



CONCERNS RAISED IN GILL

On NMH construction
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ARIEL JONES PHOTOS



MONTAGUE SEWER VOTE

Looms: August 1st
/ Page 5

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

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The Montague Reporter

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JULY 28, 2005

Measuring Strontium-90 in Baby Teeth

BY DAVID DETMOLD SOUTH DEERFIELD -

Local activists participating in a study of the levels of radioactive isotope Strontium-90 in baby teeth around the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant in Vernon, VT released preliminary results at a news conference at the Frontier Regional High School in South Deerfield on Tuesday, July 26th. Agnes Reynolds, a nurse specializing in women's health at Hartford Hospital and a research associate for the New York-based independent, non-profit Radiation and Public Health Project, admitted the number of baby teeth collected from volunteers in the Windham County, VT and Cheshire County, NH areas near the Vernon reactor - 9 - compared



MICHAEL MULLER PHOTO

"I pray every night that Vermont Yankee will close."

-- Sandy Streeter, Bernardston

with 17 baby teeth collected from areas further away in those two states, was too small to make a statistically significant sample. Still, the preliminary findings showed elevated levels of Strontium-90: 61% higher, on average, than the baby teeth sent in from areas in Vermont and New Hampshire further from the reactor. The average picocurie count of Strontium-90 per gram of

calcium in the 9 teeth collected near the reactor was 4.29, compared to an average count of 2.65 for the 17 teeth gathered further away.

Ira Helfand, an emergency room physician at Cooley Dickenson and a member of the Nobel Peace Prize winning organization Physicians for Social Responsibility called the preliminary results "quite limited but see **TEETH** pg 9

Wendell Meetinghouse Gets New Roof

BY MOLLY KAYNOR

Wendell resident Ed Tolzdorf and his crew removed the old leaky roof, replaced all of the sheathing, put down a layer of cedar breather and re-roofed the Wendell Meetinghouse with beautiful cedar shingles in June of this year. The extra sheathing added \$1,000 to the project, which Friends of the Wendell Meetinghouse would have had to raise, but Tolzdorf waived the extra cost as a donation from his firm, Tolzdorf Construction. Appreciation also goes out to community contributors and the Mass Historic Commission who made the new roof possible.

Volunteers have completed some important final touches. Local woodworker Charlie Davico from Turners Falls noticed how dilapidated some of the Meetinghouse molding and trim was looking. He borrowed a sample and with the help of friends the trim was replicated in Josh

Heinemann's basement and now awaits for volunteers to paint and properly install under the eaves.

Now the roofers have been paid, the Meetinghouse bank account needs

Wendell Common. There will be historical information, newsletters, refreshments, Friends of the Wendell Meetinghouse t-shirts, postcards of the building, FWM note card



JOSH HEINEMANN PHOTO

to be revived. Funds must be raised for the building to stay insured, and to afford to supply materials to volunteers. Several thousand dollars are needed to repair the bell tower.

The Wendell Meetinghouse is not a town owned building. It depends on volunteers and private donations to survive.

Look for the Friends of the Wendell Meetinghouse booth Saturday, August 6th on the

packets, and the "new" 1949 Wendell Cookbook will be available as well.

Inquiries and donations may be sent to: Friends of the Wendell Meetinghouse P.O. Box 171, Wendell, MA 01379.

The Wendell Meetinghouse, listed in the State Register of Historic Places, has received a matching grant from the Mass Preservation Fund through the Mass Historical Commission.

Extraordinary Camera Comes to Town

BY CHRIS SAWYER-LAUCANNO TURNERS FALLS -

What do New York, Prague, Paris, Tokyo and Milan have in common with Turners Falls? If you answered a river, you're right. But these cities, and Turners Falls, are also home to a rare camera, one of only a dozen in the world. Turners, of course, is already prominent on the map of international photography owing to the presence of the Hallmark Institute and its Museum of Contemporary Photography. But now, with this unique camera making its home on Third Street, Turners has increased its fame in the



JOHN REUTER PHOTO

Chris Sawyer-Lucanno with an image of himself taken by Tony Downer with the Wisner large format camera.

world of photography and photographers.

That Turners Falls should have this extraordinary camera - a 20 x 24

Wisner large format camera that shoots Polaroid film - is due to the efforts and connections of Vern McClish, director of marketing at the Hallmark Institute, and himself a distinguished photographer. Before joining Hallmark, McClish was an executive at the Polaroid Corporation for over 20 years, and still maintains connections with the Cambridge-based firm. When

McClish learned from Polaroid that one of these cameras was available on

see **CAMERA** pg 14

Wendell Approves Construction of New Library, Town Office Building

BY JOSH HEINEMANN

On July 13th, at special town meeting, 150 residents filled the hall to capacity and then some, debated long, and passed the entire warrant, authorizing the construction of a new library to be built on the site of the present town office building, and a new town office building to be built on the property recently purchased from Anne Marie Meltzer. The total amount spent at this special town meeting was \$2,996,591, of which \$926,566 will be paid by a grant from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC). Other grant applications are pending. The town has anticipated

these expenses and, for years, has been setting money aside into a stabilization fund to help defray their costs.

In addition, townspeople voted to add wording that allowed the Swift River School funding from the annual town meeting, and to form a committee to discuss Swift River School contract issues with New Salem. Wendell has covered some of New Salem's obligation to the school for three consecutive years.

The first article authorized a clerk of the works for the library project, the second article authorized a clerk of the works for the town building project.

The two projects are linked because the library project as accepted by the MBLC will displace the present town office building, leaving the town offices and senior center homeless.

After over an hour of discussion, Article 1 passed 105 to 12, and Article 2 passed unanimously. Discussion mostly supported both projects, but some people brought up financial concerns. Cheryl Richardson and others asked about the expense these buildings would incur for maintenance, and Brian Anderson said he was not sure other less ambitious alternatives might be see **WENDELL** pg 12

PET OF THE WEEK

Twice



as Nice

We have many kittens and young cats in need of good homes. To learn more about adopting these wonderful little guys and gals, please contact the Dakin Animal Shelter in Leverett at 548-9898 or via email at info@dakinshelter.org.

MILLERS FALLS LIBRARY NEWS

Volcano Worlds at Millers Falls Library

BY LINDA HICKMAN - On Thursday, August 4th, at 3:30 p.m., children of all ages will make volcano worlds out of clay with artist Ruth O'Mara at the Millers Falls Library. Participants will make their own volcanoes to take home. At the end of the hour-long program, the volcanoes will erupt. The session is free and all of the materials will be supplied. For more information, please call the Carnegie Library, 863-3214.



PHOTO BY LINDA HICKMAN

Can you identify this Turners Falls Landmark? If you can, stop by the Carnegie Library and enter our raffle drawing. Prizes include a six month subscription to *The Montague Reporter*.

**Great Fall Discovery Center
Schedule of Events**

Most are held at the Great Falls Discovery Center. August 6, Saturday 8:45 am - 1:00 pm Canoe the Connecticut River to Rainbow Beach. Come paddle with Tom Gonzalez of the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, & Neil Kapitulik of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's Silvio O. Conte National Fish & Wildlife Refuge along the Connecticut River to Rainbow Beach to learn about the Ct River Watershed and the conservation efforts for the endangered Puritan tiger beetle. Canoe experience preferred; ages 10

& up. Meet by 8:45am, return by 1:00pm. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Call the Great Falls Discovery Center at 413-863-3221 to register for this FREE program. Registration Limited.

Native American Art Exhibits at The Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls, August 5th -27th - *Indian Images: What Do They Tell us?* Sponsored by the Pioneer Valley Institute August 19th - 27th - Photo-realist presentation by Barry Higgins of Nature Reflections Studio.

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The Franklin County Boat Club announces

Christmas in July

an annual festively decorated boat parade best viewed at **Unity Park** in Turners Falls where there will be plenty of parking and a **floating DJ beginning at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, July 30th.**

Fireworks will follow the evening parade. Franklin County Boat Club Commodore Chuck Reum is pleased to announce that the cost for this year's fireworks has been met thanks to hard-working volunteers and generous donors. Anyone wishing to contribute towards next year's event can send donations to the FC Boat Club, P.O. Box 217, Turners Falls, MA 01376.

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SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES Aug. 1st - 12th

MONTAGUE Senior Center, 62 Fifth St., Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. Meal reservations need to be made a day in advance by 11 a.m. Messages can be left on the machine when the center is closed (863-9357). Mealsite Manager is Chris Richer. The center offers a hot noon meal weekdays to any senior. Transportation to the center can be provided. Trip coordinator is Jean Chase. Make trip reservations by calling 772-6356. Payment and menu choice is due three weeks prior to trip.

1:00 p.m. Canasta
Tuesday, 9th
8:00 a.m. Lobster Bake
9:30 a.m. Tai Chi
10:00 a.m. Writing class at St. Anne's
Wednesday, 10th
9:00 a.m. Foot Screening
10:15 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11:15 a.m. Mealsite meeting
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, 11th
10:00 a.m. Coffee and Conversation
11:00 a.m. Hospice Services
1:00 p.m. Pitch
Friday, 12th
10:15 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11:00 a.m. PACE Aerobics

9:30 a.m. Exercise
9:45 a.m. Library
12:30 p.m. Pitch
Tuesday, 2nd
9:00 a.m. Aerobics
12:30 p.m. Oil Painting
Wednesday, 3rd
10:00 a.m. Line Dancing
12:00 Noon Bingo
Thursday, 4th
9:00 a.m. Aerobics
10:15 a.m. Craft class with Tina
Monday, 8th

9:30 a.m. Exercise
9:45 a.m. Library
12:30 p.m. Pitch
Tuesday, 9th
9:00 a.m. Aerobics
12:30 p.m. Oil Painting
Wednesday, 10th
10:00 a.m. Line Dancing
12 Noon Bingo
Thursday, 11th
9:00 a.m. Aerobics

Monday, 1st
CLOSED FOR VOTING PROP 2-1/2
Tuesday, 2nd
9:30 a.m. Tai Chi at St. Anne's
10:00 a.m. BROWN BAG
Wednesday, 3rd
10:15 a.m. Senior Aerobics
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, 4th
1:00 p.m. Pitch
Friday, 5th
10:15 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11:00 a.m. PACE Aerobics
Monday, 8th
9:00 a.m. Foot Screening
10:15 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11:00 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 a.m. Transportation can be provided for meals, Thursday shopping, or medical necessity by calling Dana Moore at (978) 544-3898.

Monday, 1st

The Montague Reporter

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WENDELL

continued from pg 1

alternatives might be more appropriate for Wendell. The finance committee predicted taxes would go up initially but then drop as other debts are retired; tax impact on an average household could be as low as \$100 a year, or as high as \$180, depending on how much supporting grant money the town is able to secure.

Sarah Schley said the cost would be less than a daily copy of the *New York Times*, and Anna Wetherby said it was less than an internet account. Margo Culley said what is really pinching the town is not projects like this but the state's failure to make full Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT), as promised.

Jan Stiefel brought up the town of Hamden which failed to fund a library project, and whose library lost state certification. Surrounding towns now require Hamden residents to pay for

library use. Patty Scutari, co-owner of the Wendell Country Store, said she pays \$7,000 a year in taxes, but with Wendell's current library facilities she has to drive her children to Amherst to do research for school projects. Myron Becker said a good library in town would increase property values and assessments, and decrease the tax rate. "I think it is good business."

A motion was made and seconded for a paper ballot, but that motion was defeated.

Before the vote, moderator Kathy Becker reminded everyone that citizens should vote with the best interest of the town in mind, and she asked people to look down discretely during the vote. The article carried, 105 to 12, and people began to filter out of the town hall, as most of the remaining warrant articles were predicated on the first vote. The evening was hot and windows without screens were open, so mosquitoes harassed the hall.

The town now has no offices

for the assessors, the town clerk, and many boards. There are often conflicting needs for the meeting room, which is also the senior center. The goal for the proposed new office building is a simple, efficient structure that would include a clean burning wood fired furnace. Selectboard member Dan Keller said it would be sited so that solar panels could be retrofitted, if they cannot be part of the original construction. A \$5,000 award from Greener Watts is covering solar panels for the library.

Doug Tanner was skeptical of using so much of the stabilization fund for the building projects, but finance committee member Lee Trousdale said such projects are the whole purpose of the fund, and the town has been anticipating these expenses for years. Keller added there may be block grant funding available for the senior center part of the building, as well as USDA grants to cover other parts of the project. He said the back of the lot

has good soil and would make a fine community garden.

Laura Doughty asked if it would be possible to do these projects in separate steps, but Keller said it is cheaper to do them all at once. Article 2 passed unanimously.

Article 3 called for appropriating, transferring, or borrowing \$235,000 to pay for the final library design, and passed unanimously. Article 4 sought \$125,000 for final design of the town office building, and passed unanimously. Article 5 called for \$1,485,466 for construction of the library, and passed unanimously. Article 6 raised \$1,375,000 for construction of the town office building and also passed unanimously. Articles 7 and 8 appropriated \$10,000 each for the library and town office planning accounts. Article 9 amended a vote taken at the annual town meeting from \$16,000 to \$22,125, for debt service for the town office site, which was required because the

latter figure was the actual amount required.

The finance committee recommended against article 10, which added wording to allow the Swift River School funding from the annual town meeting. Michael Idoine said adding these words "fails to deal with the chronic problem of our partner in the school (New Salem) not paying its fair share." The article passed by majority.

Phil Delorey of the school committee submitted Article 11 to create a committee to meet with New Salem and deal with that town's repeated failure to fully fund the agreed upon proportion of Swift River School assessments. Tim Robinson said a representative from the Department of Revenue should be at those meetings, and that New Salem might be required to match Wendell's appropriation in proportion to the number of students they are sending to the school. The article passed unanimously.

Wendell Old Home Day Saturday, August 6th

BY KAREN COPELAND

Saturday, August 6th is the date for Wendell Old Home Day, the annual celebration of Wendell's unique, creative and wonderful community. Festivities begin with the Kids Parade at 11:00 a.m. This year's parade will include giant puppets by the incomparable Sally Ally Muffin Stuffin, a kazoo band, and bikes!

A special display and demonstration of antique bicycles sponsored by the Wendell cultural council will be an added feature this year. As

Jam. A special performance by Moonlight and Morningstar, and the Spirit Ensemble: Dave Wertman, Lynne, Meryl, Ken LaRoche and Karen Copeland, at 2 p.m., sponsored by the Wendell cultural council, will be among the highlights of the day.

As always, surprise appearances by local musical stars are to be expected.

Old Home Day festivities on the town common will include tag sales, raffles, a kayak raffle for the library, food, food, and more food (not to mention Lorraine's famous

Meetinghouse Mystery Cook Book

BY MOLLY KAYNOR

WENDELL - More than 30 years ago, a historic recipe booklet was found by Helen Haddad in the pantry of her old house on Jennison Road in Wendell.

Judging from a handwritten note on the cover, Nellie Lewis had given this copy of the cookbook to Ruth Jennison. The collection of "recipes used and recommended by the good cooks of Wendell" included such unusual items as "Pork Cake" and "Homemade Soap". It became one of Haddad's favorite cookbooks, as she used its recipes for everyday meals as well as holiday fare.

The cookbook had a sketch of

the Wendell Meetinghouse on the cover with the carriage shed and a cap on the bell tower. Along with traditional Wendell recipes, there were advertisements from the Wendell area inside the book.

What was the meetinghouse connection? And when and why was it published?

The answers were found in my history files, where a June 1949 newspaper article in the *Orange Enterprise and Journal* (donated by Ed Hines) revealed both bits of information.

The cookbook was sold in the summer of 1949 as a fundraiser to put a new roof on the Wendell Meetinghouse (then called the Wendell Church). So we now

know that the Wendell Meetinghouse got a new roof exactly 56 years ago with the help of this little old Wendell Cookbook that Helen found!

Friends of the Wendell Meetinghouse will be selling limited copies of that 1949 Wendell cookbook for \$8.00 at Old Home Day (August 7th). In view of the fact we still owe the state matching funds for the roof, proceeds from the book will - once again - help pay for a new roof on the Wendell Meetinghouse!

You may order the cookbook by sending \$8 with your name, address and phone number to FWM Cookbooks, P.O. Box 171 Wendell, MA, 01379.



always, there will be lots of kids games.

Creativity abounds in Wendell. Old Home Day 2005 will include an art gallery featuring local artists and a farmers market with local goods and produce.

Wendell is also a musicians' paradise. This year, Old Home Day will include local musical heroes the Perry Howarth Band, Fran Doughty, Mother Turtle featuring Marsia Shuron-Harris, Mafanti, the Steve Crow Band, and Tao

egg rolls), the often imitated but never equaled Free Box Fashion Show. And, for rejects from the fashion show, there will be a Make a Free Box Scarecrow activity, perfect for harvest time.

Come celebrate community and creativity at Wendell Old Home Day, Saturday, August 6th, from 11:00 a.m to 7:00 p.m.

For more info: call 978-544-7352 or email kkeepthebeat@yahoo.com,

Gerald Kennedy Fundraiser

There will be a fundraising benefit in honor of Gerald M. Kennedy of Bernardston on Sunday, July 31st, 1 - 5 p.m. at the Schuetzen Verein, off the French King Highway in Gill. This event is being hosted by friends and family to help defray the medical costs incurred for Jerry's hospitalization and medical care for over the last five months. There will be music provided by a DJ, hors d'oeuvres, a Chinese action with door prizes and a cash bar. The cost for tickets is \$15 per person or \$25 per couple. To reserve tickets or for more info, please contact Sue Cypher at 773-9575. Tickets will be available at the door.

Montague Summer Rec Programs

Registrations are still being accepted for the following programs:
Children/Youth Programs - Summer Playground Program, Tennis Lessons, Soccer-Mania

Soccer Camp, Am. Red Cross Babysitting Course.
Teen Programs - Tennis Lessons, American Red Cross Babysitting Course.

Adult Programs - Tennis Lessons, Tennis Doubles-Mixer League.

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Toward A Theory of the World

BY PAUL KAUFMAN
MONTAGUE CENTER -

"Here is the world, sound as a nut, perfect, not the smallest piece of chaos left, never a stitch nor an end, not a mark of haste, or botching, or second thought; but the theory of the world is a thing of shreds and patches."

Ralph Waldo Emerson

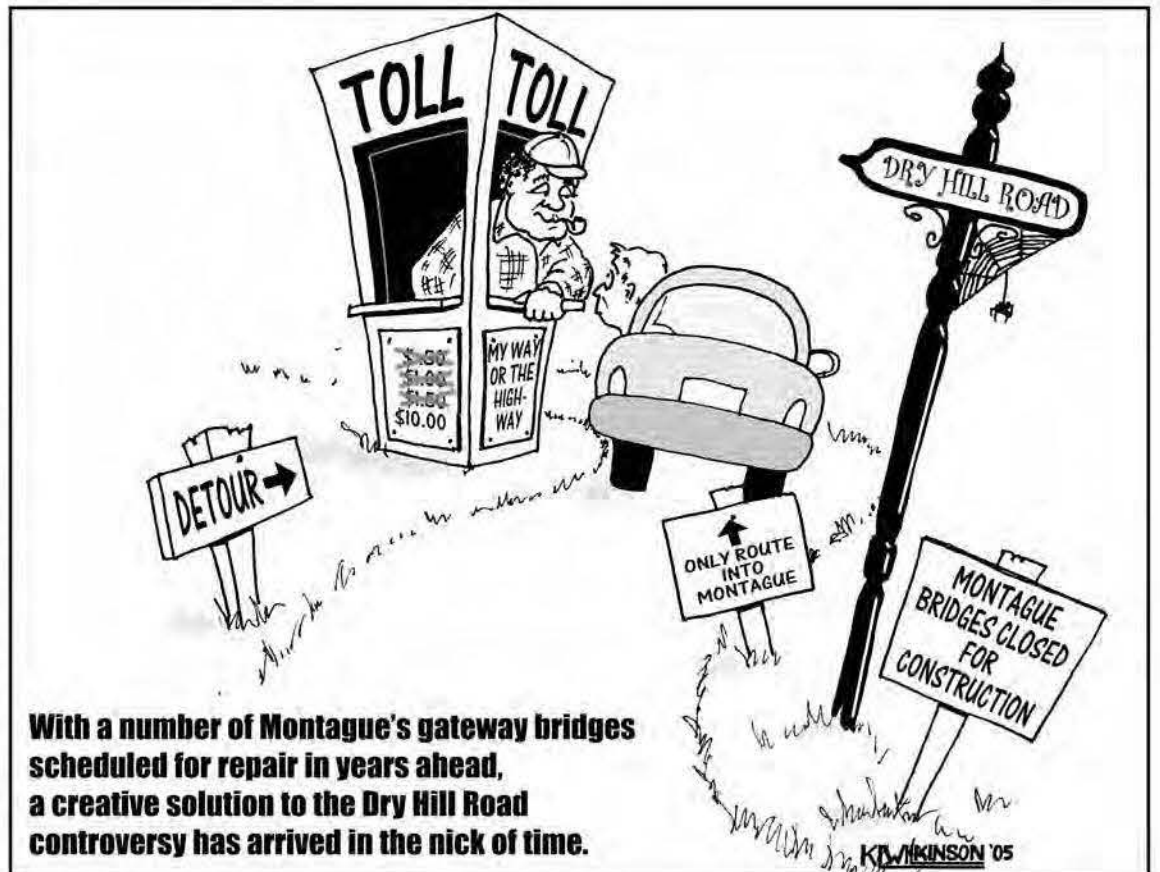
I make my own sorry attempts to come up with a theory of the world, but more often than not they come to nothing, only "shreds and patches." Who can make sense of the senseless? I suppose only a fool would try. Yet here I strive, wanting nothing more than to come up with a unified picture that can encompass all of the conflicting data, all of the absurdities. More often than not I'm left empty-handed. Perhaps empty-headed would be more correct.

Daily, the list of indicators for the disintegration of the world grows, from terror to eco-destruction, from insatiable empire-building to government corruption, from the tyranny of religious ideologues to the disappearance of an independent press. The signs are everywhere. And, yet, at the same time, each day another neighbor commits herself to supporting the local PTA, another congressman questions the prevailing wisdom of continuing to make war for no better reason than that it would be awkward to stop, another volunteer shows up at the Food Bank or the local library to see what he can do to help. I search for trends where there may be no trends, or simply a million conflicting ones. I search for meaning like a

blind pilgrim in a foreign land where everyone is speaking another language.

For years I subscribed to the theory of the political pendulum. In the tick-tock of that giant clock, civilization swung back and forth from one extreme to the other with only brief respites from those insanities. I no longer hold to that idea. It is supremely over-simplified and, besides which, too depressing. There are no thin straws for a good-hearted middle-aged hippie to grasp at as the world swings further and further rightward, only the vague hope that I may live long enough to someday ride the pendulum back in the other direction. No, the pendulum idea, small enough comfort as the seventies became the eighties, as Nixon became Reagan, offers no comfort at all as the nineties have become the twenty-first century, as Gingrich has morphed into Hastert, and Haldeman into Rove, and Erlichman into Cheney, and Reagan into Bush II. I can no longer abide the pendulum metaphor. We're swinging into oblivion.

Neither have I ever been comfortable with any of the various conspiracy theories that come into fashion and go and then reappear again as the political winds blow: neither the conspiracy of the Right nor the Left, not of the Corporate or the United Nation-ed, not of the Rockefellers or the Saudis, not of the Bushes or the bankers, not of the lawyers or the Russian meteorologists, not of the Axis of Evil or the Kennedys, certainly not of the Hollywood lefties, and not even of Rush Limbaugh, Pat Robertson and all of their dim-witted



With a number of Montague's gateway bridges scheduled for repair in years ahead, a creative solution to the Dry Hill Road controversy has arrived in the nick of time.

believers. No, I don't believe there is a "them" trying to do it to "us" before we do it to "them." That is nothing but a dream, and the stuff of best sellers and suspense movies. That is nothing but the geniuses at the Pentagon dreaming up ways to make us feel insecure. Star Wars is only a movie, no matter how many similarities you might see between Vader and Rumsfeld, and the Evil Empire is nothing more than a construct of our own fears and anxieties.

At times I am left with no theory at all, no picture on the puzzle box showing how the pieces fit. But if it's all random, I think, then there is nothing but chance and circumstance elevating Bush over Gore or *Time Magazine* over *The Nation*. If it's all random, then in another time, in a parallel universe, perhaps Nat Hentoff's voice drowns out Thomas Friedman's and Howard Zinn trumps Irving Kristol, but in that universe all would appear just as chaotic as in this. In that universe, just as in this, chaos would reign and a man could only wince as he opened the paper each morning not knowing what to expect. In the end, would he be any better off?

Lately I've been finding some solace in a new model of the world, one more hopeful and, if not any less chaotic, then at least moving in the right direction. It is - and I hardly dare admit this publicly when only card-carrying liberals are foolish enough to put any stock in Darwin - an evolutionary model. By this theory of the world, the slow march of humanity towards enlightenment may have its chafing detours, yes, its Falwells, Dobsons, and Robertsons, its Bushes and Scalias, but always and above all, an over-arching and inevitable progress towards humanism, towards open-mindedness, towards acceptance and non-judgment and understanding. In that world, for every Congressman willing to sell his soul for a ban on gay marriage there are four others fighting for higher funding for affordable housing, and for every bulldozer ripping up a wetlands there are a thousand volunteers out planting trees. In that world, the ranting of Limbaugh and Coulter, while still annoying, can't stop our inescapable march towards a more just Department of Justice, and an illegal and ill-conceived Bush invasion of Iraq, while still tragic,

will not presage a series of like-minded invasions, but will instead be plainly exposed for what it is, a ghastly crime against humanity. In the Darwinian model of evolution, there are many dead-ends, and seen from that vantage point, the political nightmare we are living through today and for the last fifty years is nothing more than a circuitous path to nowhere, towards an enigmatic question mark (?) or a final exclamation point (!) or perhaps just a few dots at the end of the sentence (...) as in "What the Hell was that?! Well, never mind..." A hundred years hence, from the comfort of a world where justice is not only a buzzword in a presidential speech but a global reality, where health care is universal, where "clean water" means clean water and "clear air" means clear air and "healthy forests" means healthy forests, where peace is really peace and not just a war called "peace," - from a world still "sound as a nut" - people will look back at our time and see it clearly for what it was, a stumble, a temporary setback, or just the death throes (thank you, Dick Cheney) of an old way of doing things giving way to a new.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Paper is a Pleasure

Dear *Montague Reporter* paper friends: Please find enclosed our subscription for the next 26 issues. Your paper is a pleasure. We appreciate the precise reporting, as well as your sin-

cere compassion, whether it be for the Earth or its people, especially the commonwealth of our towns. Plus, you make us laugh!

- Susie Maddern
Gill

Notice to Readers

As in past years, the *Montague Reporter* will publish biweekly during the months of July and August. There will be no paper next week.

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The Montague Reporter

24 3rd Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376

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Help Appreciated

"Ricky has leukemia." Those were the first words uttered by my son, Todd Kosciński, Ricky's father, in his call home last October.

Some of you might remember Todd. He lived in Millers Falls and attended Erving Elementary School (K-5) before moving to Keene, NH. Todd graduated from Keene State and Bentley College, married, and moved to Connecticut.

He and his wife, Beth, have one son - Ricky.

On October 6th, 2004, Ricky, our five-year old grandson, was diagnosed with Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia. We were stunned and heartbroken by the news. Later, through research and from his doctors, we learned that this type of leukemia is very responsive to treatment, with an 80% rate of recovery for children

battling the disease.

Now, nine months later, Ricky is well into a three-year treatment protocol that requires bone marrow taps, blood work, and an assortment of other invasive procedures. His immune system is compromised and he is susceptible to many illnesses when in a neutropenic state. He is no longer able to play with his little friends at day care and his mother put her career on hold to become a stay-at-home mom. Reduced to a one-income-family, with mounting medical bills not covered by insurance, their bank account has evaporated.

It's times like these that make us stop to count our blessings. If you would like to help Ricky, please send contributions to: Richard Kosciński Leukemia Fund, Savings Bank of Walpole, c/o Wally Reney, 84 Marlboro Street, Keene, NH 03431. Your help is

deeply appreciated.

Heartfelt thanks,

- David and
Nancy (Lane) Stone
Keene, NH

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Support the Debt Exclusion on Aug. 1st

Dear Citizens of Montague,

I'd like to share my views as a sewer user and a taxpayer on the Combined Sewer Overflow project. As you know, the sewer users will bear 60% of the cost of the project, while the taxpayers will take on the remaining 40% of the cost, if we vote for the debt exclusion on August 1st. If we vote it down, either the sewer users will pay 100% of the project, or 40% of the project will remain undone.

Thinking about these alterna-

tives from the point of view of one who will have to pay no matter which way the town votes to finance this work, I have been persuaded by the following considerations to believe it is better to vote for the debt exclusion now than to either drop 40% of the project, or fund it entirely by raising sewer user fees.

If we drop the \$2,280,000 by voting against the debt exclusion, we postpone the major thrust of doing the Combined

Sewer Overflow project, i.e. eliminating the excess runoff from rain and sewer into the Connecticut River. Postponing it will lead eventually to our being fined. Fines are charges to the Town from which the Town will receive no benefit.

Secondly, in the future the Town will have to complete the CSO project under less advantageous financial circumstances than it has right now. We all know the cost of construction does not go down over time. We

all know that the low cost loan funding we have available right now is not guaranteed for the unforeseeable future.

Thirdly I will vote for the debt exclusion because it is a temporary increase in the tax rate, limited to this project as named on the ballot. Once the debt is paid, the tax rate decreases proportionately. Also don't forget that we can claim our property taxes on our annual income tax filing.

Finally, we cannot use our

facilities indefinitely and increase the demand on our equipment without upgrading those facilities. Nor can we continue to allow our sewage to pour into the river during heavy rains. Voting for the debt exclusion means to this citizen there will be both an improved wastewater treatment facility and a cleaner river to show for the money going out of two of my pockets.

- Patricia Pruitt
Turners Falls

EYE ON MONTAGUE TOWN FINANCES

Present and Former Finance Committee Chairs Discuss Sewer Override

There was some interesting back and forth on the Montaguema.net corkboard over the last few weeks about the upcoming \$2,280,000 debt exclusion vote for combined sewer overflow (CSO) abatement.

Here are some excerpts from current finance committee chair Jeff Singleton's and finance committee member John Hanold's remarks, and former finance committee chair Mike Naughton's postings in response.

Singleton: Regarding Mike Naughton's article in the Montague Reporter VIII #38 "What if the Sewer Override Fails?":

I was pleased to see that Mike supported the rationale for the project and the financing, including paying a portion out of taxation rather than only sewer user fees. At least he did not challenge these central assumptions. Rather, he seems to be arguing that the tax-funded portion of the project should be financed through the regular

town budget rather than through a debt exclusion - a Proposition 2½ temporary override to finance debt for a specific project.

As far as I can remember, this point was not raised at town meeting or during the discussions of the selectboard or finance committee. If it was, no one seems to have noticed. I think the reason it was barely mentioned, if at all, is that town

meeting has been struggling for years to find sufficient funds for a police cruiser, some new computer software, art and music in our the schools and so forth.

The idea of financing a multi-million dollar CSO project out of these same revenues probably did not make it onto anyone's radar screen.

The reality is, without significant increases in state aid, the town's "fixed costs" - for health

insurance, retirement, negotiated wage increases, a few capital projects - equal or exceed our revenue increases. Mike himself has often complained - as he does in his article - that insufficient funds are dedicated to capital projects that come before the Capital Improvements Committee. I agree, but how much would be available for these projects if the CSO were financed without an override? Even less than now!

This is precisely why the Prop. 2½ law contains a debt exclusion for large capital projects. It is simply unrealistic for towns to finance them within the confines of the tax limit when we can barely fund existing programs. I certainly would not support (such an approach) without a better sense of where the money would come from. Pointing to the need to make "hard choices," while true, does



not create that money.

Thus Mike's argument, while interesting, is not realistic. If this debt exclusion fails, either the project will not go forward as planned or it will be financed by sewer user fees. That is the reality. I think town meeting made the right decision. I hope voters will support it (and actually come out and vote!) on August 1st.

Hanold: This relates to Jeff's supposition on why the finance committee and selectboard did not discuss funding the taxpayer share of the Combined Sewer Overflow project from operating budgets. I sit with him on the finance committee, and the deliberations of the last budget cycle are fresh in my mind. It was clear to me that a very desirable (even essential) sewer upgrade would not be possible, within the constraints of annual revenue growth, if the operating budget were used. The town is

see SEWER pg 6



ARIEL JONES PHOTO

The site where untreated sewage runs into the Connecticut River in Montague City during major rainstorms

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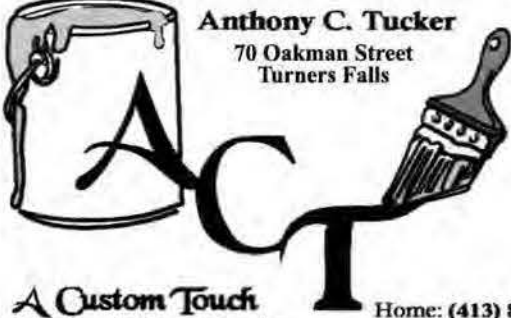
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SEWER

continued from pg 5

only gradually recovering from the shrinking resources of several years ago, and the CSO project is more like an "occasional major capital project" than the ongoing operations already borne by user fees.

For my part, the debt exclusion avenue is the best choice: the increased tax revenue is sequestered and has its own clear sunset date, so no permanent rate increase is involved.

The issue of what the proportions should be, between users and taxpayers, has really been settled: the finance committee and selectboard recommended 60% users and 40% taxpayers. The topic was discussed at the pre-meeting, and town meeting approved it. Under this approach sewer users "share" in the taxpayer portion and bear the user-fee portion in its entirety. The important step before us now is to support the debt exclusion on August 1st, so the CSO project can be started promptly and pursued in the most economical manner.

Naughton: Regarding Jeff and John's comments, I wasn't so much making a case in my article as raising some questions I hoped would be discussed before the vote. I'm happy to see that starting to happen.

One question was, "Why aren't we funding the sewer project out of the regular budget?" The answer seems to be, "Because obviously there's no money to do it". Well, what bothers me is that's always the answer when it comes to capital projects, but it doesn't seem to

apply to other types of spending. I mean, yes, the project will cost millions of dollars, but we don't have to come up with that all at once. I think we'll have to pay about \$150 thousand a year to cover the debt payments. Same with other large projects - we don't pay for them in a lump sum, we pay for them out of yearly debt service.

So, what I'm hearing is that coming up with \$150 thousand a year is so obviously impossible that it doesn't even bear discussing. Well, if that's true, how come we could add \$125 thousand to the budget for pay and classification upgrades without needing a tax increase? I'm not opposed to the upgrades, but the dynamic bothers me: propose \$100 thousand for a capital project and the automatic answer is "no way"; propose \$100 thousand for personnel costs and the answer is "let's try to find it somehow". Why the difference?

Singleton: I'm also glad to see there is some discussion going on about this important CSO project. You raise an interesting question. I suppose on a philosophical level there is no reason why a large capital project should be funded by a debt exclusion vote but wage increases, like the recent wage and classification implementation, should come out of the regular budget. But I believe this is the way it is done in most cities and towns and there are some good reasons for it.

Wage and benefit increases are annual events, except during times of extreme fiscal crisis. It's a reality everywhere. As you know this can add up to a lot of money (right now it is a major

cause of the local fiscal crisis across the state). But if we tried to raise taxes over the 2½ limit every time, taxes would be totally out of control. So we try to wedge them into the regular budget, often putting local finances at risk. To try to finance large needed capital projects on top of this is just plain unrealistic in my view

I think this is exactly the situation in Montague. As you suggested in your article, implementation of the wage and classification study was iffy, to put it mildly. In effect we wound up funding smaller capital projects out of our reserves, putting the

"If we're serious about saying, 'We can't afford to pay those kind of taxes... we need to sit down as a town and talk about what we really want to buy with the money we think we can spend.'"

-Mike Naughton
Millers Falls

budget at risk. To add yet another \$140,000 or so onto the budget would not be responsible at all, in my opinion.

This is a concrete example of why the debt exclusion provision is in the Prop 2½ law. Keep in mind that a debt exclusion for a capital project is temporary, while an override for a wage increase would be permanent.

Naughton replies: A couple of points.

First, you're right, "[w]age and benefit increases are annual events." But the adjustments based on the pay and classifica-

tion study were not an annual event -- they were one-time increases intended (as I understand it) to bring our employees more in line with "comparable" towns, and - at least according to the presentation at town meeting - they were long overdue. As such, they were just the sort of thing that should have sparked a discussion over the need to either raise taxes or cut somewhere else... as clearly we hadn't been able to afford them before now and equally clearly nothing much had changed this year. Instead, we chose to go ahead and build them into the budget, while funding things like the household hazardous waste program, the police cruiser, various DPW lease payments, etc. (all *bona fide* "annual events") out of the stabilization fund. I'm not blaming you, but I do wonder why 'the powers that be' - meaning the selectboard, the finance committee, and the town administrator - were so willing to support a budget that is based on the vague hope that things will be better in the future. No offense to anyone, but as someone famously said, "hope is not a plan". Call me what you will, but I much prefer having a plan.

It would have been much better if the 'people on the stage' had said, basically, "we need to fund these increases, and we can't do so unless we either raise taxes or cut somewhere else, and so here's our plan." That didn't happen, and I'm disappointed - not in anyone personally, but in the process that got us here.

Second, you're also right: "a debt exclusion for a capital project is temporary," but let's be

realistic. A few short years ago, we voted a debt exclusion for the middle school/high school project, and taxpayers were told, "but it's just temporary." Well, we're still paying for it, and now, we're being asked to vote for one for the sewer plant. If present trends continue, we'll be asked to vote for exclusions for a highway garage, a police station, and probably other town facilities -- all in the next 5 or 10 years. Correct me if I'm wrong, but if we're always paying off some debt exclusion (or several), there's a certain air of permanence, isn't there?

My point is, Montague doesn't use debt exclusions for "extraordinary" expenses; we use them for the sorts of things we should expect to be paying for anyway. I think we'd be better off as a town if we simply admitted that and built that money into our tax base. Then we could apply it either to current long-term debt payments (as debt exclusions are applied) or we could augment our stabilization fund in anticipation of future debt payments (and save on interest). Either way, we'd be being honest with ourselves about what we're in for, and we might end up saving some money.

And if we're really serious about saying, "no, absolutely not -- we just can't afford to pay those kinds of taxes," then we need to sit down (figuratively) as a town and talk about what we really want to buy with the money we think we can spend. That's my basic point: we need to have that discussion, instead of just lurching along one debt exclusion at a time.

Just my \$.02 . . .

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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Erving Completes Mitzkovitz Purchase

BY IVAN USSACH - On Monday, July 25th, the selectboard signed a purchase and sale agreement for \$165,000 for the 8.23 acre Mitzkovitz property, located near the French King

County bikeway.

The board signed three water commitments. The town water department will bill the fire department \$5,900 for hydrant inspections. Also, \$7,500 will be



PHOTO: ALI URBAN

The newly completed pedestrian bridge and bike path link between Erving and Millers Falls.

Bridge. The closing was expected July 27th. The acreage abuts the Erving Elementary School and the Erving Police Station.

With police chief Chris Blair retiring for medical reasons, the board put together a timeline for a police chief search committee. Advertising for the position is expected by mid-August, with applications likely to be due by the end of September. From seven to nine members are expected to serve on the committee to review applicants.

The board received a letter from Mass Highway stating that the replacement of the pedestrian walkway and bikepath over the Millers River, from Erving to Montague, has been completed. The bridge, closed to auto traffic for years, connects to Dorsey Road via a footpath on the Erving side of the river, and to East Mineral Road on the Montague side. It will be the point of crossing on the Millers River for the bike path that will eventually connect Northfield Mountain Environmental Center to the rest of the Franklin

billed to the town for testing charges at town hall and Zilinski field. An additional \$236 will be billed to two homes that required a new hookup.

The Franklin County Solid Waste District will hold a countywide Hazardous Waste Collection Day on Saturday, September 24th, at the Route 2 park and ride area.

The board issued a live entertainment license to the Copper Angel restaurant, located on Route 2A.

Jeff Dubay responded to a complaint on the condition of a section of the French King Bridge. He said he believed the damage was largely cosmetic, but thought it best to notify Mass Highway for them to inspect it.

The board reviewed an application to Mass Electric by the town's Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW) #2, operated by the Erving Paper Mill, for an upgraded aerator. Under its cooperative program, Mass Electric will fund up to 45% of the cost of equipment upgrades.

NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

NMH Constuction Concerns Aired

BY DAVID DETMOLD

Former highway superintendent Ernie Hastings brought concerns to the selectboard on Monday, July 25th regarding the progress of construction at the Mount Hermon campus of Northfield Mount Hermon. Responding to the sight of earth moving equipment preparing the ground on the east side of Main Road for playing fields, Hastings said, "It was farmland six months ago; it won't be farmland again." He said he was unaware of hearings before the conservation commission or planning board for a change of use on the land. Town administrative assistant Deb Roussel assured Hastings there had been a hearing before the planning board to which other departments had been invited, about a month ago.

Hastings, who had spoken in favor of paving roadways at a recent town meeting "without an act of Congress or a meeting with the environmentalists," said he felt the scope of construction at NMH should have required an environmental impact study.

"They've changed intersections on town roads, with no permits; they've covered up catch basins, with no permits; they've put in sidewalks, diverting water away from the culverts and down the road. This is where two thirds of the water on the campus drains off," he said. Hastings noted the old town dump was in the vicinity of the under construction playing fields, and wanted to know whether this fact had been considered in light of additional runoff from parking lots and reconfigured roadways.

Board member Phil Maddern said he had directed questions about the construction to Jim Hawkins at the Franklin County cooperative building inspectors program, and Ann Banash said, "He's the person we pay to make sure our bylaws are being followed. We need to make sure we're on the same page."

Maddern said he had spoken to Hawkins and said, "Hawkins was under the assumption that Mount Hermon Road - the loop up around - wasn't a town road."

In addition to playing fields,

Northfield Mount Hermon School, which is consolidating its operations to the Gill campus and closing its Northfield campus in the coming year, plans to build an art building and two "cottages", Banash said.

In other news, the board discussed a letter received from Paul Seamans, of Munns Ferry Road, regarding the recent change in property tax assessments on his riverside property. Seamans asked the board to assist in petitioning the state legislature and the governor for property tax relief, "protesting the punitive damages done to some of us residents, and asking redress in the matter of taxation." Seaman's tax bill jumped from \$2,036.84 in 2004 to \$5,041.41 in 2005, following the creation of a new tax district along the Connecticut River, where recent property transfers had indicated values were rising steeply. The three assessors who had worked on delineating the boundary of that new

"Riverview" tax district have all since resigned.

"Where does someone on a fixed income come up with an extra \$3,000?" asked Banash. "It's devastating."

"He's lived here his entire life, fought wars for his country," said Roussel. The board agreed to send a letter to the governor and legislative leaders decrying the burden of local property taxes and seeking relief. Seamans said he was not the only World War II veteran living in the narrowly defined tax district to face a sudden, steep increase this year.

Newly elected assessor Greg Snedeker said he and even more recently elected assessor JoAnn Greenleaf "are definitely going to sit down and take a fresh look at the Riverview district. I have to make sure everybody in town is at full market value," he added. He noted a number of

AIRED

continued on pg 8

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NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Montague Adopts New Fees for Bulky Waste

BY JOHN HANOLD

MONTAGUE CITY - The selectboard's summer tour of the villages arrived at the Masonic Lodge in Montague City on July 25th, where the board conducted business beneath the portraits of past Grand Masters and mounted insigniae, sustained by various fans. The next meeting will find the selectboard back at its usual roost in town hall in Turners Falls; one hopes for cooler weather to inspire a larger audience.

Department of public works superintendent Tom Bergeron received the board's approval to increase the transfer station fee schedule for bulky waste, to bring program revenue in line with costs levied by the town's Springfield processor. Clean metal and motor oil are still free, and the annual permit for construction and demolition (C & D) debris is still \$10, but the per-item charges for sofas, mattresses, large appliances, tires, etc. will be about \$5 higher and the cubic-yard charge for C & D debris brought to the station will rise from \$50 to \$60, effective

immediately. A printed fee schedule will be available at the transfer station.

Bergeron emphasized that yard waste, accepted at no charge for composting, must not include brush and other fee-schedule materials, which have been found mixed in some compostable loads. In response to board chair Allen Ross' question about enforcement of laws on "improper dumping" police chief Ray Zukowski confirmed that arrests are made periodically, and violators are prosecuted when property owners or the town request this action. Ross commended DPW personnel for their attention to blow-down debris after recent windstorms, and for continuing sidewalk and pothole repairs.

The next hazardous material collection by the Franklin County Solid Waste District will be Saturday, September 24th, at several locations around the county including the Montague DPW Garage, at the south end of Avenue A.



DETMOLD PHOTO

Phil Przybyla, from the DPW, repairs potholes on Third Street earlier this season.

As part of the implementation of the pay and classification study authorized at the annual town meeting, water pollution control facility head Bob Trombley has met with representatives of the involved union to revise job descriptions and assign jobs and individuals to appropriate grades and salary steps. A parallel examination by Trombley and town administrator Frank Abbondanzio confirmed the grade assignments, and Abbondanzio observed that the factor-evaluation system generates clear, reliable results that fit with comparable jobs elsewhere in town departments.

The results of that effort were endorsed by the selectboard retroactive to the start of the current fiscal year, with the understanding that the union still must sign off on the plan. The actual cost impact falls within the figure forecast in May for Fiscal Year '06.

Approval was given to advertise for a custodian position to relieve other staff members at the WPCF, and for the time being duties normally performed by the lab technician, a position now vacant, will be handled by three other members of the WPCF staff, on a revolving basis. Those individuals are certified to perform the required tests, and Trombley will assess the adequacy of this arrangement periodically during the year. He observed the treatment plant is

still been staffed below the state Department of Environmental Protection guidelines.

Ross commended WPCF personnel for ensuring that water quality near their plant has been clean enough to attract eagles, though he described them as "less photogenic" than the eagles of Barton Cove.

Looking forward, Trombley requested a public informational meeting to distribute the updated sewer regulations (formerly bylaws). The conversion from bylaws to regulations enables the selectboard and WPCF to respond more promptly to either mandatory state regulatory changes or changed user-types in the district. This change has no effect on the current fee-schedule for users. The informational meeting can be expected during September or October.

On a similar topic, Abbondanzio reminded the public of the upcoming town election on the \$2,280,000 debt exclusion portion of the Combined Sewer Overflow project, from noon to 7:00 p.m. on Monday, August 1st, in the usual precinct polling locations.

A rather unusual agenda item concerned the abatement of bills issued in past years by the airport commission, amounting to about \$8,500. A unanimous vote by the airport commission, and concurrence from tax collector Patty Dion, will clear the books of long-dormant items, some of

which are ten years old. In support of the request, commission member Peter Golrick explained that some bills were issued in error, and that others have proven uncollectible and involve people no longer in the area. Recent procedural changes in billing hanger owners have corrected the problems that led to the abated bills, Golrick said.

Planning department issues included a request for a Brownfield evaluation by the county's Regional Council of Governments on land that may pose a threat to drinking water quality. The land is owned by Rodney Beauchesne in Montague Center, and the Turners Falls Water Department and Montague planning board have asked the town to consider acquiring the land for water supply protection. Town planner Robin Sherman also obtained approval for a letter to the COG requesting inclusion of a part of the Montague Plains - across Millers Falls Road from the airport - in a county study of possible industrial park sites, including archaeological and endangered species considerations. A recent study by the Council of Governments shows it is time to consider where another industrial park should be located in the future. During the discussion of this issue Sherman reassured the board that only the northern third of the Plains was eligible for consideration for development - the remainder is permanently protected.

In other business the board discussed surveying services for Dry Hill Road and eventual town ownership of the parking lot near the Great Falls Discovery Center, and formally approved a protocol for town staff to follow when dealing with difficult people. Jeanne Golrick's suggestion that the term "customer" be replaced by "visitor" was adopted; it was mentioned that although difficult encounters are rare, the most recent one occurred only a week ago.

The board finished the evening by going into executive session on litigation and collective bargaining issues.

AIRED
continued from page 7

added. He noted a number of properties in other parts of town had sold at above their assessed value recently. He also said, "If we could find one more assessor from Riverside, that would be wonderful. It would make for a real nice balance of viewpoints." Snedeker lives in the new Riverview district and Greenleaf is from the center of town.

The board took under advisement an estimate from M.J. Moran to dehumidify and air condition the basement of the town hall, where damp conditions endanger record storage and make working conditions for the assessors and the board of health challenging. They discussed the partitioning of upstairs offices in town hall as well, to increase security and provide some privacy for town hall workers and the citizens who meet with them. A meeting will be called for the building committee to review both matters.

Lynda Hodsdon Mayo has been hired for the position of assessors clerk, the post from which Harriet A. Tidd has recently retired. Tidd has agreed to stay on a part time basis to help train her replacement.

Fire chief Gene Beaubien wrote to the board inquiring whether part time firefighters could be eligible for longevity pay bonuses, under the terms of the recently approved personnel policy. The board referred the matter to the personnel board. The board also noted a replacement needs to be found on the personnel board to oversee implementation of the town's harassment policy, since Deb Edson, the former point person on harassment, is no longer on the personnel board.

ComCast will hold a public hearing on a new cable access contract, on Monday, August 8th, at 7 p.m. at the town hall. A senior citizen rate discount and the possibility of wiring new roads for cable are up for discussion.

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BROKER

TEETH
continued from pg 1
extremely suggestive."

Strontium-90, one of many radioactive isotopes released from nuclear reactor steam vents on a routine, daily basis, is dispersed over the countryside by wind and rain. It has a radioactive half-life of roughly 28 years. The human organism treats Strontium-90 as if it were calcium, incorporating it into bones - and teeth. Strontium-90 can pass through the placenta of a pregnant woman to her fetus, and through breast milk to a nursing infant. Reynolds said developing infants and children are at particular risk for Strontium-90 intake, as are people with low calcium intake in their diets. Strontium-90 is a known carcinogen. The U.S. Academy of Sciences, in a 10-year study released earlier this month (the BEIR-7 report), stated "There is no safe threshold of ionizing radiation," Reynolds said.

The teeth were analyzed for Strontium-90 content by Dr. Hari Sharma, who holds a PhD in radiochemistry, at an independent lab in Waterloo, Ontario called REMS, Inc., which has tested over 4,400 baby, or "deciduous" teeth, for the Radiation and Public Health Project since the mid-1990s, when the so-called "Tooth Fairy" project began. Activists at Traprock Peace Center and the Citizens Awareness Network sponsored the local study, and aided with tooth collecting.

Among the researchers working with the Radiation and Public Health Project is statistician Joseph Mangano, of Norristown, PA, who helped analyze Strontium-90 levels in baby teeth in seven reactor communities around the country.

"We found a link between elevated levels of Strontium-90 and childhood cancers in two areas, on Long Island and in Central New Jersey," near the Brookhaven National Lab on Long Island and the Oyster Creek reactor in Toms River, New Jersey. Oyster Creek is the oldest operating civilian nuclear reactor in the country, Magnano said. "Imagine a graph with two lines, one for Strontium-90 and one for incidence of childhood cancer. They both rise and decline simultaneously," in these two geographic areas, he said. Like Helfand, Magnano called this evidence "suggestive" of a causative effect between proximity to nuclear reactors and an increase in childhood cancers, and called for further study.

The 4,400 baby teeth analyzed so far around seven reactor communities reveal 30% to 50% higher Strontium-90 levels in counties near operating reactors than in counties further away, Magnano said.

Among the other researchers working with the Radiation and Public Health Project are epidemi-

ologist Jay Gould, and Professor of Radiological Physics Ernest Sternglass, whose methodologies in comparing health statistics for populations living near nuclear plants have been targeted as inaccurate by the nuclear industry and its proponents for decades.

Nevertheless, in recently published remarks, Sternglass maintains, "The Strontium-90 measurements have shown that, in areas near nuclear plants, this short-lived fission product that concentrates in bone, like calcium, and destroys the cells of the immune system originating in the bone marrow, has been rising in the bones and teeth of newborn babies to levels seen at the height of nuclear bomb testing in Nevada in the 1950s, when it should have decayed to undetectable concentrations by now."

An earlier tooth study by researchers at Washington University in St. Louis, begun in the late 1950s, showed elevated levels of Strontium-90 in baby teeth and led to a public outcry against above ground nuclear weapons testing. The study, complemented by similar studies in Europe, was influential in gaining President Kennedy's and other leaders' support for an international ban on the practice of above ground testing.

The St. Louis study showed a marked correlation between levels of Strontium-90 in baby teeth (over 320,000 baby teeth were ultimately collected by the researchers at Washington University, though not all were tested) and fallout from above ground testing. After a three-year moratorium between 1958 - 1961, the major powers resumed above ground testing following the shooting down of Gary Powers' spy plane, until the test ban treaty was approved in 1963. The St. Louis study showed Strontium-90 levels near 0 in the early 1950s, inching up to an average of 3 picocuries of Strontium-90 per gram of calcium in baby teeth by 1958, a drop during the moratorium, and then a sharp spike to 11.03 picocuries in 1964, according to Mangano. He said the Washington University researchers never attempted follow-up health studies to determine whether elevated levels of Strontium-90 led to an increase in childhood cancers or leukemia.

Radiation was not distributed evenly across the North American continent during the above ground testing years. Upstate New York and Vermont, for example, received relatively high concentrations of airborne radioactive isotopes from prevailing westerly winds from the Nevada Test Site, while California, for example, had comparatively low levels.

Mangano said the Radiation and Public Health Project had reviewed the Connecticut Cancer Registry's statistics (Connecticut was the only state to maintain a comprehensive cancer registry during the bomb test years) and found a decline in cancers in children under 5 during the moratorium years, followed by a short peak in 1964, then dropping. But in the 80s and 90s, the rates of cancers for this age group rose again in Connecticut, 50% higher than they were in the 1940s.

According to Gould, the figures in the Connecticut Cancer Registry show that the highest female cancer rates in the state are concentrated in the 12 towns within 15 miles of the Millstone nuclear reactors in

the local infant death rate rose in the two years after Rancho Seco began operations in 1974."

Speaking of the Tooth Fairy project, Helfand said, "If indeed we can show children are accumulating extremely toxic material in their bones and experiencing an increased risk of cancer, that would be an extremely powerful argument for shutting these plants down completely."

Reynolds said she began to search for the causality of childhood cancers and leukemias when her son Jon was diagnosed with leukemia in 1996. He has successfully battled the disease, and Reynolds has taken her research into the effects of ionizing radiation to her sister nurses nationwide, and to the public at large.

She had her son's baby teeth tested, and found only moderately elevated levels of Strontium-90, around 3 picocuries, and speculated that other causative factors could have been involved in the onset of his illness. The nuclear plant nearest to her home was in Haddam, CT. That plant shut down in 1996. A friend of Reynolds who lived closer to the Haddam

plant lost her son to cancer at about the same time; his baby teeth tested at 10 picocuries of Strontium-90, Reynolds said. Reynolds also lost an uncle to a rare form of cancer, Rhabdo-Myosarcoma (essentially a childhood form of cancer, characterized by fast-growing, highly malignant tumors which account for over half of the soft tissue sarcomas in children). Her uncle, Paul Servansky, lived near Harrisburg, PA, and was working outdoors on the railroad during the core melt accident in 1979 at the Three Mile Island plant. He was "a robust, healthy man in his early 50s" at the time of the accident, Reynolds said, but he died of the rare adult sarcoma a year and a half later.

At Tuesday's press conference, Reynolds said the total amount of radioactivity released by Vermont Yankee between 1972 and 1987 equaled 342 curies, the 17th highest amount of the 103 nuclear reactors in the country. Mangano said, by comparison, during the Three Mile Island accident, a total of 4 curies of radiation were released, insofar as damaged measuring devices were able to determine.

Reynolds said cancer deaths in Windham County, VT (where Vermont Yankee is located) began rising in 1988, while falling in the rest of Vermont. She said breast cancer statistics in Windham County in 1990 were 15.4% high-

er than the U.S. average, while the rest of Vermont's counties showed breast cancer rates 19.1% below the U.S. average in the same year. Reynolds said miscarriage rates and infant deaths in Windham County were also well above the levels in other Vermont counties. Mangano said these statistics were taken from the National Center for Health Statistics (http://wonder.cdc.gov_cause-of-death), and gathered by the individual Vermont counties.

Departing from her clinical poise, Reynolds closed her part of Tuesday's presentation passionately. "There is no acceptable radiation exposure or cancer death," she said.

Vermont Yankee plant spokesman Rob Williams failed to return a call asking for comment on the baby tooth study by press time.

At the press conference, Bernardston resident Sandy Streeter spoke of an unusual incidence of illness in her town, which lies entirely within the 10-mile radius of Vermont Yankee. "Over 400 curies of radiation have been released into our home environment since Yankee began operating in 1972," Streeter said. "Every home in Bernardston has illness of some kind. I have many family members lost to cancer. The people most affected seem to live on tops of hills. Neighbors who grow their own food and vegetables seem to be the most unhealthy. That's not the way it should be.

"I only have one grandchild. I intend to get one of his baby teeth and send it to the project. I pray every night that Vermont Yankee will close. Every time I go outside I check to see which way the wind is blowing. I think it is that dangerous."

Reynolds said people worried about Strontium-90 uptake might consider adding calcium supplements to their diet, though she stressed Strontium-90 is only one of a "cornucopia" of radioactive isotopes routinely emitted by nuclear plants. Mangano urged local residents to send in baby teeth to the Radiation and Public Health Project. Call 1-800-582-3716 to request the proper envelope. He said 26 baby teeth from Franklin County, MA have been collected so far, and the results from the study of those teeth should be available by the end of the year.

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and Veronica "McGyver" Phaneuf for saving this issue of the *Montague Reporter* with miraculous 11th-hour computer repair in the face of our despair.



Cruelty Masquerading as Safety, one of Sandy Streeter's nuclear-themed paintings

Photographed by Michael Muller

Waterford.

Mangano published the results of another study, in the spring of 2000 in the scientific journal *Environmental Epidemiology and Toxicology* examining infant death rates in counties within 50 miles and in the prevailing wind direction of five reactors: Fort St. Vrain (located near Denver, CO), LaCrosse (near LaCrosse, WI), Millstone/Haddam Neck (near New London, CT), Rancho Seco (near Sacramento, CA) and Trojan (near Portland, OR) after the reactors closed down.

According to a release from the Radiation and Public Health Project, "In the first two years after the reactors closed, infant death rates in the downwind counties under 40 miles from the plants fell 15 to 20 percent from the previous two years, compared to an average U.S. decline of just six percent between 1985 and 1996. In each of the five areas studied, no nuclear reactor operated within 70 miles of the closed reactor, essentially creating a 'nuclear-free zone.'

"The study detailed the plunges in newly-diagnosed leukemia and cancer cases and birth defect deaths in children under five years in the four-county local area downwind from Rancho Seco. This excessive decline has continued through the first seven years after the June 1989 closing. In contrast,

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Just Things Thrives in Gill

BY LISA DAVOL

GILL - Arthur Cohen's wife, pregnant with their first child, decided she didn't want to live in New York City anymore. Cohen called his brother, who was living in Boston at the time. His brother's wife knew some people out in Western Massachusetts. She put him in touch with them, and so it happened that in 1973 Cohen moved his family up to the little town of Gill. He closed up his store - Just Things - on 34th and 2nd Avenue in the Lower East

Side of Manhattan and moved the contents up to Gill on weekends. He officially moved in a year later, and reopened Just Things in Gill.

A few years later, Cohen's marriage had ended in divorce, but his children were thriving in the local schools and he was involved in the community, so he decided to stay put. Through the years, Cohen served on the Gill school committee, board of health, energy taskforce, and the solid waste committee, among others.

Just Things, in its rural incarnation, has several components. Cohen sells miscellaneous hardware, sheet metals, lamps and lamp parts. He makes lamps from odd materials such as furniture legs, statues or a mixture of parts he assembles aesthetically and wires for home use. Antique dealers bring him items that he makes into lamps the dealers in turn bring to high-end antique shows. He also

fixes lamps people bring in to his 'lamp hospital.' He pointed to his favorite lamp creation, consisting of a cast iron machine part soldered to a base and artfully reconstructed as a light.

New York City was the hub of electrical lighting, and many lighting stores started there and failed, creating a surplus of lighting materials Cohen would buy at closeouts. He gravitated toward lamps as his particular specialty.

Cohen's father was in the surplus business and had warehouses all over; his dad did business on a very large scale. He grew up attending auctions with his father, who would buy freight car loads of surplus goods at a time. He once bought freightloads of industrial wire, which he in turn sold to facilitate Taiwan's breaking off from mainland China. From his father, he learned the value of recycling materials. Cohen wanted to carry on the tradition, but on a Franklin County kind of scale.

Cohen's yard is full of piles of scrap and assorted materials. He knows where everything is though. People call him looking for obscure pieces, and not only does he have what they're seeking, but he can point them to the exact pile to find it. He has piles of corrugated steel roofing, old wheels, and other unimaginable items. During the course of a humid Tuesday morning, the phone rang steadily as customers trickled in looking for items they could not readily find anywhere else.

One such customer is Ed Hallen of Conway, who has been going to Just Things for at least ten years. "There is no other place like



PHOTO: ARIEL JONES

The home of "Just Things" in Gill

it," he said as he gathered a handful of long wires from which he planned to make drawer pulls for a cabinet he was making for his son. He paid less than half of what he would have paid for brand new wires at a retail store, without sacrificing quality.

Cohen is passionate about recycling and energy conservation and sees his work as a community service to the planet. He believes our society is the most wasteful that ever existed and says we need to look ahead to what we are going to leave the next generation to deal with. Trash disposal is a serious problem on our planet, opines Just Things' curator. Space for dumping stuff is rapidly diminishing, and toxins are leaking into the soil from existing dumps.

Cohen enthused about the possibilities of recycling almost everything - leaving only small amounts of "trash" behind. He advocates lumping metals together, pulverizing them and melting them down to reprocess. The same

could go for organic materials such as cotton and wools, which could be broken down and used for soil additives. Organic matter could be added to desert lands in the west, to create suitable land for gardens while saving land now used for dumping. He added that it takes less energy to reprocess materials than to make them from scratch. Melting down metal, for example, is less expensive than mining it and processing it.

Cohen's efforts promoting recycling - locally and regionally - have earned him an award from the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility in 2004 for his 20-year commitment.

Cohen's work and wisdom spotlights the finity of the earth's resources. There will come a day when there are no more raw materials left, he says. "So better we should recycle today."

Stop in and see him at Just Things Lamp Hospital, on Mount Hermon Station Road in Gill, 413-498-5043.



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Major League Baseball Getting More Competitive

BY LEE CARIGNAN

TURNERS FALLS - It used to be the New York Yankees and the Boston Red Sox dominating the American League by beating up on small market teams with small player payrolls. But now the league is starting to get more competitive, thanks to the last collective bargaining agreement signed in September of 2002. It has taken a few years for the economics to trickle down, but the league is starting to see the results.

Unlike other professional sports, Major League Baseball has never had a salary cap. This has always allowed teams that make the most revenue to be able to spend more money on their players and create an unfair competitive balance. With player salaries skyrocketing in the last 10 to 15 years, the gap between big market and small market teams has continued to widen. It got to the point where you had teams like the New York Yankees - with a \$200 million player payroll - going up against the Tampa Bay Devil Rays, with a \$25 million player payroll.

In 2002, when the old collective bargaining agreement expired, Major League Baseball had to address the unfair competitive balance issue. The owners originally wanted more revenue sharing among the teams, along with a firm salary cap. With a player strike pending and a very strong players union not wanting anything to do with a salary cap, the owners had to be creative and find other ways to fix the problem. The one-year anniversary of 9/11 also put pressure on both sides to get a deal done and avoid a strike.

Surprisingly, both sides made concessions and a historic agreement was reached. The creative deal included more revenue sharing - amounting to over \$1 billion over the term of the four-year agreement. The agreement also included a luxury tax for teams that spent above defined payroll thresholds. The luxury tax is a less restrictive alternative to a salary cap. If a team spends over the luxury tax cap number - \$128 million in 2005 - they will be taxed 17 per-

cent on a first violation and as much as 40% for a second violation. The tax money raised gets divided by the small market teams and included with the revenue sharing money. It has given these lower revenue teams \$10 - \$20 million more to spend each season since. This has allowed these teams to be more competitive in free agency. The system will never be as effective as the NFL salary cap, for example, but it is helping Major League Baseball to narrow the gap of economic disparity.

The Boston Red Sox are feeling the extra heat this season. In the past, the American League East was the Yankees against the Red Sox, with everybody else competing for runners up. This season the Baltimore Orioles are threatening to win the division. Even the Toronto Blue Jays have stayed within striking distance at only five games out, and have beaten up on the Sox this season in head-to-head action. In fact, the Red Sox are six games below .500

against American League East teams, and lost an opportunity to take a commanding lead in their division when they lost three of four games to both the Orioles and the Yankees around the All-Star break. If the Red Sox continue to play poorly against their divisional opponents it will be difficult for them to make the playoffs.

The additional competition could cause the Red Sox and the Yankees to both miss the playoffs this season. With 9 teams in contention for the playoffs, the wild-card spot won't be as easy as it has been in the past. The Central Division Minnesota Twins and the Western Division Oakland A's and Texas Rangers are battling it out with the Red Sox, Yankees, Blue Jays and the Orioles for the one wild-card spot. The Chicago White Sox have a commanding first-place lead in the Central Division and the Los Angeles Angels in the West. The Red Sox still hold a small lead in the East.

With so many teams still alive for the playoffs, the trade market has been affected as the July 31st trade deadline

approaches. There are more buyers than sellers and the competition has heated up as teams try to improve themselves for the home stretch. Like every season, pitching is the hot commodity. The only upper echelon pitcher available is A.J. Burnett of the Florida Marlins, and teams are scrambling to put together the most attractive deal to land him. In the past there would be more players available for trade because more teams would be out of the playoff picture by this point in the calendar. The small market teams, betting on future prospects, would give up on the season and trade good players who were about to become free agents.

The increased competition this season has been good for baseball. There is more excitement for the fans and it can only help to further improve revenue for the smaller market teams. The current collective bargaining agreement is going to end in 2006. Hopefully, for the good of the game they will work out a deal that continues to improve competition in the league.

Lance Armstrong Ends Career on Top

BY ZACH SCHONBRUN

GREENFIELD - Sometimes I think, in a country filled with non-cycling fans, there is not enough media attention on the *Tour de France*, too little love for Lance. Other times I think there is too much, with articles every day in every newspaper across the nation, circulating a name as recognizable worldwide as Michael Jordan or Tiger Woods. And then there are times, like now, when too much or too little does not really matter; the accomplishments truly overshadow everything else.

With his seventh (and final) consecutive *Tour de France* victory in the books as of Sunday, Lance Armstrong the Cyclist took his last ride, further solidifying his position among America's finest athletes. At 33 years of age, Armstrong continued to dismay critics, coasting into Paris with a four-and-half-minute lead.

"As a sportsman, I wanted to go out on top," he said after winning the 20th stage. "I came here with the intention of winning the event."

It seems like any and all of Lance's intentions have been fulfilled. He intended to beat cancer, doing so in 1997. He intended to win his first *Tour* in 1999, blowing out the field to win by over seven minutes, his largest margin of victory. He intended to increase cancer awareness, raising over \$50 million for research selling LiveStrong bracelets (sold at \$1 apiece) which have become one of the 21st centuries most appealing fashion statements. And now he intends to retire, on top, and ride off into the sunset, be it in France or Texas.

"We tried everything," said Germany's Jan Ullrich, the Karl Malone of cycling, finishing second three times behind Armstrong, third this year. "But Lance is so strong, just like last year. We tried to attack him, but you have to accept he is the strongest. He deserves it."

It's true: he does deserve it. Armstrong, one of the most-tested athletes in the world (drug tested 22 times in 2004 alone), still is constantly queried about steroid use, by fans home and

abroad. In France, they wave signs adorned with syringes and needles, yelling "*La fraude!*" as he whizzes by. In January, French authorities began an investigation into Armstrong's personal practices - their third such investigation since 2000. He sued former trainer Mike Anderson for claiming to have found steroids in Armstrong's apartment in 2004.

And yet none of these accusations have been proven, and Lance still wins. It seems like nobody can accept greatness, invincibility. There must always be a catch to every action, a reason behind every resolution, a snare waiting at each finish line. Lance has done the impossible - he must not have done it on his own. This nation's greatest thorn is its abiding skepticism.

So Armstrong is strong-legged, but equally strong-willed. Beyond accusations, he must cope with raucous French fans, enduring countless insults and accusations. Last year, in a stage up the *l'Alpe d'Huez*, he was spat on and yelled at; people threw beer in his face and

attempted to push him off his bike. Still, Armstrong contends that his main objective is to win the hearts of French fans.

"I'm a guy who almost always defends this country and these people in a time when there's not a lot of people defending this country of France," he said.

He regularly starts interviews in French, trying to perfect French jokes and slang. And he has never held a grudge against those accusing him of doping. He truly adores the French people, even knowing that some of them cannot reciprocate that feeling.

He has been amazing to watch, to read, to listen to, not merely because of his unprecedented athletic feats but because of the way he has handled himself throughout the whole journey. If Terrell Owens won seven-straight *Tour de France* trophies, we would not hold him in nearly the same esteem. Armstrong is a class act, which makes it that much harder to see him retire.

Is Lance the greatest athlete

of all time? Can we put him up with the likes of Jordan, Muhammed Ali, or Wayne Gretzky? Can he stand with Tiger, LeBron James, or Michael Vick of the next generation? He can't, unless we take him for all that he has done.

He has turned accusations into motivation. He has turned his survival story into inspiration. And he has turned many onto a sport and a race that at one time was inconsequential to most Americas.

Sportswriter Bill Plaschke of the *Los Angeles Times* called him the most influential athlete since Jackie Robinson, what with all his bracelets and foundations and worldwide appeal. And it's hard to disagree. Lance, as a cyclist may be great, but Lance as a person is like few before him.

Senator John Kerry suggested Armstrong may someday go into politics, run for a position in Texas or maybe even for president. Who knows? It just might happen. If he intends it.

Zach can be reached at Mastacasta4@aol.com

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THE HEALTHY GEEZER

Good Health Begins with a Good Diet

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - Q. When I was younger, I couldn't get enough Chinese food. Now it just doesn't have that zing anymore. I'm guessing it's me, not the food, right?

As we age, our sense of taste may change, but this loss of zing in Chinese food might be caused by medicines you're taking. Drugs can change your sense of taste, and some can also make you feel less hungry.

So, the aging process and the medicines we're taking can affect our enjoyment of food and, therefore, our nutrition, because we may not eat all we need.

Eating habits in seniors are affected by other problems, too. Some complain about their dentures. Others don't have easy access to transportation to go food shopping. Those who cooked for a family find it unrewarding to cook for one. Depression can affect your appetite, too.

So, what should you eat? According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, you should try to eat the following daily:

6 to 11 servings of bread, cereal, rice, or pasta. One serving equals one slice of bread, 1 ounce of ready-to-eat cereal, or ½ cup cooked cereal, rice, or pasta.

3 to 5 servings of vegetables.



ILLUSTRATION J. HARMON

One serving equals one cup of raw, leafy vegetables or ½ cup of chopped vegetables, cooked or raw.

2 to 4 servings of fruit. One serving equals one medium piece of fruit like an apple, banana, or orange; ½ cup of chopped fresh, cooked, or canned fruit; ¼ cup of dried fruit; or ¾ cup of 100 percent fruit juice.

3 servings of milk, yogurt, or cheese. One serving equals 1 cup of milk or yogurt, 1½ ounces of natural cheese like cheddar or mozzarella, or 2 ounces of processed cheese like American.

2 to 3 servings of meat, poultry, fish, dry beans, eggs, or nuts. One serving of cooked meat, poultry, or fish is 2 to 3 ounces; you should eat no more than 5 to 7 ounces a day. One cup of beans, 2 eggs, 4 tablespoons of peanut butter, or 2/3

cup of nuts also equal one serving.

To maintain a plan for healthy eating, follow these tips from the National Institutes of Health:

Eat breakfast every day.

Select high-fiber foods like whole grain breads and cereals, beans, vegetables, and fruits. They can help keep you regular and lower your risk for chronic diseases like heart disease and type 2 diabetes.

Choose lean beef, turkey breast, fish, or chicken with the skin removed to lower the amount of fat and calories in your meals.

Have three servings of low-fat milk, yogurt, or cheese a day. Dairy products are high in calcium and vitamin D and help keep your bones strong as you age. If you have trouble digesting or do not like dairy products, try reduced-lactose milk products, or calcium-fortified orange juice, soy-based beverages, or tofu. You can also talk to your health care provider about taking a calcium and vitamin D supplement.

Keep nutrient-rich snacks like dried apricots, whole wheat crackers and peanut butter on hand. Limit snacks like cake, candy, chips, and soda.

Drink plenty of water.

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

WENDELL

continued from pg 1

more appropriate for Wendell. The finance committee predicted taxes would go up initially but then drop as other debts are retired; tax impact on an average household could be as low as \$100 a year, or as high as \$180, depending on how much supporting grant money the town is able to secure.

Sarah Schley said the cost would be less than a daily copy of the New York Times, and Anna Wetherby said it was less than an internet account. Margo Culley said that what is really pinching the town is not projects like this but the state's failure to make full Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT), as promised.

Jan Stiefel brought up the town of Hamden which did not fund a library project, and whose library lost its certification. Surrounding towns now require Hamden residents to pay for library use. Patty Scutari, owner of the Wendell Country Store, said she pays \$7,000 a year in taxes, but with the current library, she has to drive her children to Amherst to do research for their school projects. Myron Becker said a good library in town would increase property values and assessments, and decrease the tax rate. "I think it is good business."

A motion was made and seconded for a paper ballot, but that motion was defeated. Before the vote, moderator Kathy Becker reminded everyone the meeting should vote with the best interest of the town in mind, and she asked people to look down discretely during the vote. The article carried, 105 to 12, and people began to filter out of the town hall, as most of the remaining warrant articles were predicated on the first vote. The evening was hot, and windows without screens open, so mosquitoes harassed the hall.

The town now has no offices for the assessors, the town clerk, and many boards. There are often conflicting needs for the meeting room, which is also the senior center. The goal for the proposed new office building is a simple efficient structure that would include a clean burning wood fired furnace. Selectboard member Dan Keller said it would be sited so that solar panels could be retrofitted, if they cannot be part of the original construction. An award from Greener Watts is covering solar panels for the library. Doug Tanner was skeptical of the use

of so much of the stabilization fund, but finance committee member Lee Trousdale said such projects are the whole purpose of the fund, and that the town has been anticipating these expenses for years. Keller added there may be block grant funding available for the senior center part of the building, as well as USDA grants to cover other parts of the project. He said the back of the lot has good soil and would make a fine community garden.

Laura Doughty asked if it would be possible to do these projects in separate steps, but Keller said it is cheaper to do them all at once. Article 2 passed unanimously.

Article 3 called for appropriation, transfer, or borrowing \$235,000 to pay for final design of the library, and passed unanimously. Article 4 sought \$125,000 for final design of the town office building and passed unanimously. Article 5 called for \$1,485,466 for construction of the library, and passed unanimously. Article 6 raised \$1,375,000 for construction of the town office building and passed unanimously. Articles 7 and 8 appropriated \$10,000 each for the library and town office planning accounts. Article 9 amended a vote taken at the annual town meeting from \$16,000 to \$22,125, for debt service for the town office site, the actual amount required.

The finance committee recommended against Article 10, to authorize full funding from the annual town meeting for the Swift River School. Michael Idoine said the article "fails to deal with the chronic problem of our partner in the school not paying its fair share." The article passed by majority.

Phil Delorey of the school committee submitted Article 11 which would create a committee to meet with New Salem and deal with that town's repeated failure to fully fund the agreed upon proportion of Swift River School assessments. Tim Robinson said a representative from the Department of Revenue should be at meetings between the two towns, and that New Salem might be required to match Wendell's appropriation in proportion to the number of students they are sending to the school. That is the pattern at the Franklin County Technical School district. The article passed unanimously.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

What Bears Do

Wednesday 7-20

8:34 p.m. Report of a dog left in a car at the Bookmill. Dog found to be fine.

8:51 p.m. Report of an unwanted person at a Central Street address, [redacted] was arrested and charged with operating under the influence of liquor (2nd offence), failure to use care in starting, stopping, turning, or backing.

Thursday 7-21

6:46 a.m. Report of a breaking and entering at a Wrightson Ave address. Subject summonsed.

3:51 p.m. Report of a lost dog at a Kingsley Ave address. Referred to Animal Control Officer.

Friday 7-22

12:14 a.m. Report of underage drinking on Avenue A. 1 juvenile summonsed.

12:27 a.m. Report of a domestic disturbance at an Avenue A address. [redacted] was arrested and charged with domestic assault and battery and malicious destruction of property over \$250.

4:13 a.m. After a motor vehicle

stop at Millers Falls Road and Industrial Blvd, a female subject was summonsed to court.

Saturday 7-23

8:55 a.m. Report of a bear walking down Ripley Road. He went into the woods to do what bears do in the woods.

1:29 p.m. Report of a fight in front of the VFW on Avenue A. 13-year-old juvenile male was arrested and charged with domestic assault and battery.

7:48 p.m. Caller reporting odor of illegal substance in the area of an Avenue A apartment. Unfounded.

11:27 p.m. Report of a cow vs. motor vehicle collision on Sunderland Road. Car was towed. No information on cow's condition.

Sunday 7-24

10:06 p.m. Report of a domestic disturbance at Cumberland Farms on Montague City Road. Found to be verbal only.

Monday 7-25

1:07 a.m. Report of a broken window at the Turners Falls Pizza House. Juvenile male arrested for vandalism.

1:00 p.m. Report of illegal dumping at St Mary's Church on 7th Street. Trash improperly thrown in dumpster. Subject advised and asked to remove.

4:15 p.m. Report of a restraining order violation at a Massasoit Road, Lake Pleasant address. Male subject summonsed.

8:45 p.m. After a motor vehicle stop on Millers Falls Road at Chester Street, [redacted] was arrested

on a straight warrant and also charged with operating under the influence of liquor (3rd offence) operating an uninsured motor vehicle, unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, drinking alcohol from an open container in a motor vehicle, and a lights violation.

Tuesday 7-26

2:41 a.m. [redacted] was arrested on a straight warrant.

Wednesday 7-27

5:09 a.m. Report of shoplifting at Cumberland Farms on Montague City Road. Male subject summonsed to court.

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Emily

BY FRAN HEMOND
MONTAGUE CENTER

Twinkling water in the South Pond caught my attention as I drove over the causeway. Down near the far shore a party of ducklings was diving and popping up in random order.

with them in the North Pond and it was not like her to leave them by themselves. I spotted them in a compact group, six little ducks making one organism, sailing smoothly off to the camouflage of the shore; a person had approached. And then



Emily was back. She usually teaches diving in June. It was already July, and we had assumed she was raising her kids elsewhere.

Emily is a common brown mallard duck with a difference. She holds her head high and swims along very erect like her supposed ancestress Emily of long ago who once spent a winter alone here on the pond.

This is the fifth year our modern Emily has brought up five or six ducklings with purpose and enthusiasm. She herds her little ones. She swims behind them. She teaches them to dive and must be choosing the spots where they can find food near the surface. It's hard to tell how many ducklings she has with her because some one or two may be underwater and pop up just in time to assure their presence.

One day Emily was alone in the South Pond. She had been

she appeared from nowhere, flapping her wings with apparent approval of their sail to safety.

Three years ago, a group of old friends from the early years of candor, no longer living in good old New England, were on the front porch remembering its charms. "They're flying!" someone interrupted. There, in mid pond, was Emily with her five little ducklings lined up and taking off one at a time for a few feet of air travel. They practiced again. Perhaps there was a prize for the farthest flight. No one was diving this day. It was air time.

Emily watched and encouraged the littlest duck, whose hesitance was encouraging a betting session on the porch. And then, in her usual herding manner, she hustled them off to the safety of South Pond.

Farm Stand

by Bette Black

Across

- 2. Science, art and business of farming.
- 5. Beekeeper.
- 9. Condensed moisture converted to a solid by reduction in temperature.
- 14. To water artificially.
- 15. Improve and prepare soil for planting.
- 17. Products furnished by return for effort and investment.
- 18. Miniature unheated greenhouse, often topped with an old window sash.
- 20. Process of removing plants or buds to promote concentration of resources and increase space for growth.
- 22. Material used to cover soil between plants to discourage weeds, preserve moisture, and minimize rapid changes in soil temperature.
- 26. Green tractors sold by Sirum's Equipment in Millers Falls.

Falls.

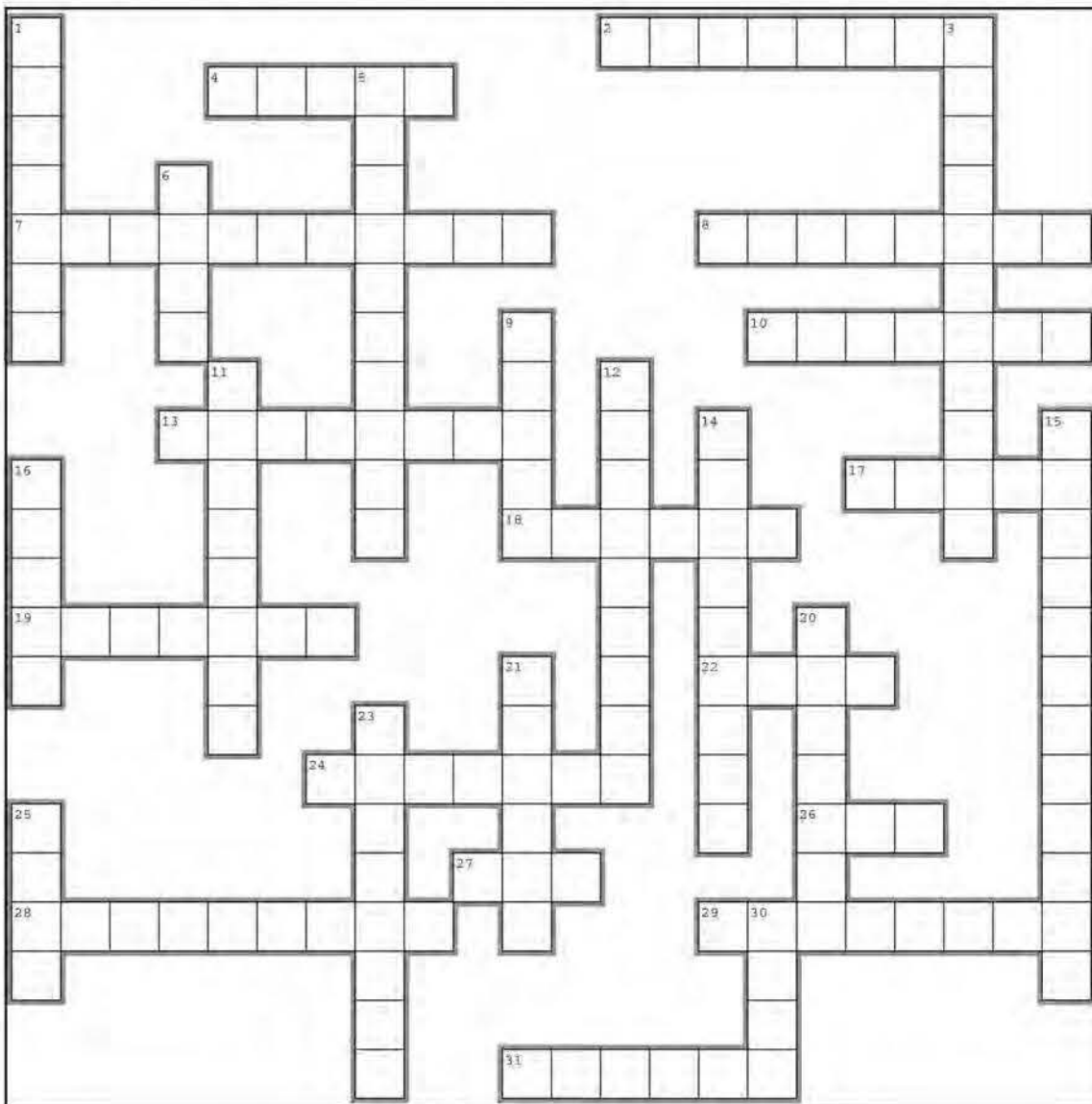
- 28. Frequent "pick-your-own" produce.
- 29. French chemist, Louis, who founded modern microbiology.
- 30. Preserving produce in a solution of brine and/or vinegar.

Down

- 1. Ducks, geese, chickens and turkeys.
- 3. The sprouting of seeds.
- 4. Delicious livestock raised and processed by Songline Farm in Gill.
- 6. Method of preserving produce using temperature to create airtight containment.
- 7. Pointed tool used to punch holes in soil for planting bulbs or seedlings.
- 8. Planned grouping of fruit-bearing trees.
- 10. Hillside garden plot.
- 11. Quality classification used by seedmen to rate their product.

Answers to last week's crossword, Page 15.

- 12. Non-motorized equipment for surface tillage of young row plantings.
- 13. Quantity of peppers picked by Peter.
- 16. Underground cold storage for potatoes.
- 19. Rye and vetch sown to be plowed under is called green _____.
- 21. Glass-covered frame of soil heated with fermenting manure or electricity to stimulate seed-sprout and protect tender plants.
- 23. Local Hero organization with brand new website at www.buy-localfood.com.
- 24. Cropping system of sequencing unrelated plantings over the years to preserve natural soil condition and fertility.
- 25. To cut for harvest.
- 26. Moisture that condenses on surfaces cooler than the air.
- 27. Matured to peak status.



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

FRIDAY, JULY 29TH

A Bouquet of Music Concert Series - Richard Mayer Quartet- jazz Concerts take place in Franklin Medical Center's main lobby or, weather-permitting, in the Ethel Lemay Healing Arts Garden. FMC is located at 164 High St., Greenfield. Noon to 1:00 p.m. (413) 773-2573.

TEXTURES, a presentation of paintings by Jerilyn Kolbin and photographs by Diana Roberts, on display at Gallery 267 at 267 Main St., Greenfield. Show runs Thursday, July 28th through August 20th, opening reception Friday, July 29th, 5 - 8 p.m. with piano soloist Jerry Traunig. In Gallery Two: Members salon show. Gallery hours: Thurs & Sat, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Fri, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. (413) 774-6323.

Fifth Friday Contra Dance at Guiding Star Grange Hall, 401 Chapman St., Greenfield. 8:00 p.m. - midnight. 413-367-9380.

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY JULY 29TH & 30TH

36th Season Mohawk Trail Concerts - *Steinhardt Family Fest* - Arnold Steinhardt, violin, Natasha Steinhardt, soprano, & Victor Steinhardt, piano/composer Federated Church, Route 2, Charlemont. Friday open rehearsal at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday concert at 8:00 p.m. (413) 625-9511 or (888) 682-6873.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 4TH

Thursday COOP Concerts featuring Ernie Haansche, Shay's Rebellion, Hydraulic Sandwich. Franklin County Musicians' Cooperative performs folk, alternative rock, classical, reggae, blues and more. Greenfield Energy Park, at the end of Miles Street, Greenfield. 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. 413-774-6051 x 14.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 5TH

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

Media Arts Cafe presents Friday Nights & The Red Sox vs. Minnesota at 7 p.m., View the games on an 11 foot screen!!! Comfortable couches and café table seating. High Definition Projector/Dolby 6.1 Surround Sound Audio. \$5.00 adults, \$2.50 students w/ID, kids 12 and under free. In the Green Trees Gallery, 105 Main St., Northfield. (413)-498-2100. www.mediaartscafe.com.

FRI, SAT AND SUN

ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE MANAGERIE

Across	20. MAGPIE	5. TWEETY
2. KANGAROO COURT	23. BOA	8. MONKEES
6. FOX	24. LAMBOFGOD	9. HOARSE
7. KINE	26. HARPY	13. WHITE ELEPHANT
10. OWL	27. BUTTERFLIES	14. BASILISK
11. DOVE		15. DRACONIAN
12. PINK PANTHER	Down	18. ANIMA
16. CATERPILLAR	1. RATON	21. GILLS
17. MANX	3. RAM	22. DOGEAR
19. WOLF	4. CHICKEN	25. SLUG

AUGUST 5TH, 6TH & 7TH

Ja'Duke Productions presents *Aida*. Performances at the Shea Theatre, 71 Avenue A, Turners Falls. Friday & Saturday at 8:00 p.m. & Sunday at 2:00 p.m. 413-863-2281.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 6TH

4th Annual Blueberry Jubilee at The Benson Place, Heath 2:00-8:00 p.m. Delicious desserts, inspiring music, panoramic views. Call ahead for PYO details. 413-337-5340. More info at www.gis.net/~benplace or benplace@gis.net.

Third Annual Basil Festival at Stockbridge Farm, South Deerfield. Take a tour through our extensive herb and lavender garden. Taste ten different kinds of basil and help us celebrate OREGANO, the 2005 Herb of the year. More info at www.stockbridgeherbs.com.

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

Media Arts Cafe's Saturday night film presentation is *Comet Collision*. NASA's brilliant but risky mission is designed to collide with a comet and in the process, reveal what lies in the heart of those blazing voyagers of our solar system. Features state-of-the-art spacecraft animation and stunning location photography, going behind the scenes to cover the entire journey, from initial design to the extraordinary challenges of building and launching. View films on an 11 foot screen!!! Comfortable couches and café table seating. High Definition Projector/Dolby 6.1 Surround Sound Audio. Film Tickets: \$8 - general admission/ \$6.50 Seniors - Students w/ ID, Reservations suggested for films but not necessary. In the Green Trees Gallery, 105 Main St., Northfield. (413)-498-2100. www.mediaartscafe.com.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 7TH

Blueberry Days of Summer at Kelso Homestead, Huntington 1-5:00 p.m. Everything blueberries, PYO, ice cream, pie, wine and much more! Live music, wagon rides, birds of prey educational activities. Visit www.blueberrywine.com for more information.

The French choir, Cantoria, hailing from the Loire Valley of France, will perform in Ashfield at the First Congregational Church at 3:00 p.m. Cantoria is a lively group of 25 singers led by the dynamic director, Philippe Secheppet. The group's repertoire is comprised of songs from all around the world - from sacred



Diana Roberts, photographs
Jerilyn Kolbin, paintings
Opening Reception Friday, July 29th



at Gallery 267, Greenfield through August 20th

and classical music to traditional folk and contemporary songs. For this tour they will focus on music of the French diaspora; songs of the French Middle Ages and Renaissance; traditional songs of various regions of France - Poitou, Brittany, Languedoc; as well as creole, cajun and French Canadian songs and even some Jacques Brel and Edith Piaf thrown in the mix. Following the performance, audience members are invited to a potluck supper at Ricki Carroll's home within walking distance of the Congregational Church. Those wishing to meet the Cantoria singers at the potluck are requested to bring a contribution of food or drink. Renaissance director, John Bos, has contacted a number of French-speaking groups and says that this concert and the potluck are perfect opportunities for aspiring French speakers to hear and speak with real French people. Tickets are \$9 in advance and \$10 at the door for adults and \$5 in advance and \$6.00 at the door for those 18 and under. Tickets may be reserved by calling Rural Renaissance at 625-2082 or by purchasing tickets at Boswell's Books in Shelburne Falls or Neighbors Convenience Store in Ashfield.

MONDAY, AUGUST 8TH

114th Season - Montague Community Band Concert performance at Peskeomskut Park off Avenue A in Turners Falls. Sponsored in part by the Town of Montague and grant from the Montague Cultural Council and the Massachusetts Cultural Council. 7:00 p.m.

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AUGUST 12TH & 13TH

Ja'Duke Productions presents *Cave of Fish*. Performances at the Shea Theater, 71 Avenue A, Turners Falls. Friday and Saturday at 8:00 p.m. & Sunday at 2:00 p.m. 413-863-2281. The *Cave of Fish* is an original musical written by Nick and John Waynelovich, a father and son creative team. It is a fictional piece loosely based on both mens lives which takes place behind the Strathmore Paper Mill on a warm

summer evening in July in the present time. The story and music represent an eclectic array of characters and music that push the story forward both dramatically and musically. Also playing August 19th, 20th and a matinee at 2 p.m. on the 21st.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 20TH Summer Arts Festival in Northfield

The Northfield Arts group is excited to be hosting an outdoor Summer Arts Fest with art for sale, live music, food, and fun from 10-4p.m., on the grounds of the Green Trees Gallery, at 105 Main Street. Artists participating will include local artists who, in the past, have participated in the annual Open Studio Weekends held in November. In addition, they have invited other artists and artisans to share this opportunity to present their work, meet the public, and revel in the day's festivities. Interactive art booths for kids, or kids at heart, will offer the opportunity for creative fun. To accompany the beautiful artwork, and for your listening pleasure, local musical talent will also be showcased. Food vendors, including, the Northfield Kiwanis Club will be offering luncheon fare, and one may top that off with a bit of ice cream! Mark your calendars, and save that day to celebrate all that Northfield and its local talent has to offer! More information can be found at their website www.northfieldarts.com. or at 413-498-2278 or 413-498-5054.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 28TH

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

ONGOING EVENTS

Now through October - Quinnetukut II River Tours One and 1/2 hour tours through the stunning French King Gorge on the Connecticut River. Charters also available. See the Barton Cove's eagle nest. Wednesday

to Sunday. 11:00 a.m., 1:15 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. Northfield Mountain Recreation Area in Northfield. 800-859-2960.

Hot Spot Teen Center

Mondays - Ongoing Digital Arts Project, 3 - 5
Tues & Weds - Ongoing Music Project, 3 - 5
Friday, July 29th - Open Mic, 6 - 9
Thursday, Aug 4th - Technology Drop-In, 4 - 6 ; Movie Night, 6 - 8
Friday, Aug 5th - Mini-Golf trip, 1 - 5
Monday thru Friday, Aug 8th - 12th - A.I.R. Program *Seeing Through An Artist's Eyes*, 9 - 12
Thursday, Aug 11th - Technology Drop-In, 4 - 6; Movie Night, 6 - 8
Friday, August 12th - Open Mic at bellybowl, 6 - 8:30
Thursday, August 18th - Technology Drop-In, 4 - 6, Movie Night, 6 - 8

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

Memorial Hall Theater POTHOLE PICTURES

August 5th & 6th
The Princess Bride
 Epic swashbuckling fairytale - A grandfather reads his grandson a bedtime story. It soon has you scaling the Cliffs of Insanity, battling Rodents of Unusual Size, and facing torture in the Pit of Despair - but then True Love is never easy. Star-studded cast packed with quirky and memorable characters. Directed by Rob Reiner. Music before the movies at 7. Friday -puppet show by *Drum Hollow Puppet Theater*; Saturday - live music by *Matthew Ruby-Shippe*.

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- MUST LOVE DOGS** PG13
DAILY 12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00
- SKY HIGH** PG in DTS sound
DAILY 12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00
- WEDDING CRASHERS** R
DAILY 12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00
- BAD NEWS BEARS** PG13
DAILY 12:15 3:15 6:15 9:15
- THE ISLAND** PG13
DAILY 12:15 3:15 6:15 9:15
- CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY** PG in DTS sound
DAILY 12:30 3:30 6:30 9:30
- STEALTH** PG13 in DTS sound
DAILY 12:30 3:30 6:30 9:30

Sundays - Bluegrass Blast

1 to 5 p.m. hosted by Steve Sanderson, Horseshoe lawn
 Karaoke T-N-T - 8 to Midnight

Wed - Open Mic at 8:30 p.m.
Thurs - Karaoke T-N-T
 Promo night, giveaways, 8 p.m.

Friday July 29th
Catamount
 classic rock, no cover ladies night

Saturday, July 30th
Strange Brew
 tasty mix of new and classic rock
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Learning to Fly Fish Part 13

Dog Days of Fly Fishing



BY ARIEL JONES

Beware the Fishing Thugs

The holiday week and the recent stocking of the Swift River brought out more than the usual number of fly fishers. We were hammering them, and word got out quickly. Between that and the real onslaught of summer, suddenly the parking areas were full all the time. Places I was accustomed to walk to in a leisurely fashion suddenly became points of uncertainty.

And I encountered my first fly fishing thugs.

Sullen Me-Me-Me Puppy

I encountered the first of these unpleasant creatures one afternoon while fishing a section of the Swift I had fished a lot last year but hadn't yet visited this summer. A very large hatch of sulphurs was over the river, a veritable blizzard of them. I had not yet seen such a big hatch emerge. The trout were rising; it was wonderful and exciting. An older man and two young adults, a man and a woman, approached the river. The older guy walked the bank past me and entered the water a decent distance upstream. The younger ones stayed a bit downstream fishing and poking around. After awhile, having no success, they decided to join the older man.

The young woman stood on a rock only a few yards away from me and began casting to

exactly the point where I was casting. This is a big no-no. I asked her if she would mind moving down a bit, as our lines might get tangled. She looked baffled, but did move

away a bit. After a short while her brother (as he seemed to be) stood up in the same spot and began to do the same thing, false casting about 14 times before actually making a cast onto the water. This was annoying enough, but he was also casting directly into the area I was working. I said this to him, inwardly struggling to not get too upset, and he answered, "Yep."

"Yep?!" He showed no signs of moving and I realized this wasn't a lack of awareness on his part. It was intentional. He had seen me catch a trout at this spot.

It was clear that this trout lout could care less and wasn't about to move on to his own spot. If I let him he would spoil both my good mood and my fishing. I reeled in my line and



PHOTO: ARIEL JONES

A great day at the Y Pool on the Swift River

left, to go seek another place.

Okay, so what was the big deal? I could have shrugged this off, but soon I found myself facing more aggressive encounters on the normally placid Swift.

Wanna-be Alpha Dog

The first was a guy who asked if there was room for him where I was (correct etiquette). As soon as he came splashing through the river I realized I should have said, "NO!" for he too began to cast right into the spot I was working. I asked would he mind moving downstream a few yards and he began yelling about how we all paid for our fishing licenses and he could fish where he damn well wanted to. I glanced at old John, a man I often meet fishing at the Y Pool, and he was shaking his head.

Sly Dog

The third encounter of the too close kind was with a tricky fishing thug. He had been fishing upstream from me at a respectable distance. Out of the corner of my eye, I noticed he kept watching me and was working

his way towards the overhanging brush where I stood casting. That's OK, except I was by now spooked by the two dolts I had already encountered that weekend.

First, he hailed out a mild hi and a nod. Whew, this guy wouldn't be a problem child. When he was very close he asked if he could go around me.

"Sure," I said, smiling and glad I was with someone who was so respectful of river space. He passed a short ways behind me, stopped a bit to my left, and proceeded to cast to where I was fishing! I glanced at him a couple of times to send the "Please back off" signal and he ignored it.

Finally I just asked him outright to please stop casting to the water I was fishing. Without a word, he turned, moved a few

feet down, and changed his direction. Two more times he repeated the first performance, and each time I had to say something, and he silently turned away. When I finally caught my biggest rainbow to date (17 inches) I thought, "Enough. You had a good day of fishing, landed a real beauty, go home."

So what is this all about?

Part of the beauty of fly fishing lies in your experience of the other fishers. There is such a thing as fishing etiquette, which makes your precious time on a river pleasant. Your main conflicts have to do with what fly, what presentation, what are the trout eating today?

You do not splash when you can avoid it by simply slowing down and taking smaller steps. You do not bring a cell phone (turned on) or a boom box to the river. Unnecessary shouting, attempting to bully others from spots they arrived at before you did, in short, being a jerk, goes against the entire feel of the sport.

So much of the art of fly fishing has to do with respect: respect for the river environment, for the clever fish you are trying to catch, and for each other.

Sadly, there are fly fishers out there who seem to be oblivious to the most basic of these simple courtesies. Happily, they are in a small minority.

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