



EARTH, WIND SUN FAIR
Saturday, at the Discovery Center
Page 3



Weighing In
ON MONDAY'S OVERRIDE
Editorial Opinion: Pages 4 - 8

LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 6 - NO. 36

also serving Gill, Erving and Wendell

50¢

REPORTER@MONTAGUEMA.NET

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JUNE 12, 2008

School Nurse Leader Position Funded

BY DAVID DETMOLD
- The Gill-Montague Regional School Committee voted 8 -1 on Tuesday, June 10th, to accept a Massachusetts Department of Public Health grant for \$250,000, at \$50,000 a year for five years, to establish a position of School Nurse Leader, and build infrastructure for delivery of health services to district students. The grant-funded position, which requires an escalating local match,

will coordinate policies and protocols for the full time nurses at each of the district schools, oversee data entry on student health records, and report to the superintendent about the delivery of student health services. The part time position will be advertised at \$22,500, with grant funded benefits of \$12,000. GMRSD policy requires full benefits for half time staff. The local match for the position will equal see NURSE pg 11

ANCIENT SPECIES SPOTTED IN THE SAWMILL

BY DAVID DETMOLD
MONTAGUE CENTER Earlier this week, a strange message arrived from Montague Center, where one of our subscribers had been out walking by the Sawmill River, just downstream from the old crib dam near the Book Mill. Here's what the message said:

"Last night, Henry discovered some 'fish' heading upstream in the Sawmill River. We thought they must be trout. He took some pictures."

Here the message began to get stranger, as the theme song from



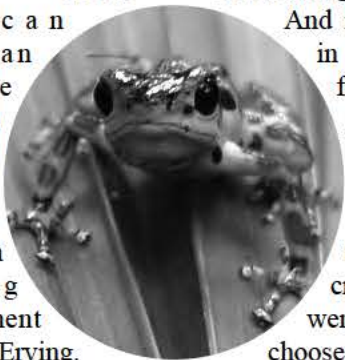
HENRY WEIS PHOTO

Strange Creatures Spotted in the Sawmill

Dark Shadows began to play softly from the see ANCIENT pg 14

The Year of the Frog

BY TARA GORVINE
ERVING - The first annual North American Amphibian Conference (NAAAC) was held this weekend at the French King Entertainment Center in Erving.



were lectures, workshops, field trips, raffles and a fundraising barbecue. And if you were in the market for a frog, or just wanted to take a good look at these intriguing critters, there were plenty to choose from, not to mention terrarium plants and other supplies sold by vendors from all over the country.

The conference was see FROG pg 10

ONE TO GO!

Turners Falls Girls' Softball Heads to State Championship 5th Year in a Row



DETMOLD PHOTO

Hang On!

Kim Arsenault, left, and Danielle Sullivan both went for an infield fly at the top of the 7th with the tying run on base. They missed it. But they went on to win the state semi-finals against West Boylston Tuesday at Worcester State College in a squeaker, 4-3. They meet W. Bridgewater in the state fnals, Saturday at 1 p.m.

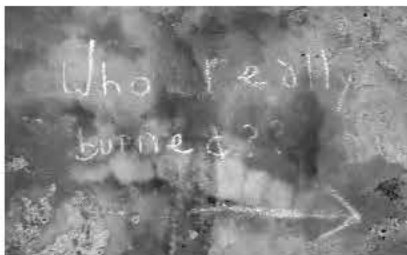
BY DAVID DETMOLD

The Turners Falls girls softball team came out swinging in the early innings, and then clung to a dwindling lead in the top of the

seventh to defeat W. Boylston in the state MIAA Division III semi-finals held Tuesday at Worcester State College. Despite the 94 degree heat, Turners pitcher Dani

Sullivan went the distance, giving up 10 hits, walking one, and striking out not a single batter.

Sullivan helped her cause con- see SOFTBALL pg 9



The question posed by this bike path graffiti - pointing to the Strathmore Mill - was answered Tuesday in Superior Court.

BY DAVID DETMOLD

TURNERS FALLS - Jonathan Tanzer is guilty of setting the fire that burned the 19,000-square-foot, three and a half floor Building #10 of the Strathmore Mill on Saturday, May 26th, 2007. A jury of six men and six women, after deliberating for eight and a half hours on Monday and Tuesday, returned that verdict in Greenfield Superior Court against Tanzer, 44, formerly

Tanzer Guilty as Charged

of 5 Chestnut Lane, Turners Falls.

The verdict came almost a year to the day since Tanzer's girlfriend, Amber Hewes, turned him in to the Montague police for setting fire to the mill building while his former employer, Jerry Jones, and Jones's girlfriend, Christine Sherman, slept in an apartment in an adjacent building. Building #10 was a total loss. Nearby buildings were badly damaged. No one was injured in the blaze.

Tanzer will be sentenced on July 1st by judge David Ford, who presided over the five day trial. He faces 20 years on the charge of breaking and entering in the nighttime to commit a felony, ten years on the charge of burning a building and three years for burning person-

al property. Tanzer could face up to 33 years if the judge imposes consecutive sentences, said his court-appointed lawyer, Barry Auskern.

The case depended largely on the testimony of Hewes, formerly of Chestnut Lane, now a resident of Ludlow, who told the court she had driven Tanzer to the mill in the early morning of May 26th, and agreed to act as lookout for him while he entered the mill complex through a tunnel that runs beneath the Southworth Paper Mill. Once in the courtyard behind Building #10, Tanzer planned to force an easily opened door in that building, Hewes said. She said he planned to remove as much copper scrap as he could carry from a stash he thought see VERDICT pg 10

PET OF THE WEEK

Beautiful Dreamer



Lilly

My name is Lilly and I'm a five-year-old female brown tabby in need of a good home. I feel in my bones that I am a lucky girl. I've had a dream that a person brought me to a warm home full of toys, catnip, and a lap where I was always welcomed. Suddenly here I am, in a shelter, and I know that I will be adopted by the kindest, most loving person. I am an FIV+ cat, which mainly means I need a stable home, a good diet, and someone just to keep an eye on my health. With your good care, I will be a healthy girl who will be a joy in your home for years and years to come! For more information on adopting me please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at 413-548-9898 or via email lev-erett@dpvhs.org.

Feel Like a Brand New Person!



With a
Haircut at
**Ed's
Barber
Shop**

115 Avenue A • 863-2085

Ed, Denise & KarriAnn

"54 Years on the Ave"

NANCY L. DOLE
BOOKS & EPHEMERA

Buying and selling used books
32 BRIDGE STREET, 2ND FLOOR
SHELburnE FALLS, MA
413-625-9850
ndole@crocker.com closed Mondays

The Montague Reporter

Published weekly on Thursday,
(Every other week in July and
August. Wednesday paper fourth
week of November. No paper last
week of December.)

PHONE (413) 863-8666

FAX (413) 863-3050

reporter@montaguema.net

Postmaster: Send address
changes to

The Montague Reporter
58 4th Street

Turners Falls, MA 01376

Advertising and copy deadline
is Tuesday at NOON.

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

Local Subscription Rates:
\$20 for 6 months

NEW SALEM LIBRARY NEWS

Painting Workshop at Town Hall

BY DIANA SMITH

"The New Art of Pastel Painting: The da Vinci Mode," a free pastel painting workshop for sheer beginners to advanced participants will be led by award winning artist Gregory John Maichack, at the town hall on 15

South Main St., Wednesday, June 25th, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Seats may fill quickly so please call (978) 544-6334 to pre-register for this free class. Bring a photo or image of a landscape to work from. All supplies provided.

Last Chance to Visit Turners Falls Fishway

Visitors to the Turners Falls Fishway have until Sunday, June 15th to witness one of New England's rites of spring – the anadromous fish migration. Windows at the Fishway put visitors at eye level with migrating fish including bizarre-looking, three-foot sea lamprey and one-and-a-half foot long, green-gold American shad. The Fishway is open 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. through Father's Day. Admission is free.

Bald eagles, nesting upstream in Barton Cove, are often visible through a spotting scope. The Fishway is equipped with a live, solar-powered camera feed of the eagle nest, allowing visitors to see the live action in the nest. The Fishway is located on the banks of the Connecticut River on First Street, off Avenue A, in Turners Falls. Adjacent to the Fishway is Unity Park, providing picnic tables.

New Members Elected to Health Center Board

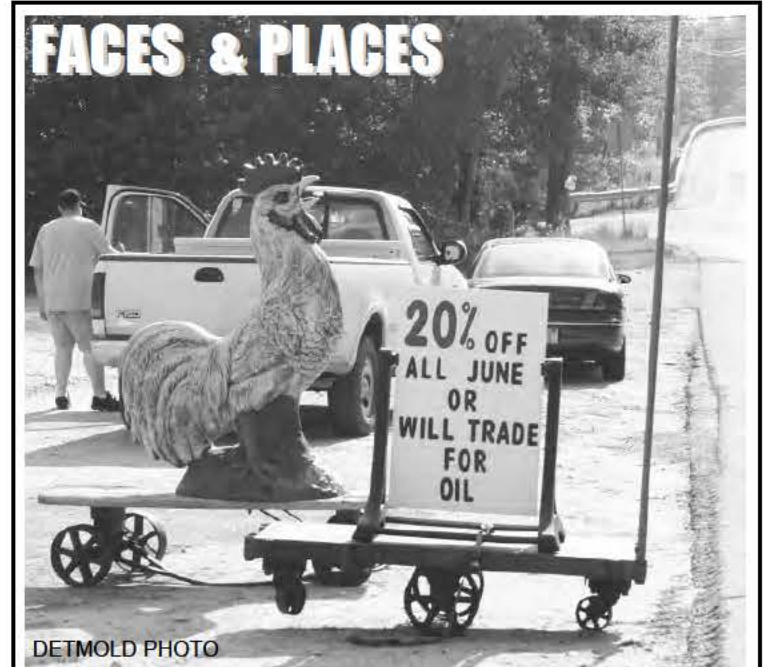
TERRANCE BLANCHARD TURNERS FALLS - The Community Health Center of Franklin County is pleased to announce the election of three new directors to its board. William J. Meehan II, of Athol, Alexandra Sadowski, of Orange, and Ivan Ussach, of Petersham were elected at the May 21st Health Center board meeting.

General Meehan is retired from the US Army Adjutant General Corp. During his military service he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal. A long time resident of Athol, he is a member of the Athol Memorial Hospital board of directors. General Meehan's lengthy military and public service will serve the Health Center well.

Alexandra Sadowski is a long time resident of the North Quabbin region. She is active in many community organizations that support disenfranchised residents of the area. Her varied and extensive work experiences are expected to contribute to the continued success of the Health Center.

Before moving to Gill this month, Ivan Ussach resided in Petersham for five years, and has worked in Athol with the Millers River Environmental Center and the Millers River Watershed Council. His work with community organizations will be a valuable addition to the Health Center's board.

The Health Center is partially funded by the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration's Bureau of



DETMOLD PHOTO

On the side of Route 122, near the Barre town line, Village Green Antiques lures passersby with a bard to resist stimulus package. Check it out on the way to Saturday's game!

Farms and Gardens Tour of Gill

The Farms and Gardens Tour of Gill will take place Saturday, June 28th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., rain or shine.

This self-guided tour includes an apiary, arboretum, a permaculture style market garden and a North American Butterfly Association certified backyard. You will also see farms that raise a variety of livestock, grow fruits and vegetables, produce maple syrup and honey, as well as fresh milk and cheese.

Tickets with maps are \$7 in advance and on the day of the event, and are available at the following locations. In Gill at Jan's Package Store or Songline Emu Farm, Equi's Candies in Turners Falls, World Eye Bookstore in Greenfield, Bernardston Farmers Supply, Savages Market in Deerfield, and Mim's Market in Northfield.

For more information, call Kathleen at 863-9288.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES -- June 16th - 20th

GILL/MONTAGUE Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. Council-on-Aging Director is Bunny Caldwell. For information or to make reservations, call 863-9357. Meal reservations need to be made a day in advance by 11 a.m. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open. Mealsite Manager is Chris Richer. The Center offers a hot noon meal weekdays to any senior. A reservation is necessary and transportation can be provided. Trips: Call the Senior Center 863-9357 or 863-4500

Monday, 16th

Voting for 2½ proposition. The center will be closed for meals. Meals On Wheels will be delivered as usual.

10 a.m. Senior Aerobics Class will be at 10:00 a.m. at Our Lady of Peace Church

11 a.m. Easy Aerobics

Tuesday, 17th

9:00 A.M. Walking Club.

1:00 P.M. 1908 Tea Party; Actress, Rita Parisi is a one

woman performance. She takes you back to 1908, the world was on the cusp of change. The traditions of the Victorians were giving way to a modern way of thinking. The automobile, airplane, changes in fashion, entertainment, and social conventions were altering the lives of people forever. Rita will entertain you during her afternoon tea as she tells you about her trip to Boston. Then engage in an open discussion as she shares with you her latest issue of the Ladies Home Journal. Cookies and tea will be served and slip back 100 years in time and enjoy the presentation. Bring your own tea-cup. Call the Senior Center to make a reservation.

Wednesday, 18th

10 a.m. Senior Aerobics

12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday, 19th

1 p.m. Pitch

Friday, 20th

10 a.m. Senior Aerobics

11 a.m. Easy Aerobics

Trips: Call the Senior Center 863-9357 or 863-4500

ERVING Senior Center, 18 Pleasant St., Ervingside (Old

Center School, 1st Floor), is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. For information and reservations call Polly Kiely, Senior Center director at 413 423-3308. Lunch daily at 11:30 a.m. with reservations a day in advance by 11:00 a.m. Transportation can be provided for meals, Thursday shopping, or medical necessity by calling Dana Moore at 413-422-2584.

Monday, 16th

9:00 a.m. Exercise

9:45 a.m. Library

12 Noon Pitch

Tuesday, 17th

9 a.m. Aerobics

12:30 p.m. Painting

Wednesday, 18th

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing

12 Noon Bingo

Thursday, 19th

9 a.m. Aerobics

10:15 a.m. Pool

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

LIVE IN
EST. 1754
MONTAGUE?
www.MontagueMA.net
local gossip, news & business listings

THE SHADY GLEN

BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

Lunch Specials from 11:00 a.m.
Mon: American Chop Suey • Tues. Chicken Fricassie • Wed: Chicken Souvlaki, rice • Thurs: Corn Beef & Cabbage • Fri: Fried Scallops
Sat: Yankee Pot Roast

Open Sundays 7-2
863-9636

Montague's Earth, Wind and Sun Fair - Sustainable Energy Education & Fun

MONTAGUE – Play with mini wind turbines, solar cells, and hydropower generators. Challenge yourself to keep 600-watts of light going for one minute with pedal-power (it's not as easy as it sounds!) Tune up your bike for a year of fuel-free transportation, or bake something tasty to eat - from you own solar oven!

Experience sustainable technology in a fun, family atmosphere on June 14th at the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls. Attendees can explore sustainable technology and learn about saving energy in their homes and businesses.

Events at this year's fair include:

- Hands-on sustainable technology experiments with wind, water and solar power
- Announcement of the Earth,



Wind & Sun youth photo contest winners

- Adult workshops on reducing energy use at home and in your business
- A geological tour of down-

town Turners Falls to see how past climate changes are revealed in exposed rock outcrops.

• Information on how to use state-subsidies to help install renewable energy systems in homes or businesses

- Bicycle tune-ups
- Solar oven baking

Full details are posted on the Montague Earth, Wind & Sun Fair pages on www.MontagueMA.net. Click on the yellow and green ad to find the event web page.

The Earth, Wind and Sun Fair is the kickoff for the Montague Clean Energy Campaign, which aims to develop a source of funds for the town of Montague to use for energy efficiency and renewable energy

projects in town and expand renewable energy in New England. The campaign, if successful, could win bonus money for these projects through a fund created by the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative Renewable Energy Trust (MTC).

MTC is willing to distribute funds for clean energy projects to towns and cities whose residents and businesses exhibit strong support of renewable energy. Every time a Montague household or business provides a tax-deductible donation to the New England Wind Fund, MTC gives the same amount of money to the town of Montague to use for energy efficiency and renewable energy town projects. Cities and towns across Massachusetts have used this program to raise tens of thousands of dollars for sustainable energy projects. The city of

Northampton has raised over \$150,000 through this program."

If 3% of town residents - only 109 households - sign up over the next 12 months MTC will provide a \$50 per household bonus to add to the funds the town has earned. There are two ways to join - contributing at least \$5 a month for one year, or making at least a one-time \$100 donation. If the 3% goal is reached, Montague can expect to receive up to \$17,000 for the town to spend on reducing our dependence on fossil fuels--enough to fund a solar-electric system for a town building.

The Earth Wind And Sun Fair is sponsored by the Montague Grange and the Great Falls Discovery Center. The Montague Clean Energy Campaign is a program of the Montague Grange.

From Swampfield to Montague

BY MICHAEL MULLER

MONTAGUE CENTER - Montague was originally part of Sunderland, then called Swampfield. The first families in this area built houses on "Hunting Hill" and along the Sawmill River in what is now the center of the village. The land was good for farming and the hill good for hunting.

This northern section of Swampfield was host to part of the east-west stage road from Albany to Boston, with at least two ferry crossings in the area and the main road going through what is now the center of the village, up Federal Street and then over Dry Hill.

The growing local population in this area decided they wanted their own local parish, so in 1751 - 25 years before Massachusetts and other states declared their independence from England - they created the North Parish of Swampfield (now the First Congregational Church of Montague). A petition was sent to the House of Representatives in Boston - King George II of England's representatives - who

approved the new parish as a legal entity. A year later the newly ordained Reverend Judd Nash became the North parish's first minister and established church meetings in Root's Tavern on what was then the King's Highway (now Old Sunderland Road, at the corner of School Street). This building is still standing and is now a private residence.

A year later, on December 22, 1753, the residents of North Parish created a legal governing structure, incorporated, and by order of the General Court of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, became known as the town of Montague.

Soon after a Meeting House (church) was built just to the west of where the library now stands, and stood until 1832 when - due to a rift between the Congregationalists and the Baptists - the building was torched and burned to the ground. Some people think this may have not only been the result of deliberate arson, but an act coordinated between the two camps.

The following spring, in 1834, two churches were erected on opposite sides of the town common: the current Congregational Church, made of brick from local clay beds, and the Unitarian Church. The Baptists erected their own church at Moore's Corner in North Leverett.

In 1858, Montague built a town hall, where the library is now located, on the north side of the town common. Thirty years later, in the upstairs "Lecture Hall" the Montague Grange, the 141st local Grange in Massachusetts, was organized.

During these years there were three general stores, several small factories turning out com-

modities such as shoes and purses, and even a gas station where Main Street turns sharply north towards the grist mill and the railroad depot just beyond. This gas station housed the town's first fire engine, owned and operated by the owner of the gas station and stored in the basement of the building.

The Patrons of Husbandry

The National Grange was established shortly after the Civil War ended as a way of bridging factional divides between farmers in the North and the South, and as a means of lobbying for agriculture interests at a time when industrial concerns and the power of railroads were on the

ascendant.

Local Granges quickly became social centers in their communities. Dances, potlucks and gatherings of all types occurred on at least a weekly basis, with potlucks usually preceding each meeting and coffee and cake afterwards to increase opportunities for socializing. Education was a major part of the local grange, with a lecturer's program slotted for every meeting.

Some of the major achievements the National Grange claims to its credit were the formation of the anti-monopoly Populist Party and the break-up of the railroad monopolies in the late 1800s; ballot reform and anti-trust laws; rural credit; school lunch and milk programs;

see **GRANGE** pg 12

ATTENTION MONTAGUE RESIDENTS

We have an important decision to make Monday, June 16th



SUPPORT OUR TOWN
Vote YES for the Override.

PAID FOR BY MARGE LEVENSON

Pam Veith Real Estate

75 Main Street
Northfield, MA 01360

Office: 413-498-0207
Ofc. Fax: 413-498-0208
Home Phone: 413-863-9166
Home Fax: 413-863-0218
Email: bedson1@comcast.net

Barbara A. Edson-Greenwald
ABR, CRS, e-PRO, GRI, SRES, CBR
REALTOR®

"My Office is Always Open to You!"

Renaissance Builders

Stephen Greenwald

PO Box 272
Turners Falls, MA 01376
413/863-8316
Fax 413/863-9712
www.renbuild.net

Seth and Eva's

115 Avenue A
Turners Falls, MA.
Open Tue.-Sat 10-6 Sun. 10-5

New, Brand Name Women's Clothing
New and Used Guitars, Amps & Equipment
Fine Art
Hand blown Glass
Local Crafts
Unique Gifts

DEMERS' LANDSCAPING

Landscaping & Excavating
Estimates Given - Fully Insured

136 Turnpike Road, Turners Falls, MA 01376

COMPLETE TREE SERVICE • LOTS CLEARED • WOOD CHIPPING
WOOD CHIPS • MULCH • LOAM • LAWNS AND SOD INSTALLED
PLANTING • MASON AND STONWORK
ALL TYPES OF FENCING • DOZER AND BACKHOE WORK
SEPTIC SYSTEMS INSTALLED

Edward A. Demers, Prop. **Since 1970** Tel. 863-3652

Diemand Farm

- Farm Fresh Eggs
- Whole Roasting Chickens
- Pot Pies
- Homemade Soups
- Desserts

Products Vary Weekly

Farm Store Open Every Day
7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Mormon Hollow Road, Wendell • 978-544-3806

SHANAHAN CONSTRUCTION SUPPLY Co.

SCSC

Tired of that ugly patch of yard the grass just won't grow on? Beautify your property with a patio or walkway of pavers by Ideal.

Complete
Masonry Supply

Stop by and see our complete line of concrete or brick pavers, wall stone, retaining wall block and much more.

298 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA
413-863-4322

Idea

The Montague Reporter

24 3rd Street, Turners Falls, Mass. 01376

Editor

David Deimold

Assistant Editor

Kathleen Litchfield

Editorial Assistants

Hugh Corr
David Brule

Circulation

Suzette Snow Cobb
Don Clegg

Layout & Design

Kathleen Litchfield
Boysen Hodgson
Karen Hoyden
Karen Wilkinson
Suzette Snow Cobb

"The Voice of the Villages"

Photography

Joe Parzych
Shawn Woolsey

Technical Administrators

Michael Muller
Michael Farick

Founded by
Harry Brandt David Deimold
August, 2002

Arthur Evans

Montague, Please Vote Yes on Monday!

BY ART GILMORE

MILLERS FALLS - I am requesting the voters of the town of Montague to please vote yes for the override when they attend the various voting precincts on Monday, June 16th.

I am also a retired senior citizen living on a retirement income, and have taken a long hard look at the situation that faces us within our town. I have come to the conclusion that the \$150,000 override that is requested of us is not intolerable. The cuts in services that would result if the override failed would indeed be intolerable.

It is not the town employees' fault that we have arrived where we are at present. Town departments are already operating with fewer employees than they had in previous years. The town administrators' secretary is a part-time employee; one secretary is taking care of three other town departments; no janitorial services exist at the town hall - the employees do their own cleaning. How many town offices require their employees to do janitorial services? The town highway department at

one time had over 30 employees; now they are down to around 13.

I find it a bit ludicrous to read advertisements for a school principal with a salary range of from \$70,000 to \$80,000 in order to create another administrative position within the school budget, when we are being asked to cut town positions and services.

I do realize that times are difficult, but please take in to consideration all that these dedicated people do for you -- such as the senior center providing a home away from home for those who have perhaps lost a loved one, and the parks and recreation program that provides for our children and adults. This is why I am asking you to turn out and vote yes on the override.

Get Down in the Gutter

Leverett Village Coop's Annual Spring Fling! takes place this Saturday, June 14th, from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. with the music of John Sheldon, Pitchfork, Steve Crowe Trio and others. Music and BBQ lunch will be provided by the Coop.

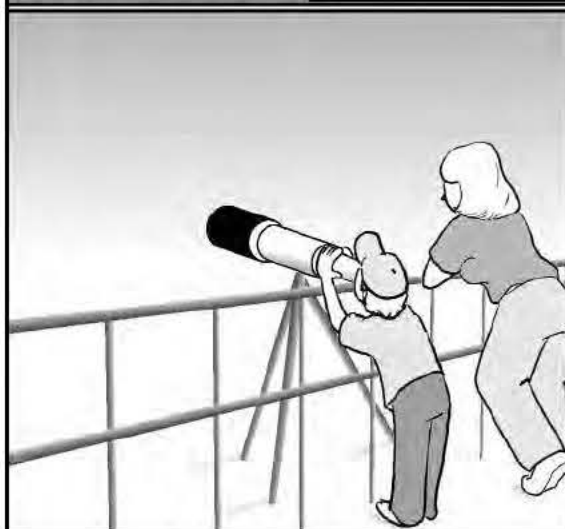
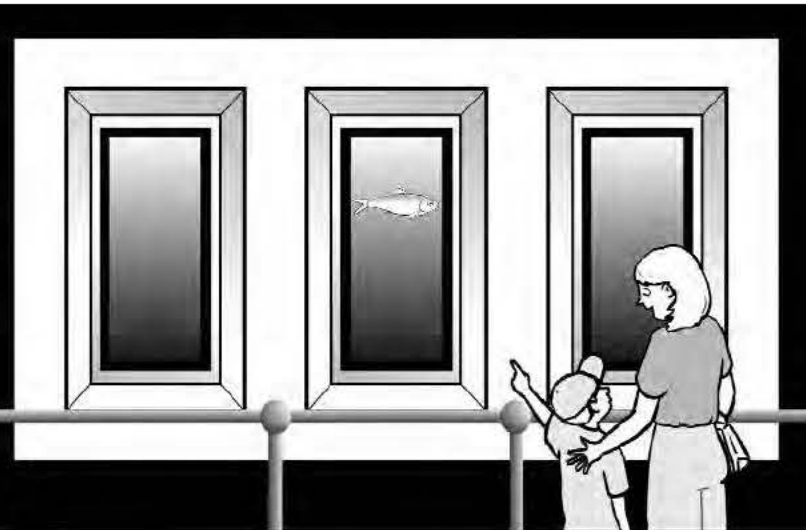
Starting at 10 a.m. there will be tarot readings, local artisans selling their wares, and kids activities. Learn about the Leverett Energy Commission, the Rattlesnake Gutter Trust, and the Village Coop itself at booths set up by these and other local organizations

For more info: call the Village Coop at (413) 367-9794, or stop by the Coop at 180 Rattlesnake Gutter Road, Leverett.

The Spring Fling is Free!

FISH IN, FISH OUT

A DAY AT THE FISH LADDER



KAREN WILKINSON ILLUSTRATION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Reasons to Vote No on Monday

There are several reasons why I will be voting against the tax override on the June 16th ballot in Montague.

The impact of the approved override vote for the police station hasn't been felt in our tax bills yet. A sewage treatment plant debt exclusion increase will be impacting tax bills this year. The 'normal' 2½ percent plus new growth tax increase associated with the recently passed budget (not including the proposed \$150,000 for the override) is pending.

It has become too easy to ask the taxpayer for exclusions and overrides rather than to pay for and provide what we can afford as a town.

I seriously doubt the collective bargaining that has started with employee unions will result in a 0% increase in wages and benefits. Where will the

additional funds for that come from? Another override? What are the tax ramifications of the FY '09 school budget?

Our elected and appointed officials who all seem to be in favor of the override have decided not to plan their course of action if the override fails. They won't give the taxpayers the courtesy of telling us what they would recommend for cuts if the override fails. Personally, I'd like to know beforehand what I'm paying or not paying for.

Unfortunately, our elected officials haven't been able to make the hard decisions and recommend the needed cuts to arrive at a balanced budget and avoid an override. The budget 'crisis' is nothing new. It's gone on for many years and they don't seem to get it. Pay for what you can afford. If services

need to be cut, so be it.

If the override does pass, does that preclude a similar vote next year? Of course not. It may, in fact worsen the situation by requiring more reductions. Don't count on a state bailout or additional revenues. State government has its own problems.

With \$3,000 - \$5,000 (or more) home heating bills on the horizon and a significant senior population in Montague, an override is not realistic.

It really borders on arrogance that our elected officials are supporting an override when they were some of the ones who negotiated past generous fringe benefit packages that constitute much of the budget problem we have been and are still experiencing.

- Joseph Janikas
Turners Falls

American Dead in Iraq and Afghanistan as of 6/11/08



(Casualty sign temporarily located next to Wagon Wheel Restaurant on Rte. 2 in Gill)

Sign Me Up!

\$20 for 26 issues (local) \$25 out-of-area

The basic price of subscriptions barely covers distribution and mailing costs. Sustaining subscribers help the paper grow!

Sustaining Subscribers: \$30 \$50 \$100
 Other _____

The Montague Reporter

58 4th Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376

Name: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Thank you for Memorial Day Celebrations

On behalf of the trustees of the town of Montague soldiers memorial I wish to extend our sincere appreciation to the following, who participated in our Memorial Day parade and ceremony held on Monday, May 26th:

Leo Parent, veterans agent, the Turners Falls High School band, the Turners Falls Girl Scouts, the Montague Boy Scouts, the Montague Elks for the placement of the wreaths by Russell Dean, Larry Parker,

Walter Kostanski, Nicholas Prokovich, James Cassody, Sr., James Cassody Jr.; speakers John Murphy, District 13, VFW Commander; Brian SanSoucie, Turners Falls American Legion; Al Cummings, Mass. State Council President Vietnam Veterans of America; Patricia Pruitt, town of Montague select board; and soldiers memorial trustee Donald Girard, who played Taps. And a special thank you to Art Gilmore from the trustees soldiers memorial

for all of your hard work on the new memorial.

- Al Cummings, Chairman,
Trustees Soldiers Memorial

We Welcome Your Letters!

Montague Reporter
58 4th St Turners Falls, MA 01376
FAX (413) 863-3050
reporter@montaguema.net

GUEST EDITORIALS

Answers to Frequent Questions on the \$150,000 Montague Override

The following questions and answers were revised and prepared by John Hanold, chair of the Montague finance committee, in advance of the Monday, June 16th override vote.

1. This is a bad year for an override. Can we wait till next year?

There's rarely a "good" year, and the budget voted by town meeting depends on an override to be in balance. Economic conditions that affect an individual's pocketbook also affect state aid and town income.

2. Why is this happening this year?

In recent years we have closed the gap between revenue and expenses in town by using savings. We are reaching the end

of some of the savings funds, and need to preserve what's left for emergencies.

In the last couple of years, state aid and revenue generated in town have risen to help cover our expenses. This year, the state is not raising lottery distributions, and local revenues (motor excise tax, fees and permits) are flat. The only other revenue source is the property tax.

We've tried to control spending increases, but some budget items are subject to negotiation (salaries, benefits for employees and retirees) and some are beyond our direct control (utilities, supplies & equipment, veterans' benefits).

3. If this override is approved, are the town's long-term problems solved?

No, this is only one step toward stability. The 2.5% limit on levy increases is unrealistic. Even the state recognizes a 5.1% inflation rate. The override will contribute to a higher levy base, but it seems unlikely state aid will soon return to past levels. We must continue to minimize cost increases if we wish to balance future budgets without using savings, and this means staff reductions may be on the table in the future.

4. I understand wages and benefits are the biggest part of town spending. Can we deal with those costs directly and avoid asking for an override?

Town meeting's approval of the proposed budget began by accepting the selectboard and finance committee recommenda-

tion to eliminate cost of living adjustments for '09. Town meeting went on to delete step increases as well, and to cut the requested benefits budget by over \$95,000. These wage and benefit assumptions are subject to contract negotiations (now in progress) with the three unions representing town employees; a balanced budget depends on both the completed negotiations and approval of the override.

5. Shouldn't we try other ideas before going to an override?

Here are some other revenue generating and cost-cutting ideas already in the works:

The approved budget defers filling a highway position cut in earlier years. Several consulting or outside-services expenses have been cut back.

Montague is participating in a countywide energy audit to see what building changes can reduce our fuel consumption in future years. The cost savings over time will pay for the upfront improvements.

We continue to combine purchasing needs with area towns to get volume savings, and town staff is quite resourceful in the purchase and use of supplies. As with energy savings, we will see the benefit in slower increases, not immediate reductions.

The selectboard has formed a committee to determine if the land behind Judd Wire can generate future income, as a landfill or other revenue-producing enterprise. The results will affect years beyond Fiscal 2009.

6. I understand we have a big

Voting Yes for Reality

BY MIKE NAUGHTON

MILLERS FALLS - I'm not a big fan of Proposition 2½ overrides - the property tax is a very regressive tax, and if we need to raise more money I'd prefer it to come from something tied to people's income. But I do support the upcoming override in Montague, for the following reasons.

First, I don't think we have much choice. I think we've boxed ourselves into a corner where an override is the best of a number of bad solutions. If we had acted sooner to control operating budget spending, and if we had resisted the perennial increases in the assessment to the school district, then we might have been able to avoid the override, but we didn't, and here we are.

To paraphrase a former defense secretary, we must live with the governmental leadership we have, not the governmental leadership we might wish for. Sure, it would be better if we got

more money from the state, but we haven't, and it doesn't look likely that we're going to. Sure, we'd be better off if our local leaders had done more to hold the line on spending in the face of inadequate revenues, but they didn't, and town meeting didn't call them on it, and nothing we do now will change that.

To its credit, town meeting did reject the recommended budget this year and came up with its own alternative, but that was a heavy-handed effort late in the game that still failed to really fix the situation. The plain fact is we have been spending more money than we have taken in for several years now, and we've dug ourselves into a hole that it's going to be hard to get out of.

Of course, it's tempting to say just hold the line on taxes and cut some more of the budget. It's easy to argue that with all the increases in fuel, food, utilities, and everything else, householders simply have no more money for taxes. And it's satisfying to

think that in a world full of economic forces we can't control, at least we have the power to "just say, 'No'" to an override.

But I think it's worth considering this. Our power to say "No" comes from the fact that we really are in charge of this aspect of our lives. Is it fair to automatically reject every request for an increase just because we can, or should we stop and ask ourselves if maybe sometimes an increase might be justified? After all, the prices of everything else are going up - is local government really some kind of special case that can live with just at 2½ percent yearly increase?

Because, let's face it, everything else being equal, that's all our property taxes go up each year. Total tax revenues usually increase by more, but that's because of 'new growth' - in other words, people adding value to their properties that they are then taxed on. If you don't add any value, then you don't feel the effects of 'new growth'. If your tax bill has been going up more than that, it's because of two things: the possibility that your

property valuation has increased relative to your neighbors' (in other words, you got a bigger slice of the tax pie); and debt exclusions.

Debt exclusions are tax increases approved by the voters in order to fund special projects, and we've voted several of them over the past few years. They have definitely increased taxes, but none of that money has gone into the operating budget. Let's not be fooled into thinking that just because we voted to pay for some special projects, the town now has a lot more money to spend.

I'm starting to think that a 2½ percent annual increase probably isn't enough, unless we can figure out a way to get more help from the state. I think our legislators in Boston have definitely hung us out to dry on this one - they've made promises they haven't kept, and they act as if it's our problem to deal with the consequences. I think we should remind them of that every time we see them, but that doesn't help us right now.

In the short term, I think we



need to face the fact that a 3 percent or 4 percent increase is probably more realistic, and the only place it's going to come from is our tax dollars. I don't like it - I think it's the worst way to get the money - but I don't think we have much choice. If we want to keep any sort of government going, and I think most of us do, then we need to figure out some way to pay for it.

The proposed override will be roughly a 1½ percent increase, which won't get us out of the woods but will definitely help. Town leaders will still need to take a hard look at the budgets for next year, and town meeting needs to stick to its message that the days of pushing the hard decisions off into the future are over. I wish things were different, but this is the reality we're in.

The WAGON WHEEL RESTAURANT

BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

New Expanded Interior Dining!

Route 2 • Gill
413-863-8210

CRUISE NIGHT WEDNESDAY

Summer Hours:
Mon-Thurs 7am-8:30pm
Fri & Sat 7am-9pm
Sun 8am-9pm

EMU OIL
Life just got better

Call or Stop by for a Free Catalog

Thu. Fri. Sat.
12n-5pm
413-863-2700

Songline Emu Farm
66 French King Hwy, Gill

www.allaboutemu.com

RIVERSIDE RADIATOR

Propane Filling Station

RADIATORS for CARS - TRUCKS AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT

Foreign and Domestic

Cooling System Specialist

Rte. 2, Gill
863-4049 1-800-439-4049
8-5 Mon-Fri (closed Sat.)

AJ's CYCLE

274 Rt. 2, Gill

• gloves
• boots
• accessories
• gift certificates

(413) 863-9543

Allan • David
email: AJCYC@CROCKER.COM
WWW.AJCYCLE.COM

Gerri Johnson
CRB, CRS, GRI

Seniors Real Estate Support

Gerri Johnson & Associates REALTORS

66 French King Highway
Gill, MA 01376
(413) 863-9736
Fax (413) 863-9739

SKIP'S ROADSIDE DINER

POLISH, ITALIAN & AMERICAN FARE

Open 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM Daily • Closed Tuesday

Best Polish Food this side of Krakow!

24 French King Hwy @ TF Bridge
863-9991

Less than \$40 Per Household a Year will Maintain Our Basic Town Services

A few days ago I was talking with a friend about the override. He began by stating that while he supported town services, he was sure his rent would go up if the override passed, and he was already stretched.

I couldn't tell him what his landlord would do, but I was able to tell him the tax collector herself estimated the impact of the Proposition 2½ override would be about \$40 per year on a home assessed at \$200,000. This is about \$3.30 per month, not an amount likely to force a rent increase.

I also pointed out that \$3.30 a month was less than a gallon of gas, or a six pack of Miller, and way less than one pack of cigarettes. I also told him we stood to lose a great deal in the way of town services of the override failed.

"But I thought town meeting balanced the budget," he said. "I watched you propose cuts so we could keep the senior center open,

and the parks and rec, and the libraries."

"But those cuts weren't enough," I answered. The reality is that despite the best efforts of the finance committee, the selectboard and town meeting to pare the budget back to bare-bone spending, we still need more to ensure our town will be able to function for its citizens.

In fact, if the override does not pass, some of the services town meeting restored are again fair game for cuts. As are positions at town hall. As is trash or recycling pick-up. As is the town nurse position.

Less than \$40 a year is a very small amount to pay for our essential services. Our town needs us to vote yes for this very modest override.

- Christopher Sawyer-Laucanno
Montague

Library Trustees Statement on Library Budget

MONTAGUE - As library trustees for the town of Montague we feel it is our duty to make a statement about Monday's override vote. Town meeting revised the municipal budget at its annual meeting in May. A large portion of the library budget - \$35,000 - was originally planned to be a part of a \$250,000 override, along with other departments' budgets. Town

maintains the reciprocity agreements that allow Montague residents to use other libraries in the Commonwealth, and to continue to use interlibrary loans.

We cannot encourage residents to vote one way or another at the polls. We can, however, discuss the facts and advocate for the library budget.

As it stands now, the town's budget is directly dependant upon an extra \$150,000 in funding from Monday's override. If the

reaching. Our libraries will be designated "decertified." Montague residents will be known as living in a decertified town and may be denied service at other libraries. Our patrons will most likely be blocked from borrowing materials via interlibrary loan. And we will lose approximately \$16,000 in extra income that comes to us from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners as part of the state aid program. This is the extra income we plan to use to make up for the \$11,000 cut the libraries have already sustained.

Libraries are important, especially in hard economic times. We provide materials locally to all our patrons. Some of these materials come to us from libraries out of the area, and some from out of state. All at no cost to our patrons, young and old.

- Sharon Cottrell,
for the Montague Board of Library Trustees

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



meeting then voted the library budget at a level only \$11,000 less than the libraries' original request.

The present budget - \$282,500 - is at a level that leaves the Montague Public Libraries compliant with state aid regulations and allows for continued service at current levels with no branch closings, and

\$150,000 is not provided, the budget will need to be reviewed again.

We all know libraries are important to our residents. Should the library budget be reduced to a number lower than \$282,500, the Montague libraries will not meet eligibility requirements for state aid. The effects of this are far-

Q&A from pg 5

reserve from a legal settlement, and that we can use other savings, like free cash.

Like household savings, these funds don't last long and need to be used for truly unforeseen expenses.

• We used nearly \$650,000 of free cash to balance the Fiscal 2008 budget, and have committed \$300,000 (nearly all available today) to balance the 2009 budget.

• The legal settlement for the Indeck plant did generate a reserve, which we have begun to use to help balance the 2008 and 2009 budgets (\$275,000 and \$150,000, respectively). However, even if we used \$500,000 of this \$1.2 million fund annually, and avoided "surprises" like snow, fires, equipment failures, or development opportunities, we would expect deficits in the near future. This reserve won't solve the underlying problem.

7. What will happen if the override fails?

The entire operating budget approved by town meeting

depends on the override passing. If it fails, the town does not have an approved budget, and a new one will need to be approved by a special town meeting.

8. I'd heard the senior center, parks and libraries would be eliminated or severely cut if the override failed. Is this still true?

Not necessarily, but since they were part of the "basket" of services linked to the override initially proposed, they would be considered again. The decision on how to balance the budget, if the override fails, will be made by town meeting on June 17th.

9. Montague has been a leader in recycling and animal control. Are curbside pick-up and the animal control officer still in the approved budget?

Yes and no. Curbside pickup would continue if the override passes, but might end if it fails. The animal control officer has been eliminated. Some limited animal control services may be provided, on a low-priority basis, by the police K-9 officer.

10. If we reduce or defer spending on the sewer or police station, will that help in 2009?

No. The money voted for one-time capital projects does not compete with the money needed for yearly services. The size of the sewer project has been trimmed to avoid overrunning the approved total, and the original \$5.6 million cost of the station has already been reduced by grants and cost savings by the building committee. These positive steps will lessen the impact

on taxpayers - but an override will not lower the tax impact of the projects, and stopping work will not eliminate the need for an override.

11. There is nothing in the planned cuts or override "basket" that involves the schools. How are they affected by the override?

No part of the proposed override is linked to Gill-Montague district expenses. It is not clear what the school related shortfall will be, and no assumptions have been made.

12. How much would this override raise my taxes?

About \$42 a year, for an average home.

13. How does our residential rate compare to other area towns?

Comparisons are rough, since home values and level of fire protection differ from town to town.

Here's some data (including fire district taxes) from the state Department of Revenue for Fiscal 2008:

Data from the Mass Department of Revenue for Fiscal 2008:

Avg Home \$	Tax Rate	Avg Bill \$	Split Rate?
Erving	184,924 6.68	1,235	YES
Orange	177,738 12.62	2,243	NO
Montague	193,185 14.60 (MC)	2,821	YES
Montague	193,185 16.04 (TF)	3,099	YES
So. Deerfield	284,075 11.49	3,264	NO
Greenfield	194,858 16.88	3,289	NO
Barnardston	223,487 14.87	3,323	NO
Shutesbury	261,474 15.90	4,157	NO
Leverett	312,931 15.00	4,694	NO

Montague's tax rate is \$13.55, plus either \$2.29 for Turners Falls or \$1.05 for Montague Center Fire Districts. A split tax rate like Montague's tends to keep residential taxes a little lower by taxing commercial and industrial property at a higher rate.



THE TEXTILE CO. INC.
Retail Fabric Store
• Cotton • Silks • Polyesters • Vinyls • Upholstery Material
• Quilting Supplies • Patterns • Calicos • Notions
CASH & CHECKS ONLY
Mon.-Sat. 9-5:20, Fri. til 8:20 • Closed Mon. - June, July, August
Power Square (413) 773-7516
Greenfield

MontagueWebWorks.com

build | manage | create | 413.522.4808

GREENFIELD IMPORTED CAR SALES
Formerly LaBelle & Leitner
AUDI • VW • VOLVO • BMW
Large selection of diesel and all-wheel drive vehicles
Locally Owned for 27 Years
413-774-5517
335 High St., Greenfield
LALautosales.com

Simply Computing
computer set-up
training
QuickBooks

Debbe Dugan
774-5451
Your Pace at Your Place

Sawmill Outlet Sale
Find more at www.cowls.com
Call 413-549-0001 or order online at www.cowls.com
1x4x6 S4S select pine - \$2 each
1x8 rough premium pine - 54¢/lf
3" wide rough pine slabs - 96¢/bf
1x4 rough standard pine - 12¢/lf
1x6 rough hemlock boards - 23¢/lf
1x8 rough standard pine - 44¢/lf
COWLS BUILDING SUPPLY 125 Sunderland Road North Amherst
Visit Cowls Building Supply for more great deals!

GREENFIELD Veterinary Clinic

Robert J. Sagor, D.V.M.
18 French King Highway
Greenfield
Office Hours by Appointment
(413) 774-9919

GUEST EDITORIAL

Vote Yes for a New Dumptruck

Gill - On June 17th, the town of Gill will ask residents to vote on a debt exclusion override for the purpose of purchasing a new truck for the highway department. The truck we are replacing is over 19 years old, and is in very poor condition after years of work on the roads in Gill. But more importantly, this truck is dangerous to use over another winter season.

The total cost of the new truck, with plow and sander, is \$135,000. We have no other way of making this purchase due to

the restraints of Proposition 2½. With a debt exclusion override, the cost per family based on an average home value of \$212,500, will amount to about \$43 for each of the five years of the loan.

We realize this a very difficult time for Gill families, but this is the only way to make this vital purchase. We really need to buy two trucks for the highway department, but we know that would not be possible now. The addition of one new truck will allow us to save our highway department from having to spend

valuable time and money trying to find parts that are becoming increasingly hard to find to keep this old truck running.

The selectboard thinks very carefully before spending taxpayer dollars. We would not support this override unless the need to replace this truck was urgent.

The Gill selectboard would like to take this opportunity to ask the residents of Gill to do two things on June 17th: first vote, and second, vote, "Yes" to purchase a new truck for our highway department.

- Nancy Griswold
Leland Stevens
Gill Selectboard

NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Gill Police Department "Broke"

BY ALEX GOTTSCHALK

Chief David Hastings of the Gill police department brought disquieting news to the selectboard on the steamy evening of June 9th. "I'm out of money, and the bottom line is fuel," Hastings told the board.

"We knew that was coming," replied board chair Nancy Griswold, wryly.

Hastings told the board the average cost of refueling a police cruiser was running about \$56. And the budget squeeze stemming from the steadily increasing price at the pump only exacerbate his quandary. "It's easy for someone on the outside to say, 'Just cut down on your driving,' but we've been busy. Our job is to be out there; to be out there and be seen is very important. And in times of hardship, our job gets busier, it doesn't slow down," Hastings added.

The chief backed this up with a telling statistic. There have been 42 arrests so far this year in Gill. In 2007 there were a total of 12 arrests, in 2006 there were 14, and there were a grand total of nine in all of 2005.

Besides an increasing workload of arrests, another

issue cited by Hastings was the Northfield Mount Hermon school's increased reliance on the department. Police presence at the school racks up mileage on the cruisers, not to mention spreading an already small police force over that much greater an area.

All present at the meeting agreed the well-endowed private school should look into using other resources for large scale events, like their recent alumni weekend.

Musing on Hastings' arrest statistics, Griswold commented, "People think they live in a quiet little town with no problems, but wherever people live you are going to find problems".

The board approved a motion to transfer \$2,000 to the police department from Northfield Mount Hermon's annual \$10,000 gift to the town in lieu of taxes, in hopes that sum will tide the department over until the beginning of the next fiscal year, July 1st.

Also present at the meeting was Patrick Kennedy of Alternative Recycling Systems. Kennedy came to discuss having his Northampton based company provide recycling

services for Gill. Alternative Recycling Systems' bid was \$58,000, while Duseau Trucking bid \$73,000, making the choice clear.

"My understanding is that we are being asked to reproduce service that you have now," stated Kennedy. The contract is valid for two years, and was approved by the board.

Lastly, the board received updates from three town committees: the building committee, represented by Phil Maddern, the personnel committee, represented by Tom Hodak, and the library committee represented by Lissa Greenough and library director Jocelyn Castro-Santos.

Selectboard chair Griswold singled out the library for particular praise, telling Greenough and Castro-Santos, "You do a very nice job, ladies. The children in the library always look happy and contented."

Greenough asked the board if the Slate library, built in 1921, could be considered for an energy audit.

The board confirmed the library was one of the public buildings that would receive an audit.



MONTAGUE PARKS & RECREATION

56 First Street, Unity Park Fieldhouse, Turners Falls, MA
01376 • Phone: (413) 863-3216/Fax: (413) 863-3229
Office Hours: Mondays - Fridays; 8:30am - 4:30pm
www.montague.net

*** SUMMER PROGRAMS 2008 ***

YOUTH PROGRAMS

SUMMER PLAYGROUND PROGRAM

Playground Program Dates & Times: 7 Week Program; Monday, June 30 - Friday, August 15
Mondays thru Fridays: 9:00am - 3:00pm (Discovery and Sports & Adventures)
9:00am - 12:15pm (Pre-School Playgroup)

Dates:
Week 1 - June 30 - July 3 (No Playground July 4) Week 5 - July 28 - August 1
Week 2 - July 7 - 11 Week 6 - August 4 - 8
Week 3 - July 14 - 18 Week 7 - August 11 - 15
Week 4 - July 21 - 25
Scholarships - If a need exists for financial assistance, please contact MPRD at 863-3216 for a scholarship application (Only Montague residents are eligible.)

PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP - (Ages 3 - 5)

When: Mondays through Fridays; 9:00 am - 12:15 p m
Fees: Montague Residents - \$25 00/child/week, Non residents - \$35 00/child/week

DISCOVERY PROGRAM - (Ages 5 - 12)

When: Mondays through Fridays; 9:00am - 3:00pm
Fees: Montague Residents: \$55 00/child/week, Non-Residents: \$70 00/child/week

SPORTS & ADVENTURES - (Ages 9 - 13)

When: Mondays through Fridays; 9:00am - 3:00pm
Fees: Montague Residents: \$65 00/child/week, Non-Residents: \$80 00/child/week

YOUTH TENNIS PROGRAM

LESSONS - AGES 5 - 12, This year, we are introducing USTA's new *QuickStart Tennis* format. We can accommodate skills from beginner through advanced.

Session I: Week of June 23 - Week of July 18 (registration deadline: Friday, June 13)
Session II: Week of July 21 - Week of August 15 (reg deadline: Friday, July 11)

Fees: Montague Residents = \$40/session, Non-residents = \$45/session
Enrollment Minimum/class: 5 • Enrollment Max /class: 8

JUNIOR TENNIS TEAM - League Play

Who: Youth ages 14 - 18 yrs
Fees: Montague residents = \$30; Non-residents = \$35 (fees include team t-shirt)
Minimum Enrollment: 6 • Maximum Enrollment: 12

ULTIMATE FRISBEE CAMP

Who: Senior Camp - Ages 10-12 (Fees: Montague Residents = \$15, Non-residents = \$20)
Junior Camp - Ages 7-9 (Fees: Montague Residents = \$13, Non-residents = \$18)
When: Monday, July 7 - Friday, July 11 • 9:30am - 11:30am
(Fees include Frisbees and water bottles) • Registration deadline: Friday, June 27

SOCCER MANIAC CAMP

Who: Youths ages 8 - 12
When: Monday, August 18 - Friday, August 22 • 6:00pm - 7:30pm
Enrollment Minimum: 8 • Enrollment Maximum: 16
Fees: Montague Resident = \$30; Non-resident = \$35
(Fees include a camp t-shirt.) • Registration Deadline: Friday, August 8

ADULT PROGRAMS

ADULT TENNIS PROGRAM

Ages 18 & Up. We can accommodate skills from beginner through advanced. First lesson free
Session I: Week of June 23 - Week of July 18 (registration deadline: Friday, June 13)
Session II: Week of July 21 - Week of August 15 (reg deadline: Friday, July 11)
FEES: Montague Residents = \$35/session, Non-residents = \$40/session

FAMILY PROGRAMS

FAMILY TENNIS PROGRAM

Session I: Week of June 23 - Week of July 18 (registration deadline: Friday, June 15)
Session II: Week of July 21 - Week of August 15 (reg deadline: Friday, July 11)
When: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 7:00pm - 7:50pm
Fees: Montague Residents = \$12/Family Member • Non-residents = \$15/Family Member

863-3216

FELTON CONSTRUCTION CO. INC.
Blacktop Paving since 1958
Compare - There is a Difference
35 Federal Street, Millers Falls
413-659-3013

Roger King
7 Hillman Road, Colrain
413-624-3388
rogking@crocker.com
HICR # 117805 • Mass Contractors License # 046855
KING AWNING
Shady Deals Since 1938
www.kingawning.com

Sand Hill Ranch
We're Horse Crazy
Reasonable Rates • Lessons & Sales
Carriage Rides • Pony Parties
Manager/Instructor Lisa Matosky
374 Turners Falls Road, Montague, MA 01351
(413) 367-0118 • (413) 834-3978 cell

PARTRIDGE-ZSCHAU, Incorporated Insurance
25 Millers Falls Road, P.O. Box 312
Turners Falls, MA 01376
Tel. (413) 863-4331 (413) 773-5673
www.pzinc.com

COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE
KUSTOM AUTOBODY
MA Reg #RS2066
48 Randall Road
Montague
Phone/413-863-3780
Mike Fuller, Owner

New Energy for New England
ATLANTIC
Groundsource LLC.
Geothermal Heat Pump
Design & Installation
Call Dave @ 413-587-0021
www.Atlanticgroundsource.com

WE DIG FRANKLIN COUNTY

- Washed Stone
- Title V Sand & Gravel
- Processed Gravels
- Red Rock Stone
 - 50# bags or bulk
- Brick Red Bark Mulch
- Mason Sand
- TRG
- Loam, screened/unscreened



(413) 774-1285

Stewart's



Nursery and Garden Center
135 Millers Falls Road, Turners Falls

47 Years Growing Experience

200 Acres of Nursery Plants
Garden Center & Gifts
Container Plants
Landscape Design
Residential Plants
Trees & Shrubs, Mulch
Annuals & Perennials
Delivery Service Available

BARGAIN CORNER
Roses & Azaleas 25% off
Compact Burning Bush - \$10
Hemlock 2' - 2.5' - \$15
Arbor Vitae 2' - 3' - \$15
Supplies are Limited

Annuals are in!
Yardful of Beautiful
Flowering Shrubs & Plants

Monday to Saturday 7am - 5:30pm • Sunday 9am-5pm

Tel: (413) 863-2510
Fax: (413) 863-3079

NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Funds Remain in Building Accounts

BY JOSH HEINEMANN - Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich told the Wendell selectboard she had completed the 2007 town report and had ordered only 125 printed copies, at \$7 apiece for the printing. In prior years the town has printed many more annual reports than were taken by citizens, and piles of them have been stored, and later thrown out. Of the report Aldrich said, "It's done, and I'm happy."

The senior center renovation budget has \$5,634 remaining, with most work completed. The town has received only one bid for the floor and three bids for gutters and downspouts that should divert the water that has been draining off the roof and backing into the cellar. Bids for gutters ranged from \$800 for gutters alone, to \$2,016 for gutters with gutter helmets. There was some discussion whether leaf guards work, and what exactly gutter helmets are.

Selectboard chair Ted Lewis said with all the maple trees around the building there should be some way to prevent leaves from clogging the gutters and downspouts. Board members agreed to accept the bid of \$1,375 for gutters with aluminum leaf guards from BT Seamless Gutter Company of Leominster. Labor is guaranteed for ten years, materials for 20 years.

The town office construction account has about \$15,000 remaining, and the library construction account has \$8,000.

Selectboard member Christine Heard excused herself from signing a letter of recommendation for Lori Ramsdell, who has been working with her husband

Larry as town custodian. Ramsdell has applied as assistant custodian at Swift River School and Heard is part of the hiring committee at the school.

Town assessors are complaining they are not getting information about new construction from the building inspector. They say all they need is a copy of the building permit. Selectboard member Dan Keller asked Aldrich if she was interested in writing a note to the building inspector.

Not everyone who is elected or appointed to a town board has been sworn in, and Heard suggested the selectboard write a letter to every board, and include information about being sworn in with each appointment slip. Lewis said without that step a person has no authority.

Use of Reserves

Michael Idoine and Jim Slavas of the finance committee came in to discuss the financial aspects of last week's annual town meeting warrant. The stabilization account has \$970,000 in it, because of two years in which large contributions have been put there from free cash. Future free cash amounts are not expected to be as large. Idoine said the finance committee wants to consult with the town accountant and treasurer, but they have come up with \$80,000 in payments they feel should come from taxation and assessments to reduce the tax impact of the town's recent construction projects.

Slavas said the town could do that for seven years and still have \$400,000 in stabilization. In ten or fifteen

years, the finance committee hopes the stabilization fund will have enough money to pay off the USDA construction loan for the new library and town offices, which would save the town not only the interest on that loan, but also the cost of having independent audits performed every year as the USDA requires.

Library Budget

Idoine said the library is now relying on large contributions from the Friends of the Library, not a situation that will be viable in the long term. Use of the library has doubled since the new building opened. Slavas said the town charges for use of the town hall, but the library does not charge for the use of their meeting room.

Changing the comprehensive insurance deductible from \$1,000 to \$5,000 per incident will save the town \$2,250 a year in premiums. The selectboard voted to do that, and an article was placed on the town meeting warrant to put money in a fund to cover the deductible cost, in effect self insuring.

Basic Amenities

Slavas said the town should look for ways of developing smooth succession of department heads. Even with the pay raises on the town meeting warrant, both police and fire chiefs get about a tenth of what they get in surrounding towns. Keller suggested making the jobs, which are considered part time, more attractive.

He said, "Maybe a bathroom in the police station would help."

NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD Benefit Concert for Girl Injured in Sledding Accident

BY DAVID DETMOLD - The board met on June 9th for a brief housekeeping session, during which they reappointed firefighters and police officers and mutual aid backup from surrounding towns.

At the recommendation of town clerk Richard Newton, the board also appointed Betsy Sicard to the board of registrars. The board reappointed fire chief Mick LaClaire as the town's emergency response director.

In other business, the board also gave their seal of approval for a benefit concert to be held in Veterans Park from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 21st. The concert, being organized by Erving promoter Cyd Scott, will feature area bands including the Equalites, Lady Elvis (Laura Herbert) and Rob Fletcher on guitar, Chris Dixon, and Boston's heavy metal faves Pistol Fist. Proceeds from the show will go to build a wheelchair ramp for the home of young Kaleigh de Mello, who was injured in a sledding accident in Greenfield last year.

The board thanked town departments for taking care of the parks and sprucing up the cemeteries in time for Memorial Day.

With an eye toward steadily rising gas prices, the board approved higher reimbursement rates for employees who travel on town business in their personal cars.

Pegged to the IRS recommendations, employees will now receive gas reimbursements at the rate of 50½ cents a mile. That should pay for enough gas to drive to the nearest gas station and fill up again.

REPORTER CLASSIFIEDS

\$6 A WEEK; THIRD WEEK FREE
CALL 413-863-8666

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$8.00 PER WEEK (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

B. RUBIN & SONS INC.



COMPLETE AUTO REPAIRS

Shocks • Tires • Batteries • Starters
Struts • Tune-ups • Brakes • Oil Change

194 MILLERS FALLS RD. • **413-863-2236**
10% SENIOR DISCOUNT **FREE ESTIMATES**

MASS INSPECTION STATION: NO. 13051

About Face Computer Solutions

- PC Sales and Service
- Mac Software Support
- Network Support & Installation
- Quickbooks Training and Support



Veronica Phaneuf
(413) 367-0025
about-face@verizon.net



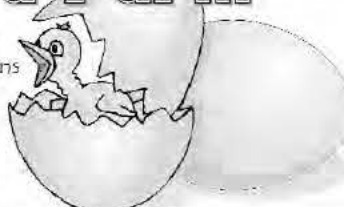
- Clay/Stone Sculpture
- Pottery
- Fine Art Drawings and Paintings

TELEPHONE 413.863.9299
email: carriagehouse@signedinstone.com

65 CANAL STREET • TURNERS FALLS, MA 01376

Diemand Farm

- Farm Fresh Eggs
 - Whole Roasting Chickens
 - Pot Pies
 - Homemade Soups
 - Desserts
- Products Vary Weekly



Farm Store Open Every Day
7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Mormon Hollow Road, Wendell • 978-544-3806

A sumptuous array of silk, heirloom whites, velveteen, rayon, wool & Japanese printed cottons. Vintage-inspired buttons, jewelry & scarves.

Delectable Mountain Cloth
125 Main Street, Brattleboro, VT 05301
www.delectablemountain.com
please visit our website or the store for even more
(802) 257-4456

RENAISSANCE PAINTING

LICENSED, INSURED™
INTERIOR/EXTERIOR PAINTING, ALL PHASES • POWER WASHING

BRIAN McCUE, PRESIDENT
240 GREENFIELD ROAD • MONTAGUE, MA
PHONE & FAX: 413-367-9896

SOFTBALL from 1

siderably in the batters box, going 2 for 4 with a solid drive in the bottom of the third to left center field, setting up Turners' second run, followed by a line drive to right center in the bottom of the fourth, bringing pinch runner Kelsey Waldren home from second in what proved to be Turners' winning run.

Ahead 4 - 0, Turners hung on and played defense until the final inning, holding the Boylston batters to just one run until the final inning. In the top of the fifth, when left fielder Kristen Lewis smacked a lead off triple to right field., Turners fielder Stephanie Ollari lost the ball in the sun, first running in for the catch, then reversing course as the ball sailed over her head and out of reach. After Sullivan gulled the next batter into a pop fly to second, Lewis scored on a sacrifice fly to center field. Then Ollari redeemed herself to end the inning fielding the last pop fly.

Turners defense was the highlight of the day, beginning with a great catch by Chelseigh St. Peter at third on Boylston's lead off batter in the first inning. That set the bar for the Turners squad. In the second inning, Boylston catcher Kerri Lewis hit a one hopper up the middle,

back handed by Turners second basewoman Jodi Hallet, who made the throw to first in time for the out, another great play.

With Boylston threatening in the third, loading the bases on two singles and Sullivan's only walk, first basewoman Lauren Wilson smacked a line drive that could have been trouble had Turners shortstop Kim Arsenault not been there with her quick glove to haul it down. Arsenault was back in top form in the top of the fourth with another split second performance, as she made a leaping catch to stop a drive from Lewis.

Ollari ended that inning with a brilliant diving catch on a line drive to right center by Boylston's Laura Conway, amazing Turners fans when she got up with the ball in the web of her glove. It was just one of many magic tricks the Turners defense pulled that day.

Turners was no slouch at the plate either, smacking 11 hits over the course of the day.



Dani Sullivan led her team to victory in the state Division III semifinals in Worcester on Tuesday.

Chelseigh St. Peter got things started for the Turners offense with two down in the first inning, smacking a line drive just beyond the Boylston shortstop's outreached glove for a solid single. St. Peter advanced to second on a wild pitch and scored on a drive between first and second by Kayla Breor, after she ran right into Boylston third basewoman Alie Panarelli as she rounded third. The umps ruled it

interference, and let St. Peter come home to score.

After Sullivan got things started with one out in the third with her single to left center, St. Peter, looking like she was enjoying herself, set her stance and knocked a stand up triple off the fence in left center field, scoring pinch runner Jenna Costa. Breor popped out, and then Turners first basewoman Angela Marguet drove a liner between short and third, bringing St. Peter home for the third run.

Turners scored again on Sullivan's fourth inning RBI, but then Boylston's relief pitcher Ashley Sabacinski held them scoreless for the last two innings. But their defense held - at least until Boylston's slugger Kristen Lewis got up again in the top of the 7th, with nothing to lose but a crack at the championship, and smacked a line drive over Breor to short right field to kick off her team's late rally.

Next up, Boylston's Casey Palmer tagged a 2 and 1 pitch to the exact same spot, advancing Lewis to third. No outs.

Then Panarelli connected with a sharp grounder back up the middle, bringing Lewis home. 4 to 2. Runners on second

and third. No outs.

At that point, Turners first basewoman Marguet proved why they call her "Spider," as she spun to her left and flung her elastic web around a line drive up the baseline by Boylston batter Jess Graham that surely would have scored the tying run. One away.

Batting cleanup, Boylston's Nicole Shepard strode to the plate. The sun blazed down. Shepard popped a blooper high above the pitcher's mound, provoking a mad dash by every infielder. It dropped between the outstretched gloves of Arsenault and Sullivan. Bases loaded.

Sullivan bears down. Boylston's Wilson flies to center. Palmer scores. 4 to 3. Two outs. Runners on second and third. Boylston catcher Kerri Lewis at the plate.

Lewis connects, and drives the ball into shallow left. The runners are flying toward home and Turners sees victory slipping from their grasp. Until Arsenault makes one more stupendous defensive play, running full tilt with outstretched glove, hauls it down and saves the day.

Turners will compete against W. Bridgewater on Saturday, June 14th at 1 p.m. in the state Division III finals, at Worcester State.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Child Endangerment

Tuesday, 6/3
 10:15 a.m. Report of erratic operator on Mountain Road almost hitting small child
 6:00 p.m. Mutual aid Bernardston to assist with traffic for a structure fire
 9:45 p.m. Assisted Montague police with warrant service Fourth Street

Wednesday 6/4
 6:45 p.m. Larceny of metal storm grates from Renovators Supply. Under Investigation.
 1:50 p.m. Domestic disturbance - Arrested [redacted] for assault and battery domestic
 5:25 p.m. Report of 18-month-old baby having allergic reaction at French King Bridge parking lot. Transported mother and child to meet ambulanc for faster care.
 11:05 p.m. Report of suspicious vehicle on Laurel Lake Road. Checked same. Advised rangers to call if vehicle was not removed by the morning.

Friday 6/6
 1:14 p.m. Citation issued to [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle without a license.
 1:42 p.m. Arrested [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, revoked registration and no insurance
 6:40 p.m. Suspicious person sitting in front to Smokin' Hippo Restaurant. checked same.
 9:34 p.m. Accident car vs. deer in Orange. Minor damage to vehicle.
 10:45 p.m. Report of verbal altercation on Park Street. Made contact with subject, second party left the area.

Saturday 6/7
 12:20 p.m. Report of male subject cutting down trees at Erving rest stop. Spoke to same, advised to stop

Sunday 6/8
 Criminal application issued to [redacted] for operating after suspension of license, failure to inspect vehicle and child not wearing seat belt

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Loud Noise at Night

Wednesday 6/4
 8:08 a.m. Report of accident with personal injury, North Leverett Road, Montague
 2:04 p.m. Report of assault at a Third Street address, Turners Falls. Investigated.
 4:20 p.m. Officer wanted at a Nadeau Avenue address. Services rendered.
 8:36 p.m. Arrested [redacted] on a default warrant

Thursday 6/5
 2:46 a.m. Report of general disturbance at Avenue A and Fourth streets, Turners Falls. Peace restored.
 9:39 a.m. Assist other police department with vehicle heading into Montague on Route 63, Leverett.
 6:13 p.m. Illegal dumping at Lady Killigrew Cafe, Greenfield Road, Montague. Investigated.
 8:49 p.m. Suspicious motor vehicle at Sheffield Elementary School, Turners Falls. Dispersed gathering.
 9:22 p.m. Unwanted person at a Third Street address, Turners Falls. Peace restored.

Friday 6/6
 10:55 p.m. Report of loud noise disturbance at Second Street Sports Bar / Fatboyz Nightclub, Avenue A, Turners Falls.
 12:30 a.m. Report of loud noise disturbance by river at Unity Park, Turners Falls. Investigated.
 12:42 p.m. Report of neighbor disturbance on Thirteenth Street, Turners Falls. Investigated.
 1:03 p.m. Unwanted person at a Massasoit Street address, Lake Pleasant. Investigated.
 1:34 p.m. Report of vandalism at Turners Falls High School.
 1:37 p.m. Vehicle fire near the Creamie on Millers Falls Road, Turners Falls. Investigated.

Saturday 6/7
 6:15 p.m. Report of water search / recovery for buoys in water behind police station. Investigated.
 10:52 p.m. Report of loud noise disturbance at Second Street Sports Bar / Fatboyz Nightclub, Avenue A, Turners Falls. Peace restored.
 2:07 p.m. Report of loud noise disturbance at Unity Park, Turners Falls. Services rendered.
 7:33 p.m. Officer wanted at a Turnpike Road address, Turners Falls. Services rendered.
 10:52 p.m. Report of loud noise disturbance at the basketball court, Unity Park, Turners Falls. Investigated.

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$8.00 PER WEEK (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

CHEVROLET MARK OF EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNER

PAUL J. SOCQUET
 Service Consultant

Phone (413) 773-3678
 Fax (413) 774-5746

DILLON CHEVROLET INC.
 54 MAIN ST
 GREENFIELD, MA 01301

Call "Buzz" for all your service needs!

REYNOLDS PROPERTIES

256 North Pleasant Street
 Amherst, MA 01002

Lynn Reynolds
 ABR GRI CRS

"Aiming for Astonishing Service"

413-367-2425 lynnreynolds@verizon.net

HOPE & OLIVE

HOURS: LUNCH TUES - FRI, 11:30 - 2:30
DINNER TUES - SAT, 5 - 9
SUNDAY BRUNCH 10 - 2, DINNER 5 - 8

CHECK OUT OUR NEW SUMMER MENU!

PHONE 413 774 3150
 44 HOPE STREET, GREENFIELD
 WWW.HOPEANDOLIVE.COM

Tognarelli HEATING & COOLING

123 Avenue A • Turners Falls MA 01376

Specializing in oil heating alternatives
 Pellet Stoves • Gas Conversion Burners
 Financing Available

YORK 413-863-2295 **SPACE PAK**
 It's time to get comfortable. Central Air - Anywhere

SINCE 1888

A.H. Rist
 INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.

159 Avenue A
 Turners Falls, MA 01376

email: tracey@ahrist.com
 web: www.ahrist.com

Tracey Kuklewicz 863-4373
 Vice President

Patty Cake
 Patty Cake

Wedding Cakes a Specialty!

Call to reserve space for Bridal Showers, Baby Showers & Special Occasions!

Cafe & Bakery
 104 Fourth Street, Turners Falls
 413-863-8900

Lunch Tuesday - Saturday
 Saturday breakfast
 Open Tue-Fri 7-4:30pm • Sat 7-2 pm

VERDICT from pg 1

Building #10.

Hewes said Tanzer felt entitled to take copper from the mill that night, because he had been badly burned in an electrical arc fire resulting from an attempt he made while under Jones' supervision to strip copper from a live 13,800 volt wire earlier that month. That accident sent Tanzer to the hospital in Worcester with severe burns on his arms and face, requiring skin grafts, and deprived him of employment for a period of weeks.

The prosecution produced a witness from Acme Metals in Springfield, Paige Skawski, who testified that Hewes was a frequent customer up until May of 2007, bringing in scrap copper and other metals to sell. Hewes said she and Tanzer made the trip to Springfield regularly, where she presented her ID, rather than to nearby WTE Recycling in Greenfield, in order to sell

copper they took from the Strathmore Mill without Jones' knowledge.

Hewes was quite specific in her testimony as to the events she said took place in the early morning hours of May 26th. She said she and Tanzer had both been drinking vodka and cranberry drinks, a number of them, a daily habit for the couple. "It was about 1:30 in the a.m.," said Hewes. "Jon said I was to take him to the warehouse. He got burned. They cut copper all day Sunday (the day of the electrical accident, May 6th). He believed it was his right to have it."

Hewes continued, "I told him it wasn't a good idea. I didn't want to do it. He was going to take the car regardless. I thought I could talk him out of it."

She said Tanzer instructed her to borrow the cell phone from their roommate Donna Beaumier, which Beaumier later testified she did loan to Hewes at about 1:30 a.m. that morning. "I

will walk over the bridge," (across the canal), she said Tanzer told her. "When I have the copper together I'll call you and tell you to come get it."

Hewes said she drove Tanzer, who did not have a license, to the parking lot at the intersection of Canal and 5th Street, and parked "in the upper left hand corner, nose in."

Enhanced video from the Southworth security cameras in three locations showed a car that matched the profile of Hewes' 2001 Cadillac Seville SLS passing the camera on the Southworth garage at 1:53:53 a.m., although no passenger could be made out in the video. According to FBI photography and video examiner John Green, who examined and enhanced the video images in his Boston office, a poor quality image from the third security camera, which covered the upper corner of the parking lot, showed a "shadowy figure run around the car and enter the passenger side of the

vehicle," parked there at about 2:08 a.m. The car then backs quickly toward the camera, turns out of the lot, and continues up Canal Street toward 3rd.

Captain John Zellman of the Turners Falls Fire Department, who worked with Green in the examination of the security videos, said the Southworth cameras showed the first fire engine responding to the scene at 2:55 in the morning, five minutes after the first call came in from the Montague police alerting them to the fire.

As Hewes testified, she said after she pulled into the parking lot, Tanzer walked across the bridge and was lost to her sight beneath the Southworth tunnel. At around 2:00 a.m., Hewes said she called a friend named Matt in Springfield, and Beaumier's phone records show a call made to the number she specified, at that time. Hewes said she hung up the phone when she saw Tanzer reappear in her rear view mirror, and get in the passenger

side of the car.

Hewes recalled Tanzer telling her, "Jones cleared out all the copper. I lit the fucker on fire. I got pissed and set a bale of paper on fire."

Prosecutor Alice Perry even called Montague police officer John Dempsey to the stand to testify that when he searched Tanzer's possessions after his arrest on June 12th of last year, he found a lighter and cigarettes in his pockets.

Before Hewes completed her testimony, she told the court her relationship with Tanzer had been "hectic" in the weeks before she decided to tell the police about the cause of the fire.

"When I tried to approach him and ask him, 'What are you gonna do? What are we gonna do?' He would say, 'What are you talking about?'"

She continued, "I was scared. He was drinking every day. If I told anyone, in the end would he

continued next page

FROG from pg 1

billed as the biggest poison dart frog show of the year, as interest centered around these tiny critters. Most of the vendors sold poison dart frogs, and it was easy to see why. These tiny animals run about the size of the silver dog in Monopoly and are colored brilliant combinations of red, blue, green, black and yellow.

Richard Revis, co-owner with Mike Wallitis of Black Jungle Terrarium Supply in Turners Falls (a nationally and internationally known player in amphibian circles), explained that in years past there have been several different annual conferences for amphibian fanciers, but this year nothing was planned. The American Association of Zoos and Aquariums designated 2008 the Year of the Frog, so it seemed a shame to miss such a great opportunity to raise awareness. Therefore, he and Mike, along with Amanda and Greg Sihler from Arizona Dendrobate Ranch (dendrobates being a kind of

poison dart frog), Ed Kowalski from the Philadelphia Zoo, and Matt Mirabello, a graduate student from Cornell, decided to put together one big conference, at a bowling alley, in Erving. They're not sure yet whether this is a one off or the first of many, but with approximately 300 attendees and vendors, they feel the conference was a success.

Ron Skylstad from the organization Tree Walkers International said he felt there was room for growth in the relationship between amphibian hobbyists and zoos or conservation societies, and the conference was a great way to foster that. The goal of Skylstad's organization is to create networks between all keepers of amphibians, so the animals can be registered and tracked and their survival rates noted. Tree Walkers uses the same system zoos use, with the goal of reducing the removal of animals from their natural habitat. Tree Walkers also has programs geared toward what people can do for frogs in their own backyard, such as their

program to create and study frog ponds.

According to Skylstad, hobbyists are usually passionate about frogs and interested in their habitats, their history and their conservation. So they are natural allies for conservationists.

An illustration of the dedication felt by those in attendance to the amphibian cause came when the building lost power for an hour and a half on Saturday. Not a single person left. They conducted business by flashlight. Luckily the weather had not yet topped the 90 degree mark it would reach later in the day.

Representatives from Amphibian Ark were also in attendance. Noah inspired this venture, the idea being to save endangered amphibians species from going extinct. Humans once again are to blame for causing the trouble. But in relation to amphibians, rather than one ark, they'd like to see a multitude of museums, aquariums and other protective institutions play a bigger role in

the venture. And like all conservation efforts, they need funds to do so, \$50 million in this case.

Half the amphibians in the world are endangered. Mark Eastburn, a teacher from New Jersey, explained how in Massachusetts, acid rain is the main culprit in the decline of frog species. Another enemy of amphibians is the chytrid fungus that's been ravaging frogs all over the world, especially in the tropics. The fungus has been particularly damaging to poison dart frogs, and so was of particular interest to those at the conference.

Eastburn was there to promote his book, *Secrets of the Survivors*. The plot centers on a group of kids and their adventures with lizards, frogs, the return of dinosaurs and an alien invasion, and was written with the hope of getting kids interested in these animals and the natural world.

Among the other exhibitors was the New England Herpetological Society, an organization devoted to reptiles,

amphibians and chelonians (otherwise known as turtles). They have several different projects, including an adoption program and their own regular meetings in Weymouth.

The award for coming the longest distance to attend the conference goes to the Costa Rican Amphibian Research Center. Brian Kubicki, the Center's owner and operator, was also one of the speakers at the conference.

There were plenty of raffle prizes, which meant lots of lucky attendees. Prizes included stuffed frogs and terrarium supplies as well as higher ticket items such as the rainforest habitat kit donated by Hagen, a Canadian pet supply manufacturer and the meeting's main sponsor.

The organizing committee's goal was to raise \$15,000 to fund amphibian conservation projects. As of this writing they don't have a final tally, but they are confident they met their goal.

Hopefully, from now on, every year will be the year of the frog.



EDWARDS TREE SERVICE

Matthew Edwards

- Storm Damage Prevention & Restoration
- Cabling & Bracing
- Shade Tree Maintenance
- Tree Removal
- Owner
- Climber
- Insured

Wendell • 978-544-7452

NixWorks

Michael Nix

High Quality Music Lessons

Guitar: Electric, Steel String, Classical
Banjo: 5 String, Tenor
Mandolin, Uke, Songwriting
Theory, Composition, Arranging

www.NixWorks.com
(413) 772-0328 mnix@nixworks.com

Greenfield Center School

K-8TH GRADES

Knowing Children
since 1981

SOCIAL JUSTICE CURRICULUM

TWO TEACHERS PER CLASSROOM

PROJECT BASED

RIGOROUS ACADEMICS

Now Accepting Applications

Greenfield, MA • 413-773-1700 • www.centerschool.net

BAKER Office Supply

• Soy-based Bean Pod Candles
• Ty Plush
• Photo Albums & Scrapbooks

\$2 off with this coupon
any Yankee or Bean Pod Candle 14 oz. or greater

310 Main Street, Greenfield
www.bakerofficesupply.com
(413) 774-2345

Psychotherapy

Ronald Sigmund Meck MA, CAGS, LMHC
30 Years in Practice

- Traditional talk therapy
- Expressive Arts • Body Psychology
- Adults, Teens, Children, Couples & Families

"What's ailing you?"

413-367-9763 413-695-9743

GREENFIELD SAVINGS BANK Since 1869

LINDA ACKERMAN
Branch Manager and Assistant Treasurer

lackerman@greenfieldsavings.com

195 Avenue A
Turners Falls, Massachusetts 01376
413-863-4316
413-863-9445 Fax
www.greenfieldsavings.com

hit me or hurt me? Would anyone believe me?"

As she concluded her testimony, Hewes burst into tears.

Auskern, the defense attorney, tried hard to cast doubt on Hewes' statement, noting that she told Montague police on June 12th that Tanzer would not let her out of his sight, when in fact he was working eight to ten hour shifts at that point at a bakery in Brattleboro, as work records from Labor Ready showed. To dispute Montague police sergeant Charles Dodge's testimony that Hewes had shown no interest in the \$5,000 reward for information leading to an arrest and conviction in the Strathmore fire, and had only expressed interest in getting the keys to "her car" back from Tanzer, whom she said had confiscated them to restrict her mobility, Auskern brought a witness named Norman LaCrosse from Springfield. LaCrosse, a friend of Tanzer's, said Hewes had told him recently she stood to gain \$5,000 from her testimo-

ny, and also told the court the Cadillac which Hewes claimed was hers had actually been purchased and registered by him for Tanzer, who had paid for the car.

Auskern also brought former Indeck security guard Brett Hauslander to the stand, who said he had been on duty on the night of the Strathmore fire when he witnessed a dark mid-sized pickup truck with a loud exhaust pull up at the door of Building #10 at about 1:30 a.m., and then heard banging, like metal and metal. When he approached the truck with his flashlight in hand, Hauslander said the pickup sped off.

Auskern cross examined all of Perry's witnesses vigorously, attempting to sow doubt about the veracity of claims by Jerry Jones that Tanzer had threatened to burn down the mill on prior occasions (Jones continued to employ Tanzer up until the accident on May 6th and never notified police of the threats), and asking almost every witness whether they had found one

shred of physical evidence that placed Tanzer at the scene of the fire on May 26th. None had.

But in the end, what could have been a 'she said, he said' case turned on the fact that the 'he' in this case - Jonathan Tanzer - never said a word in his own defense. The jury was left to weigh a chain of circumstantial evidence: a cell phone call in the early morning on a borrowed cell phone, a car that appeared to be the same car Amber Hewes said she had driven that morning to the Southworth parking lot, caught on video at 1:53 a.m., a shadowy figure running around the car fifteen minutes later and getting in the passenger's seat, and a woman who looked as if she had been crying even before she took the stand, but who nevertheless delivered a clear, cogent, and ultimately damning recital of events of Saturday, May 26th, leading up to the burning of Building #10 at the Strathmore Mill.



GILL PICNIC ON THE COMMON

Sunday, June 22nd • Noon

Food Concessions 12 - 3 • Fall Town String Band 12:30-2:30 • Horse Drawn Hay Rides Noon - 2 • Children's Sawdust Coin Hunt 2:00 p.m. • Fire Trucks

Sponsored by the Friends of Gill. Music made possible through a grant from the Gill Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

NURSE from page 1

20% for the first year, (a little more than \$5,000) and graduate 20% a year over the five-year term of the grant, until the school district assumes the full cost of the position by year five.

A part time per diem worker may also be needed to input data for the health grant.

Sheffield nurse Vicki Healy said, "With a strong health care program, we'll be in a better position to improve the health of our students and allow them to learn better, and decrease other problems."

Interim superintendent Ken Rocke said, "The role of schools has changed profoundly in the last five or ten years. If our children are not healthy or reasonably happy then they can't learn. Schools are taking on these things not because they are trying to do more, but if we don't do these things we can't educate."

Several school committee members said they were willing to try the grant program for one year, and see what results it produced. If they decide not to fund the local match for the position in the second or subsequent years, the grant program will end.

Sheffield principal Chip Wood, who is departing that post to become the district's director of elementary education next year, said the last few weeks of the school year has been a busy and exciting time for the transition teams at Sheffield and Gill, and for the entire elementary school community. "The transition teams are in high gear. I have held all-school meetings at Montague Center and Hillcrest," as those schools effectively close as elementary schools at the end of the school year this week. "Each elementary school in the

district is changing in major ways. They are all going to be brand new schools."

Wood said he has helped the students and staff at Hillcrest and Montague Center collect "memory boxes" and gather murals and similar mementos of importance to their school communities to transfer to the New Sheffield School.

School committee member Joyce Phillips noted that Hillcrest, which will remain open for Montague kindergartners and pre-school students, was established as an elementary school 50 years ago, in 1958.

Former Montague school committee member Martha Edwards asked what would become of leftover furnishings and equipment purchased by the town of Montague for the elementary schools before the towns of Gill and Montague joined in a regional school district. School committee chair Mary Kociela said discussions on that topic would be held with town officials, but said she doubted there would be much equipment left after the consolidation.

School committee budget subcommittee chair Valeria Smith noted that the town of Montague would vote on the school committee's revised budget - \$17,018,078 - at the special town meeting of June 17th. If Montague does not approve that budget figure, it will represent the second defeat of the district's budget.

"If it is defeated, we will be going to a district meeting," said Smith. "If Montague does vote it down, we will write a letter immediately to the Commissioner of Education requesting a 1/12th budget for July 1st."



MCTV Program (Ch. 17) Schedule: June 13th-19th

Eagle Cam: DAILY 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.
If We have a Signal You will have a Picture

Friday, June 13

8:00 am Amandla
9:30 am Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony 2008
10:00 am Montague Community Band
10:30 am Source to Sea
11:00 am Tapping Maple Ridge
12:00 pm Over the Falls: Bridge of Flowers History
6:00 pm Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony 2008
6:30 pm Montague Update: Lisa Enzer
7:00 pm GMRSD (6/10/08)
10:00 pm Underground Railway Concert
11:30 pm Tiny Tim

Saturday, June 14

8:00 am Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony 2008
8:30 am Independent Voices 44
9:00 am This is Montague
9:30 am The Western Mass Democrat: Thomas Merigan
10:30 am Falls Table
11:30 am Eaton Hachi Go
12:00 pm Fossil Tracks
6:00 pm Franklin County Matters: Community Action

7:00 pm Green By 2015
7:30 pm Independent Voices 43
8:00 pm Source to Sea
8:30 pm Sustainable Energy
9:30 pm Tapping Maple Ridge
10:30 pm The Spirit of Lake Pleasant

Sunday, June 15

8:00 am Valley Idol Semi Finals
10:30 am Women Girls & HIV
11:00 am Skin N Bonz
12:30 pm Senior Aerobics
6:00 pm Town Meeting (5/22/08)
8:30 pm Fall Town String Band
10:30 pm Carlos W. Anderson: Happiness is the way
11:00 pm Chronicles Vol 32

Monday, June 16

8:00 am Chronicles: Mass for Alice Mulligan
9:00 am Child & Family: Children's Mental Health
9:30 am Town Meeting (5/22/08)
12:00 pm Living in the Shadow of Vermont Yankee
6:00 pm Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony 2008
6:30 pm Denmark the View the Vision
7:00 pm Select Board (Live)
9:00 pm Mohawk High School Performs at Disney
11:00 pm Montague Machine

Tuesday, June 17

8:00 am Town Meeting (5/22/08)
10:30 am Amandla
12:00 pm Bernanke
6:30 pm Town Meeting (Live)
Wednesday, June 18
8:00 am Pop Rockets
9:30 am Eaton Sue Mono Giri
10:30 am Elder Law
11:30 am Falls Table
12:30 pm Green by 2015
6:00 pm Independent Voices 46
6:30 pm Over the Falls: Bridge of Flowers
7:30 pm Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony 2008
8:00 pm Mind Control
8:30 pm Mohawk High School Performs at Disney
10:30 pm Montague Grange Variety
Thursday, June 19
8:00 am On the Ridge: Green River Bowman's Club
8:30 am People's Harvest
10:00 am Physician Focus: Geriatric Care
11:00 am Over the Falls: Bridge of Flowers
12:00 pm Franklin County Matters: Sheriff's Office
6:00 pm Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony 2008
6:30 pm Chronicles Vol 32
7:00 pm Select Board (6/17/08)
9:00 pm Valley Idol Semi Finals

Office Hours By Appointment

DANIEL COHEN, D.M.D.

4 Dell St.
Turners Falls, MA 01376
Telephone: (413) 863-9656

NOW ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS

About Face Computer Solutions

- PC Sales and Service
- Mac Software Support
- Network Support & Installation
- Quickbooks Training and Support

Veronica Phaneuf
(413) 367-0025
about-face@verizon.net

North County Septic Service

Preventive Maintenance for your Septic System

Don Stebbins (413) 498-5453

Negus & Taylor, Inc. Monuments

People often come to see us because their parents and their grandparents did. We're proud to have that kind of loyalty, and we work hard to keep it.

- Gary and Nancy Melen

MAIN OFFICE 773-9552
10 Mill Street, Greenfield, MA

"The perfect remembrance"

UPINNGIL

411 Main Road
Gill, MA 01354
413-863-2297

Farm store open daily, 8 - 7.
Fresh milk, farmstead cheeses, eggs, and butter.
Also selling Gill trash stickers and the Montague Reporter.

Pick-your-own fruit and farm stand vegetables seasonally.

SUPER DEALS ON

CDs
DVDs
LPs
TAPES
VIDEOS

TURN IT UP!

NORTHAMPTON • KEENE • BRATTLEBORO • EASTHAMPTON • TURNITUP.COM

A Privilege to Serve You, at AJ's Cycle

BY JOE KWIECINSKI

GILL - Allan Adie, Jr. co-owner of AJ's Cycle in Gill, said he's still waiting to see \$4 a gallon gas translate into more sales at his motorcycle shop.

"People buy a motorcycle for many reasons, including just plain fun," said Adie. "Sure, you save money on gas mileage compared, say, to a big car. But around here and throughout New England, you can only ride a cycle for about six months a year. In the end, you buy a motorcycle because you want one. That's the bottom line."

Adie has been in the cycle business close to four decades. He worked first for Skip Escott at Escott's service station, in 1966. The station was located across from the Shady Glen on Avenue A in Turners Falls, but was displaced when the state took the land it was located on to

build the Great Falls Discovery Center. Allan and his younger brother David acquired the BMW franchise for the area in early 1986, not long after American and English cycles "pretty much all went out of business."

"This shop is terrific for sales and service," said longtime customer Roy Mogel of Orange, who likes to drop by and talk motorcycles. "I think I have the first BMW they ever sold here."

The Adies' 92-year-old father helps out at the cycle shop three days a week, including Saturday. He cuts up all the cardboard for recycling, makes sure the shelves are filled up with motor oils and filters, and puts away all the scattered parts. Mr. Adie also files each and every one of the business' repair orders.

Although they run a successful shop, the business is a

demanding one. "We have to constantly keep learning about an always-changing field," said Allan. "Dealing with customers is usually a privilege and a pleasure. We even have steady customers who come in from places as far away as Enfield, Connecticut or Boxboro. Over all the years, we've only had to 'fire' three unsatisfied customers. We just told them we wouldn't work on their bikes anymore. No matter what we did to accommodate them, we couldn't please them."

What's the hardest part of the business? "Probably the book-work," Allan responded. "You're always challenged there."

Yet, it's still a wonderful gig for the Adie family. "It's such a treat to work with my older brother," said David. "We've been pretty lucky," the elder Mr.



David and Allan Adie in front of AJ's Cycle, on French King Highway

Adie added. "Our patrons are like family. If my boys are very busy, then it's up to me to talk to the customers. That's the reason for our success over the years. We give our customers that personal touch. We know a lot about them, their families, and their lives."

And with gas prices constantly rising, what for some in these parts may be just a fun way to travel, may soon, for others, become a practical commuting necessity, at least six months out of the year. If so, the Adies will be there to serve you. All three of them.

WE HAVE IT ALL FOR YOU
TRACTORS FOR FARM, HOME & CONSTRUCTION

We Carry John Deere and Kubota Tractors, Stihl Chain Saws, Blowers, Tractor Mowers, Ariens Snow Blowers.

Also:

- Wood Chippers
- Log Splitters
- Winches
- Materials Handling Equipment
- Fire Proof Safes

Sales • Service • Parts
SERVING THE AREA FOR OVER 46 YEARS

SIRUM EQUIPMENT COMPANY, INC.
310 FEDERAL STREET • RTE. 63 • MONTAGUE
413-367-2481

GRANGE from pg 3

rural road maintenance; and the creation of the Department of Commerce and the Department of Labor, with their heads as members of the President's cabinet.

They also advocated for free rural mail delivery and the creation of the parcels post. The Grange sponsored legislation to create the Rural Electrification Administration and the rural telephone program, bringing electricity and telephone lines to rural America and its farms. The Grange was the dominant force

in bringing Social Security to farmers and other self-employed persons.

The Montague Grange

On March 18, 1887, nine men and five women met in the Grand Army of the Republic room in the Montague Center Town Hall and organized the Montague Grange, the 141st Grange in Massachusetts.

The founding members were names from the town's past, such as Clapp, Root, Ripley and Rist, among others.

To find out more about the

history and activities of the Montague Grange, go to: www.montaguema.net, go the Montague Grange page, and click on the documents link.

This excerpt is from a lecture prepared and delivered to the Montague Grange meeting on May 13th by Michael Muller, the Lecturer of the Montague Grange. At that meeting, three new members joined the Montague Grange. The organization is actively seeking new members. For more information, contact Muller at: admin@montaguema.net

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE GILL POLICE LOG
Suspicious Odor on Hoe Shop Road

Tuesday 6/3
5:40 p.m. Assisted Bernardston police department with Structure fire traffic control
Wednesday 6/4
6:28 p.m. Report of tractor trailer unit passing vehicles in No Passing lane on French King Highway
9:31 p.m. Motor vehicle accident on French King Highway at Main Road intersection
Thursday 6/4
11:40 a.m. Report of suspicious odor on Hoe Shop Road. Discovered to be a deceased animal
4:00 p.m. Animal complaint on Riverview Drive

6:10 p.m. Assisted with medical emergency on French King Bridge
8:03 p.m. Suspicious activity on Main Road, possible larceny
Saturday 6/6
2:12 p.m. Report of a woman being assaulted on the Gill-Montague bridge
2:37 p.m. Arrested [redacted] Charged with domestic assault and battery
Sunday 6/7
4:03 a.m. Report of subject trespassing on Mount Hermon School property
2:23 p.m. Motor vehicle accident at intersection of Main Road and

French King Highway
8:40 p.m. Criminal complaint sought against [redacted] Charged with operating a motor vehicle with suspended license
9:55 p.m. Assisted Northfield police department with large gathering of intoxicated subjects
Monday 6/8
12:06 a.m. Assisted Bernardston police with fight and arrest
1:03 a.m. Report of intoxicated subject driving golf cart erratically on Mount Hermon campus
5:05 p.m. Assisted Northfield police department with motorcycle pursuit and arrest
Tuesday 6/9
8:33 a.m. Report of vandalism to French King Highway business

Avenue A Cafe
Home of Cup O' Joe

WIRELESS * INTERNET * SERVICE!

Open: Mon - Fri at 6a.m. • Sat at 7a.m. • Closed Sunday
111 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376
(413) 863-2800 / www.avenueacafe.com

H2O MARKETING
BOYSEN HODGSON
Designing the change you wish to see in the world.
GRAPHIC DESIGN | WEB-SITES | LOGOS | MARKETING
413-303-9193 | www.h2-om.com

Locally owned since 1941

FOSTER'S SUPER MARKET
Full Service Market
Fresh Fish from the Boston Market
70 Allen Street Greenfield, MA Beer & Wine
413-773-1100 FAX 413-773-1105

Simons & Simons
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
Thomas G. Simons • Gerry G. Simons
Estates • Wills • Real Estate
Personal Injury
77 Fourth Street • Turners Falls, MA
(413) 863-9506

Mary Lou Emond
Certified Residential Specialist
COHN & COMPANY
Real Estate Agency
117 Main Street • PO Box 638
Greenfield, MA 01302-0638
413-773-1149 x142 • HOME: 413-863-4568
EMAIL: MARYLOU@COHNANDCOMPANY.COM

CASH PAID FOR YOUR CDs LPs DVDs
TURN IT UP!
NORTHAMPTON • EASTHAMPTON • BRATTLEBORO • KEENE • TURNITUP.COM
413.502.1005 413.521.3650 802.251.0015 603.350.6033



THE HEALTHY GEEZER:

Hip Replacement vs. Hip Resurfacing

JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION
BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - Q. I'm 67 years old and my hip is in bad shape. I've heard there's a new way to fix your hip without replacing it. What is it?

There is a surgical alternative to total hip replacement. It's called hip resurfacing.

The hip is a ball-and-socket joint. The ball is at the top of the femur (thigh bone), and the socket is in the pelvis. In hip replacement surgery, the ball is replaced with a metal or ceramic substitute. The socket is fitted

with a metal cup to hold the new ball.

The primary difference in hip resurfacing is that the surgeon doesn't remove the femoral ball. Instead, the damaged ball is reshaped, and then a metal cap is anchored over it.

Hip resurfacing is at least as hard on the patient as a total replacement. It can take six months or more to heal completely from the surgery. Resurfacing requires a larger incision than total hip replacement.

A crucial issue in joint replacement is longevity. A substitute hip is good for about 20 years, and it is difficult to remove and replace one that's shot. Hip resurfacing, unlike hip

replacement, preserves enough bone to permit a total replacement if it is necessary later.

Surgeons estimate that 10 to 15 percent of people with bad hips can consider hip resurfacing instead of replacement. For example, resurfacing is not recommended for patients with osteoporosis, a disease that makes bones porous and vulnerable to fractures.

There is a question in resurfacing about electrically charged metal atoms that enter the body as the cup rubs against the cap in the hip joint. Some studies have raised fears that these atoms might cause disease. As a precaution, the Food and Drug Administration has said the materials used in resur-

facing should not be implanted in women who plan to have children, and in patients whose kidneys have been weakened by diseases such as diabetes.

Is there an age cut-off for hip resurfacing? Every decision about surgery is one that should be made by each individual with the advice of a physician. Some who have studied hip resurfacing contend that there still isn't enough known about the safety of the procedure. These health-care experts advise getting a replacement hip joint if you are older than 65.

Hip resurfacing was developed in the 1960s but there were unresolved problems for many years. The procedure has been popular in Europe. Thousands

have had hips resurfaced in the last ten years.

However, the first resurfacing system for use in the United States wasn't approved by the FDA until 2006. Last year, a second system earned FDA approval. More than 400 surgeons in the U.S. are trained to handle the operation.

About 300,000 people in this country have their hips replaced annually. The American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons says joint replacement surgery is successful in more than 9 out of 10 people.

If you have a question, please write to fred@healthygeezers.com.

THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

Hot House and Gardens

BY LESLIE BROWN

MONTAGUE CITY - The recent sultry weather has energized the most slow-growing of plants and has created an annoying profusion of weeds and unwanted growth of small trees and bushy plants at the edges of the yard. The gardener, however, was not energized but enervated. It is much too close to cool spring days for the system to readily gear up for heat and humidity. So, alas, the weeds and the lawn continue to grow, largely untended.

There is good news in this hot spell: the heat-loving plants like tomatoes and peppers have grown measurably since they were planted in at the end of May. Also, my peas, which were slow to get started during the dry spell, are now tall and blossoming. This gives me hope they will be ready to pick before I leave for Maine at the end of the month. It's traditional to have fresh peas for the Fourth of July,

but I'm glad to have them earlier. Then I'll be able to enjoy a second crop when I get to the ocean side.

Most garden crops are a week or so later in mid-coast Maine, so the traveling gardener gets the benefit of two crop seasons. It also looks like the strawberries will ripen before my trip. I never got around to removing the protective cover of fall leaves I raked over the bed, but this lazy factor seems to have been beneficial. The plants have grown well above the leaf layer and are tall and hardy looking. Not only that, the leaf mulch is keeping down the weeds! I'll remember that strategy next year.

Last weekend I picked up basil and kale plants at the Farmers Market. I seeded in kale, but didn't see any results. Then suddenly, overnight before I put the new plants in, my seed germinated. That's ironic, but just fine, as the kale will grow heartily right past the frost sea-

son. It can even be picked in the winter and enjoyed. The hardy, vigorous crop yields a leafy vegetable in the Brassica family, a group that includes cabbage, collards and Brussels sprouts. Kale is low in calories and high in vitamin K, A and C. It can be picked all season and is actually sweetened by a light frost. Chopped kale can be frozen for winter use.

The basil I am growing will be used fresh in salads, on sliced tomatoes and of course in pesto. This lovely herb is extremely aromatic and can be enjoyed right off the plant. Just brushing by it as it grows in the garden releases a lovely scent reminiscent of anise. I froze a simple pesto of basil, garlic and walnuts ground together with olive oil. A little pesto mixed with the mayonnaise for potato salad lends a new taste interest to an old-fashioned favorite.

If your taste leans more to flowers, this is a great time to

buy both annuals and perennials, as area nurseries are reducing the price of early season plants to make room for mid and late season varieties. It's fun to have a combination in the yard. My whiskey barrels are filled with annuals like petunias, pansies and geraniums. I've edged the vegetable garden with beds of perennials: roses, peonies, day lilies, iris, columbine and bleeding heart. Generally these flowering plants are easy to care for and provide long weeks of

mingbirds. It is an immense old shrub that was large 30 years ago when we bought the house. It has a slightly over-sweet smell that reminds me of old-fashioned face powder.

The mountain laurel at the back edge of the yard is exceptionally beautiful this year. Many, many years ago Woody visited a Dr. Jaynes at the University of Massachusetts who kindly shared small plants of several unusual varieties with us. In addition to the traditional

wild laurel, there are dark pink, banded and light pinks.

It won't stay this unseasonably hot and humid for long. Get out soon to admire the area's seasonal

gardens and your own. The community gardens downtown and the one in Greenfield are beautiful, artistic spots in the urban landscape. Also check the local news for tours of gardens near and far in Western Mass. It's a fabulous and bountiful time of year.

Simple Preparations for Kale

- 1: Saute torn leaves in light oil with crushed garlic and serve with a dressing of lemon juice and olive oil.
- 2: Braise (brown lightly, then cover until soft) with sliced apple then serve with balsamic vinegar and chopped walnuts.

bloom and fragrance.

It continues to be an "on" year for flowering shrubs. The lilacs were almost bent over with their huge, floral display. Now the beauty bush has outdone itself in its full dress of small pink and white blooms which attract bees, butterflies and hum-

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$8.00 PER WEEK (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

CRUISE & TRAVEL COMPANY




30 Montague St.
TURNERS FALLS



413-863-3143 • 888-763-3443
cruise.travel@verizon.net

THE COUNTRY JEWELER



- Traditional and Contemporary Jewelry
- Diamonds • Watches • Anniversary Bands
- Antique Jewelry Restoration • Laser Welding

Custom repair work done on premises
Old fashioned service!

Corner of Main & Chapman Streets, Greenfield
Call Larry: 772-0859
www.countryjeweler.com
Mon. - Sat. 9:30 - 5:30

Dealer in Used Home Furnishings

EDL
SMALL FURNITURE • COLLECTABLES • DECORATIVES
374 Deerfield Street • Greenfield

featuring: Lamps Mirrors Chairs Baskets
Cookery Figurines End Tables

I Make Lamps Lite!
Open 7 Days a Week

GOOD USED USABLES

Overwhelmed by stuff? Try Franklin County's Newest


IN-TOWN SELF STORAGE

UPPER END OF WELLS STREET, GREENFIELD

774-7775

Easy in-town location
Secure 24-hour access

VARIETY OF SIZES PLENTY AVAILABLE



OFFICE AT 50 CHAPMAN STREET, GREENFIELD, MA
Contractors, Flea Marketers, Tradeshow Vendors and Artists encouraged to inquire

UPPER HAND
HOME DEFENSE OPTIONS



Specializing in
• Civilian Firearms
• Training for Home Defense

863-2964
Cell: 413-843-1692

Lee Laster • Alan Lambert
Certified Instructors

www.upperhandonline.com

CREATIVE HAIRCUTTING PERMS & COLORS

Men, Women & Children

GASTINE'S HAIR CREATIONS

You can get there from here...

863 - 2022
74 PROSPECT ST. TURNERS FALLS

JEP'S PLACE Part LXXXII

New Shoes!

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH GILL - My sisters were not entirely unhappy; they would have preferred to continue to place cardboard in their shoes rather than clump along with the thick leather soles my father would have applied, to say nothing of the nails sticking into their feet. First day of school loomed closer and closer, and still no new shoes. My sisters dared not remind Pa of the need.

Then, one day he came home, jubilant. He had new shoes - bushels of them. The entire back seat of the car was loaded with bushel baskets full of new shoes. My father knew a good deal when he saw it, and had traded something for an entire lot of high quality womens shoes, first making sure they were matching pairs. He proudly announced never again would a female member of the family need to buy new shoes.

The girls were thrilled at the prospect of new shoes. Until they got a closer look. The shoes were high button, hopelessly out of style, with Cuban heels and mostly in colors of deep purple and ghastly green. My sisters looked like they wanted to die, right there, in their old shoes. Up to then, I'd never seen any shoes other than the traditional white, brown, or black.

My sister Emmy picked out a pair with the most normal looking heels she could find. She sniffled as she cut the high tops off and tried to make the shoes presentable with shoe polish, hoping no one at school would

notice.

My sister Gladys, who read a lot, had a fertile imagination. She took a different tack. She picked out a purple pair with heels a flamenco dancer would have killed for.

On opening day, she strutted into school, showing off her new shoes, proclaiming them the latest fashion. The shoes were an instant hit. The other girls clamored to learn where she'd got them. Being of such a recent style and scarce commodity, she said she would obtain the shoes for them.

I don't know how much she charged, but she'd get the sizes from the kids and bring these hard-to-find shoes to school in a day or two, never letting on that we had bushels of them stacked in the shed attached to the barn. Soon, every girl in school was strutting about in heel-tapping grandeur. Miss Pogoda, who I'm sure knew what was going on, put up with the tap-tapping of all those high heels; bless her soul.

My father never learned of the craze he'd spawned, limited as it was. The shoes we sold, or gave away, hardly made a dent in the supply. With what seemed a nearly infinite supply of shoes on hand, my father took considerable comfort in knowing that he'd never have to worry about buying shoes for the girls, again. He seemed pleased with his sense of style when he saw my sisters' classmates wearing identical shoes.

My sister Elizabeth, whom we all called "Bessie," got teased when she wore those ghastly shoes to high school. She scuffed the tip of her shoes on the way to and from school, until the sole began coming loose. She then managed to work the sole from the shoe with her fingers. She hoped to go through all the shoes in her size so she could convince Pa the bargain shoes were of poor quality and that she needed a pair from a store.

She didn't get her store-bought shoes. She couldn't take the five mile hike to high school in winter over snow covered roads in the bitter cold. She quit school to go to work as a nanny.

- Continued Next Week

ANCIENT from pg 1

computer speakers in the newspaper office.

"The 'fish' appear to attach by the mouth to moss on the rocks. We saw them directly opposite the Book Mill. You need to stand right at the edge of the river to see them.

"To me, they look like eels. Really creepy. Maybe a foot or two long, with fins sticking up. Brown. Some grey, with black spots. Weird!??? Do eel spawn here regularly??? You gotta see this!"

Well, it turns out our neighborhood ichthyologist, Kim Noyes, who coordinates anadromous fish and environmental education for the Northfield Mountain Environmental Center, didn't need to see the weird rock sucking fish to identify them. "Those are sea lamprey, and they are spawning now in the tributaries of the Connecticut River. The Sawmill River is an ideal place for them"

Noyes said the lampreys can be found these days "looking for a rocky bottom" in streams like the Sawmill, where they will "pick up rocks with their mouth and use those to build a horseshoe shaped dam, to use as a nest," where they will "rest and spawn."

Noyes said observers may be able to observe the male and female lampreys locked in a sort of "mating dance" this time of year, which she compared more to a type of "wrangling" than a formal mating dance, like a tango or a cha-cha. After wrangling for

a spell, the females' eggs will "drift down and deposit" in the u-shaped rock bed, and be fertilized by the males.

All this wrangling can be exhausting. Indeed, it is about the last thing the adult lampreys will do. Worn out from their 100-mile journey upstream from the Long Island Sound, sea lampreys have already gone through some startling morphological changes. According to a fact sheet prepared by Noyes and her colleague Ann Harding, at this final stage of their one or two-year life cycle, the lampreys' "digestive system breaks down, the enamel caps fall off their teeth, they stop feeding, and go blind."

Sounds like what happens to many of us in the later stages of the mating dance.

After the culmination of their spawning journey, Noyes said, the adults will "drift into the current and die." Aaah!

Noyes said this has been a particularly good year for lamprey eels (who do not, like their landlocked cousins in the Great Lakes, parasitize fresh water species in the Connecticut River, preferring ocean fish, to which they attach and feed with their jawless mouths earlier in their life cycle). At least 56,469 lamprey have already taken the lift over the Holyoke Dam, as of Tuesday (as compared to 148,036 shad and 74 Atlantic salmon). The lamprey travel about two or three miles a day, until they find that ideal rocky bed to make their final pit stop.




House for Sale in Montague \$142,000

Charming Lake Pleasant cottage in good condition with open floor plan, 2 bedrooms, 1 bath. Private garden w/ great southern exposure & perennials, new oil tank, boiler, replacement windows. MLS #70762237.

Contact Julie Held at Delap Real Estate 413-586-9111 x110

REPORTER CLASSIFIEDS CALL 863-8666, FAX 863-3050 \$6 FOR 20 WORDS; 15 CENTS FOR EACH ADDITIONAL WORD RUN SAME AD TWICE, THIRD WEEK FREE

POSITION OPEN - FRANKLIN COMMUNITY CO-OP
BAKER Seeking an innovative, energetic professional with a passion for creative baking & natural foods. Must have production experience with cakes, specialty pastries & whole grain breads. Shifts primarily at McCusker's Market. Both positions are full-time, competitive pay & benefits. Please send or bring a completed application (available at the store or www.franklincommunity.coop) to: Green Fields Market, 144 Main Street, Greenfield, MA 01301

call Sita for details: (413) 834-7569.

CARPENTRY - No Job Too Small - General Carpentry and home repairs. Custom shelves a specialty. Call David, (413) 863-9296.

FOSTER PARENTS WANTED: Since 1964, Dare Family Services has provided foster care for abused and neglected children who are not able to live with their biological families. We are looking for foster parents in Franklin County for our South Deerfield Office. Please join us in enhancing the lives of children in need. Dare offers training, ongoing support and a daily \$50 tax-exempt stipend. For more details, call Krista Harrington at 413-684-2222 or 800-244-DARE. Classes begin June 24. Call to reserve your place today!

BUSINESS FOR SALE - Plow Frau & Bow Wow is a VERY successful "clean-out, hauling, and snow plowing" business. Community oriented, environmentally friendly, FUN, interesting, and unique. Please

Reporter Subscribers!

Any paid subscriber to the Montague Reporter may have one free classified ad in 2008, up to 20 words. Contact us at 413-863-8666 or reporter@Montaguema.net (Pay for a second week, get a third week free!)


PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$8.00 PER WEEK (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

GO GREEN SAVE GREEN

Announcing the Energy-Efficient Mortgage (EEM) Allows you to borrow for energy improvements when buying a home such as: New Furnace, Windows, Insulation, Solar, Wind and more!

SAVE MONEY, CONSERVE ENERGY, LIVE COMFORTABLY!

National City Mortgage CALL **TIM PREVOST** 413-773-8984



Sokolosky Realty
 56 4TH STREET • TURNERS FALLS, MASS. 01376

Craig Dalrymple
 Sales Associate

OFFICE (413) 863-4393
 HOME (413) 367-9970
 FAX (413) 863-4949



Original designs in clay by Artist **Jaye Pope**

GOOD DIRT POTTERY

38 Main St. Montague MA 01351
 Gooddirt@montaguema.net
 413-367-0155
 www.gooddirtpottery.com

Clay is Good Dirt

DOLAN & DOLAN

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

174 AVENUE A
 TURNERS FALLS MASSACHUSETTS 01376
 413-863-3133

PERSONAL INJURY, WILLS & ESTATES, WORKER'S COMP

Patrick Smith
 HIC #134741
 Insured

Montague, MA 01351

EASTERN WEATHERIZATION
 Specializing in Cellulose Insulation
 Infrared Quality Assurance Guaranteed

Toll Free 866-262-5361
 413-367-2228
 FAX 413-367-2212

CARSENSE AUTOMOTIVE

Your Automotive Answer

Check Engine Light on? We Can Help!

TELE: (413) 772-8862 -- CELL: (413) 512-0413
 409 DEERFIELD STREET • GREENFIELD

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

FRIDAY, JUNE 13th
Shall We Dance? New work by sculptor Tim DeChristopher. Reception at the Oxbow Gallery, Northampton, 5 - 8 pm. Show runs until 6/22. (413)586-6300, www.oxbowgallery.com.

Great Falls Coffee House, Turners Falls: musicians Mark Fraser, and Daphne Bye, Tex & Pat LaMountain, & Jennie McAvoy perform as **Rootcellar** at the Discovery Center. Doors open 6:30 pm - coffee & homemade baked goods available. Museum will be open at intermission. Sliding scale donation of \$6 - \$12. Wheelchair accessible. Info. (413) 863-3221 x 3

At The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Dance or Die*, \$3 cover.

Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Bang Box*, 80's rock & roll covers, come to dance, 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: **Nexus** - Harmonic eclectic rock / alternative. Dancing tends to break out when this group gets going! 9 to 11 p.m..

SATURDAY, JUNE 14th
Earth Wind and Sun Fair, Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls, 10 to 4 p.m. Join us for a day filled with activities, workshops, and a Climate Change Geo-walk from 1 - 2:30 p.m. Info. (413) 863-3221 or stop by the Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls.

Paddling Vernon to Pauchaug with the Connecticut River Watershed Council. Join Andrea Donlon, CRWC River Steward and Northfield Mountain's Beth Bazler on this 6 1/2 mile paddle from the Vernon Dam. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. For ages 12 and older. Fee: \$10 per boat with own boat, \$25 with own boat shuttled; \$50 with rental. Pre-register (800) 859-2960.

RiverFest in Shelburne Falls. An annual tribute to the Deerfield River, and the

role it plays in people's lives and the ecosystem of western Massachusetts. Educational displays and demonstrations, the *Frog & Flower Parade*, art, crafts, tag, book and plant sales. This year's theme, *Celebrating a Working Watershed*, 10 to 4 p.m.

At The Montague Bookmill, Montague Center. *Of Shoes and Ships*. OS & S draws from a wide variety of influences, infusing their original music with strands of funk, rock and folk. 8 p.m.

At The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Ghost Quartet and Vaudevillains*, \$3.

Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Turn It Loose*, rockers come to dance, 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: **Richard Chose Group**, acoustic folk/singer songwriter, 9 to 11 p.m.

Echo Lake Coffee House, Leverett: **Magpie** 7:30 p.m.- For 35 years Terry Leonino and Greg Artzmer's interests in various musical styles have led them to be eclectic in their repertoire. Rather than confine themselves to a single style, Magpie has embraced a musical rainbow, and with impressive proficiency in each different genre. From traditional, classic country, swing, and blues of the nineteen twenties and thirties, to contemporary songs written by themselves and others, Terry and Greg cover alot of musical ground. Admission: \$12/\$10 seniors. For reservations: (413) 548-9394 or diacrowe@yahoo.com.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, JUNE 13th & 14th
 Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *Fly Away Home*. Family fun for Riverfest! Music before the movie at 7 p.m. Abdul Baki & family.

SATURDAY, JUNE 14th TO 28th
 At the Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Earth Wind and Sun Photo Winners!* The top 3 photographers from Montague in each age group on display.

SUNDAY, JUNE 15th
 Last day for Hallmark Museum of Contemporary Photography, Turners Falls display: Lili Almog, Studio 52 - *Perfect Intimacy Revealed Through Photographer's Eyes* and Linda Butler - *Meditations on Simplicity*, Studio 56. In Gallery 85 - Stella Johnson's exhibit *AI Sol*.

Deja Brew, Wendell: **Adam Bergeron**, contemporary classical piano improv, 7 to 10 p.m.



Magpie - Greg Artzmer and Terry Leonino in concert at the Echo Lake Coffee House, 9 Montague Rd., Leverett. Saturday, June 14th, 7:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, JUNE 17th
 Undergrowth Farm presents: *Movements for Self-Determination*, a film series featuring documentaries highlighting historical and contemporary resistance movements. This month, *Sir! No Sir!* tells of the GI movement that helped end the Vietnam War. One of the most vibrant and widespread upheavals of the 1960's-having a profound impact on American society, yet virtually silenced. At the Brickhouse, Turners Falls. 7 p.m. Donations to the Hot Spot Teen Center accepted.

Open House for The Amandla Chorus, 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Temple Israel, Greenfield. The chorus is seeking a few new members. Participants may session, which will be no-pressure and fun! www.amandlachorus.org or call Eveline MacDougall at 773-8655.

Slate Roof poets Paula Sayword and Janet MacFadyen, along with guest poet Barbara Pappazzo, will read from their work at 7 p.m. at Field Memorial Library, Conway.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18th
 Great Falls Farmer's Market, rain or shine, 2nd St. and Ave A, Turners Falls. Annuals, perennials, fresh farm products in season. 3 to 6 p.m.

Nutrition Talk - *The New Raw Food Diet* - with certified nutrition specialist Diana Allen, MS, CNS. 6:30 p.m., Green Fields Market, Greenfield. For more info: (413) 205-6971 or nutrition4evolution@earthlink.net

At The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Quizmastah Chad's Quiznite Quiz, 8 p.m., \$2 to play.

THURSDAY, JUNE 19th
 COOP Concerts 2008 Summer Series! Featuring Kathy & George Chapman, Joe Graveline and Michael Pattavina and Boys of the Landfill. Bring your blankets, chairs, picnic and spend an enjoyable evening of music at Greenfield Energy Park. 6 to 8 p.m. Free.

FRIDAY, JUNE 20th
 Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls:

Alchemystics, come to dance, 9:30 p.m.
 At The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: The Amity Front and The Primate Fiasco, 9:30 p.m., \$5 cover.

At The Montague Bookmill, Montague Center: *David Wax Museum with The Mill Pond*, an Americana quartet that innovatively infuses traditional Mexican into its literary, countrified folk songs. *The Mill Pond Nine* is an old time trio, harmonies with banjo, guitar, and fiddle.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, JUNE 20th & 21st
 Regional Sustainable Energy Summit. UMass, Amherst. Speakers, workshops, networking! www.cooppower or (877) 266-7543.

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *Blade Runner*. Brand new version-the "final cut". 7:30 p.m. Music before the movie, Friday: The Main Street Teds & friends, Saturday: Leo T. Baldwin, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 21st
 Public reception for Volunteer Students from Hallmark Institute of Photography: *Annual Spring Exhibit & Benefit Print Sale* to support humanitarian work of Doctors Without Borders. On display June 19th - June 29th.

Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *TBA*, rock & roll covers, come to dance, 9:30 p.m.

At The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Rocketqueer - dance party, \$3 cover.

SUNDAY, JUNE 22nd
 At The Montague Bookmill, Montague Center: *Joe Finkel*, performs with an acoustic guitar, a tambourine strapped to his foot, and Kenny McGrath on violin, 8 p.m. www.montaguebookmill.com

UNTIL JUNE 22ND
 At Artspace, Greenfield on display-group exhibition: *Features, Studies of the Human Form*. Artwork crafted from a variety of materials, local artists. Artspace, Greenfield. Hours Mon. - Fri. 1 - 6 p.m.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 TH & 21ST
 Mark your calendars for a sensational tenth anniversary celebration of *The North Quabbin Garlic and Arts Festival*. Find out what brings over 10,000 people to this phenomenal event for the whole family, Forster's Farm, Orange. Delight in over 80 amazing art and agriculture booths. www.garlicandarts.org

ONGOING
 The Turners Falls Fishway is open for the season! Public viewing during the height of spawning season. Open Wed. to Sun., 9 - 5 p.m.

Vermont Center for Photography: *Journeys*, photographs by Ron

HOT SPOT TEEN CENTER
MONDAYS - Drop-in, 3 - 6 p.m.
TUES & WEDS - Ongoing Music Project, 3 - 6 p.m.
THURS - Drop-in, 3 - 6 p.m. & Movie Night, 6 - 8 p.m.
 Free (except some trips), open to local teens. Some require permission slips.
 Info: Jared at 863-9559.
 Hot Spot Teen Center is in The Brick House
 24 Third Street, Turners Falls, 01376

Rosenstock. This is the first exhibit of Ron Rosenstock's color work from his new book, *Journeys*. On display until Sunday, July 27th. Vermont Center for Photography, Brattleboro, VT, (802) 251-6051.

Memorial Hall Theater
POTHOLE PICTURES
Friday & Saturday
June 13 & 14 at 7:30 p.m.
FLY AWAY HOME
 The touching, endearing story of a reclusive 13 year-old-girl forced to move in with her eccentric father, who adopts an orphaned flock of baby geese, teaches them to fly, and guides the flock to safer areas when developers threaten their land. 1996. PG. color. 108 min.
 Music before movie 7 p.m. Friday & Saturday Abdul Baki & band-reggae. Donations split equally between Pothole Pix & Vipassana Prison Trust
51 Bridge St., Shelburne Falls 625-2896

Deja Brew
 Cafe & Pub
Draft Beer Fine Wine Great Food
Open Wed-Sun at 4 p.m.
 No Cover Any Night
Friday 6/13, 9 - 11 p.m.
 60's & 70's Oldies Covers:
Free Range
Saturday 6/14, 9 - 11 p.m.
 Harmonic Eclectic Rock: **Nexus**
Sunday 6/15, 7 - 10 p.m.
 Classical Piano: **Adam Bergeron**
978-544-BREW
 57A Lockes Village Road
 Next to the Wendell Country Store

GREENFIELD GARDEN CINEMAS
 Main St. Greenfield, MA
 413-774-4881
 www.gardencinemas.net
 Showtimes for Friday, June 13th - Thursday, June 19th
1. KUNG FU PANDA
 DAILY 2:15 4:30 6:45 9:00 PG
2. THE INCREDIBLE HULK
 DAILY 12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00 PG13
3. SEX AND THE CITY R
 DAILY 12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00
4. NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN
 DAILY 12:15 3:15 PG
4. IRONMAN PG13
 DAILY 6:15 9:15
5. INDIANA JONES & THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL PG13
 DAILY 12:15 3:15 6:15 9:15
6. YOU DON'T MESS WITH THE ZOHAN PG13 in dts sound
 DAILY 12:30 3:30 6:30 9:30
7. THE HAPPENING
 R in dts sound
 DAILY 12:30 3:30 6:30 9:30

The Rendezvous
 TRY TAPAS THURSDAYS! BAR WITH FOOD
 Thurs. 6/12 9:30pm \$3
JONES TRIO
 (jazz that thumps!)
 YOU WANT TO SEE JONES TRIO. YOU REALLY REALLY REALLY DO. TRUST ME ON THIS.
 Fri. 6/13 9:30pm \$3
DANCE OR DIE
 electro/indie/britpop/etc etc etc
 78 THIRD STREET
 TURNERS FALLS, MA
 RENDEZVOUSTFMA.COM
 TEL:413-863-2866

Renaissance Excavating
 COMPLETE SITE WORK
 • SEPTIC & DRAINAGE SYSTEMS • SAND, GRAVEL & LOAM
MAIN ROAD, GILL
DOUGLAS EDSON (413) 863-4462

T.L.C.
URNS LAWN CARE
 Specializing in all aspects of Lawn and Property Maintenance.
 Located in the Heart of Montague Center.
 "Seeking New Prospects in Growing - Season - Long Property Maintenance"
 Residential & Commercial - Fully Insured
 45 Main Street, PO Box 926, Montague, MA 01351
 Gary Turn, Owner Phone: 367-0230 Cell:522-2563

Great Ice Cream, Fair Trade Coffee, and a Whole Lot More!
Bart's
 Treat yourself to breakfast or lunch at **Bart's Café**
 286 Main Street, Greenfield, MA 413-641-0030

WEST ALONG THE RIVER

Preserving the Land

BY DAVID BRULE
ERVINGSIDE -

*"The land was ours
Before we were the land's..."*

So begin the lines of Robert Frost in his poem *The Gift Outright*. The words always stuck with me but it seemed like he had gotten it backwards. It always seemed to me that we, the human beings, belonged to the land first, not the other way around. At any rate, before long, we started carving it up and fighting over it like so many fleas arguing about which one of them owns the dog. The land, the Earth, go on forever, but the fleas come and go.

Our little corner of the planet along the Millers River has a history of its own going back hundreds of millions of years. That history got an early jolt here when an earthquake cracked the continent in this place and sent the prehistoric Millers, in its westerly flow,

angling off radically to the north to meet the Connecticut near the spot we have named after a French King. Over time, glaciers, mastodons and mammoths came and went. At some point around 10,000 years ago, native peoples arrived, eventually settled, cleared the banks of our river and planted corn. It's been said that this river formed the southern limits of the Squakheag/Sokoki, who settled what we now call Northfield and who resisted the English colonists as long as they could, well into the 1750s.

The laws of nature have always had their way with our land. That prehistoric earthquake set our modern river on its way. More recently came the floods of 1936 and 1938, which also forever changed the river bottomlands, scouring away the meadows that our great grandfather Judah Smith had acquired in the 1880s.

Judah himself was descended from a long line of river people

from the mouth of the Connecticut, displaced by the arrival of the early colonists. Generations of family moved up and down the Connecticut, until by chance and good fortune he arrived here to found our family on the bend in this river with his plucky Scottish wife, Elizabeth.

By the fifth generation of us now on those lands along the Millers, the post flood meadows have become woodlands, home to wild things like the woodcock, wood thrush, wood duck and wood turtle. Meadows to woodlands, you get the picture. But the history of a place can weigh heavy on your shoulders when, through accidents of time and destiny, you find your time has come to decide what to do with your small corner of the planet, over which you have stewardship.

At some point, like all aging baby-boomers, one begins to think about the future! There were no lack of suggestions for the future of our few acres over the years. One of our former selectmen quipped years ago that surely a way could be found to fill in some of the swamps in the floodplain for building condominiums, even maybe putting them on stilts!

A Russian visitor, upon seeing our land, was thrilled. "Ah, you are the first real American capitalist that I have met!"

Never having considered myself the likes of a capitalist, I asked her for an explanation of the apparent insult. "You own all

this land," was her response, private ownership of property being forbidden and impossible in the Soviet Union of those days. She suggested that I at least plant potatoes here.

For many people, the imperative to enter land productivity into the account ledgers in terms of dollars has been the driving factor in determining the value of that land. And yet, how do you put in dollar terms the value of solace, the peace of mind, the peace provided by wild things, the slow flight of the heron over the woods, the glistening perfection of the otter on the green river bank, or the whippoorwill in the early dark?

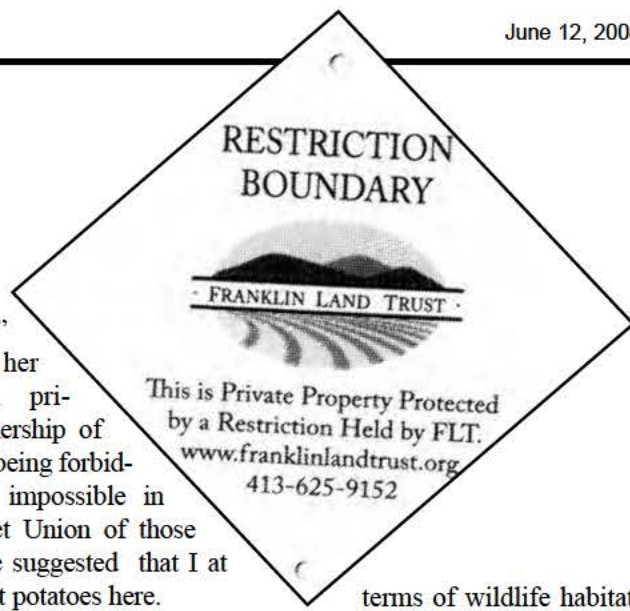
When the time comes to act, most of us can recognize the moment. This year it was clearly time for me to get in touch with the Franklin Land Trust people. Expert guidance and careful shepherding by two officers of the land trust, Alain Peteroy and Rich Hubbard, had me and my land on a clear preservation trajectory in no time at all.

This land trust had already protected more than 15,000 acres in our region and they knew what to do. So we began the process of placing a Conservation Restriction on our land. The details were not overly complicated: an appraisal of the land value in dollars, a narrative of the conservation value in

terms of wildlife habitat, a number of government forms, approval by local and state officials, and within a year, the land we love was preserved and protected in perpetuity. In essence, we retain the property and all the rights to sell it, but forego the option to change or alter it from its existing natural state.

Talk about peace of mind. We now take our place with all the other creatures who have called this land theirs since the beginning of time, but only we were able to assure that our few acres will remain wild by signing the proper papers.

When you learn to think of history in terms of circular movement and cycles that return upon themselves, it's easier to do what we did. Maybe it was no accident after all that our ancestor Judah came here to what was meadowland cleared by native peoples. Maybe things do happen for a reason. What is clear is that we have come full circle, preserving the land in his name in a way, and securing for ourselves the certainty that all of us creatures on this spot will have a place to be ourselves for as long as forever lasts.



**Great Falls
Farmers Market**

Wednesdays
3 - 6 p.m. Rain or Shine

May to October - Avenue A & 2nd Street
Produce in Season • Baked Goods • Maple Products
Annuals, Perennials

New Vendors Needed! Call (413) 774-6719
*Ad sponsored by
Franklin Community Cooperative*

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$8.00 PER WEEK (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

Chinatown
CHINESE RESTAURANT

中城

FREE DELIVERY!
(Min. \$15.00)

863-8988 • 51 AVENUE A, TURNERS FALLS

413-256-6217

*fine instruments
bought and sold
repaired and restored*

Fretted Instrument Workshop
49 So. Pleasant St., Amherst, Mass. 01002

**Antique
Clocks**
Bought & Sold

BOB PACY
WILL TRAVEL

(781) 438-8489
(508) 633-2552

NAWCC No. 0101315
STONEHAM, MA 02180

Pine Nook Daylilies

Open May 10th - August 2nd
Rain or Shine
Weekends 10:00-5:00 Weekdays by Chance
Field Dug Plants, Over 130 Varieties

- 5 & 10 South 1st left onto River Road After the Cheapside Bridge in Deerfield, 6 Miles South
- Or Rt. 116 South last left onto River Rd. before Sunderland Bridge, 3 Miles North

413-665-7137
307 River Rd., So. Deerfield, MA

Sharon Cottrell
Property Manager

HK

HallKeen
Real Estate Management and Investment

Power Town Apartments
152 Avenue A
P.O. Box 48
Turners Falls, MA 01376

Tel: 413.863.9433
TTY: 800.439.0183
Email: hkptown@verizon.net

A Custom Touch
Interior / Exterior Painting & Home Repairs

Anthony C. Tucker: 863-4833
70 Oakman Street, Turners Falls

**DON SKOLE
PRESIDENT**

Skole Insurance Agency

AUTO • HOME • COMMERCIAL • MOTOR CLUB
LIFE AND HEALTH PLANS

91 MAIN STREET
GREENFIELD, MA 01301
(413) 773-7349
FAX 774-6938

(508) 544-5431

COUTURE BROS.
Since 1910

**Professional Painting & Decorating
Contractor - Retailer**

CALIFORNIA BRAND PAINTS - INDUSTRIAL COATINGS
PAINTS - STAINS - SUNDRIES - WALLPAPER - BRUSHES & ROLLERS
COMPUTER COLOR MATCHING - SANDBLASTING MEDIA - GLASS
ARTIST SUPPLIES - CUSTOM PICTURE FRAMING/MATTING & MORE

187 Avenue A Turners Falls, MA • 413-863-4346

Celebrating our 97th Anniversary!

**CopyCat
PRINT SHOP**

- full color offset printing
- digital copies
- oversize copies
- files accepted via email

We Specialize in Impossible Deadlines!

22 Years of Making Copies and Still the Original!

up-to-the-minute technology • old-fashioned personal service

180 Main Street, Greenfield • 413-774-3500 • greenfield@copycatprintshop.com