of Mitch Chakour will open the show.

**Puppet Building** on Saturdays in March, (4th, 11th, 18th, and 25th) 1 - 4 p.m. Join us as we make parade puppets and plan theatrics for the River Celebration in April. Mark Dannenhauer will lead us in creating large puppet versions of local habitats and animals. Tools, techniques, and

materials provided. No previous experience necessary. Meet at Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main St., Athol. For more details visit [www.millers-river.net](http://www.millers-river.net), or call 978-248-9491.

**SUNDAY, MARCH 5TH**

Hallmark Institute of Photography invites prospective students and their families to an **Open House** from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. Campus tour and student and faculty demonstrations. For further info contact Shelley Nicholson, enrollment services director, at (413) 863-2478.

Appalachian Mountain Club invites the public to an **Outdoor Expo** from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Come find out about recreational resources in our region. AMC has organized this event so that the public can find out about trails, boating, and recreational gear. Area businesses and non-profits will have displays and programs. Come to Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main St., Athol. Call Don Fly for more information 978-724-3318.

**NOW THRU APRIL 2ND**

**Inaugural Exhibition** at The Hallmark Museum of Contemporary Photography: Photographs by New York-based portrait and fashion photographer Barbara Bordnick. The museum is located at 85 Avenue A, Turners Falls. Hours: Thursday to Sunday 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. (413) 863-0009.

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4. DATE MOVIE	PG13
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5. THE PINK PANTHER	PG
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6. CAPOTE	R in DTS sound
DAILY 7:00 9:20	
MAT FRI SAT, SUN, WED 12:00 3:00	
7. EIGHT BELOW	PG in DTS sound
DAILY 7:00 9:20	
MAT FRI SAT, SUN, WED 12:00 3:00	

# Why is the Pioneer Valley a Valley? or... 'Don't Blame Me - It's the Border Fault'

BY STEVE WINTERS

**TURNERS FALLS** - You think you had a bad day? Imagine living on a continent that's trying to break apart! Lava piles up in the backyard, frequent earthquakes shake up the neighborhood, and dinosaurs keep getting into your garbage. These are the sorts of events that may have happened to you over the course of a few hundred or few thousands days if you had lived in the Pioneer Valley in the early Jurassic period - about 140 million years ago. Pretty trying times; but if our continent hadn't attempted this break up, the Pioneer Valley as we know it would never have formed.

So what exactly caused all those Jurassic gyrations - including the formation of our valley? Geologists like to find one - and only one - process to explain the development of major geologic features like valleys. If you ask geologists "Why is the Pioneer Valley a valley?" they'll give you one word: faulting.

Faulting, a major concept in geology, describes how one large block of rock moves relative to another large block when powerful forces from within the earth are applied to it. A fault is a special kind of crack in rock that occurs during the process of faulting. Not only is rock broken during faulting, but one large broken block (perhaps as big as the state of Rhode Island) moves some distance relative to another block. Sometimes the distance is small (tens of feet over a few seconds in a very severe earthquake), but sometimes it's very large (several miles over many millions of years as the earth's crust - its thin, topmost layer of rock - shifts about).

When studying a fault, geologists look for an imaginary flat space or surface between the



*The French King Bridge spanning the Connecticut River*

rock blocks. This surface is called a fault plane. Geologists take special care to locate the fault plane because it helps them name (and, hence, explain) the kind of fault they're observing. If the top block has moved down relative to the bottom block, the fault is called a gravity fault or a normal fault because that's the way gravity would "normally" move the top block. Most often, this kind of large rock movement occurs when the earth's crust is being pulled apart by tensional forces, like taffy being stretched by two people pulling in opposite directions.

The best contemporary example of large-scale normal faulting is in the Great Rift Valley in eastern Africa, which runs from north to south along much of Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda. East-west stretching movements along this fault mean that in about 50 million years, a large chunk of East Africa will split away from the

rest of the continent and head to India.

Practically everything geologically significant in the Pioneer Valley - from the presence of lava beds and the erosion of cliffs to the direction of river flow - is due to the effects of this normal faulting. At the beginning of the Triassic Period, about 200 million years ago, the same kind of crustal stretching and faulting that formed the Great Rift Valley began happening along the east coast of North America, from Newfoundland to Florida. The stretching opened up our very own rift valleys, signaled the breakup of the huge supercontinent called Pangea, and created the Atlantic Ocean.

These literally earthshaking happenings are well documented by sediments that lie buried throughout the Pioneer Valley. But the particular event that made our valley was the formation of a series of north-south trending cracks that we collec-

tively call the Connecticut Valley border fault. It's called "border" fault because it forms the eastern border of the Connecticut Valley rift basin (which contains the Pioneer Valley as well as many other small valleys). This big fault complex cuts vertically across Massachusetts from Northfield to New Haven, Connecticut. In Massachusetts, the Pioneer Valley stretches out several miles to either side of the border fault.

To get an idea of what happened back then, imagine Pangea cracking up. Earthquakes are common; fault blocks in the ancestral Connecticut River Valley begin slowly descending toward the center of the earth, leaving huge cliffs to the east; eroded rock fragments from those eastern cliffs begin their sometimes violent flow into the hole or basin made by the Connecticut River border fault. As the border fault

basin deepens, more rock debris piles up, eventually heaping up to three miles of mountainous remains into the pocket of faults that lie beneath the Pioneer Valley.

This complex process of rifting, faulting, erupting, eroding, and piling went on for at least 50 million years. Eventually, the crustal pulling forces that formed the Connecticut Valley border fault abated for reasons that are not completely understood.

Where is the Connecticut Valley border fault today? Most of it in our area is now buried. Our best bird's eye view of the rocks that compose both sides of the fault is from Massachusetts Route 2 at French King Bridge. Here, at the beautiful confluence of the Millers River and the Connecticut, Route 2 actually crosses the fault line. Looking from the bridge to the east, you can see the remains of the uppermost fault blocks, consisting of highly eroded rocks from the early Paleozoic (400 million years ago). To the west you can see the Triassic and Jurassic fill that piled into the fault pocket to form the bottom of our Pioneer Valley home.

So, next time you're in the neighborhood, take a short walk across the French King Bridge. You'll be standing in the midst of the border fault that built our valley many millions of years ago.

*Steve Winters is a hydrogeologist and environmental science educator. Through Boston University's Prisoner Education Project, he teaches geology to prisoners at the Massachusetts Correctional Institute at Framingham. Steve lives in Turners Falls. Reach him at [science\\_matters@yahoo.com](mailto:science_matters@yahoo.com).*

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