



**BOB MAHLER**  
Moving On  
see page 7



**GLAMOROUS MUNCHKINS**  
At Sheffield's Wizard of Oz  
see page 16

LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 4 - NO. 34

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

June 1, 2006

## Five Make the Final Cut



### Valley Idol at the Shea

ALANA MARTINEAU belted out "You're No Good" to earn a spot in the finals

DAVOL PHOTO

BY DAVID DETMOLD TURNERS FALLS - The judges had a tough job Saturday night, as the countdown to the grand finale of *Valley Idol* continued, and ten contestants were reduced to five. see IDOL pg 11

## Memorial Parade Returns to Montague

BY DAVID DETMOLD TURNERS FALLS - In the morning, rain threatened. By 10:30, when the first Montague Memorial Day parade in more than a quarter century stepped off from the parking lot of the Discovery Center, the sun broke through for a minute or two. But the weather remained poised between humidity and clouds, as if a thunderstorm were brewing somewhere down the valley.

A few families were seated on the Avenue in lawn chairs, in front of Power Town Apartments. Children were dancing in the street by Spinner Park. As the tattoo of the drummers from the Turners Falls High School marching band rounded the corner of 2nd Street, more children came flocking from the alleyways to watch the parade go by.

Officer John Dempsey led the procession, the lights on his cruiser flashing. Michael Dale fol-

lowed, carrying the banner of the VFW Post 923, Turners Falls, followed by a color guard of fellow VFW members, including commander John Murphy.

A black and white kitty cat scampered across the street, and darted between two buildings near the corner of 5th. A young man on a bicycle tore down the Avenue in front of the parade. One woman sat by herself near the new Italian restaurant, the only spectator on that side of the block. Diagonally across from where she sat, a tag sale in front of the old Turners Falls Inn waited for customers.

Two members of the Montague selectboard marched in the parade, Patricia Pruitt and Pat Allen. A contingent of Korean War veterans marched, along with the Montague Elks, in full regalia. The Turners Falls fire department sent a fire truck. Don Girard drove Chris Boutwell in a golf

cart. Mr. C. led the marching band one last time

As the parade passed St. Kazimierz Hall, the



Dave Thurber and Richard Reil stand at attention during Monday's Memorial Day Ceremony

down the Avenue, as he has led them in parades and concerts for 33 years. A troop of boy scouts and girl scouts followed.

crowd lining the Avenue suddenly swelled in numbers. Across from the stone markers listing

see HOLIDAY pg 8

## HELPING IMMIGRANTS IN FRANKLIN COUNTY

BY RUTH WITTY

GREENFIELD - Imagine you had to move to a new country where you did not speak the language. Your cousin invited you to the small town where he lived, but he could not help you much to get settled as he worked full time and had children. It was very cramped in his apartment but you had no idea how to go about finding your own place or the money to pay for it. Just going to the supermarket was a struggle. You could tell what the can of green beans contained from the picture but a medical condition meant you should eat low salt, and you didn't know the words for low salt in the new language. How to learn the language, find a job, make friends, and become a part of the com-

munity?

The above scenario, with minor differences, is real to many people who move to Montague and Franklin County as legal immigrants. The Center for New Americans on Sanderson Street in Greenfield steps in and helps them to learn English, and offers computer workshops, job placement and the help and friendship of dedicated community volunteers.

Jim Ayres is the executive director of the Center for New Americans. He said the volunteers either help in the classrooms or work one on one with students who request mentoring. With mentors, students can learn in a more informal setting. Ayres

see CENTER pg 12

## Railroad Salvage Collapse

BY DAVID DETMOLD TURNERS FALLS - On Saturday afternoon, May 27th, at 6:21 p.m. a walk-in to the Turners Falls police station reported part of the Railroad Salvage building had just collapsed into Power Street. By the time selectboard member Pat Allen pulled up to view the damage, at about 7:30 p.m., a second section of the wall had fallen, and a cloud of dust was still settling. The Montague police responded, and called in a crew from the Montague DPW to install more barricades.

At both ends of Power Street, by the Bailey bridge crossing the canal, and at the south of the building temporary barriers has been set up in February, when officials feared the imminent col-



Part of the northwest wall of the Railroad Salvage building collapsed into Power Street on Saturday

lapse of the building's outer wall. The temporary wooden barriers in the middle of the road were meant to permit fire trucks quick access to that end of the Patch, but Captain Jim Bartus of the Turners Falls fire department said they had been replaced with Jersey barriers. "It's a barricade for us to get to that side of the Patch, as it is. If there was a problem with the 11th Street bridge, we'd remove them, but it would be time consuming. We're definitely looking for a better solution."

DPW chief Tom Bergeron said some people had been moving the wooden barriers and slipping through, and the remaining wall

see SALVAGE pg 11



**PET OF THE WEEK**

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**CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS**

**New DVDs at Montague Public Libraries**

BY LINDA HICKMAN  
**MONTAGUE-** A wide variety of new release DVDs were recently acquired for the Montague Public Libraries. New titles include Bambi 2, Brokeback Mountain, Capote, Cheaper by the Dozen 2, Chicken Little, The Chronicles of Narnia, The Dreamer, Greatest Game Ever Played, Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire, Jarhead, Just Like Heaven, Kids in America, King Kong, Lady and the Tramp, Last Holiday, Match Point, Memoirs of a Geisha, Munich, Nanny McPhee, Nausicaa, New World, Producers, Pride

and Prejudice, Rent, Stay, Tristan and Isolde, An Unfinished Life, Walk the Line and We are the Laurie Berkner Band. The Carnegie Library in Turners Falls is open Monday - Wednesday, 1 - 8 p.m., Thursday 1 - 5 p.m. and Friday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. The Carnegie Library is closed on Saturdays for the summer. The Montague Center Library is open Monday and Wednesday, 2 - 5 and 6 - 8 p.m. The Millers Falls Library is open on Tuesday and Thursday 2 - 5 and 6 - 8 p.m. For more information, call the Carnegie Library, 863-3214.

**SLATE LIBRARY NEWS**

**Poetry Reading June 7th**

**GILL** - Slate Roof Poets Susan Middleton and Art Stein, will be reading their poems at 7:00 p.m., on Wednesday, June 7th in the Slate Memorial Library, Main Road, Gill. Some aspects of

chapbook design, publishing and promotion will also be discussed. The reading is free and open to the public. The building is wheelchair accessible. For more information call: 413-498-4451.

**Log Drive of One**



DETMOLD PHOTO

Tim Wirt of Canada Hill in Greenfield followed the tradition of log drives of yore on Barton Cove Wednesday afternoon.

**Congratulations, Ryan Wilder!**

Ryan Wilder of Turners Falls scored a 915 in the Pepsi Major League Baseball Pitch, Hit & Run competition hosted by the Montague Parks & Recreation Department on May 20th. Along with Nathan Crocker of Bernardston, Ryan Mooney of Charlemont and Jesse Breiwick of Greenfield, Wilder is eligible to advance to the Boston Red Sox team championship.

**SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES June 5th - 9th**

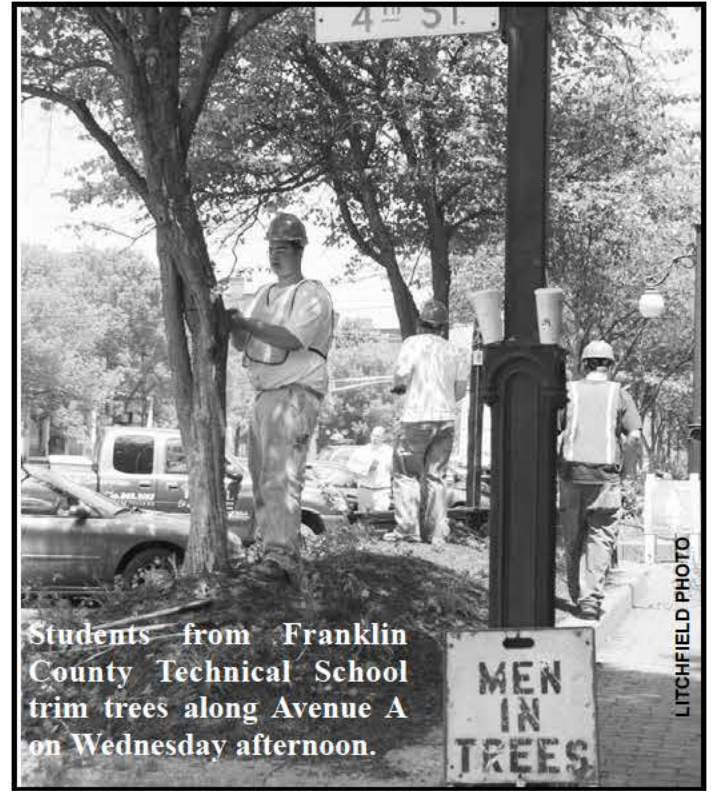
**MONTAGUE Senior Center**, 62 Fifth St., Turners Falls, is open Mon. - Fri. from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. Make meal reservations a day in advance by 11 a.m. Messages can be left on the machine when the center is closed (863-9357). Mealsite manager is Chris Richer. The center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

**Monday, 5th**  
10:15 a.m. Aerobics  
11:30 a.m. PACE Aerobics  
**Tuesday, 6th**

9:30 a.m. Aerobics  
**Wednesday, 7th**  
10:15 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
12:45 p.m. Bingo  
**Thursday, 8th**  
1 p.m. Pitch  
**Friday, 9th**  
10:15 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
11 a.m. PACE Aerobics

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

**FACES & PLACES**



Students from Franklin County Technical School trim trees along Avenue A on Wednesday afternoon.

LITCHFIELD PHOTO

**Great Falls Farmers Market**

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# Seven More Arrests at Vermont Yankee

BRATTLEBORO, VT - After painting warnings on the street and posting warnings at the Vermont Yankee nuclear reactor driveway in Vernon, six women and the videographer-accompanying them were arrested Tuesday morning, May 29th, at Entergy headquarters

its output, asking for a 20-year license extension and storing nuclear wastes on site in a non-secure fashion.

Comerford used the head-quarter's lobby telephone to contact Entergy Vermont president Ted Sullivan, who answered his own phone.



PHOTO BY DEB KATZ

Photo of the seven arrested, including Harvey Schaktman of Shelburne Falls, who was videoing the action and had not anticipated risking arrest; Dorthie of Wendell, Frances Crowe and Jo Comerford of Northampton; Claire Chang of Gill; Marcia Gagliardi and Harriet Nestel of Athol.

on Old Ferry Road.

Dorthie (her full name) of Wendell, Frances Crowe of Northampton, and Hattie Nestel of Athol, painted the words Danger Zone, Do Not Enter, and the universal symbol of nuclear danger in the driveway of the Vernon reactor while Jo Comerford of Northampton and Marcia Gagliardi of Athol draped a banner reading Vermont Yankee, Weapon of Mass Destruction, over the granite Entergy reactor sign.

An armed security officer told the women to leave. They went with Claire Chang of Gill, to Entergy's Brattleboro headquarters to deliver a People's Indictment charging Entergy Corporation with putting "greed and lust for profit above the common good" by purchasing an aging reactor, increasing

Comerford told him the women wanted to deliver an indictment to him. He said he would send someone down for them. They waited fifteen minutes and Comerford telephoned again but was redirected to voice mail. Soon, Brattleboro police officers arrived.

Told they would be arrested if they did not leave, the women began to read the indictment aloud to security personnel but were interrupted by Brattleboro police who began handcuffing them.

The seven were ordered to appear in court July 11th, 2006, to answer charges of unlawful trespass. Monthly civil disobedience demonstrations have been undertaken at Vermont Yankee since November of 2005.

## Montague Elks #2521 Flag Day Ceremony

Wed. June 14, 6:30pm

1 Elks Avenue TF

Traditional ceremony to include the retirement of flags. The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks designated June 14th as Flag Day in 1907.

If you have any flags in need of retirement, please bring them, folded appropriately, to the lodge to be included in this event. If you need help folding your flag, we will gladly assist you. A complimentary cook-out with hamburgers, hot dogs, potato chips and soft drink refreshments will be served following the ceremony.

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# The Montague Reporter

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## Invest in Our Children

BY HYRUM HUSKEY JR.

**THE PATCH** - I support the override for school funds, to be voted on June 6th in Montague. The issue, for me, is that our community's children deserve a full range of subject matter and quality learning experiences, even if our own children are no longer in school. Looking back at one's own school days is no way to compare educational systems now. Today's school-age children do not compete with other children attending one-room schools, and our school administrators and teachers can no longer make do on a similar level of expenditures. Six decades have passed since those days.

Do I like my own personal property taxes to rise? Of course I don't. Still, money doesn't fall from the sky. Citizens provide it. So, if we go bleatingly along after federal and state politicians who promise us tax cuts, why would we be surprised if federal and state support for schools and towns fail to keep pace with inflation and growth? Fixed costs and unfunded mandates continue while the school budget is expected to remain level. We all know what happens when prices continue to rise and we don't get any raises at work.

For three years in a row, the school district has tried to bounce back from the devastat-

ing cuts of 2003, when we were forced to lay off 24 teachers. The continuing school budget struggle is not the fault of our school personnel or teachers, or the fault of the children in their classes.

Funding the requested 600,000 additional dollars needed by our school district this year works out to an annual increase of around \$158 from a homeowner of a \$175,000 property. Extra funds in the school debt reserve account for the high school renovation will allow a \$63 savings this year and next on that average tax bill. Meanwhile, most homeowners have seen their property nearly double in value over the past decade. So why wouldn't property taxes rise? Senior citizens on a fixed income can apply for a circuit breaker refund if needed. For the rest of us, consider it a simple reinvestment of that \$300 tax refund check most of us received a year or so ago. Or, a reinvestment of the reduced federal and state income tax breaks we accepted so willingly. Or, a payback for the increased value when we eventually sell our home.

Vote Yes on the override. Then, in November, vote for responsible federal and state legislators who will support quality education and infrastructure improvements on a long term basis - not just *baa baa* along after anyone who promises to cut our taxes to get elected!

In the end, we are the ones who provide the money, one way or the other. If we don't, we abrogate the heritage we owe local children.

### American Dead in Iraq as of 6/1/06



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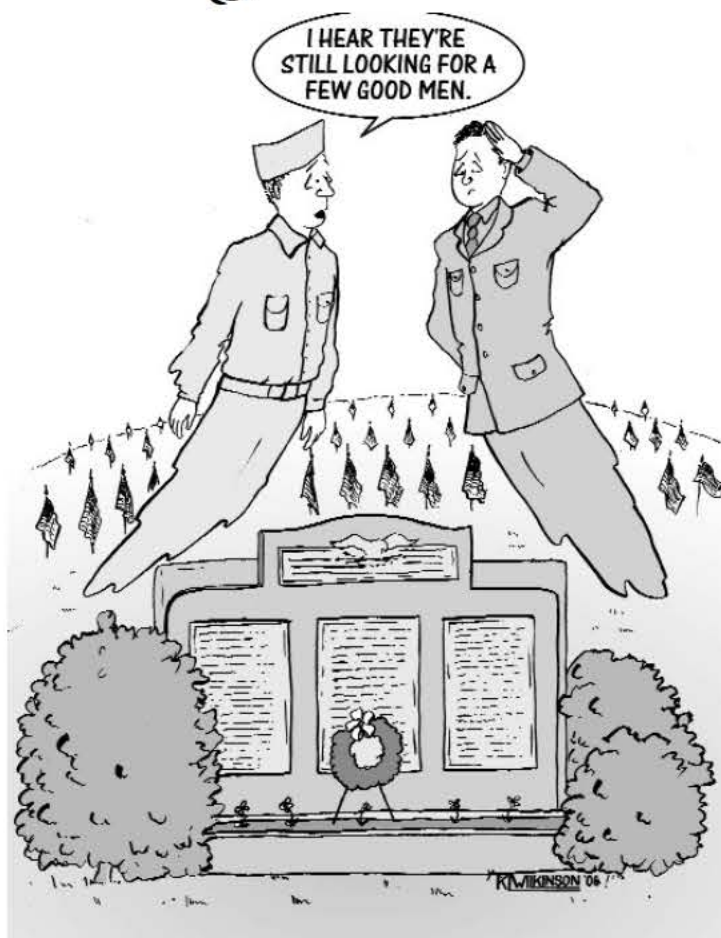
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## Montague Memorial



KAREN WILKINSON GRAPHIC

## School Override and Beyond

BY PAT ALLEN

**MONTAGUE CITY** - As you may know, I had a difficult time at our recent finance meeting reaching a decision on my vote concerning support for the school override question. Here are my thoughts.

First to address the emotional rhetoric with a bit of my own:

I am offended when people state that not voting for the override means you don't care about the schools. That is not true - there are too many personal and fiscal factors at work here to make that cavalier statement. Our voters are thoughtful, concerned people who will take into account not only their own personal financial situation but also that of the town in general. Town meeting has always been supportive and worked for the greater good.

I am disgusted with our federal government's lack of support for its own public education system (among other areas of neglect) to the point where it seems we should apply to Iraq for grants from our own govern-

ment. I don't think our state has done much better, either.

Someone in state government needs to have the courage to recognize the need for a systematic look at public education in Massachusetts, to think outside the box, and to come up with significant changes to the entire system - tinkering with formulas isn't going to change the structural gap that has existed and is growing each year.

Two years ago several towns met with their school committee members, finance boards and selectboards - it seemed to be the start of a unified collaboration - a recognition that this is too large a burden to be handled by any one individual school district. No Child Left Behind, school choice, charter school reimbursements - these programs are not working as they were envisioned (I'm assuming there was a vision to begin with). They are killing our public schools rapidly - that death spiral reference isn't just rhetoric. But where has that energy and time gone?

We need leaders within the school community who know the players - finance and selectboards have talked about structural gaps for four or five years, have urged these folks to unite and work for a common good, and are ready to put their weight and support behind significant changes. We need the educational community to coordinate and lead the initiative.

At our finance meeting the other night, it was emphatically stated by some that there can be no override next year - the schools cannot add \$600,000 or so to the base this year and expect the town to be able to absorb another increase of that scale in the future. We have town capital projects that must move forward - the police station must be built in the next couple of years. In addition the town cannot make \$600,000 in cuts this year without dismantling major programs or hamstringing our police and highway departments. This is unac-

see ALLEN pg 5



DAVOL PHOTO

Steve Ciecibomski (left) leads the Turners Falls High School Band at the Montague Memorial Day Parade. "Mr. C", the TFHS/GFMS Band and Chorus Director for 33 years, is retiring in June. All those who would like to send him off in fine fashion are invited to a retirement party on June 22nd, at the Schuetzen Verein in Gill. For information as to time, etc. please call Steve Prokovich at 863-8794. Spread the word around!  
Mr. C has done a lot for the school community and it is time to say "Thanks and good luck!"



GUEST EDITORIALS

# Override Delays Hard Work of Balancing the Budget

BY MIKE NAUGHTON

**MILLERS FALLS** - After watching last week's joint Montague finance committee - selectboard meeting, which focused on the June 6th override vote, I had a number of very different reactions.

On one hand, I agree with Doug Dziadzio's comment that the very fact the two boards held that meeting and invited the school committee shows they are trying to be leaders in the community. I thought some of the speakers made very good points, and I think important issues were brought out. I also applaud the committees' combined resolve to work very hard during the next budget season to make sure no further overrides are necessary.

On the other hand, I can't help wondering why it took so long to get to that point. It has been clear for several years that the GMRSD assessment has been rising faster than the towns' abilities to pay, and it was only a matter of time before that led to a crisis. When the district presented a draft budget in February that was more than \$1 million higher than last year's, I think a lot of people should have realized this could be the year.

Instead, it appears the committees waited until the last

minute (possibly hoping for some windfall from the state) to decide that Montague couldn't possibly afford the requested assessment, and they offered the override as a possible way of funding it. In doing so, they sent the message they didn't think a tax increase was a particularly good idea, while at the same time offering no other ideas about how to solve the problem. I get the impression that it was the perceived inadequacy of this endorsement that sparked last week's meeting. Dziadzio's praise for the committees' leadership at the end of the meeting came after some pointedly different comments earlier on, by Dziadzio and others.

As it was, the unanimous votes to support the override seemed largely based on the original premise: a tax increase is necessary because nobody has any better ideas and time has run out for coming up with any. The optimist in me was heartened by the general recognition that even if it passes, this



The Montague finance committee and the Montague selectboard voted unanimously to back the school override on Wednesday May 24th.

override won't solve the basic problem. I was also heartened by the solemn pledges to sit down "the day after the vote" and begin working to find a better solution. It's been a long time coming, but better late than never.

The pessimist in me, however, can't shake the thought that it is always easier to promise to solve a problem tomorrow than it is to actually solve it today. As Pat Allen observed, that promise has been made before, and it wasn't kept; is there any compelling reason to believe this time will be different? The reason the budget problem hasn't been solved isn't too hard to figure out - there are no easy answers, and the only options entail tough decisions that nobody yet has been willing to

make.

According to the figures I've seen, from FY 2004 (the year of the failed override, when the school budget actually went down) to FY 2006, the Gill-Montague school budget (not including debt) has risen by an average of about 9.5% per year (\$11,897,082 to \$14,262,104). Their current request for FY 2007 of \$15,351,505 would be a 7.6% increase, for a four-year average of about 8.9% per year. If the override were to fail and the district were to accept a reduced budget, it would still represent a 2.6% increase and a four-year average of about 7.1%. During the same period, Montague's operating budget has increased on average by about 5% per year.

As I remember, Montague's revenues tend to increase by about 5% per year, so simple arithmetic tells us the only way the district can sustain that rate of growth is by finding other funding sources or by getting state and federal aid increases

that average about 10% per year. I don't think there are a lot of other sources, and while I'm all for pushing for more state and federal money, I'm not sure it's realistic to count on double-digit increases every year.

The remaining alternatives are to continue to shift more money from the town's operating budget to the district, with the likelihood of more override requests along the way, or to cut expenses. When people talk about working to prevent future override requests, I think that is what they mean, and I don't blame them for being reluctant to begin. (That, of course, is what has brought us to the current situation.) The difficulty is that the problem isn't going to go away unless something is done, and in my opinion the sooner something is done the better. I think we should all join in urging the finance committee, the selectboard, and the school district to keep their promises to find a solution, and we should wish them luck.

*Mike Naughton has been a Montague resident since 1974, a Capital Improvements Committee member since fiscal 2002, and a Precinct 2 Town Meeting member before that. He also served on the finance committee for several years.*

**ALLEN**  
from pg 5

ceptable.

There must be a decision made on elementary school configuration - the reluctance over the last several years to reach any decision has only fueled frustration and lack of confidence in the administration and school committee's ability to make decisions of significant magnitude. There must be concerted effort to work towards major changes in the state public education system. There should have been a working committee months ago to deal with a potential override - it certainly wasn't a secret we had a huge gap. And the statewide system is a much larger problem that will require even more focus and energy. Time is critical. I would suggest that whatever happens with the vote on June 6th, the school community must address these concerns immediately (by that I mean within

two or three weeks, not six months or longer).

Consider moving the sixth grade to the middle school complex, which will reduce the size of the remaining elementary population, will allow access to more advanced programs, and yet will still protect them from the high school.

Consider consolidating the elementary schools in Montague and reallocating any monies realized by the consolidation to the middle/ high school programs to retain students and to the elementary school to build up math, art, music and gym.

Consider consolidating with other county school systems health and welfare services and perhaps create a countywide special education facility for those students our schools are trying to bring back within the system.

Consider consolidating with other county school systems other services as well: art, music, etc.

Work with other county school systems to present options to the state that will force major structural changes in the state public school system, allowing it once again to become a viable and enviable system.

To the school committee and administration: You have worked hard and diligently trying to overcome what the federal and state governments have thrown your way. I know it's been extremely painful, there's never enough time and it appears as though there is no bottom to the abyss. If you can make these commitments, we can vote with you.

To the voters: I applaud each of you who takes the time to vote, knowing this has not been an easy decision for you, and I respect whatever your decision may be.

*Pat Allen is a member of the Montague Selectboard and a town meeting member from Precinct 6.*

## I Support the Override

BY JOHN HANOLD

**TURNERS FALLS** - Montague voters go to the polls Monday afternoon June 6th to decide if they will approve a Proposition 2½ override. The theme is "support of education," but this affects far more than school support. Here is how I decided to vote Yes.

1. State and federal mandates, funded below promised levels, have caused local funding requests for schools to rise faster than for other services. We need to correct this dilemma, though that is not within our control by the time budgets must be finalized. But we can address the symptoms of the dilemma by voting for the override.
2. A Yes vote simply funds town departments at the still austere level approved at the annual town meeting in May, and the Gill-Montague district up to their estimated assessment. The town

is not adding staff or programs, and the district will preserve last year's level of service plus restoring a small part of a significant prior year cut. The majority of the shortfall reflects utility, insurance and special education cost increases. I listened, as a member of the town finance committee, to presentations by town and school departments, and am satisfied their requests are prudent. A Yes vote maintains current services, and little more.

3. There is no way to duck the effect of an override on property taxes, which all of us would feel, directly or through our rent. But all of us benefit, from both the range of town services and education's value to ourselves and our families, past, present and future. Circuit-breaker relief exists for eligible owners just as it has in the past.
4. It is uncertain, even at this late date,

whether the amount on the ballot is too big, too small, or just right. The school has committed to spend no more than the requested budget, and to assess less if state aid exceeds their estimate. I believe them, and I expect to be here next year to see how they meet that commitment.

I ask Montague voters to do three things:

1. Vote Yes with me June 6th to support town and school services.
2. Urge your state legislators to fully fund state mandates, and to ensure the funding is available by whatever means are necessary. Transferring state-imposed costs from income taxes to property taxes is regressive and bad public policy.
3. Volunteer through your local Parent Teacher Organization or school administration to provide what state funding does not yet support.





## GUEST EDITORIAL

# Build a Solid Foundation

BY JAN ATAMIAN  
LAKE PLEASANT

I would like to thank Patricia Pruitt for her insightful editorial and honest appeal to Montague voters in last week's *Montague Reporter* to come out and support the Proposition 2½ override on Tuesday, June 6th.

As I turn on the television to

see a fence being constructed around our country's borders, I can only feel anxious, restricted, and less safe. What does make me feel at ease, though, is the idea my daughter's school is a safe haven for learning, growing and thinking critically. It is truly sad that my tax dollars are contributing to putting up superficial barriers while my daughter's school system continues to

operate on a "level services" budget. As a parent from the baby boomer generation, attending a fully funded school system with advanced placement, many sports, art and music, I find myself always voting in favor of public education. And I recall my parents who learned to speak English in public school at age five, going on to become successful contribut-

ing citizens.

My daughter attended the Montague Center School before the devastating cuts demolished a school with a wonderful curriculum that integrated art and music while addressing state standards and the MCAS.

During this time, I felt truly fortunate she was able to have such an inspiring educational experience, which has con-

tributed to her development as a writer, poet and musician. This love of learning combined with caring teachers gave her the strong foundation she needed. When the budget was slashed over three years ago, I felt a loss for what I knew had shaped a young mind.

Please come out and vote on June 6th for the override in Montague.

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

## Naked Man Missing on Arrival

#### Wednesday 5-24

10:10 a.m. Fawn recovered and rescued in Main Road area.

12:02 p.m. Report of a naked man in the Barton Cove area. Officer sent and same was gone on arrival.

5:02 p.m. Mutual aid for Erving Police - 22 Pratt Street - for a verbal dispute.

#### Thursday 5-25

12:15 p.m. General burglar alarm at a South Cross Road residence. All was found to be secure.

#### Friday 5-26

9:20 a.m. Unknown disturbance at a Lyons Road residence. Officer was sent, no issues were found on arrival.

1:15 p.m. Report of a restraining order violation on the Mount Hermon Campus. Officer investigating will be seeking charges in court.

7:00 p.m. Be on the look out call from Montague police. Male subject stated he wanted to jump off of the French King Bridge. Officers searched the area for the individual, located later in a different location.

8:10 p.m. Summoned for criminal motor vehicle violation. Terrence Scantlebury, 57, of Pleasant Street, Orange, charged with operating after suspension.

#### Saturday 5-27

8:40 p.m. Suspicious person on the French King Bridge. Moved along.

9:45 p.m. Report of a loud party at a Franklin Road residence. Noise quieted.

12:50 a.m. Mutual aid to Bernardston for an assault at the Sunoco gas station.

#### Sunday 5-28

6:10 p.m. Mutual aid to Montague. Arrest made, [redacted] for trespassing and disorderly conduct.

7:25 p.m. Responded to a West Gill road residence. Domestic dispute. [redacted], charged with threatening to commit a crime and vandalism.

#### Monday 5-29

1:15 p.m. Report of a restraining order violation on the Mount Hermon Campus. Incident under investigation.

#### Tuesday 5-30

2:52 p.m. Report of a three-car accident involving a school bus on the Gill-Montague Bridge. Responded, unable to locate.

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WENDELL POLICE LOG

## Two Lake Grove AWOLs in May

#### Saturday 4-15

Lockes Village Road resident reported receiving over 20 unwanted collect calls from Worcester County Jail.

#### Friday 4-21

Complaint of four-wheelers driving on Mountain Laurel Drive.

#### Wednesday 4-26

Boxes of roofing debris reported beside road at Farley Road Bridge.

#### Friday 4-28

Full gas cans and logging chains stolen from logging site on Bear Mountain Road.

#### Sunday 5-7

Domestic situation on Farley Road, involving a juvenile.

#### Thursday 5-18

Wendell Depot Road resident reported four-wheeler speeding down road and into her driveway.

#### Friday 5-19

Lake Grove Maple Valley reported runaway student. Later picked up on Route 2.

#### Sunday 5-21

Break reported at camp on Kentfield Road.

#### Saturday 5-27

Lake Grove Maple Valley reported runaway student.

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John C. Davis  
Director



# Mahler Heads to Shutesbury Elementary

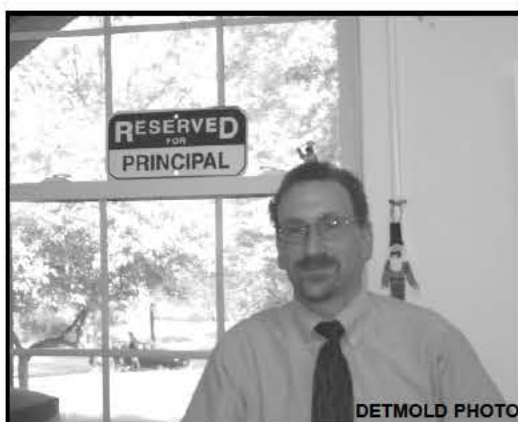
BY DAVID DETMOLD

**MONTAGUE CENTER** - After 13 years as principal of the Gill Elementary School, the last three years sharing the position half and half as principal of the Montague Center School, Bob Mahler is leaving the Gill-Montague Regional School District to take a job as principal of the 150-student Shutesbury Elementary. While some might say he is getting out while the getting is good, with both Gill and Montague Center mentioned as possible candidates for school closing if the Montague override fails on June 6th, Mahler said leaving the district where he has made his career is "bittersweet."

"There was a solid foundation of student-centered education when I came to Gill," after a half year teaching at Sheffield elementary, Mahler said. "Gill fostered an educational climate based on student intellect and growth. That's a philosophy I've always embraced and believed in. In the face of demands from the state and the federal govern-

ment, education still needs to be about the kids... School should be a place kids love to be."

This Wednesday at Montague Center found Mahler demonstrating his child-centered pedagogy in the middle of a circle of nearly 100 students, who sat cross-legged on the floor of the auditorium for a solid hour, listening to students from each grade level explain what they had learned this year in the Sawmill River Project. This program, which has run for three years at Montague Center in collaboration with educators from the Hitchcock Center for the Environment in Amherst, allows teachers to work with their students in the classroom and the field to study all aspects of the Sawmill River watershed, using a combined math, science, art



Bob Mahler at his usual spot in Montague Center

and ecology curriculum (see next week's issue for a report on the results of their study). Mahler stood in the middle of the large circle and grilled the 3rd graders on what they had learned about water temperature, pH, oxygen content and the health of the ecosystem, while the younger students listened, waiting their turn to make presentations.

"The pressure is on budgetarily. Nationwide we are seeing a narrowing of curriculum. But what we're seeing here is a broadening of curriculum. It's 25 steps to the pond, 50 steps to the river... We're using the watershed as a classroom and the village as an extension of the school."

In Gill, students have been working all year on a similar environmental project with Antioch grad students. They are in the process of registering a nearby vernal pool with the local conservation commission.

"How is this going to help

with their MCAS tests?" asks Mahler rhetorically. "It gives them a base of knowledge that will pay dividends in the future. Can they work with other people? Can they communicate and get their point across? Can they do something that will be good for the community?"

Last year, Montague Center students were instrumental in getting the town to put a sign up marking the Sawmill River. This year, they have produced a comprehensive field guide to the river, along with a Mystery Quest, with clues leading on a merry chase through the conservation area.

Mahler said teachers are now spending 15% of classroom time on MCAS testing. "It's hard to find the benefits of that much testing. It gives the teaching community a snapshot of where the kids are at," he said. "Unfortunately, it's becoming the only snapshot."

He called the Sawmill River presentation an example of authentic assessment, "delving into what kids know."

He spoke highly of the artists in residence program he has fostered at the elementary schools, which have brought storytellers like Eshu Bumpus and theater workers like Court Dorsey in to work with the students each year. "It may be a sacrifice of classroom time. But it gives every student a chance to excel. Not every child is going to be a great scientist or a great mathematician. But

how can you tell me this kid is not going to grow up to be a great artist, or a great graphic designer, or a great actor?"

Superintendent Sue Gee said Mahler's departure gives the school committee a chance "to look at what we need and propose two or three different scenarios that could serve the needs of our schools - and our students - as well as or better than they were served before. I am looking at different ways of providing administrative support for the two schools."

She said she would work with the parent-teacher organizations at Gill and Montague before making a decision on hiring a replacement for Mahler. Montague votes on a \$600,000 school override June 6th.

## Congratulations, Dominic Viadero!



Dominic Viadero of Montague, a pitcher for Deerfield Academy Varsity Baseball, was awarded the

Williams Cup, given to a varsity player who the coaches believe displayed "competitive spirit and devotion to the game and who made unselfish efforts on behalf of the team." Viadero was also elected to captain the varsity baseball team for the 2006-2007 season.

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### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

## Safety Hazard on Power Street

**Friday 5-26**  
 10:04 p.m. Report of a possible fight at an East Main Street address. One subject was injured trying to get away from the other. Removed to hospital.  
 11:56 p.m. Report of a loud noise disturbance on Dell Street. A car alarm was sounding. Owner located.

**Saturday 5-27**  
 2:07 a.m. Report of a disturbance on Montague City Road. Verbal altercation between mom and son. Peace restored.  
 6:21 p.m. Walk-in to station reports a safety hazard on Power Street. Part of Railroad Salvage building collapsed into the street.  
 11:39 p.m. Report of a domestic disturbance at an O Street address. Found to be verbal only.

**Sunday 5-28**  
 11:45 a.m. Report of a minor motor vehicle accident in Cumberland Farms parking lot. One car backed into another. Damage under \$1000. No injuries.  
 6:07 p.m. Report of trespassing at a 4th Street address. [redacted] was arrested and charged with trespassing, disorderly conduct, and resisting arrest.

**Monday 5-29**  
 4:09 a.m. Report of a disturbance at a Chestnut Lane address. [redacted] was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct.  
 7:41 p.m. While on routine patrol, officer confiscated a

nunchaku (a martial arts device) from an individual at the Exxon on 3rd St.

**Tuesday 5-30**  
 12:56 a.m. [redacted] was arrested on a straight warrant.  
 4:00 a.m. [redacted] was arrested on a warrant charging escape from a penal institution or court.  
 11:48 a.m. Pioneer Aviation reported a plane had indicated it was in distress. Police on alert. Plane landed safely.  
 5:57 p.m. [redacted] was arrested in the alley behind the Pizza House and charged with failure to register as a sex offender.

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**HOLIDAY**  
continued from pg 1

Montague's casualties in WWII, Korea, and Vietnam, families lined the sidewalk on both sides of the main drag. Many waved American flags. Many had their hands on their hearts as the veterans marched up and formed a semicircle around the podium at the center of the memorial. The marching band formed ranks in the middle of the street. More than four hundred people, coming from every village of Montague, gathered around.

Veterans agent Leo Parent called for quiet. "Thank you for being here," he said. "It's been a long time. We hope to have [the parade] continue every year."

He introduced JoAnne Brown, chaplain of the Montague Elks, who led a brief prayer honoring the fallen, beginning, "Father, we thank you for the lives of servicemen and women... May we never forget them." Behind her, the 2,460 flags for American soldiers killed in Iraq, and the 225 for those who have died in Afghanistan hung in serried ranks.

The Turners Falls band played the national anthem.

Patricia Pruitt, speaking as chair of the selectboard, stood before this backdrop to address the crowd. "This is one of the most solemn occasions we celebrate here in Montague, as we remember those who have given their lives for our freedoms. We are a nation at war. We have seen the numbers on this display grow day by day."

She read a quatrain she had penned for the occasion.



Specialist 4th Class John Callahan will return to active duty in Iraq next week. His wife Laurie stands in the background.

"I wish the war were over.  
I wish the troops were coming home.  
I wish peace had been restored forever.  
I wish war itself, and not our young people, were in the tomb."

John Murphy, commander of the VFW Post 923 spoke next, a eulogy "consecrated to our heroic dead." He said, "These monuments represent the resting places of departed comrades. They are hallowed ground, dedicated to the duty, courage, and patriotism," of the fallen.

WWII veteran Walter Kostanski, Korean War veteran Nick Prokovich, and Vietnam veteran Russell Dean laid black wreaths on the memorial stones. Dave Thurber and Richard Reil fired three shots from their rifles. A baby wearing a Boston Red Sox cap began crying loudly, as the sharp reports rang out and the whiff of gun powder

drifted through the open space.

Sadly, solemnly, Ethan Kociela played "Taps", echoed by the trumpet of Ben Garber, facing the

crowd across the Avenue. Soldiers Memorial Trustee Chris Boutwell led Boy Scouts from Troop 6 in the ritual of retiring the American flag, and the P O W - MIA flag,



Art Gilmore of the Soldiers Memorial Trust was the prime mover behind bringing the Memorial Day Parade back to the Avenue.

very seriously.

Exalted Ruler of the Montague Elks Mike Blanchard tolled 11 chimes on a thumb piano, marking "the hour of recollection." District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Kevin Hastings said the chimes were meant to signify, "the tender significance" with which "the great heart of Elkdom swells and thrills to the mystic call of those who will come no more."

As Lauren Grimard and Danielle Bassett of junior Girl Scout Troop #79, helped by Art Gilmore, updated casualty numbers on the sign maintained by



The Montague Elks march down Avenue A in the Memorial Day parade.

the Oak Ridge Detachment of the Marine Corp League denoting America troops killed and wounded in the current conflicts, Leo Parent called Specialist Fourth Class John Callahan, home on leave from Iraq, to the podium. Callahan, from Greenfield, said the troops in Iraq, "All recognize your support. We don't like what we're doing. It makes it easier for us to do what we've got to do. Keep up the good support and we'll all come home alive."

As he finished speaking, the little girls had increased the number marking the American dead in Iraq by six, to 2,466.

Soldiers Memorial Trustee Art Gilmore thanked Leo Parent for stepping in as master of ceremonies, as Trustees' chairman Mike Cenzano was forced to miss the occasion due to a recent illness. Gilmore thanked the Montague police for providing cruisers at both ends of the parade, and thanked the hundreds of townspeople who turned out for the parade and

ceremony. The marching band closed the day with a rendition of God Bless America.

As they played, Callahan comforted his wife, Laurie, who sobbed in his arms. A solidly built young man, he said he was stationed in Al Asaad, in Anbar Province, near the city of Hit, since being deployed out of Kuwait in October of 2005. His company handles fuel and supplies for American troops in that most violent corner of Iraq. In the course of his deployment, he said, "We have seen people planting IEDs (improvised explosive devices), IEDs going off...." His blue eyes take on a hard look, remembering. "At this point we have excellent armor, flak jackets with titanium shells." He said his company had taken "no heavy casualties." But Callahan said, "We've seen all the action you'd want to see."

Callahan returns to active duty in Al Asaad next week.



Junior Girl Scouts listen carefully to Memorial Day speeches.

**Wendell Memorial Day Observance**

Sunday, at one o'clock a small crowd gathered by the bandstand at the Wendell common for a Memorial Day observance. The Orange VFW sent a color guard who stood in memory of those who died in the service of this country, while commander Steven Rowe said a prayer, Kate Nolan read the General Hogan's orders on

the day's observance, Josh Heinemann read the Gettysburg Address and Michael Hartjens read "In Flanders Fields". Annie Diemand spoke of her son Jacob's time in Iraq, and of his friend who did not return. A three-gun salute was fired over the cemetery, and a wreath placed on the Veterans Memorial.

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the poetry page

It is difficult to get the news from poems yet men die miserably every day for lack of what is found there.

- William Carlos Williams

Readers are invited to send poems to the Montague Reporter at 24 3rd Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376; or reporter-poems@montaguema.net

Poetry Page edited by Christopher Sawyer-Laucanno & Chris Janke designed by Boysen Hodgson

Psalm 3: The Temple

This psalm has crawled beneath the house, maybe to whistle.

Are you whistling too? Or are you carving hieroglyphs

into your arm? Are you sending your arm to the arm museum?

Will you take up a blue tarp and wave it? All noise

comes from somewhere. Your voice. Where did it become

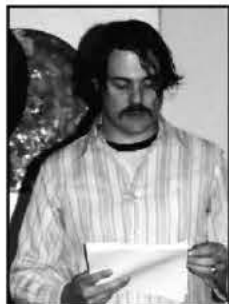
a train out of a mouth. I can't hear you

unless I'm up against your lips. Insect

caught in my teeth. You tear me apart

like biology, those worms.

—Christopher Janke  
Turners Falls



Excerpts from the Brick House poetry reading on Sunday, May 7th. All photographs of Authors by Emily Brewster

Thanks to everyone who attended.

A seal pup walks into a bar and the bartender asks, "What'll you have?" the seal says, "Anything but a Canadian Club"

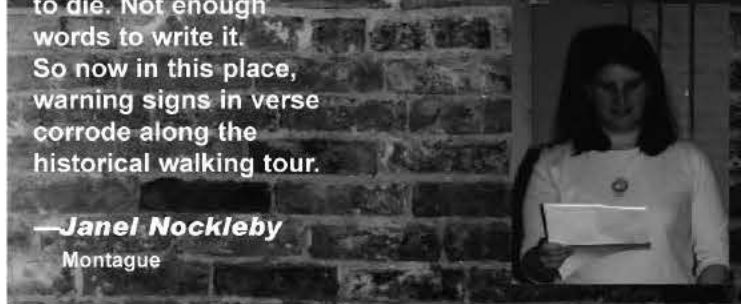
- MC Micah



Massachusetts Welcomes You

Mattress springs rust out red in the riverbed. The dispersed dead factory bricks erode on their way to zero and mimic the rusting hue. And the leaves fail with the season. It's like that here. Emily hated anything to die. Not enough words to write it. So now in this place, warning signs in verse corrode along the historical walking tour.

—Janet Nockleby  
Montague



The Hunt

We speak the same tongue, you and I, the language of adrenaline.

You sing a fleeting song of escape, I chant a mantra in harmony.

When our songs are broken by the echoed report, there follows a silence as you fall.

We speak the same tongue, as I approach, but our solemn hymns diverge.

—R. J. DiDonato  
Wendell

Hospital

As I lie on the white sheet, the blood stains everything. There is no more white, it is all red. Even the whites of my eyes are emerged with blood. Soft tears, people are trying to amuse me. Trying to get me to smile, but nothing seems to be working. Nothing is WORKING! I just lie there. Blind, and deaf, I only have my thoughts to calm me from going crazy. Going CRAZY I think, but I don't even have enough memory to learn what that is, or remember. My teddy bear by my side, he is an angel to me. I can only feel the warm love he is giving to me, the only thing in my life that ever seemed to LOVE me. I stitched up his eyes and cut off his ears, so teddy knows how I feel, and I don't feel so alone. The hospital is so loud. But I cannot hear anything.

I only feel the nurse giving me random prescriptions, ones that may be DEADLY. This hospital is like no other, I don't even know where I am. I cry... But I feel like I have no eyes. I don't, do I? Pain is the only thing I feel... The only thing I've ever felt my whole life. Beeping noises around me are the only way I can tell that I am not dead- not yet at least. I have no family, I have no home! I am just going to be in this hospital bed FOREVER, with no one to understand how I FEEL, except Teddy... But he could be dead too.

— Marisol Duplisea  
Lake Pleasant

Marisol Duplisea (pictured at right) being introduced by Christopher Sawyer Laucanno



So ya

coolness. ya, ill go tell mars/micah nowish. cool, so ya.

—Imogene Pruitt-Spence  
Greenfield



Swamp Cache

One tupelo harvest Smiley awakes in the middle of the heavy, dark seventies. The menus are crowded with crawfish. Smiley drives by the high school until eleventh grade shifts to endless sandy shadows. He remembers his oysterman's fingers, phasing out of bivalves and into 1987. Easing up the Emerald Coast by barge, drop by drop, soaking up pools of aftershave, Smiley moves his blinking road sign into the soft fluff that is the tupelo flower.

—Elizabeth Hughey  
Montague Center



Elizabeth Hughey will graduate from the MFA Program for Poets and Writers at UMass. Imogene Pruitt-Spence grew up in Alabama and now lives with her husband in Montague Center. This May, she

is a seventh-grade student at Greenfield Center School. Patricia Pruitt is chair of the Montague Select

Board. Her most recent chapbook is *Windows*.

Raymond DiDonato resides in Wendell with his wife and children.

Marisol Duplisea is a seventh-grader at Greenfield Center School. She lives in Montague Center.

Edward Foster, is the author of many poetry collections including *What He Ought to Know: New and Selected*

CONTRIBUTOR'S NOTES:

the poetry page

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Four from Variations from the Red Room

1

The I  
but not-I

A rubber man  
pliable  
with a lump,  
no mirror  
that smile  
lacks eyes

The hard scrub  
life around  
here

Counts on  
the trees  
to stand and  
withstand

in all  
directions  
at once  
to appease  
the wind



Once words of air  
were sweet to hear

Vowels bread  
to consonant wines

Now we who hear  
refuse while moments roll

There's a veil  
in the mind's way

What will you do with it?

4

Meaning—the music  
Meaning—the flower sprouting  
from the sand dune  
Meaning—the small window  
where the eye strains  
for a greater view  
Meaning—the narrow way of one  
Meaning—the poem's suffering,  
from richness and want

Mayakovsky's cry: ...  
'my "I" is too small for me.'

-- Patricia Pruitt  
Turners Falls

2

She intrudes,  
must ask  
for surgical tape  
Will a band-aid do—  
rubbery  
like bubblegum

Fair and idle  
hands fly up  
in a clutch  
at broken frames  
the angles of her wrists  
despair

She tests for care  
band-aid  
or bubblegum

No other  
help  
in this world  
does she  
know



3

*Poems; The Angelus Bell;  
and Mahrem: What Men  
Should Do for Men.*

Christopher Janke is per-  
haps the only poet who runs  
a laundromat.

Janel Nockleby is a stu-  
dent in the MFA Program for  
Poets and Writers at  
UMass.

*the poetry page*

The Poetry Page is always looking for submissions  
from new writers. We know you are out there, it's time  
to be discovered!

We welcome new submissions every month. The Poetry Page  
will return in June with our Annual Student Poetry Issue.

The Editors of the Poetry Page of The Montague Reporter are seeking submissions for a **special June Issue** featuring work by **students in the Gill-Montague Schools and neighboring districts**. All ages and grades are invited to submit their best original poetry and/or artwork for this special poetry page.

**The deadline for submissions is June 10, 2006.** Please indicate school, name and age with each contribu-  
tion. For electronic submissions: [reporter-poems@montaguema.net](mailto:reporter-poems@montaguema.net) For snail mail: Poetry Page, The  
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**IDOL**  
continued from pg 1

five. Dave Peck, of Greenfield, thrilled the crowd with a fantastic rendition of "Sweet Caroline." He topped it with Billy Joel's "the Downeaster Alexa," proving he's got the wind - and the pipes - to carry the final chorus. But it couldn't carry him to the finals.

Frank Zimm, of New Ipswich, NH, wearing an understated fluorescent orange tie, failed to make the final cut after belting out a no-holds barred version of the Brooklyn Bridge's "Girl I Hear You're Getting Married," fol-

lowed by a resounding cover of Jimmy Webb's "Galveston." Which caused one of the judges, Phil Simon, to tell him, "Your song choices are perplexing. You have a vision, I think, and you should stick with it and help me find out what it is."

But Tim won't be back next week to make a believer out of him.

Jocelyn Roberge pulled a tear-jerker out of her cowboy hat, with Sherrie Austen's "Streets of Heaven," but it left the judges cold.

Abraham Oyola of Charlemont managed to get them

hot and bothered (especially Kim Morin; the third judge, Ken Adams had to fan her with his scorecard) after burning through the Black Crowes' "Mama I'm Sure Hard to Handle." Alana Martineau generated wild audience support with Brenda Lee's "Break it to Me Gently" and

Turners, seemed to be stretching his vocal talents on the Doobie Brother's "Takin' It to the Streets," and Vicki Stankiewicz, of Hadley, struggled against a false start in the wrong key, a technical breakdown in the karaoke machine, and some really bad eyeliner in her poorly

delivered homage to Radiohead's "Creep." But the judges gave them both a pass, and tossed out Marlboro's Kelly Hall, and Jody-Lynne Boudreau of Warwick, who quoted Patsy Cline note for note on "Crazy", while commanding the spotlight in her shimmering black



Brandee Simone of Colrain



Abraham Oloya of Charlemont

Linda Ronstadt's "You're No Good," prompting Morin to cheer her on with, "He may be no good. But you're good!" And Brandee Simone of Colrain nearly brought down the house with a heartfelt rendering of Lee Ann Womack's "I Hope You Dance," which Simon called, "a breakthrough performance."

No one in the house could pick a quarrel when the judges advanced these three to the finals.

But the audience ballots may not have matched up entirely with the judges' on the other two picks. John Waynelovich, of

sequined gown.

From where we sat, there seemed little doubt the contest is now between the top three, and Waynelovich and Stankiewicz will have their work cut out for them next week if they hope to dislodge hometown queen Alana Martineau, sexy Charlemont crooner Abraham Oloya, or the indomitable dynamo from Colrain, Brandee Simone. All are great, and delight to watch.

Going in, we give Simone the edge. But be there next Saturday, June 3rd, at 7 p.m. to cheer your own favorite on to victory as this year's Valley Idol.



DETMOLD PHOTO

Town personnel respond to clear the rubble off the road as the second section of the wall fell Saturday evening.

**SALVAGE**  
continued from pg 1

was now so unstable it would be dangerous even for a fire truck to pass by.

Building inspector David Jensen said he had contacted the building's owner, Fort Lauderdale developer Gary Kosuda, by mail the week before the wall collapse, and had spoken with him by phone following the incident.

"I told him he needed to get his structural engineer and his contractor out here and tell me what he's going to do about it. He seems to be running out of options," said Jensen.

G Street resident Hyrum Huskey, part of an ad-hoc property owners group that expressed concern over the building's deteriorating condition to the select-board on May 22nd, said, "It's a pretty dangerous situation. Every time I walk by there, I find the doorways open. You know how kids are. My fear is one of these days we're going to lose a kid, and everyone will be up in arms."

Jensen said he would be setting a deadline for Kosuda to take action to secure or demolish the building, in the next week or so. "Before the collapse, I had asked him to price out fencing to surround the entire building."

Jensen said, "He has claimed all along his intention is to renovate the building, and in our most recent conversation he stuck to that line. The interior demolition," with debris leaning against the walls where the roof had fallen, "was actually an impediment to renovation. The structural engineer had recommended taking down an exterior wall, to get equipment, a crane and grapples in there. Ironically, if renovation is in the works, they're halfway there."

In other news, Jensen said he met with Ed Voudren, acting as a representative of Belchertown developer Mark Kislyuk, at the property Kislyuk owns at 181 Avenue A on Tuesday afternoon. Kislyuk, working without a permit, had attempted some repair to the cinderblock foundation wall on Memorial Day, working with two helpers to demolish and replace much of the top course of blocks. Voudren, a mortgage underwriter for First Source Financial, has expressed interest in backing Kislyuk's proposed three-story, twin storefront, eight apartment building on the site, which stalled in September of 2005 over financial disputes.

After inspecting the foundation, Jensen said Kislyuk, "Didn't do the work I'd asked him to do, and what he did do made the problem worse." He cited improperly sealed steel rebar tying the top course of blocks to the base of the foundation. "I'm waiting for a proposal from a structural engineer and a permit from a qualified contractor," said Jensen, before allowing the project to proceed.

Other building projects that have been in the news locally have fared better in recent weeks. The zoning board of appeals gave the Montague Elks a green light to build a new 20,000 square-foot, 600-seat lodge and banquet facility on the corner of East Mineral Road and Millers Falls Road. The planning board approved plans by Ja' Duke Productions to construct a performance arts classroom facility and, eventually, a 400-seat performance space next to the Tech School on Industrial Boulevard. The new classrooms, to open in summer 2007, will relieve overcrowded conditions at Ja'Duke's basement quarters in the Colle. 



DAVOL PHOTOS

Judges will face a tough decision in the final installment of Valley Idol at the Shea Theater, Saturday.

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# CENTER

continued from pg 1

said, for example going places and using English in context. Many students and volunteers end up as friends and stay in touch long after the English learning part of their relationship is over. The volunteers also gain a valuable knowledge of other ethnicities from the people they help to tutor.

Why do immigrants come to Franklin County? The reasons are diverse, but Ayres said it is often because they have family or friends already here. Many of the immigrants to our area from Moldova are Christian Evangelicals who suffered religious persecution in their homeland, where the dominant religion is Russian Orthodoxy. Tibetans come to escape persecution due to the Chinese occupation of their homeland. Many people come because there are few opportunities for employment in their homelands.

John Preston is one of the volunteers at the Center for New Americans. He works as a teacher's aide. Preston said he was seeking something useful to do in his retirement and happened to be walking past the Greenfield public library, which used to house the Center. He has enjoyed meeting people from a wide variety of places including Moldova, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, China and Japan. Preston said the English teaching is always done in the context of learning about American culture. The teacher and volunteer aide have conversations with the students about going to the supermarket, going to get your car repaired or many other practical situations. They discuss American holidays the students may not be familiar with, such as Thanksgiving. Preston said he has been impressed by seeing how closely knit immigrant families are, and how much they try to help each other. Many are quite religious and have established their own churches here. There are now two Korean churches in Greenfield and one in Millers Falls. Moldovan immigrants started a Baptist church in Bernardston.

Oleg Loginev is a young man from Kalinograd, Russia who has lived in Turners Falls for the last five months. He came over with his family, although one sister stayed in Russia. A high school graduate, Loginev said he hopes to go to Greenfield Community College to continue learning English and to study computers. Although Loginev misses his friends in Russia, he likes Turners Falls, especially the river. He believes everywhere there are some good and some bad people, but that the government in the United States is better for the people than the one in Russia.

Nina Richards came from Moldova seven years ago and first lived in Greenfield, but now lives in Turners Falls. She is married to an American. Richards came from a small Moldovan village named Hirtop. She said the weather is similar there as in her new home, with hot summers and cold winters. Richards says people have been friendly to her in Turners Falls. She learned English at the Center for New Americans and then took more advanced classes at GCC. She now works as a custodian at the Greenfield Corporate Center. On May 1st she got her U.S. citizenship. The test contained one hundred questions on U.S. history and government, but she studied 1200 possible questions and answers to prepare for it.

When asked why she left her homeland, Richards replied she was curious to see the world and how other people live. She admitted the economy was very bad in Moldova. Many people had to go elsewhere to work, leaving their children with relatives and sending money back from Italy, Israel or wherever they could find employment.

Richards likes living in Turners Falls. It is quiet and peaceful, she said.

The phone number for the Center for New Americans is 413-772-0055. It is located in the same building as the Teen Center on Sanderson Street in Greenfield. English classes are ongoing. They are always looking for volunteers.



# Fishing Event in Turners Falls

BY SUSAN RUSSO

**GREAT FALLS** - On June 3rd, the National Fish and Wildlife Refuge and Mass Wildlife will present a free fishing day with hands-on fly tying and spin cast demonstrations, free raffles throughout the event for fishing poles, tackle boxes, fishing tools and gift cards, and education for all ages. Boy Scouts can earn credits towards a fly fishing merit badge at this event as well. The Massachusetts free fishing weekend (no fishing license needed) is the kickoff weekend celebrating National Fishing and Boating Week. Meet at the Great Falls Discovery Center at 10 a.m. The Turners Falls Fish Ladder

through the fishways around the dams in Holyoke and Turners, as they recover from the manmade barriers that blocked passage to their spawning grounds. For example, the recovery of American Shad is outstanding. While significant challenges face eels, salmon and mussels, many features, including water quality of the river

many organizations now work together to help migrating fish pass up the Connecticut River. From Native American harvest, to recreational catch-and-release, the amazement people have with fish in the Connecticut River watershed is growing every day.

As part of the first annual fishing event, Books and More on Avenue A will be fea-



DAVOL PHOTO

The fish ladder in Turners Falls. The current is strong and the concrete is rough, but, hey -- it beats trying to leap over the dam!

will also be open through June 18th, Wednesday - Sunday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Fish have always been of great importance to Turners Falls. The journey through the life cycle of migratory fish and the people who have depended on them for food goes back thousands of years. From the days of the Native Americans, to the world-renowned research scientists studying the movement of anadromous species and working to develop new methods to sustain endangered fish populations - such as the shortnose sturgeon - fish have been part of the way of life at Great Falls. There were periods when 10,000 salmon would migrate past the Falls, and periods when not one of these great fish would be seen.

Today, we are seeing some species rebound and pass

water, have improved tremendously over the past 50 years, and future improvement will be seen by our children and grandchildren.

Although fish are important to humans for our recreational and economic needs, we are not the only ones who enjoy fishing. The American bald eagle is a large harvester of migratory fish that pass through Turners Falls; this is the main food source they need in order to stay strong and feed their young. When a bald eagle's newborn enters the world, the parents load their nest with fish. Bald eagles are so dependent on migratory fish, they have adapted to nest in mid-winter, so their young hatch at the beginning of the fish migration season when the eating is good and plentiful.

After centuries of change,

turing the book *Founding Fish* by John McPhee, and area restaurants will be featuring fish specials including Sesame Seared Tuna with a Curry Coconut Sauce at Ristorante DiPaolo, Barramundi Francaise at Smokin' Hippo, Haddock Cakes and Parmesan Sundried Tomato Crusted Baked Haddock at bellybowl, as well as everyday fish selections at the Shady Glen and the Wagon Wheel.

The first annual fishing event is being organized in partnership with the RiverCulture Project, a community and economic development project designed to promote and sustain Turners Falls and the Connecticut River area as a great place to live and enjoy the arts, nature and outdoor recreation.

Call 413-863-3221 for any questions.

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# THE HEALTHY GEEZER

## Abdominal Pain



ILLUSTRATION: JESSICA HARMON

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - Q. I get a lot of stomach aches. Do you have any tips to prevent them?

If you are having recurring abdominal pain, you should see a doctor immediately. This kind of discomfort can be a symptom of a serious ailment. However, if you're talking about the kind of stomach aches we all get occasionally, there are some things you can do to prevent them.

- Eat small meals more frequently.
- Make sure your meals are well-balanced and high in fiber.
- Drink plenty of water each day.
- Exercise regularly.
- Limit foods that produce gas.

The following are gas-generating foods: Legumes, espe-

cially dried beans and peas, baked beans, soy beans, lima beans; Dairy products such as milk, ice cream, cheese; Vegetables such as cabbage, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cauliflower, cucumbers, sauerkraut, kohlrabi, asparagus, potatoes, rutabaga, turnips, radishes, onions;

Fruits such as prunes, apricots, apples, raisins, bananas;

Foods containing wheat such as cereals, breads and pastries;

Fatty foods such as fried chicken and anything in cream sauces and gravies;

Any carbonated beverage.

Abdominal pain is often caused by overeating. Sometimes an infection is responsible. But pain may be a symptom of something that requires emergency treatment; there are quite a few organs in your abdominal area. The location of the pain is informative to

your doctor.

Pain near your navel can be a sign of appendicitis or something wrong in your small intestine.

Stomach problems are found in the upper middle section of the abdomen.

Persistent pain in this area may also signal a problem with your gallbladder, pancreas or the upper part of your small

intestine.

It's unusual to feel pain in the upper left abdomen. Pain in this area may be caused by a problem in the colon, stomach, spleen or pancreas.

Intense pain in the upper right abdomen is often related to inflammation of the gallbladder.

Pain in the lower middle abdomen may be caused by the colon. Women with pelvic inflammatory disease or a urinary tract infection may experience pain in this area.

The lower right abdomen is where inflammation of the colon may cause pain. Appendicitis pain may also spread to this region.

If you feel pain in the lower left abdomen, you usually have a problem at the end of the colon.

Don't rely on self-diagnosis based upon these pain guidelines. Abdominal pain has a way

of moving around. For example, gallbladder pain can move to your right shoulder.

Abdominal pain can be caused by the lungs and heart. Or, it may be caused by muscle strain.

The following are some of the danger signs associated with abdominal pain. If you experience any of the following, get immediate medical attention:

- Sudden and sharp pain
- Pain that radiates to your chest, neck or shoulder
- Severe, recurrent or persistent pain
- Pain that worsens
- Vomiting blood
- Blood in your stool
- A swollen and tender abdomen
- Shortness of breath
- Dizziness
- High fever

If you have a question, please write to [fredcicetti@gmail.com](mailto:fredcicetti@gmail.com)

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

## Sacrificing to the Sugar Devil

BY JENNY CHAPIN

MONTAGUECENTER- Although I can't prove it by the medical textbooks, I have always suspected we actually have two stomachs: one for dinner, and one for dessert. This separate organ guarantees no matter how much 'real food' we eat, there is always room at the end for ice cream, cake, cookies, and such. For many of us, a meal isn't complete until we've had something sweet to round it out.

We are a nation of sugar addicts. If you have ever cut sugar out of your diet, you've immediately noticed two things: it's virtually impossible to find processed foods (even organic or 'natural') made without some form of sweetener; and, it's really hard to stay off the stuff. A friend of mine, no stranger to quitting addictions, said she "white-knuckled" her first week off sugar.

The list of problems caused by refined sugar is frightening, and sobering. Its effects are encompassing and pervasive enough to show the need to rid it from our diet.

A short list includes diabetes, cardiovascular disease, cancer, tooth decay, obesity, gallstones, mood swings, depression, hyperactivity, stomach acidity, migraines, acne, weight gain, menopausal symptoms, menstrual problems, allergies, low blood pressure, inability to handle alcohol, mental chatter during the day, insomnia.

Sugar in the bloodstream attracts mosquitoes, microbes, and parasites. The Black Plague, beriberi, pellagra, scurvy, tuberculosis - all flourished among groups of people with a sugar-rich diet. (See William Dufty's fascinating *Sugar Blues* for the history of sugar in commerce, slave trade,

disease, and the medical establishment.)

Not only does refining cane or beet sugar strip it of its nutrients (a 1973 U.S. Senate committee called white sugar an "antinutrient"), but to add insult to injury, refined sugar leaches important nutrients, vitamins, and minerals from the body, and paves the way for disease. Calcium, vitamin B, protein, chromium, and manganese deficiencies have been associated with depression, fatigue, and low blood sugar. Vitamin C deficiency leads to scurvy. Magnesium deficiency produces hair loss, muscle cramps, irritability, tremors, disorientation, and confusion. Low potassium decreases neuromuscular functioning, giving us a weak body, loss of muscle tone, and poor reflexes. The adrenals, pancreas, liver, and brain are all monumentally adversely affect-

ed.

Sugar devastates the immune system. A 1976 study on sugar and disease resistance showed that the average person loses more than 90% of their immune function within 15 minutes of ingesting sugar, and this deficiency lasts for about two hours.

Refined sugar is an 'empty' food, referring to its effects on the body, the quality of feeling empty. Herbalist and acupuncturist Leslie Tierra calls sugar an 'extreme' food, along with salt, alcohol, caffeine, and tobacco, because eating one usually sets up a craving for another, creating an endless cycle. Meat eaters often crave sugar because its emptiness offsets the fullness of meat. Sugar causes salt cravings; salty foods cause sugar cravings.

What's the pull of sugar? When life doesn't feel sweet on its own, we try to add it from



outside ourselves. We use sweets to counter feeling sad or lonely, or as a reward after a hard day. But while we may not want to imagine life without sugary indulgences, we need to acknowledge that rather than soothing our soul, in reality we are choosing our own destruction. As Leslie Tierra writes, "What seems expedient to ignore in the present may cause more grief, pain and expense in the long run."

The sacrifice we make, laying sweet treats on the altar to the Sugar Devil, is our good health - and, as my grandmother used to say, "If you've got your health, you've got everything."

Jenny Chapin is an acupuncturist, Zero Balancer, and yoga teacher in Greenfield. Suggest a topic or question for her column at [jjchapin@crocker.com](mailto:jjchapin@crocker.com).

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

## FRIDAY, JUNE 2ND

Arielle Silver Band at the Montague Bookmill, (413) 367-9206. \$10, 8 p.m., presented by The Montague Bookmill. The band's web site: [www.ariellesilver.com](http://www.ariellesilver.com)

CD release party/open mic Avenue A Music Project at the Teen Center 6-9 p.m.. CDs will be available for sale and featured bands performing. For more information about purchasing copies of the CD or the Avenue A Music Project in general, contact Jared Libby, Brick House Youth Programs Coordinator at (413) 863-9559.

Rt. 63 Road House, Millers Falls, Tracy & Company, rock! Come to dance! 9:30 pm (413) 659-3384

Ashfield Community Theater will present "Lend Me a Tenor" At the Ashfield Town Hall located on Route 116 in Ashfield Center. 7:30 p.m. 413-628-4691 Or visit ACTH.org.

Free Film: "Fidel" Media Education Foundation (MEF), 60 Masonic St, Northampton. Film maker Estela Bravo presents a biography of the Cuban leader. 7 p.m. [www.northamptoncommittee.org](http://www.northamptoncommittee.org)

## SATURDAY, JUNE 3RD

Media Arts Cinema presents "Free Spirits." The incredible story of the Massachusetts' Brotherhood of the Spirit/Renaissance Community and its founder, Michael Metalica Rapunzel. One show only at 8 p.m., tickets \$8

## SATURDAY, JUNE 3RD

Valley Idol competition FINALS! Held at the Shea. For information or tickets call (413) 863-2281 or [www.theshea.org](http://www.theshea.org). All proceeds benefit the Shea Theater in Turners Falls, a non-profit organization.

Rt. 63 Road House, Millers Falls, Stone Crazy-D.K. of J. Geils Band, rockin' blues. Come to dance!

Starts at 9:30 p m (413) 659-3384

Biodiversity Days - Wild about Ponds Spring ponds have a riot of life lurking just beneath the surface - from tadpoles to newts to diving beetles. At Northfield Mountain Recreation Area located on Route 63 in Northfield. Suitable for ages 5 and older. 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. Pre-register at (800) 859-2960

Open Hearth Cooking Demonstrations Savor the delicious sights, sounds and smells of hearth cooking while learning about colonial foods and diet. Held in Hall Tavern kitchen located at Historic Deerfield located in Deerfield. 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. 413-774-5581

"Lend Me a Tenor" see June 2nd listing.

## SATURDAY & SUNDAY, JUNE 3RD & 4TH

Family Activities: History Workshop - All About Bees and Honey. Learn how people have historically used honey and its byproducts. Make a beeswax candle to take home. At Historic Deerfield located in Deerfield. Noon to 4:00 p.m. 413-775-7214

SUNDAY, JUNE 4TH  
"Dinner with Deborah" at The Night Kitchen, Montague Center.

The Night Kitchen's chef Max Brody and his crew will prepare a sumptuous four-course meal based on recipes from Deborah Madison,



PHOTO: LISA DAVOL

John Wayneovich will perform again on Saturday, June 3rd as a Valley Idol finalist!

award-winning chef and author, host of the evening. Book signing too. Benefit for CISA, \$50/person. Limited seating. Order tickets online [www.buylocalfood.org](http://www.buylocalfood.org) or call (413) 665-7100

## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7TH

Great Falls Farmers' Market. Shop for local plants and produce. Held at Peskeomskut Park at the corner of Avenue A & 6th Street in Turners Falls. 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Mid-Week Music Featuring Limited Edition Standards to light rock and everything in between Performance at All Souls Church located on the corner of Main & Hope Streets in Greenfield. 12:15 to 12:45 p.m.

Wild Edible Plants of Massachusetts at Gill Elementary School. Hands-on interactive and intergenerational introduction native plant identification and uses presented by naturalist/educator John Root. Free; funded by the Gill Cultural Council and the Mass. Cultural Council. 7-8:30 p.m.

## THURSDAY, JUNE 8TH

COOP Concerts Franklin County Musicians' Cooperative performs folk, alternative rock, classical, Celtic, blues and more. 3 Great acts every Thursday evening (through September 14). Featuring Jennie McAvoy, Tom Carroll, Laura Siersema. Bring a picnic dinner, a blanket or chair and enjoy the music. At the Greenfield Energy Park located at the end of Miles Street in Greenfield. 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. 413-772-1553

## Upcoming Events at the Discovery Center

New seasonal hours: Open Tuesday through Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. June 1st to October 9th

JUNE 1ST TO JULY 10TH  
Nature Landscapes by Elisa Campbell on display.

FRIDAY, JUNE 2ND  
11a.m. Eagle Talk  
Join Center staff to learn about the Barton Cove bald eagles and receive updates on their progress. Craft activity for children.

SATURDAY, JUNE 3RD  
10 to 2 p.m. 1st Annual Fishing Event FREE fishing day!  
Hands-on fly tying, spin cast demonstrations, FREE raffles. Massachusetts FREE fishing weekend. (no need of a fishing license)

TUESDAY, JUNE 6TH  
7 p.m. Mammal Tracking. Pictures and stories focusing on how to identify animals using their tracks & sign. Preston Taylor is an enthusiastic tracker/naturalist. He has spent the past four years tracking animals in their southern New England habitats. Sponsored by the

Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center.

THURSDAY, JUNE 8TH  
7 p.m. Importance of Pollinators and Plants: Travel 200 Million Years in One Hour! Learn about the challenges our country's pollination champions are facing and the impact they have on the farming industry. Lecture led by Dan Conlon of Warm Colors Apiary, South Deerfield. Geared for adults. Sponsored by the Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center. Introducing the Turners Falls Fish Quest. Students working with Jessica Greene at the Middle School will present their Quest project this evening. Join us in finding out about this treasure hunt and thank the students for their work. 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

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POTHOLE PICTURES

June 2nd & 3rd 7:30 p.m.

Nominated for 5 Oscars including Best Director and Best Picture, this is the haunting story of Truman Capote's visit to Kansas to research his groundbreaking novel *In Cold Blood* and his troubling, conflicted relationship with the quiet, articulate killer Perry Smith. Philip Seymour Hoffman in a spectacular performance, Catherine Keener, Chris Cooper. Directed by Bennett Miller. 2005. R. 114 min. color.

Director Bennett Miller will be present at Saturday's show to discuss the film

Music before movie at 7 p.m.  
Friday: Kate Correieri—piano/vocals  
Saturday: Seth Glier—piano/vocals

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- MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3  
DAILY 6:30 9:30 PG13  
MAT SAT-SUN, WED 12:30 3:30
- UNITED 93 PG13  
DAILY 6:45 9:20  
MAT SAT, SUN, WED 12:15 3:15
- AN AMERICAN HAUNTING  
DAILY 6:45 9:20 PG13  
MAT SAT, SUN, WED 12:15 3:15
- X-MEN: THE LAST STAND  
DAILY 7:00 9:15 PG13 DTS sound  
SAT, SUN, WED 12:00 2:15 4:30
- THE BREAK-UP  
DAILY 7:00 9:15 PG13 DTS sound  
SAT, SUN, WED 12:00 2:15 4:30



## OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

## Meet the Weed Lady

BY FLORE

**MONTAGUE CENTER** - You might think you were dreaming when you meet Leela Whitcomb-Hewitt! It's like experiencing one of Winslow Homer's breathtaking paintings, stepped down from the canvas. You know the one I mean.

The light throws its summer tones. The only figure, on the left side of the canvas, carrying a basket, climbs the deserted landscape of sand dunes. The painter's choices oscillate between dried golden hues and blues. Here we saw the same image for real, as if the painted form had taken corporeality.

The group, meeting in the Montague Conservation Area under the guidance of Leela

Whitcomb-Hewitt on Saturday, May 27th, was admiring the intricate pattern of a clover's blossom! Perhaps growing up on the family-operated organic farm in Whately she developed her intuitive and keen observations about weeds.

Her interest was later confirmed through an apprenticeship with the knowledgeable Susan Weed (appropriate name for a wild plant specialist!)

The purpose of the walk?

To discover the potential edible value of wild plants, though we may still refer to them, pejoratively, as weeds. We learned, in Whitcomb-Hewitt's words, "They are actually the humble workers of the land." In areas, where plants have the least ability to bond with the earth, they hold on! In fact, little do we realize how they prepare the ground,



PHOTO BY FLORE

Leela Whitcomb-Hewitt

sonous, resembling edible ones like a twin. The safest season to gather them for cooking or to decoct them for your medicine cabinet is at blossoming time, when you can notice the difference. Whether you are dreaming of

then move on.

Someone jokingly declared: aren't they sort of the "hoboes of the plant kingdom?"

Yes, hoboes they are, doing their jobs as preparers of the soil wherever birds or the wind may take them, plus they are succulent to taste!

But be aware, some weeds are poisonous, resembling edible ones like a twin.

The safest season to gather them for cooking or to decoct them for your medicine cabinet is at blossoming time, when you can notice the difference.

Whether you are dreaming of

serving dandelion tea for a special treat, a dish of cow pea, a spicy salad of cattail, or of decorating your wildest dreams of forest strawberries with a *canape* of violets, or of floating Johnny Jump Ups on your favorite iced tea: *tout est permis* (everything is permitted) as long as you accurately ascertain their edibility first!

Should you want to plan a "Seminar on Playing with Wild Plants" or a "Weed Walk" like the recent one organized under the auspices of the Montague Grange, contact: Leela Whitcomb-Hewitt at centerplay@hotmail.com. MCTV will be broadcasting a video of her guided tour of the weeds in the 2nd week of June. Stay tuned!

## Wizard of Oz Wows 'Em at Sheffield

BY DAVID DETMOLD

**TURNERS FALLS** - With the able assistance of director Rowena Rantanen, the students from Sheffield School put on a rollicking production of the *Wizard of Oz* on Friday, May 26th, as part of the Step-Up day ceremonies welcoming Second Graders from Hillcrest to visit the school they will attend next year. The cast threw themselves into their roles with enthusiasm; they kept the auditorium entranced, especially the pre-K and Kindergarten students from Hillcrest, who were also in attendance. The production was coordinated by Sheffield's after school program director, Tova Neuget, who thanked parent volunteers for working with the "40 kids acting, singing and dancing and creating the sets."

Kiara Sampson was a very self-possessed, engaging Dorothy, who sang the crowd-pleasing favorite "Somewhere Over the Rainbow," in a sweet, plaintive voice, as she clutched her cute stuffed pooch, Toto.

When she hit the last note, wondering "Why, Oh Why Can't I?" a hushed silence filled the auditorium, followed by wild applause.

This tranquil moment, with the taciturn Uncle Henry (Kolbe Martineau) and Auntie Em (Isabelle Zantouliadis) seated at the kitchen table in the back-ground, was interrupted by an unexpected visit from Kansas' least neighborly neighbor, the screeching Miss Gulch (Megan Foster). Pointing a bony finger at Dorothy and her cute little canine, she declared, "That dog's a menace," and, with great glee, "I'm going to make sure he gets destroyed!" Henry and Em's downcast glances suited their characters (and allowed them to follow along with scripts presumably lying on the tabletop) as they offered stoic responses to their unwelcome guest.



DETMOLD PHOTO

"There's no place like Sheffield School."

Fortunately, a tornado intervenes.... Well, you know the story. Transported to Oz, Dorothy is surrounded by some very sweet little munchkins, one of whom, Gabrielle Santucci, was particularly pleased to be wearing a pink chiffon gown, which she continuously swished back and forth while lip-synching everyone else's lines.

Dorothy meets up with a winsome Scarecrow, played by Mike Wells, an enthusiastic Tin Man, Jonathan Rawls, (who does a pretty limber do-si-do with Dorothy after the scarecrow

applies some WD-40) and a wicked cute Cowardly Lion, Ian Lang... and they're off to meet the wizard (Kolbe Martineau). The lion was a particularly big hit with the young audience, as he leaped 'faux'-rociously out from behind an apple tree with a roar, giving the preschoolers quite a start.

As they arrive at the Emerald City, where more people than a corn-fed country girl like Dorothy has ever seen go parading by, the Tin Man offers a bit of wisdom that Montague voters would do well to ponder as they approach the ballot box to vote on the override next Tuesday. "Of course there's lots of people," he tells Dorothy. "A city can't function without lots of people." Or even a town.

The residents of Oz restuff the Scarecrow, polish up the Tin Man, braid the Lion's mane, and give Dot a makeover. A long pause for the curtained wizard to

find his lines, then he intoned, "I Have (Finally) Spoken!" and they're sent off to bring back the witch's broomstick.

After a hair-raising encounter with the winged monkees, Dorothy and company land in the dungeon of the witch's castle. The wicked witch threatens fire to the Scarecrow, and Dorothy pours a bucket of water over her, melting all her beautiful wickedness away.

Oh, well. That's what you get for not realizing what any 3rd Grader at Sheffield School could tell you: Kindness is Spoken Here.

After the show, the 3rd Graders got together with the Hillcrest 2nd Graders and planted wild lupine seeds to create a butterfly garden along the mural pathway between the two schools, under the tutelage of Annelise Bishoff from the UMass School of Landscape Architecture. By the time they finished with that, the second graders must have realized "There's No Place Like Sheffield School."

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