



**REUNION CONCERT**  
Spirit in the Flesh at the Shea  
Page 18



**MANITOU STONE**  
at TF Airport Site  
Page 9

LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 5 - NO. 36

also serving Gill, Erving and Wendell

50¢

REPORTER@MONTAGUEMA.NET

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JUNE 14, 2007

## Between a Rock and a Hard Place



DETMOLD PHOTO

*Interim G-M School Superintendent Ken Roche faced a roomful of parents and teachers on Tuesday and said getting a budget approved this summer is going to be a "long and difficult process"*

**BY DAVID DETMOLD  
GILL-MONTAGUE**

Like Daniel in the lion's den, newly hired Gill - Montague superintendent Ken Roche told a packed roomful of parents and teachers at the school committee meeting on Tuesday night, June 12th, "I think it is going to be a very long and difficult process," to get a budget passed this summer. He suggested there were more teacher and staff layouts in the offing. "I believe we're going to be recommending 10 fulltime equivalent cuts, two thirds of them teachers. That's a lot of

positions in a district our size. To do more would compromise educational quality."

Roche said it was likely the district would operate for a time on a "one twelfth budget," meaning they would run from month to month on a twelfth of the amount appropriated last year until a new '08 budget is certified by the school committee and approved by the towns of Gill and Montague. Following the Montague town meeting of June 2nd, the G-M schools were left with a gap of approximately \$880,000 between what the towns of Gill and Montague have appropriated, and what the schools say they need to offer "level service" for the coming year.

At a joint meeting of the Montague finance committee and the selectboard on Wednesday, there was some confusion as to whether the one twelfth budget would

see **ROCKE** pg 13

## Arrest in Strathmore Blaze



DETMOLD PHOTO

*Trooper Gerald Perwak of the Massachusetts State Police Fire Marshall's Office accompanies Jonathan Tanzer and Sergeant Charles Dodge of the Montague Police into Greenfield District Court on Tuesday for his arraignment on charges that Tanzer set the May 24th fire at the Strathmore Mill*

**BY DAVID DETMOLD  
TURNERS FALLS**

Jonathan Tanzer, 43, of 5 Chestnut Lane in Turners Falls, was arraigned in Greenfield District Court on Tuesday, June 12th, Judge William McDonough presiding, and charged with breaking and entering in the nighttime, burning a building, and burning personal property. Tanzer is being charged with setting the fire that burned down Building #10 of the Strathmore Mill on the morning of May 26th, and thereby destroying the personal property of mill owner Jerry Jones.

The case rests on a statement

made to the Montague police Tuesday morning by Tanzer's girlfriend, Amber Hewes, also of 5 Chestnut Lane, who told police she drove Tanzer to the Strathmore Mill at about 1:45 a.m. on the morning of May 26th, and acted as lookout in case Jerry Jones should arrive and find them there. Hewes, who carried a cell phone loaned to her, she said, by Donna Beaumier, also of 5 Chestnut Lane, with which she was to call Tanzer if need be, said she waited in the car for about half an hour while Tanzer entered the building alone.

Hewes said she made a call to a friend named Matt Thompson

while waiting for Tanzer to return.

Hewes said Tanzer told her he was going to take some stripped copper out of a closet in the mill and sell it for scrap. She said Tanzer entered the Strathmore through the tunnel beneath Southworth Paper Co., which Southworth President David Southworth confirmed today is a right of way to the Strathmore that remains open and generally unobserved through the night. She said Tanzer entered the Strathmore mill in the general vicinity of the courtyard adjoining Building #10,

see **ARREST** pg 7

## Arena Civic Theatre Delights with an Evening of Short Works

**BY  
EUGENIA  
PLATZ**

**TURNERS FALLS** - The Shea Theater is graced with talent, laughter, and sympathy with Arena Civic Theatre's presentation of an evening of short works



*Martin Shedd, left and Marnie Tibbetts perform in "Hedda Gabler Has Left the Building" at the Shea Theater on Friday and Saturday, June 15th and 16th.*

by local playwrights Richard Ballon and Jessamyn Smyth.

Entitled "The Big

Way Small Things Happen: Short Works," Ballon and Smyth show-

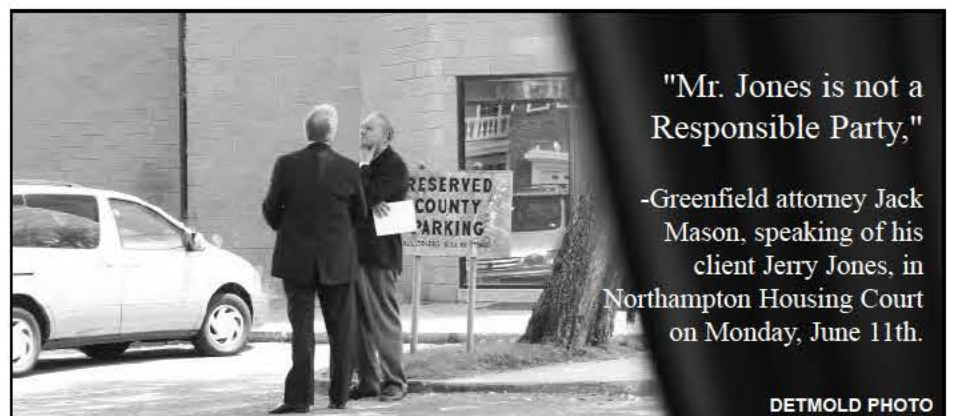
see **THEATER** pg 15

## Jones Pleads Indigence in Housing Court

**BY DAVID DETMOLD  
NORTHAMPTON**

"Are you going to just sit back and let the place burn down?" demanded Jerry Jones.

Confronted outside Courtroom #2 in Northampton District Court on Monday, June 11th by Montague building inspector David Jensen and Turners Falls fire chief Ray Godin, Jones let his attorney, Jack Mason, speak for him during a brisk back and forth about the town and fire district's demands that Jones secure the Strathmore Mill and reactivate the



*Atty. Jack Mason, left, confers with his client, Jerry Jones, owner of the Strathmore Mill, outside the Hampshire County Courthouse on Monday, June 11th.*

sprinkler and fire alarm systems damaged in a fire "of suspicious origin" that destroyed the mill's 19,000-square-foot Building #10 during the

early morning hours of May 26th.

But when the discussion turned to what Jones could do to assist the town in smoothing a

transfer of the distressed property to an interested buyer - John Anctil of the Swift River Group, who is interested in buying the see **JONES** pg 14

"Mr. Jones is not a Responsible Party,"

-Greenfield attorney Jack Mason, speaking of his client Jerry Jones, in Northampton Housing Court on Monday, June 11th.

DETMOLD PHOTO



**PET OF THE WEEK****Laid Back Cutie****Binx**

Binx is a kitten in need of a good home! Binx is a beautiful all-black short-haired male with the 'softest' fur and big, round, curious eyes. He is a laid-back cutie who will probably not only purr when he sees you—he'll probably also lick your fingers! Binx arrived with his two brothers so he's lived with other cats just fine but this cuddly lover of belly-scratching is probably a no-dog cat. For more information on adopting Binx please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at 413-548-9898 or via email at leverett@dpvhs.org.

**CORRECTION**

In last week's paper, an editing error in Art Gilmore's thank you letter resulted in incorrectly naming one of the major donors to the new Montague veterans memorial. The donor was the Montague Chamber of Commerce, not the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce.

**GFMS Students of the Week****Grade 7****Tom Anderson****Grade 8****Rachel Arial****Illayna Perkins****NANCY L. DOLE BOOKS & EPHEMERA**

Buying and selling used books

32 BRIDGE STREET, 2ND FLOOR  
SHELBOURNE 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

24 3rd 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 advertising for any reason and to alter copy or graphics to conform to standards of the newspaper

Subscription Rates:  
\$20 for 6 months

**SLATE LIBRARY NEWS****Celtic Singer Performs June 23rd**

GILL - Award winning Celtic singer and harper, Caera will give a children's workshop and family concert of Irish music at the Slate Memorial Library, 360 Main Road, Gill, on Saturday, June 23rd. The workshop will be held at 11 a.m., and the concert at 1 p.m.

This special performance follows the release of two new CDs of Celtic children's music: *Suantraighe*, a collection of Celtic lullabies, sung in Irish, Scottish, and Manx Gaelic as well as Welsh and other Celtic languages; and *Traditional Irish Gaelic Children's Songs*, a special book and CD set designed as a fun and easy way for children and their parents to learn eleven traditional Irish songs. Caera will perform songs from these new CDs, as well as songs from her other albums and unrecorded material.

If you are looking for an enriching experience for your kids or for yourself this sum-

mer, this very special concert offers insight and information about Celtic music, as well as a peaceful and powerful experience of it. The concert is fun, relaxing and educational for the whole family.

This event is free and open to the public. Caera's CD's will be available for sale at the concert. For more information please call the Slate Memorial Library at 413-863-2591, or visit [www.caera.info](http://www.caera.info).

**Summer Reading Program**

On June 23rd at 10:30 a.m., the Slate Memorial Library's Summer Reading Kick-Off Party will be held. Come register for our summer reading program! Pick up your "Catch the Beat" gameboard and get ready to read. All summer long children record their reading on the board and come in to chose a prize at the library. The game and events are free and open to all. Call 863-2591 for info.



JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

**Montague Briefs****Montague Barrel Stickers**

Barrel stickers for trash pick-up are on sale in the Collector/Treasurer's office. The cost for a sticker is \$65. This sticker is good from July 1st - December 31st, 2007. The office is open Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m..

**Self Defense for Seniors**

On Wednesday July 18th and 25th, at 11:00 a.m., the Gill-Montague Senior Center will host "Self Defense For Seniors 101." Montague police detective Lee Laster will be at the Senior Center to teach moves to protect your self in the event of attack. This self-defense course will be held in 2 sessions. For more information or to register call Bunny Caldwell at 863-9357.

**Montague Church Supper**

The Montague Congregational Church will hold a Strawberry Supper on Saturday, June 23rd at 5:30 p.m. Menu features baked stuffed chicken breast, rice, gravy, tossed salad, green beans and homemade strawberry shortcake. Price is \$9.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children. Reservations must be made and honored: 413-367-2184. Walk-ins are seated as space allows. A limited number of take-outs are also available; call to reserve.

**Donate Your Car or Boat**

Looking for a way to dispose of your car truck or boat? Donate it to the Wheels for Meals program and get a full tax deduction, while your community Meals on Wheels program gets a monetary donation. Call Jane Severance, Director of FCHCC Meals on Wheels program, at 413-773-5555 or 978-544-2259.

**SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES June 18th - 22nd**

**MONTAGUE Senior Center**, 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.

**Monday, 18th**

10 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
11 a.m. Easy Aerobics

1 p.m. Canasta  
**Tuesday, 19th**

9:30 a.m. T'ai Chi

**Wednesday, 20th**

10 a.m. Senior Aerobics

12:45 p.m. Bingo

**Thursday, 21st**

1:00 p.m. Pitch

**Friday, 22nd**

10 a.m. Senior Aerobics

11 a.m. Easy Aerobics

**ERVING Senior Center**, 18 Pleasant St., Ervingside (Old Center School, 1st Floor), is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. For information and reservations call Polly Kiely, Senior Center director at 413 423-3308. Lunch daily at 11:30 a.m. with reservations a day in advance by 11:00 a.m. Transportation can be provided for meals, Thursday shopping, or medical necessity by calling Dana Moore at 978 544-3898.

**FACES & PLACES****TAKE ME TO THE RIVER**

PARZYCH PHOTO

*Off River Road in Gill***WENDELL LIBRARY NEWS****Campfire with Roger Tincknell**

Celebrate the end of the school year and the beginning of summer at a campfire on the Wendell town common, complete with a sing-a-long, roasted marshmallows and watermelon, on Tuesday, June 19th.

The fire will be lit at 6:30 p.m. Area performer Roger Tincknell will join us at 7 p.m. to lead a festive and participatory program of traditional family campfire songs.

The music will involve the audience in singing, moving, dancing and playing of percussion instruments.

Roger accompanies his voice with guitar, banjo, mandolin, harmonica, African drums and Latin percussion.

After the performance, refreshments will be served and marshmallows will be available for roasting.

This event is free and open to campfire lovers of all ages. The program is brought to you by the Wendell Free Library and the Wendell Cultural Council. In the event of rain the program will be rescheduled in the fall.

**MONTAGUE LIBRARIES NEWS****Summer Reading Program**

BY LINDA HICKMAN

**MONTAGUE** - The Montague Public Libraries summer reading program is off to a great start. Sign-ups started on Wednesday, June 13th at the libraries. Each participant receives a large bright blue bag filled with a reading log, summer schedule of events, program guidelines, free and discount passes to area attractions, a book mark, a sticker, and an item selected from the prize basket. The first 100 to sign up also receive a mood pen, imprinted with this summer's theme, "Catch the Beat at Your Library." The next 100 receive an imprinted pencil. On average, 360 children, from infants to teens, participate each year. Each week, children who have been reading can collect another incentive prize. In the middle of August, special parties will be held at each of the libraries for all of the participants.

Music programs will be held throughout the summer, tying in with the statewide theme. The kickoff concert is Tuesday, June 19th at 10 a.m. at the Carnegie Library. Storyteller/folksinger John Porcino of Amherst will tell humorous stories, and demonstrate musical instruments from around the world. Following this performance, children will have the opportunity to make simple folk instruments to take home. Many other exciting programs will follow throughout the summer.

The Carnegie Library, 863-3214, is open Monday - Wednesday, 1 - 8 p.m., Thursday 1 - 5 p.m., and Friday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. The Montague Center Library, 267-2852, is open Monday and Wednesday 2 - 5 and 6 - 8 p.m. The Millers Falls Library, 659-3801, is open Tuesday and Thursday, 2 - 5 and 6 - 8 p.m.

**We've Got You Covered!****SATURDAY SPECIAL**

For Rusty Steel, Use  
**HAMMERITE**  
"One Step and the Rust is History"

**1/3 OFF**

**ICOUTURE BROS.**  
Since 1910

187 Avenue A, Turners Falls • 863-4346



# Injured Rider Gets Leg Up From Local Horse Community

MONTAGUE -- Everything changed in an instant for Montague horsewoman Olivia 'Pinnie' Sears when a horseback riding accident on April 11th on the Montague Plains left her facedown on the ground in a mouthful of blood and unable to move her legs. Sears sustained numerous injuries when her horse, Julio, apparently spooked and threw her, including losing her front teeth and breaking her back.

Massachusetts Horse magazine, where Sears is contributing Trail Guide columnist, is organizing a Benefit Pleasure Ride, Saturday, June 16th (rain date June 17th), starting at 10 a.m. at Sand Hill Ranch, 374 Turners Falls Road in Montague, to help the lifelong horsewoman and Massachusetts 4-H judge get a leg-up on returning to a normal life.

The Massachusetts Horse

Benefit Pleasure Ride will feature five- and ten-mile marked trails, lunch with live music, raffles, and special prizes for participants. Valley Advocate Grand Band Slam favorites Scott

Lawson, of Orange Crush, and Steve Sanderson, of the Drunk Stuntmen, have donated their talents to perform during the



Olivia "Pinnie" Sears kisses Rastsa.

er and editor, Stephanie Sanders-Ferris of Goshen. "Thanks to the help of area businesses, raffle donations have been pouring in, including 25 bales of first- and second-cut hay, stall mats, shavings, an equine medical emergency kit, limited edition artwork, and a two-night stay at the Sugar Maple Inn in Northampton." Participation in the Benefit Pleasure Ride is \$29 per adult and \$19 per junior rider (includes ride and lunch) or \$19 per non-rider (includes lunch and three raffle tickets). Pre-registration is appreciated to help volunteers coordinate lunch. For Benefit Ride forms, directions, and details see www.mahorse.com, email stephsanders@crocker.com, or call the Massachusetts Horse main office at (413) 268-3302.

# Free Summer Lunch Program for Kids

The Gill-Montague Regional School District will once again be offering the Summer Lunch Program. Anyone ages 18 and under can receive a free lunch, regardless of their income status Monday thru Friday at either Hillcrest Elementary School or Unity Park in Turners Falls. The program is sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture and the Massachusetts Department of Education.

**TURNERS FALLS WATER DEPARTMENT WILL BE FLUSHING HYDRANTS THE WEEK OF JUNE 18th**

# Local Color #9: Story Collection Reading in Greenfield

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH GREENFIELD - Anna Viadero recently hosted a reading by contributors to *Local Color #9*, a collection of stories by area senior citizens. "Area" being a relative term, since among the two dozen participants were readers from Springfield, Holyoke and Rhode Island. June Mann Finan, the Rhode Island contributor, once lived in Montague and has fond memories of the area. Her brother Leo played baseball for Turners Falls High. She has a sister Theresa Mann Hinckle, who now lives in Shelburne Falls.

Viadero began the group nine years ago as a senior citizen's writing group. "I was so impressed with the stories the participants wrote that I decided to publish them," Viadero said. The books proved to be so well received that Viadero continued the writing workshops and compiled another book, and then



(l-r), Anna Viadero of Montague chats with Elisabeth Leete and Phyllis Loomis of Ashfield after the *Local Color* reading.

another, and another. The latest book is number nine.

Viadero consolidated the first six books into one thick book, which is listed on Amazon.com. The group is working toward their next book, *Local Color #10*.

Some participants have had

books and articles published in local and national publications. Eileen Marguet wrote the book, *Chronicals of the Civilian Conservation Corps*. Phyllis Loomis has written *Herstory*, in a series of three books of memoirs, and *Crossing the Pond*, a book

about crossing the Atlantic with friends at age 79, in a small sailboat. And then of course Joseph Parzych has written *Jep's Place: Hope Faith & Other Disasters*.

Several members are frequent contributors to a wide variety of local and national publications. Rosalie Bolton and Parzych have also read stories on NPR. Bolton's story on tea recently appeared, with her picture, in *Hampshire Franklin Plus* magazine. Fran Hemond is a frequent contributor to the *Montague Reporter*.

The group of about a dozen writers, meets with Anna Viadero on the second Tuesday of the month at the Mill House in Turners Falls for about eight years before that.

Copies of *Local Color* may be ordered online at www.localcolormemoirs.com or *Local Color*, P.O. Box 116, Montague, MA 01351.

Now Accepting New Consignments!

**Seth and Eva's**

Consignement Shop

We have locally made arts and crafts and Quality used goods

Open 10-6 Tue-Sun.

115 Avenue A Turners Falls, MA

**Lunch Meeting!**

Meet Your Friend at the Café

**GO-NOMAD CAFE**

Now Open Sundays!  
8 AM - 2 PM

665-5005 South Deerfield Ctr.

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

**Pine Nook Daylilies**

Open May 12th - August 5th  
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**

**FELTON CONSTRUCTION CO. INC.**

**Blacktop Paving since 1958**

Compare - There is a Difference

35 Federal Street, Millers Falls  
**413-659-3013**

**About Town Taxi**

Serving All of Franklin County

**(413) 774-4000**

**Bank Row Greenfield**

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

**CopyCat PRINT SHOP**

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

We Specialize In Impossible Deadlines!

**21 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

**TOGNARELLI HEATING & COOLING**

- Specializing in Repairing & Installation
- Gas & Oil Systems • Radiant Heat, Gas Piping
- The Gas Experts

Heating & Cooling Systems **413-863-2295** Central Air - Anywhere

**123 Avenue A, Turners Falls**



**The Montague Reporter**  
24 3rd Street, Turners Falls, Mass. 01376

<b>Editor</b> David Detmold	<b>Layout &amp; Design</b> Kathleen Litchfield Boysen Hodgson Katren Hoyden Karen Wilkinson Suzette Snow-Cobb	<b>Photography</b> Lisa Davol Joe Parzyck
<b>Assistant Editor</b> Kathleen Litchfield	<b>"The Voice of the Villages"</b>	
<b>Editorial Assistants</b> Hugh Corr David Brule	<b>Founded by</b> Arthur Evans Harry Brandt August, 2002	<b>Technical Administrators</b> Michael Muller Michael Farnick
<b>Circulation</b> Jean Hebdorn Julia Bowden Smith Don Clegg		

## Remembering Elsie Diemand

On Tuesday afternoon, after a period of declining health, Elsie Diemand died, at the age of 90. She left 12 children, 24 grandchildren, and 17 great-grandchildren. Her wake will be held at Kostanski Funeral Home in Turners Falls from 4 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, June 14th. Her funeral service will be held on Friday, June 15th, at 9 a.m. at Blessed Sacrament Church on Beacon and Federal Street in Greenfield, and burial will follow at the Diemand family graveyard on Mormon Hollow Road, next to her Wendell farm. Her husband Al predeceased her.

What follows are just a few memories and thoughts of Elsie gathered from her friends and neighbors.

"I was thinking that losing Elsie is like the whole community losing one of our significant elders. While her family of 12 kids is losing a mother, for so many of us who are not close

to our mothers she had that warm embrace to include us into her fold of those she cared about and remembered.



Elsie Diemand

When she was younger, when I first came to town, she was the kind of person who went around with her daughter, Annie, bringing the newcomers banana bread. She was that kind of a friend and neighbor. She loved her community, which she saw as part of her greater family. She had a great sense of humor and a quirky wit and a very generous heart."

-Nina Keller

As the matriarch of this family, she left her mark on the community, on a much larger circle than just her own family. She was a mother and a grandmother to a lot of people, and she always had a concern for what was going on in her community.

Especially as she got older, I would tell her, 'Ma, what keeps you goin', you can really get

your blood fired up.' The woman could take an issue and run with it. You would never meet a kinder or sweeter lady, but just don't mess with Ma Diemand.

She was a very devout person, devoted to the Catholic Church. But her beliefs were far more personal, in the sense that she would have extended them into the world whether there was a church or not. She had her own opinions.

Above all, she was the glue that held this farm together. Al was a leader, but make no mistake about it, it was really a matriarchal system. Elsie made it work."

-Al MacIntire

"Several years ago the council on aging held a program on Living History. We had four Wendell citizens talk about life in the 30s, 40s, and 50s. Elsie spoke, and she said, 'This is my second moment of fame.' Her first one was when they got her to sit on the motorcycle in front of the Wendell Country Store for a group photo on the famous

Wendell post card with the slogan, "We're all here because we're not all there."

Last December she got a third moment of fame, when Wendell voted to impeach Bush and Cheney. Channel 3 from Springfield was there. Elsie got out of her sick bed and came to vote to impeach Bush and Cheney, and the cameraman caught her saying, "This war is wrong! Bring the boys home!" She said it like that, very, very forcefully.

Over the last year she invited everyone at the Senior Center clinic to come to her farm for lunch. Many of us did. It was just another of her gifts to the community."

-Kathy Swaim

"Soon after moving to Wendell in 1980, I met the Diemand family. I eventually heard much about the legendary hospitality of Elsie. Once when in conversation with her, I asked her how, with so many mouths to feed, she could be so known to offer a chair, food and conversation to whoever would stop in. She said, 'Susan, when I first came to Wendell, there was a time when I was pregnant and Al and I got stuck in the snow coming home. We went to the nearest house and asked for help, and, Susan, they wouldn't even let us in the door! I swore that I would never turn anyone away who came to my home.'"

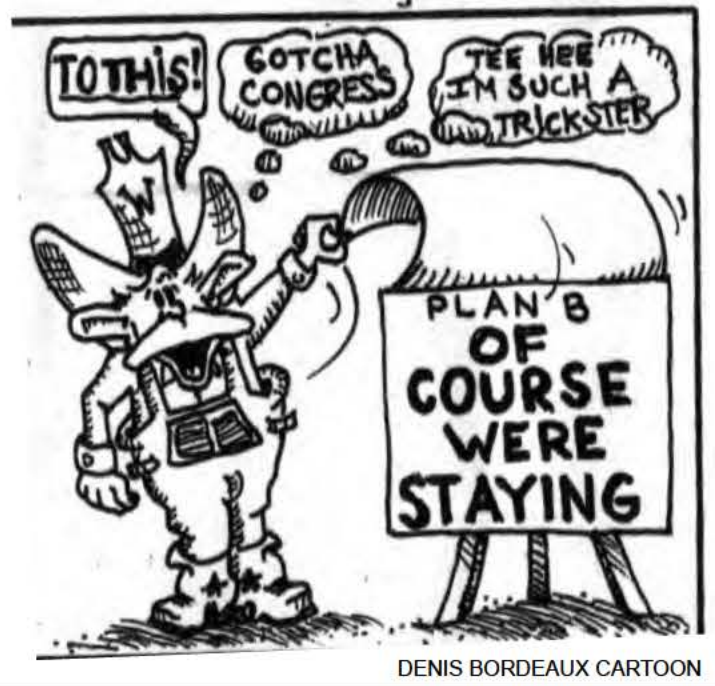
-Susan von Ranson

"Setting up for the now-famous photo of 20 or 30 motley folks in front of the Wendell Country Store, Elsie was urged

## BORDEAUX WHINE



by denis bordeaux



DENIS BORDEAUX CARTOON

to sit on the back of a Harley Davidson motorcycle, behind its leather-clad owner. She got right on, and you can see her, basically the centerpiece of the postcard, right there like a Hell's Angel's 'old lady.' Her comment upon climbing off is a little too intimate to repeat, but it was classic Elsie, and it had to do with where her dress rode up.

I also remember her informing us sharply once that there weren't going to be any changes in the furniture at the Senior Center - 'not as long as I'm here to say no!' As far as I'm concerned, the answer is still 'no'."

-Jonathan von Ranson

"One of the things I always think about with the whole Diemand family, and with Elsie in particular, people who didn't have family around - like me - she'd have us over on Thanksgiving, Christmas. The kitchen would be so full, they would have invited so many people, but there was always enough food. There wasn't always a place to sit, but there was always enough food. She would welcome anybody into her home.

She was always reading. Jim Hightower's book, or the large print *Readers Digest*, up until a few weeks ago. She was always keeping up with what was going on, interested in everybody.

Just a few weeks ago, she fell

and broke her neck. They put a brace on her neck, and the very next day she was feeding a baby goat with a bottle.

She loved to watch the sunset. Eddie built that deck back of the kitchen for her to watch the sunset. She was out there last Friday. It was a beautiful day.

I drove by the farm today, and the lights were out. I'm really going to miss her. She was such a warm presence."

-Teri Koehler

As for us, here at the *Montague Reporter*, Elsie was like a guardian angel as we tried to get the newspaper off the ground. After the first three months, we were practically broke, and ready to give up. I remember walking down the hill in the snow after delivering newspapers one night in late December, and wondering how we would ever pay the printer's bill that week. I got to the mailbox, and there was a check for two hundred dollars from Elsie Diemand, buying gift subscriptions for practically all her children. We would have folded up shop if she hadn't done that.

In the years that followed, she would always send a renewal check with something extra, and a little note saying, "Keep up the good work, and buy yourselves a pizza." We will, Elsie, we will. Now get some rest. You've earned it.

-David Detmold

## American Dead in Iraq as of 6/13/07



## We welcome your letters

**Montague Reporter**  
24 3rd St Turners Falls, MA 01376  
**PHONE (413) 863-8666**  
**FAX (413) 863-3050**  
[reporter@montaguema.net](mailto:reporter@montaguema.net)



## Sign Me Up!

\$20 for 26 issues

**The Montague Reporter**  
24 3rd Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**Parzych Featured at Read-a-thon**

During the month of March, Gill Elementary School had a Read-a-thon to raise money for our school and for us to become better readers. We had "special guest readers" come into our classroom to read to us. One of our guest readers was Joseph A. Parzych, a local author from Gill. He wrote the book *Jep's Place*, and he read some of the book to us.

We really liked the book. It is fun to learn how life was in our town in the past. When we voted for our favorite book to make a picture for our classroom door, we voted for *Jep's Place!* Mr.

Parzych said that he had enough ideas and material for another book, and we hope he writes one soon. We feel very fortunate that Mr. Parzych came to our classroom to read to us, and we hope he can come back again!

- Gill School 2nd Graders:  
 Chloe Castro-Santos,  
 Daniel Cloutier, Bryn Kruzlic,  
 Ashley Levasseur, Patick Logan, Kaili Lynch, Sophie Margola, Jacob Mikalunas, Ryder Molongoski, Nick Morin, Eli Nicolson, Robert Rinaldi, Clancy Shaw, Katie Sprankle, Mitchell Waldon, Jacob Wallenius-Duda

**Steady Improvement Noted**

I just received the June 7th issue of the *Reporter*. I have noticed the steady all around improvement of the quality and substance of the paper, but this particular issue is just amazing. Excellent local coverage of the news and features, great series on Valley Idol, outstanding

investigative journalism on the Strathmore, fun, creative cartoons, thoughtful, well written editorials and good photos. As judge Phil from Valley Idol would say, "NICE JOB!!!"

- Anne Jemas  
 Turners Falls

**Now Can We Have Pluto Back?**

In the "Oh, don't be so picky" category, the oriole photograph accompanying Fran Hemond's article ("Elegant Orioles," *MR V#35*) is that of a male Bullock's Oriole, not a Baltimore Oriole. As Fran noted, the Bullock's Oriole is native to the western

U.S., does hybridize with our Baltimore Orioles, but I believe has recently been re-granted species status by the reigning panel of grand pooh-bahs of North American bird taxonomy.

- Mark Fairbrother  
 Montague

**My Time on the Avenue**

As most people probably know, I sold Cup O' Joe a little over a week ago. I wanted to thank all the customers and employees who were so good to me, and had become like family.

It would have been nice to keep the shop and still have the money to pay bills and spend time with family and friends. Most of the time I owned the shop I had a full time job in addition, so I was getting pretty burned out.

So, to answer the people asking what will I be doing now, I will still be working at my other job, but now I will be able to have a life again. I want to travel a little bit and see other places. There are new possibilities, and I'm actually happy now.

Turners Falls is improving. There are a lot of great people here, so keep supporting local business.

- Zach Fellows  
 Greenfield

**Delinquent Taxes**

That was a fantastic article about Jerry Jones (Trail of a Repeat Offender, *MR V#35*). You brought up his \$165, 254.60 in delinquent taxes. Some large city papers on occasion publish a listing of such. They don't pick on the person who's maybe off a year, just the big hitters and very late offenders. Any thought about working something out with the tax collector to do the same in the

Montague Reporter? Embarrassment is always a good way to get people to pay.

Jones owes enough to cover for the new roof on Montague Center School. Wouldn't it be something if the school budget deficit were significantly less than overdue taxes?

- Don Clegg  
 Montague City

**Bandstand Dedication Concert a Resounding Success**

BY MATTHEW ROBINSON  
 TURNERS FALLS - The rain held up, no thunder, no lightning. It held up just long enough. "It's going to take us an hour to move to the high school," David Rousseau, the director of the Montague Community Band lamented as he looked up at the dark clouds.

Ellen Keech, manager of the community band, said she spent Sunday and Monday tracking the weather on the internet. "If we move to the high school, we'll have to turn away people at the door," she said. "And I hope we can have the [bandstand dedication] concert at the bandstand, not at the high school." But the weather held, just long enough.

The Star Spangled Banner played, selectboard chair Pat Allen read the dedication and the United States Marine Forces Reserve Band of New Orleans performed.

"It's a good thing," said Walter Kostanski, a World War II veteran, glancing at the clouds. "There were no tickets available. I called everybody."

And the bands played on. "The acoustics sound fine," said chief warrant officer Michael Smith. He was among the visiting musicians listening to the Montague Community Band break in the new bandstand at Peskeomskut Park on Monday evening, June 11th. But he wanted to talk about Turners Falls.

"It's so nice to see a community come out like this." He looked around at the spectators, seated around the newly landscaped park on lawn chairs, benches and blankets, listening attentively. The audience ranged from infants to elders, their umbrellas

close at hand. "This feels like home," he said. Then a bald eagle flew by.

The U S Marine forces



PHOTOS BY MATTHEW ROBINSON

The Montague Community Band performed at the dedication ceremony on Monday evening, June 11th.

Reserve Band of New Orleans spent the day in Turners after traveling from Troy, NY. "We received a wonderful reception," said Smith happily. "We were fed twice at the Elks Club."

Asked how someone could go about joining the Marine Band, Smith said it's pretty simple. "They just need to ask a recruiter for an audition. You don't have to join the Marines before being guaranteed a position in the band," he explained.

The Marine Oak Ridge Detachment, who presented the colors for the Star Spangled Banner, also provided the meals at the Elks. "We also had time to do a funeral in Greenfield today," said Oak Ridge commandant John Barlow. "We represent every branch (of the service) at local funerals," he added. "Army, Navy, it doesn't matter." The Oak Ridge Detachment also

works with charities such as Toys for Tots, and will be properly retiring flags on June 14th, Flag Day at a ceremony at the Montague Elks.

According to Ellen Keech, the Montague Community Band, who presented the Dedication Concert with the Marine Band from New Orleans, is one of the oldest continuously playing bands in the country. The band, made up of local and out-of-town musicians, plays a concert series during the summer and into the fall.

On Monday, they played marches by John Phillips Sousa and Irving Berlin tunes, along with Francis Scott Key. Both bands resounded from the new bandstand and across the park to a satisfied crowd, silencing the distant rumble of thunder for an hour or two. Fine acoustics indeed.



United States Marine Forces Reserve Band of New Orleans performs in Montague.

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG**

**Disregard That Siren**

**Monday 6-4**  
 10:45 a.m. After a motor vehicle stop on Route 2, [redacted] arrested and charged with failure to stop for a police officer, operating a motor vehicle negligently, and speeding.  
**Wednesday 6-6**  
 7:20 p.m. After a motor vehicle stop on Route 63, [redacted] was arrested and charged

with operating under the influence of liquor, marked lanes violation, and possession of a class D drug.  
**Thursday 6-7**  
 5:19 p.m. After a motor vehicle stop on Route 2, a criminal application was issued to [redacted] for operating after suspension.  
**Friday 6-8**  
 9:13 p.m. Mutual aid to Montague for a

fight in progress at a Bridge Street address.  
**Monday 6-11**  
 3:15 p.m. Walk-in to station reported receiving harassing mail. Subject concerned for her well being. Report taken.  
**Tuesday 6-12**  
 5:00 p.m. Erving Paper Mill advises a siren going off on tower. They are aware of it and are fixing the problem.

**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

**Y Summer Camps**  
 12 different camps to excite all children ages 3-15  
 Camp Apex (now with a heated pool)  
 Sports Camps (two per week)  
 Gymnastics Camps (air-conditioned comfort)  
 Camp Allen (Academics and P.E.)  
 Summer PreSchool and Specialty Camps  
 www.ymcaingreenfield.org • 773-3646

**CASH PAID FOR YOUR** CDs  
 LPs  
 DVDs  
**TURN IT UP!**  
 NORTHAMPTON • EASTHAMPTON • BRATTLEBORO • KEENE • TURNITUP.COM  
 413.502.1005 413.521.3650 802.251.8015 803.358.6833



## Montague Town Clerk to Dog Owners: You Have until June 15th to Register Your Dogs

The deadline to register dogs in Montague is June 15th. Thereafter, a fine of \$20.00 will be added to the registration fee. On July 1st, the Animal Control Officer will receive a list of delinquent dog owners for enforcement and possible court proceedings.

Dogs are licensed at the town clerk's office. A license for a neutered or spayed dog is

\$5.00, and a license for an unaltered dog is \$10.00.

The clerk's office requires proof of rabies vaccination and also requires proof of spaying or neutering unless previously provided.

The town clerk's office is open Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information, call the office at 863-3200, ext. 203.

## Spanish Playgroup

Coqui Spanish Playgroup at the Gill-Montague Family Center at 78 Avenue A, Turners Falls, Wednesdays, 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Children ages 0-5 and their caregivers will be learning and practicing Spanish through

songs, games, and cultural activities. This program is free of charge and is sponsored by the Parent Child Home Program, Franklin County Family Network, and the Montague Literacy Project. For more information contact Francia Wisniewski at 773-9309 x 101.

## MCTV Video Camp Summer '07

Montague Community Television will be offering a "Video Camp" for people 9 to 14 years of age, to take place at the MCTV studio, 34 Second Street in Turners Falls, from Monday, July 23rd to Friday, July 27th, between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Campers will learn how to use video cameras, audio

equipment, the MCTV studio and the editing suite with Final Cut Express software. The camp is limited in size to 10 people. The fee is \$30 per person for the five days.

Parents or guardians interested in signing up their children to attend the camp should call Robin or Dean at (413) 863-9200.

## MCTV Schedule

### Channel 17: June 15th - June 21st

#### Barton Cove Eagles:

\*Eagle Broadcast is dependent upon working Equipment at Barton Cove\*  
7A-8A (Daily); 11A-530P (Tuesday.); 12P-530P (Thursday); 1P-530P (Friday, Saturday, Monday); 2P-6P (Sunday); 230P-530P (Wednesday)

#### 12:30pm Mind Control

6:00 pm Physician Focus: Managing Pain  
7:00 pm Montague Select Board (Live)  
9:30 pm Discovery Center: "Fabulous Maurice"

#### Tuesday, June 19

#### Friday, June 15

8:00 am Montague Select Board 6/4/07  
9:30 am Valley Idol 2007 Finals  
6:00 pm Nasa Destination Tomorrow #25  
7:00 pm GMRSD meeting 6/12/07  
10:30 pm Independent Voices #30  
11:00 pm Breaking The Silence: "What Was, What Is, What Will Be"

8:00am Physician Focus: Managing Pain  
8:30 am Discovery Center: "Fabulous Maurice"  
6:00 pm GED Connection#4: The Writing Process  
6:30 pm Independent Voices #30  
7:00 pm GMRSD (6/12/07)  
10:30 pm Carlos W. Anderson: "The Cost of Freedom"

#### Wednesday, June 20

#### Saturday, June 16

8:00 am Nasa Destination Tomorrow #25  
8:30 am GMRSD Meeting 6/12/07  
12:00 pm Independent Voices #30  
12:30 pm Breaking The Silence: "What Was, What Is, What Will Be"  
6:00 pm The Well Being: "Men Overcoming Violence"  
7:00 pm Sheffield School Play: "Mighty Minds"  
8:00 pm Discovery Center: Bat Explore  
10:00 pm Farmers Market: Michael Nix

8:00 am GED Connection #4: The Writing Process  
8:30 am Independent Voices #30  
9:00 am GMRSD (6/12/07)  
12:30 pm Carlos W. Anderson: "The Cost of Freedom"  
6:30 pm Nasa Destination Tomorrow #25  
7:00 pm GED Connection#5: Organized Writing  
7:30 pm Sheffield Play: "Mighty Minds"  
8:30 pm The Well Being: "Men Overcoming Violence"  
9:30 pm Senior Center: Senior Aerobics

#### Thursday, June 21

#### Sunday, June 17

8:00 am The Well Being: "Men Overcoming Violence"  
9:00 am Sheffield School Play: "Mighty Minds"  
10:00 am Discovery Center: Bat Explore  
12:00pm Farmers Market: Michael Nix  
6:30 pm TFHS Awards Night 2007  
8:30 pm TFHS Commencement 2007  
10:00 pm Plains Walk  
11:00 pm Mind Control

8:00 am NASA Destination Tomorrow #25  
8:30 am GED Connection#5: Organized Writing  
9:00 am Sheffield Play: "Mighty Minds"  
10:00 am The Well Being: "Men Overcoming Violence"  
11:00 am Senior Center: Senior Aerobics  
6:00 pm Montague Update: Chris Mason  
7:00 pm Montague Select Board 6/18/07  
9:30 pm Discovery Center: Fabulous Maurice

#### Monday, June 18

8:00 am TFHS Awards Night 2007  
10:00 am TFHS Commencement 2007  
11:30 am Plains Walk

## Local Girl Scouts Journey to Washington D.C.

BY SARA CAMPBELL

ERVINGSIDE - Girl Scouts from local towns were among an estimated 150,000 participants in the 95th Anniversary 'Sing Along on the Mall' in Washington DC on June 9th, where many colorful t-shirts proclaimed "Still Singing after All These Years!"

Girl Scouting was founded in 1912 in Savannah, GA by Juliet Gordon Low. Low's image has been included in the "Miracle Mile" at our nation's capital, which consists of medallions set into the sidewalks of 15th and G Streets memorializing the founders of a number of service organizations.

Girls from Troops 21 from Turners Falls and 328 from Greenfield joined their counterparts from Shelburne Falls, Bernardston, Westfield, Pittsfield, and surrounding towns on a three-day trip organized by the Western Mass Girl Scout Council. After a stop in Philadelphia to view the Liberty Bell, the two buses full of girls and their families continued south. The scouts had time to see some of the exhibits at the various Smithsonian museums, including outdoor sculpture at the National Gallery of Art sculpture garden and the Hope Diamond at the Museum of Natural History.

While in Washington, they viewed well-known sights



PHOTO BY SARA CAMPBELL

(Left to right) Katharine Averill, Emily Zraunig, Sierra Archer, Katie Norwood, Carolyn Campbell, Jennifer MacGray, Lea Sweeney, Sharon Vielmetti, Bethany Zera, Laura Averill; standing Marion Vielmetti, Shae Kobarski and Betty Simmons surround the memorial to Juliet Gordon Low, founder of Girl Scouting.

including the White House, the Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, Union Station and the Old Post Office. A dinner cruise on the Potomac River was highlighted by a dancing competition. Crossing the river to Arlington, VA they toured Arlington National Cemetery and saw the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, as well as the Iwo Jima Marine Memorial.

Many girls experienced the tradition of exchanging swaps for the first time. The small remembrances, often pinned to hats or shirts, are intended to be representative of the giver's home area.

Girls received hand-made pins of state birds and insects, a tiny bottle of ketchup from Pittsburgh, (home of the Heinz company), and sparkles of silver and gold, a reminder to "Make new friends and keep the old."

Betty Simmons who first became a Girl Scout in the 1930s in Cooperstown, NY, attended with her daughter and granddaughter from Millers Falls.

The girls worked hard to reduce the price of the trip through money earned during the annual cookie sale and other fund-raisers. They thank their loyal customers for their support and donations.

## Route 2 Task Force Public Meeting

Erving - The Route 2 Task Force and MassHighway will be holding a public information meeting on Wednesday, June 20, 2007 at the Erving Elementary School to discuss recommended safety improvements for the Farley and Erving Center sections of Erving. A viewing of maps of the area will begin at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. It is open to the public, and all are welcome to attend. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact town hall at 413-422-2800, x100.

## Western Massachusetts Highland Games and Celtic Festival

Home of the New England Scottish Hammer Throw Championship

June 23rd at the

Franklin County Fairgrounds

Fun for the Entire Family

Performers include: Prydein • Charlie Zahm • Iona • Emerald Road Dancers • Pioneer Valley Harpers Guild • Marching Pipe & Drum Bands • and You - Bring your instrument and join in the céilidh! Also featuring More than 50 Clans & Societies! Heavy Athletic Masters Competition, Falconry Demonstration, Celtic Goods, Sheep Herding, Bagpipe Competition, Scottish Foods, Harping Circle, Highland & Country Dancing, The Historic Highlanders, Clydesdale Horses, Black-faced Sheep, Hands-on activities for kids

Adult admission \$10 (advance tickets \$8), Kids 6 to 12 \$8, under 6 free, Seniors 60 and over \$8, Uniformed members of the armed services (or valid ID) free. Advance tickets available at the World Eye Bookstore, For more info please visit [www.wmhg.org](http://www.wmhg.org) or call 413) 584-9182

## Benefit Concert for the Montague Veterans Memorial

featuring the **COMMANDER CODY BAND**

with the Lonesome Brothers, Dad Come Home and Nexus

**Saturday, June 23rd**

at Schuetzen Verein grounds off Route 2, Barton Cove, Gill. Grounds open 4:00 p.m., show at 5 p.m. cash bar, food available - no coolers allowed. Tickets \$20 prepaid, available at TF Fire Dept., Montague Police Dept. and World Eye Bookshop in Greenfield.

## 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

## Chinatown

CHINESE RESTAURANT

FREE DELIVERY!  
(Min. \$15.00)



863-8988 • 51 AVENUE A, TURNERS FALLS



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



**BLAZE** from pg 1

through a door that was easily opened even when latched. Hewes further stated to police that when Tanzer returned, he was not carrying any copper.

According to the statement, Hewes told police, "I asked where the copper was and Jon stated that Jerry took all of the copper out of the building. So Jon stated, 'I lit the fucker on fire.' I asked him what he meant and he again stated that 'I lit the fucker on fire. I was pissed and I walked by a bale of paper and lit it on fire.'"

Hewes said she then drove Tanzer back to their house and went to sleep, to be awakened by her father calling at 9 a.m. to tell her that the Strathmore was on fire, and to find out if she was all right, since her father knew she and Jonathan had worked at the Strathmore, stripping copper.

In another part of her statement, Hewes said in the recent past she had taken so much copper from the Strathmore to sell for scrap at Acme Metals that "they know me there, and don't ask for my license any more."

Prosecuting attorney Michael McHale asked for bail of \$100,000 cash and \$1 million surety. McDonough asked Tanzer if he could afford to hire a lawyer, to which Tanzer replied, "No, sir." The judge

appointed attorney Barry Auskern to represent Tanzer.

According to numerous reports, Tanzer had been injured at the Strathmore Mill while working under the direction of mill owner Jerry Jones, attempting to strip copper wire from a live 13,800 volt transmission line. He received burns to his face, neck, and arm in that accident, and subsequently hired a lawyer to sue for damages, and took out a lien against the Strathmore Mill for \$1 million.

On Tuesday, Tanzer sat impassively in the court, trying vainly to readjust his handcuffs so they would not chafe against the visibly reddened skin of his left hand and right forearm.

Auskern told the court he had formerly represented Tanzer in September of 2006, when Hewes charged Tanzer with assault and battery with a dangerous weapon: a metal pipe. According to Auskern, Tanzer and Hewes were living in Building #10 of the Strathmore at the time, and when the police responded to Hewes' call for help, they found Tanzer asleep, and no sign of a metal pipe. Auskern said Hewes failed to show up in court on the trial date to press charges in that matter.

On Tuesday, Hewes told Montague police she had been scared to call them to tell them about the cause of the

Strathmore Mill fire, which she said had been "on my conscience," since the blaze, because Tanzer "would not let her leave his sight." She said Tanzer had become angry with her on Monday night (6/11) because she was threatening to call the police, so Tanzer ripped the phone line out of the wall.

But Auskern took a brief recess during the arraignment to call a Matt McDonough, whom he identified as "an administrator for Labor Ready in Greenfield," who, Auskern said, stated that Tanzer had been working 10-hour shifts for his company at a bakery in Brattleboro during the past week.

A person who declined to identify herself answered the phone at Labor Ready in Greenfield on Wednesday and, when asked if Tanzer had been working for her firm, said, "Yeah, he's been working for us at a bakery. All last week." When asked to check which dates and hours Tanzer had been working, she put the phone on hold, and then said she could only release that information if served with a subpoena, and declined to give any more information.

As to Tanzer watching her day and night, "Amber Hewes statement is patently untrue," Auskern claimed. "And if that's untrue, the rest of her statement is untrue."

He further suggested that Tanzer, who had been badly injured in an electrical fire while working under Jones' direction at the Strathmore Mill on May 6th, and had subsequently hired Springfield attorney Joseph Bernard to place a \$1 million lien on the Strathmore Mill to recover damages for his injuries, which involved extensive burns and skin grafts, would have no motive for burning down the mill as doing so would "undercut the asset that would compensate him for the damages he sustained."


On Wednesday, trooper Gerald Perwak of the Massachusetts state police fire marshall's office said he had checked the phone records of Beaumier's cell phone, and found that a call had been placed to the party Hewes mentioned in her police statement "at about 2 a.m." on the morning of May 21st. Perwak said he had inspected the landline phone at the apartment at 5 Chestnut Lane shared by Beaumier, Hewes, Tanzer and Tony Calloon on Tuesday, and found the phone cord had been "ripped from the wall."

On Tuesday, while Tanzer was being brought in for arraignment, his roommate, Tony Calloon, visibly

see BLAZE page 8

www.turnersfallsriverculture.org  
Arts, Culture, Recreation on Turners Falls. Log on and find out what you what your are missing.

**Jep's Place**  
Hope, Faith, and Other Disasters



**NO LONGER SOLD OUT**  
Gill Store • Baker's • World Eye  
• Greenfield Visitor's Center  
• Discovery Center, Turners Falls

**In Store For You!**



**Green Fields Market**  
congratulates the **Town of Montague** for recent approval of a resolution opposing genetically modified organisms!

Check out the Co-op's Bulletin Board for information on other food issues



Mon-Fri 8-8, Saturday 9-6, Sunday 10-5  
144 Main Street, Greenfield  
773-9567

Proud of our roots on Avenue A!  
(Formerly the Montague Food Coop)  
25 Years and Growing

**Antiques Appraised at First Congregational Church in Turners Falls**

BY MATTHEW ROBINSON  
TURNERS FALLS - Sitting in the Church Parlor all sorts of stories were told.

"When I got this doll, I...", "We had one of those too, it..."

"I was offered \$1500 but wanted..."

As the group sat waiting for their appraisal, treasure in hand, or on their lap or even leaning against a wall, the memories flooded the room. The spectators couldn't hear the appraisals but recognized the items and what year they

first saw the relics. People talked about childhood homes, their favorite toys and even what year things were invented while they waited patiently



Doug Kimball of Kimball's Auction and Estate Services appraises a 65 year old Russian (Soviet) sword for Tim Golembeski at the First Congregational Church.

for their turn. Talk of the Turners Falls Baseball Championship in '42 and the undefeated football team of '38 (and the hurricane) were mixed with sad memories and war stories. And octogenarians remembered their grandmothers. And people remembered funerals. And weddings. And births of people now retired But when their turn came, a deep breath and the one thought, "Maybe this thing I've held onto for fifty years is worth something."

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

**Northfield Barber Shop**

Mon, Tu, Wed: Noon-5  
Thurs, Fri: 8-5 • Sat: 8-Noon

74C Main Street • Northfield  
413-498-5166

**COUNTRY OIL**  
SINCE 1986  
HEATING-COOLING-PLUMBING

540 Northfield Rd., Bernardston 1-800-327-9992  
www.countryoil.com 413-648-9912

Annual Heating System Cleaning  
Plumbing Repairs  
LICENSED TECHNICIANS  
#M10588 (MA)

**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

Specializing in unique hair designs

**Bella THE SALON**

312 MONTAGUE CITY ROAD 774-4003  
Stylists seeking booth space encouraged to call!


**REYNOLDS PROPERTIES**

256 North Pleasant Street  
Amherst, MA 01002

Lynn Reynolds  
ABR GRI CRS

"Aiming for Astonishing Service"

413-367-2425 lynnreynolds@verizon.net



**SUPER DEALS** ON CDs  
DVDs  
LPs  
TAPES  
VIDEOS

**TURN IT UP!**

NORTHAMPTON • KEENE • BRATTLEBORO • EASTHAMPTON • TURNITUP.COM





Please Support your local businesses and tell them you saw it in the Montague Reporter.

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

**Feel Like a Brand New Person!**  
With a Haircut at **Ed's Barber Shop**  
New location:  
74 Avenue A • 863-2085  
Ed, Denise & KarriAnn  
"52 Years on the Ave"

New Book  
**"FIREHOUSE"**  
by Ted Graveline  
PERFECT GIFT FOR FATHER'S DAY  
World Eye Bookshop

**WE DIG FRANKLIN COUNTY**

- Washed Stone, Assorted Sizes
- Sand - Title V & Mason
- Red Rock Stone - in 50 lb bags or bulk
- Brick Red Bark Mulch
- Gravel, 3" 1-1/2" 3/4"
- TRG - Dense Grade
- Loam, screened, unscreened

**MACKIN FUEL TRUCKING SAND & GRAVEL**  
**(413) 773-3622**

# On to the State Finals



The Turners Falls Girls' Softball Team will defend their championship crown on Saturday at Worcester State College, against North Reading.

BY MATT ROBINSON

**AMHERST** - The Turners Falls Indians beat the Narragansett Warriors 4 - 1 at the UMass Softball Complex on Tuesday, June 12th. Turners Falls has won three straight state championships.

This year, the Tribe lost their ace pitcher Julie Girard and other key players but managed to eke out two one-run playoff games, while uncharacteristically committing five errors. On Tuesday, Turners played a clean game against the Warriors, with clutch hitting and smart base running.

When asked for a comment, assistant Coach Sullivan summed it all up. "Look at the scoreboard. No errors." Turners Falls will defend their Championship Crown on Saturday at Worcester State College, against North Reading.

matt robinson photo

## BLAZE

continued from pg 7

inebriated, was seated in the hallway of the courthouse, filling out a restraining order against Hewes to prevent her from returning to his Chestnut Lane residence, and proclaiming his belief in Tanzer's innocence.

McDonough ordered Tanzer held on bail of \$100,000 cash and \$1 million surety. The case will be continued to July 10th in Greenfield District Court. Auskern said there would be another bail hearing for his client on Friday, June 15th, in Northampton.

The Montague police said Tuesday, "This case is still actively under investigation, and if anyone has information please call the Massachusetts State Police Arson Hotline at 1-800-682-9229 or the Montague Police at 413-863-8911. Information leading to a conviction on arson charges is subject to a reward up to \$5000.00."



### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ERVING POLICE LOG

#### Drinking at Barton Cove

**Wednesday 6-6**

10:30 a.m. Report of past breaking and entering, Northfield Mount Hermon campus. Officer sent and report was taken. Evidence collected and matter is still under investigation.

**Thursday 6-7**

12:30 p.m. Bernardston police assisted with an accident at Mount Hermon campus, single vehicle motorcycle crash with minor injury.

10:31 p.m. Officers found while on routine patrol in the Barton Cove area suspicious motor vehicles parked in front of the entrance road's locked gates. Officers investigated and found several underage drinkers near the waterway. Matter was investigated and parties were permitted to leave the area, finding alternative rides.

11:25 p.m. Officer called to the Barton Cove camping area for a subject being attacked by a raccoon. Animal was gone on arrival of the officer. Animal control contacted.

**Friday 6-8**

9:30 a.m. Report of a man jumping off the French King Bridge with a parachute. Officer sent to the area, and spoke with a male party who had a backpack on and was only looking over the bridge.

3:30 p.m. Assisted Greenfield police with an accident on French King Highway.

9:30 p.m. Assisted Montague police with a fight in the Millers Falls area, possibly involving a gun and a knife. Fight dispersed upon officer arrival.

10:00 p.m. Assisted Bernardston police with a car fire at a field

party on Bald Mountain Road.

**Saturday 6-9**

11:30 a.m. Officer called to a Pine Street residence for an argument. Officers responded and feud was settled. No further action required.

12:30 p.m. Responded to Northfield Mount Hermon for vehicle lockout assistance.

12:45 p.m. Officer sent to a South Cross Road residence for a neighbor dispute. Matter still under investigation.

1:25 p.m. Officer spoke to a Bascom Road resident regarding a trespass complaint issue.

11:10 p.m. Barton Cove boat and fishing area. Found two individuals to be fishing and drinking off the dock. Officer removed parties from the area with the assistance of the park ranger.

**Monday 6-11**

11:50 a.m. Report of stolen trailer from Boyle Road residence. Unknown subject took vehicle during the night. Trailer valued at \$2300

1:30 p.m. Report of larceny from a Route 2 business. Report taken. Matter is still under investigation.

10:58 p.m. Verbal dispute between husband and wife on Chappell Drive. No physical violence. One subject left on own accord.

**Tuesday 6-12**

7:20 p.m. Restraining order issued on Chappell Drive

7:35 p.m. Assisted Greenfield police with contacting resident on West Gill Road regarding stolen property.

9:05 p.m. Car vs. deer accident on West Gill Road, one subject injured, will seek own medical attention. Report taken.

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

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

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

Jean Donovan, CRS, ABR  
BROKER

**PLOW FRAU SOW WOW**  
SITA LANG  
**(413) 834-7569**  
**CLEAN-OUTS AND HAULING & Snow plowing!**

We help you sort through or haul away unwanted stuff in your attic, basement, garage, barn, yard, or entire estate. Removal of just about anything! **FREE estimates.**

Reusable goods are donated to those in need.

**THE COUNTRY JEWELER**

Traditional and Contemporary Jewelry  
♦ Diamonds  
♦ Watches  
♦ Anniversary Bands

Custom repair work done on premises  
Old-fashioned service!

Call Larry: 772-0859  
Mon. - Sat. 9:30 - 5:30  
www.countryjeweler.com

Corner of Main & Chapman Streets, Greenfield

**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

**BAKER Office Supply**

**\$5 OFF any \$25 Purchase!**  
with this coupon

www.bakerofficesupply.com 310 Main Street Greenfield  
**(413) 774-2345 Call Bonnie today!**

**CREATIVE HAIRCUTTING PERMS & COLORS**  
Men, Women & Children

**CASTINE'S HAIR CREATIONS**

You can get there from here...  
**863 - 2022**  
**74 PROSPECT ST. TURNERS FALLS**



# Tribes Appeal for Help on Airport Site



DETMOLD PHOTO

Looking Southwest past part of the stone formation in dispute at the Turners Falls Airport

BY DAVID DETMOLD

**TURNERS FALLS** - Last spring, Patricia Pruitt, member of the Montague selectboard, took a walk up a hill at the Turners Falls Airport, in the company of deputy tribal historic preservation officer Doug Harris of the Narragansett Indian Tribe. Harris showed her some stone formations on top of the hill. These stones are the subject of a dispute between the Narragansetts, the Wampanoag Tribe of Gayhead (Aquinnah) and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regarding the expansion of the runway at the Turners Falls Airport. Plans for the runway extension developed by the Turners Falls Airport Commission and approved by the FAA call for the removal of the hill, along with the stone formation in question.

Since federal permits are involved in the project, and federal funds are being expended on the \$5 million, 1200-foot runway extension, federally recognized Indian tribes are granted consulting status in regard to sites deemed to have cultural significance at the municipally owned airport. Whether or not the stone formation on top of the hill near the runway should be considered a culturally significant site, as the Narragansetts and Aquinnahs claim, or whether they are, in fact, just a "pile of rocks," as Turners Falls Airport Commission chair Brian Carroll claims, is the subject of an ongoing review before the Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation in Washington DC.

"When you first go there, you just see a hill, with typical New England field stones," said Pruitt. But, she said, "With Doug Harris pointing out what you're looking at, you see there are some areas where stones are arranged symmetrically in a circle."

Pruitt said these could be, "stones piled up by farmers in the course of clearing their fields." But she said Harris pointed out how they were arranged. "You could see a pattern on the ground. Some stones seemed to be shaped in a certain way," and oriented in a certain direction.

Pruitt said, "I kind of found myself standing between two perspectives," two ways of looking at the land.

Selectboard member Allen Ross also accompanied Harris on a tour of the airport hill last spring. Ross, an amateur stone wall builder, said what he saw at the top of the hill was "a remnant of a stone wall," and collections of stones "in a rough line with the stone wall. I saw nothing unique about them."

Harris called the hilltop formation a "significant ceremonial stone landscape." He also said it was an "active" site, and explained, "The ceremonies that were put in place here were put in place to be part of the living landscape. The medicine is not a short-lived medicine. It is there to put things in balance."

Harris said he first became aware of the stone formation while consulting with the FAA on a related "utilitarian" site at the airport, known as the Hannemann site, about 600 yards away from the hilltop formation. Harris said he was examining a hearth at the 12,000-year-old campsite, when he found, "elements in the hearth that indicated there was something that needed to be examined on the other side of the runway. We went over, took a look at the hill, and what I encountered under the leaf mold was a clustering of stones underfoot," including at least one that was shaped, an effigy figure he called a "Manitou Stone." On further examination, Harris said, the for-

mation appeared to him to include "a ceremonial row of stones" in alignment with "four ceremonial stone piles in relationship to this effigy figure," that point in the direction of the southwest. "In our regional culture," said Harris, "the southwest is the direction of god's house." He said the name for god in Narragansett is Cautantauwitt, and it is to his house that "we would wish our spirits to travel on our demise."

Harris said archaeologists use a scientific protocol to determine whether "hunters and gatherers have lived in an area. They have no protocol to determine the ceremonial use of a site." He said the hilltop in question was determined by UMass Amherst and Massachusetts Historical Commission archeologists to be free of the kind of "lithic debris, arrowheads and other tools" present at the nearby Hannemann site, because, "We don't leave garbage at a ceremonial site; you go there to do ceremony."

Harris said, "The archaeologists do not appear to be willing to look at this site holistically."

Supporting Harris in his contention that the stone formation is culturally significant is Cheryl Andrews-Maltais, tribal historic preservation officer for the Wampanoag Tribe of Gayhead, (Aquinnah). In a January 29th letter to John Silva of the FAA, Andrews-Maltais said, "Our position is that the 'hill' and all of its related elements, stone and earthen, are an integral part and component of the 12,000-year-old ancient archeological site located across the runway. We also maintain that the site is eligible for inclusion to the National Register under Criterion A & B - as a Ceremonial Place and locational component as part of the Battle Trail of King Philips War of 1675,

the turning point at which the Colonials were able to sustain their continued occupation in this country.

In her role as tribal historic preservation officer, Andrews-Maltais stated in that letter, "I hereby officially declare the 'hill' with its stone structures as elements, and other related sites located on the land adjacent to the airport property a Traditional Cultural Property, a Landscape Site of Cultural and Spiritual Significance to the Wampanoag



DOUG HARRIS PHOTO

Manitou Stone at the airport site identified by Narragansett Deputy Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Doug Harris

Nations' Peoples. We have also determined that the site will not only be adversely affected, but more accurately devastated by the Federal Aviation Administration's undertaking of the Turners Falls Municipal Airport Expansion Project. And, that this site is part of a larger complex of Religious and Ceremonial Sites of Spiritual Significance, for at least 12,000 years, and its correlation to each of the other sites will be lost to us forever if destroyed."

Harris said ancient stone for-

mations are widespread throughout the east coast, from Maine to Georgia, and are replaced by earthen mounds in the Mississippi Valley, where stone is less plentiful. These ancient sites are a form of "communication with the Earth Mother and the spirit which is part of her realm," he maintained.

In a recent resolution issued by the United South and Eastern Tribes, the tribes observe that "whether these stone structures are massive or small structures, stacked, stone rows, or effigies, these prayers in stone are often mistaken by archaeologists and state historic preservation offices, as the efforts of farmers clearing stones for agricultural or wall building purposes."

At the Montague town meeting on June 2nd, Turners Falls Airport manager Michael Sweeney said the federal money to expand the runway would not be released until the dispute with the Native Americans was resolved. Sweeney also said, "The scientists have an opinion, and the Native Americans have an opinion. This is an FAA decision. It was determined based on available evidence that [the site in question] was not of Native American origin."

Harris said, "What we are asking of the airport commission, is in pursuit of whatever you choose to do, work to make sure it does not impact a ceremonial site." Harris said there was a reasonable alternative to removing the hill, by moving the runway two to three degrees, which would, he claimed, make for a safer approach from the direction of Dry Hill and Wendell.

Pruitt said, "What I primarily took with me from my tour of the site is, 'That's a big hill to take out. That's a lot of landscape to take out to create a shoulder for the runway.'"

Harris called on the residents of Montague to write to their selectboard, (1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376) to Congressman Olver's office, (57 Suffolk Street Suite 310, Holyoke, MA 01040) and to the FAA (John Silva, New England Region, 12 New England Executive Park, Burlington, MA 01803) in support of expanding the airport runway "in a way that does not destroy a Native American ceremonial site" at the Turners Falls airport.

**HOMESPUN**  
by Andy's  
★ Curtains ★ Braided Rugs  
★ Accessories For Your Home  
Mon.-Fri. 9:30-5:30, Sat. 9:30-5, Closed Sundays until October  
329 Deerfield St., Greenfield 773-3911  
www.andysack.com

**Sand Hill Ranch**  
We're Horse Crazy  
Reasonable family-friendly fun  
Lessons & Sales (carriage rides, pony parties)  
coming soon!!!  
Manager/Instructor  
Lisa Matosky  
374 Turners Falls Road, Montague, MA 01351  
413-834-3978

**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



NOTES FROM THE WENDELL ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

# Sparks Fly on Mahar Assessment

BY JOSH HEINEMANN -

Dr. Reza Namin, superintendent of the Mahar Regional School District, walked out of Wendell's annual town meeting during discussion of Wendell's assessment for the Mahar High School budget on Wednesday, June 6th. The Mahar school committee requested \$380,678 for Wendell's assessment, and the town finance committee recommended \$289,497, which is the amount the voters of Wendell approved by a simple majority on the first night of their annual budget making meeting.



In fiscal 2007, Wendell paid \$9,600 per student at Mahar, while Orange, by comparison, paid \$5,500. The fiscal 2008 budget as requested has Wendell paying \$7,300 and Orange paying \$5,500, using the statutory method for assessing towns in a regional school district. The alternative method, which may

determined that Wendell is a richer community than Orange, and the statutory formula for determining assessment reflects that fact. Finance committee statistics of wealth in each of the four towns in the Mahar district, including per capita income,



be used if two thirds of the towns in a district approve, would have Wendell paying the amount recommended by the finance committee, which comes to \$5,600 per student.

Dr. Namin said the state has

unemployment rate, and average assessed value of houses, shows Wendell never at the top, more often near the bottom in these measures of wealth. Wendell has the highest tax rate,

and the difference between the two budget requests comes to \$1.48 on the tax rate. The difference in Orange between statutory funding and alternative funding would only amount to 16 cents on their tax rate.

Wendell's finance committee and Wendell's representative on the Mahar school committee have been trying to get the district to use the alternative method of assessment, but seven of the eleven members of the committee are from Orange.

Former Mahar school committee member Jean Forward began to read from a Massachusetts Inspector General's report on the use of \$77,000 that had been left over last year in the Mahar renovation budget, and subsequently spent on computers, which she said were purchased from a company Namin had a personal interest in. Namin interrupted, saying her comments were a personal attack, and she should not be allowed to speak. Forward continued on a different track, and town moderator Kathy Becker told her to stop.

Namin requested a chance to respond to Forward, but Becker, who earlier had called for comments to remain focused on issues rather than personalities, put his request to a vote, and the vote went against that option. Namin then walked out of the town hall into the night.

Finance committee member Jim Slavos said if Wendell approved the lower assessment figure it would be more of a gesture than an actual budget figure, because the amount assessed to the towns in the district is determined by the town that authorizes the second lowest amount. This year New Salem is likely to be that town. Wendell voters accepted the finance committee recommendation, reflecting the alternative



AL MACINTIRE PHOTOS

assessment, and will likely have to appropriate a higher amount following New Salem's vote.

The meeting continued on Thursday, June 7th, and Namin returned that evening to apologize for walking out. Becker allowed him to do so before the meeting officially resumed. Namin spoke with people gathered early in front of the town hall, and apologized when given the chance once people were seated.

Wednesday's half of the annual meeting got underway at 7:00 p.m. with a special town meeting of five minutes duration, in which voters approved the transfer of \$217,393.34 from free cash to stabilization as recommended by the finance committee. That money comes from the hard work of the tax collector, from accounts appropriated but not spent or not completely spent, and from departments having the philosophy of estimating revenues conservatively.

At the beginning of the annual meeting, treasurer Carolyn Manley asked for help forming a committee to decorate the

public area of the new town office building, hoping for historic artifacts that will have the added benefit of softening the echo in the hallway now. Selectboard member Christine Heard said the town hall now has potable water, and thanks to 8½ years of work by a dedicated committee, its toilets empty into



a septic system, not a tight tank, and so may be flushed as needed.

Finance committee member Michael Idoine thanked the new

see WENDELL pg 11

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

**NATIONAL CITY MORTGAGE** Call **TIM PREVOST** @ (413) 773-8984

Exclusive lender for West Ridge Condominiums in Greenfield. The area's newest, ultra-affordable condo development.

- Experience
- Construction/Rehab Loans
- Great Service
- 100% Financing / FHA/VA Loans

Whatever your needs, call Tim for a Free Pre-Approval

MA LENDER #0544 **413-773-8984** EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

**Dillon CHEVROLET** JOSEPH CANUEL Sales Representative

54 MAIN STREET GREENFIELD, MA 01301 (413) 773-3678 FAX (413) 774-5746

RR AN AMERICAN REVOLUTION

**RISTORANTE Di Paolo**

**Geri Johnson** CRB, CRS, GRI

Geri Johnson & Associates REALTORS Seniors Real Estate Support

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

**The Edge Basketball Club**

David Hastings; Coach

Contacts: Home: (413) 648-8959 Fax: (413) 863-0157 Email: CoachHastings@aol.com

Only \$135.00

**Summer Basketball Skill Clinic At PVRS Northfield**

July 16-20 Mon-Fri 9:00-3:00 Grades 3-6  
July 23-27 Mon-Wed 9:00-3:00 Grades 7-10

**RISTORANTE Di Paolo** FINE ITALIAN DINING

Denise DiPaolo, Owner  
Hilton Dottin, Chef

TEL 413-863-4441  
FAX 413-863-4421

Open 5-9 Sun - Thurs  
5 - 10 Fri and Sat  
Closed Tues

166 Avenue A  
Turners Falls, MA 01376

Reservations Accepted

WWW.RISTORANTEDIPAULO.COM



**WENDELL**

continued from pg 10

Finance committee member Michael Idoine thanked the new town accountant for her work on the town's books, and fellow member Jim Slavas for carrying the load this spring. On another point, Idoine said that Wendell has contributed \$1,626,236 to the war in Iraq to date, or about \$4,620 per household. The town voters approved the payment of \$1,785,301 for payment of salaries, compensation and expenses of elected and appointed officials, and for the operation of town departments



of the Fiske Pond conservation land, the property under the new town office building, and for the Swift River School and Mahar construction. The Swift River School payment of \$23,770 will retire the note for the recent addition to that school.

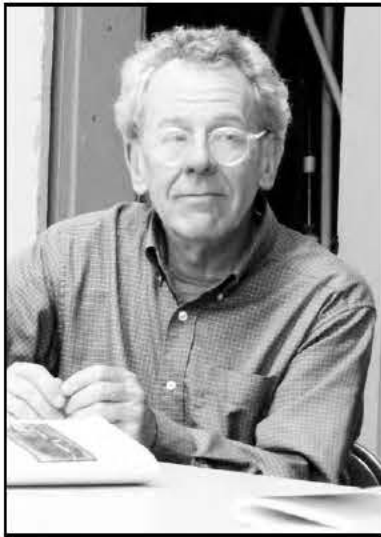
On the recommendation of the finance committee, the town voted \$4,000 into an insurance reserve fund which, as it grows, will allow the town to save on insurance premiums by increasing the deductible amount on policies. The town voted \$2,000 for tax title expenses, and took \$5,745 out of stabilization for Swift River School capital projects.

When the meeting reconvened on Thursday evening the town approved a state law that allows a member of a board, committee, or commission to vote on a matter before a hearing even if that member missed a session of the hearing, provided the member learns through accepted channels what occurred at the session missed. Voters approved \$2,500 as Wendell's share of a matching grant to update the town's open space plan.

The town approved a committee to oversee a community garden on town-owned land north of the new town office building. Anyone interested in being on that committee should contact the selectboard.

Voters defeated an article that would have accepted a

Massachusetts General Law allowing a town to deny, revoke or suspend a local permit or license, with some exceptions, for any person, business, or corporation failing to pay town taxes, fees, assessments or bet-

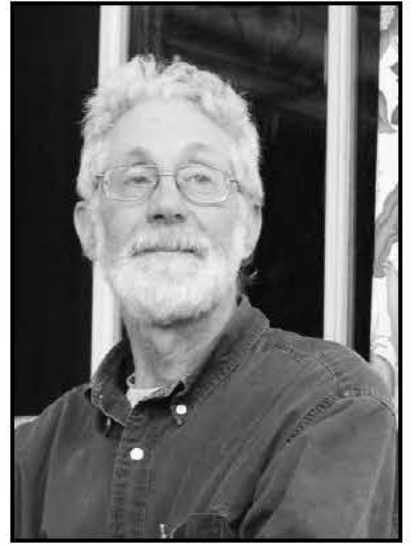


terments. Building inspector Phil Delorey said the law seemed to create a double jeopardy situation in which a person unable to pay taxes could be denied the means to earn money for those taxes. Selectboard member Dan Keller said that a recent situation in which the town might have used that law was resolved when the late taxpayer brought his payment up to date. Keller felt the town does not need the law now, and its use could be vindictive. Several people thought the law was

heavy handed.

After a long discussion, the town agreed to increase the maximum area of a secondary dwelling to 800 square feet and to eliminate the sunset clause on the secondary dwelling bylaw. The bylaw, enacted in 2005, was set to expire at the end of June, but voters now seemed comfortable enough with the bylaw to make it permanent. After another long discussion the town accepted a common driveway bylaw, after the wording was changed to require a twelve-foot clearance, including shoulders, on a ten-foot-wide driveway, to allow for emergency vehicles.

The town passed an article that would move an appeal of a planning board decision on a site plan review to district court, or superior court, and so avoid a potential conflict between town boards. That appeal must be made within 20 days of the planning board's decision. Resident Mason Phelps com-



mented that going to court puts low income parties at a disadvantage.

Librarian Rosie Heidkamp announced that the Friends of the Wendell Library would supply the new library with a satellite system for high speed internet.



including police, fire, road, and school departments. Voters approved \$119,638 in separate articles for payment of notes on the new fire truck, the purchase

**Wendell Community Garden Committee Needs Members**

The Wendell Community Garden Committee was voted into existence at the Annual Town Meeting. Now it needs 5 members. Give your name to the Selectboard if you want to be appointed

to this committee that will establish, organize and oversee a community garden at the new Town Office Building. Contact Katie Nolan for more information (978-544-2306).

**Why Doesn't River Road Take Me to the River Anymore?**

BY JOE PARZYCH

**GILL** - Dr Frank Zak, born in 1917, and owner of Zak Farm in Gill, has expressed concern about the proposed closing of historic River Road's access to the Connecticut River.

There were once three farms on the section of River Road cutting through farmland now farmed by Patterson Farms of Sunderland. The original farmers were Czarniecki, and two Milewski brothers, according

to Zak. He also noted that there was a town dump on that road, perhaps worthy of an archeological study.

Zak was ten years old when the Connecticut overflowed its banks during a flood in 1927. A tenant, living on one of the Milewski farms, climbed onto the roof of the house to escape the floodwaters. Czarniecki's son rode out into the raging floodwaters on horseback to rescue the man. He waved

Czarniecki's son back, hollering that the flood water's current was too dangerous. The man survived, but young Czarniecki's bravery created an unforgettable impression on ten year old Frank Zak.

Western Mass Electric Company owned the land at the end of River Road and undoubtedly still does. The road led to a popular spot for folks to picnic and swim. Zak fondly remembers skinny dip-

ping in the river with friends, presumably boys.

Before the power company built an atomic plant in Vernon, Vt, Harvey Lafleur, of Gill, took test borings at the River Road area for Northeast Utilities. They were searching for a suitable building site for an atomic plant, but borings found bedrock far too deep.

During Zak's boyhood, the land on both sides of River Road was farmed by tenant

farmers who apparently were careless, since all three farm houses eventually burned down. After they burned, there was some question about maintaining the road to the river. Richard Clapp, Frank Zak's father and Luther Hastings wanted people in Gill to have access to the river, according to Zak.

River road is historic. It was named, as such, because it leads to the river, and should, in Zak's words, be preserved for future generations to enjoy, as

see RIVER pg 15

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

**Cup O' Joe** **New Hours, Wireless Internet**  
 Espresso • Cappuccino • Lattes  
 • Great coffee, pastries, and breakfast served all day.  
 • Deli sandwiches and wraps are available for lunch.  
 • Stand by for Great New Additions!  
 M-F 6-2  
 Sat. 7-2  
 Sun. 8-2  
 111 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376 / (413) 863-2800 / Evelyn Daly • Owner

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

**LIEBENOW AUTO BODY**  
**"WE DO THE COMPLETE JOB"**  
 • Insurance Collision Repairs  
 • We Accept All Insurance Companies  
 • Auto Glass Replacements  
 • Shop Rental Car  
 • Frame & Unibody Straightening  
 LOCAL PICK-UP & DELIVERY  
 Mass Repair Shop #1839  
 774-4420  
 163 WELLS STREET GREENFIELD  
 Quality Work on All Makes & Models  
 Towing & Rental Cars Arranged

**Acupressure Massage & Hypnotherapy**  
  
 Janet Masucci  
 413-863-8694  
 Nationally Certified in Therapeutic Massage Since 1993  
 64 French King Highway, Gill, MA 01376

**Rau's Auto**  
 COMPLETE AUTO REPAIR  
**(413) 367-2475**  
 531 Turners Falls Rd. Montague  
 24 hour emergency towing  
 Best service licensed Mechanics

**Y Full Day PreSchool**  
 Sign up now for Summer and '07-08!  
 • Quality Staff  
 • Beautiful Classrooms  
 • Exciting Curriculum  
 • Kindergarten Readiness  
 PLUS: Weekly swim and gymnastics lessons and daily P.E.  
**www.ymcaingreenfield.org • 773-3646**



## NOTES FROM THE GILL ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

## Gill Annual Town Meeting Approves a Budget

BY ALEX GOTTSCHALK

The freshly painted Gill town hall was the location for two meetings on the evening of Monday, June 11th. The thunderous weather mirrored the sometimes stormy proceedings inside.

"What is wrong with you people? You just spent the last hour and a half nickel and diming the [town] departments to death, and now you want to buy a truck? It's dumb!" said a visibly irate Ernie Hastings, in reference to an article on the agenda to replace the aging DPW vehicle.

The focal point of both meetings was the same, the town budget. The first meeting, which began at 7:00 p.m. was a continuation of the annual town meeting begun on May 7th. It marked the first appearance of newly elected Nancy Griswold at the selectboard's table, as well as the debut at Gill town meeting of new Gill-Montague school superintendent Ken Rocke.

The first item left from the previous agenda was Article 15, under which the town was to vote a proposed \$22,483.31 to the Gill-Montague Regional School District to continue updating the English, math and reading curriculum and textbooks. After a short discussion, the amount was amended to \$16,330, which constituted Gill's percentage of the amount Montague's town meeting appropriated on June 2nd for the same purpose.

Article 16, which concerned a transfer of funds from the Quintus Allen fund to the Gill Elementary School also passed without any discussion from the voters. Article 17 was also approved, regarding the use of \$194,268 from free cash to supplement taxation and fund the town and schools operating budget. This sum included an additional \$16,268 from free cash (from Article 18, which was then

passed over), above the \$180,000 on the warrant previously.

The town side of the budget was reduced by approximately \$36,000, with cuts of \$10,000 from the police, \$10,000 from the fire department, and \$16,000 from the DPW. With the added \$16,268 from free cash, the \$72,000 deficit in the town budget, left in the wake of the override defeat, was reduced to approximately \$27,000. Selectboard member Ann Banash said she hoped the town could find that amount from new receipts before the fiscal year is through. "It's a leap of faith," she said.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Paul Seamans read a statement praising the Gill police department. The statement read as follows:

"Mr. Moderator;

In the past two years we have had two medical emergencies in our home. Within five minutes of calling 911, Gill police and a first-responder were in our kitchen. Their care made life easier for us as we waited for the Franklin Medical Center ambulance that arrived 20 minutes later.

It is questionable whether the Massachusetts state police could have done so well.

Our police force knows Gill. It is experienced and reliable. Chief Hastings showed promise when he was a pupil in our school, and he has lived up to it. Sergeant Redmond, Bob Hunter and our part-time force are as good as you'll find anywhere in the state.

It would be shameful to let them go."

The meeting then ended, and there was a short break before a special town meeting began at 7:30 p.m.

The first two articles on the agenda of the second meeting concerned rescinding the

omnibus article passed on May 3rd, and the new dumptruck purchase which failed at the ballot box when the override questions to fund them were soundly defeated on May 21st.

Article 3, concerning pay increases for town workers, drew the most attention. Several citizens voiced concern about these increases in light of Gill's current financial difficulties. "It's not much, but it adds up," said one woman.

Most of those gathered were in favor of the raises, however. Phil Maddern stated, "Every year this has been a bone of contention. We want our people to know we appreciate them. There is nothing more to it."

Somewhat more adamantly, Ernie Hastings added, "The town has had the same financial status for the last twenty years. I'm getting disgusted with coming to town meetings. If you don't think town employees are entitled to a raise, then maybe you should do the job yourself."

During the meeting, the budget cuts made by town departments also came under the scrutiny of those assembled. Of particular concern was the \$10,000 cut to the police department, which came from cutting shifts and training. At the same time, Chief Hastings made it clear that the Gill police were in dire need of a new cruiser, in order to continue to do their job effectively.

Hastings said, "You have to turn these cruisers over before the cost of maintenance becomes more than they are worth. If you don't have the vehicles, you can't do the job the way it needs to be done. You put a lot of mileage on a cruiser. Just to take a breathalyzer in to be analyzed means a trip to Sudbury."

Regarding the scope of local police coverage, Hastings went on to say, "As recently as two weeks ago, I was called at 3:30

a.m. to look into an issue with a barking dog. That may not mean much to you, but it means a lot to the person who made the call. The answer is not to have the state police come. They are not going to come for a dog."

Although not a Gill citizen, Darlene Kuzmeskus, director of the Gill based charter bus service Travel Kuz, was allowed to speak at the meeting. Kuzmeskus' unstinting praise of town services mirrored the overall feeling of those gathered. "When we built here [the depot at 52 Main Road] we had looked at a lot of different areas, and I have never regretted moving here. Everyone who is a taxpayer, this budget is your burden. It isn't the fault of the departments. What I'm trying to say is that you get a lot of bang for the buck in this community." The article then passed unanimously.

Article 5, to raise and appropriate \$1,283,903 for the Gill-Montague Regional School District, based on Gill's percentage of the amount Montague town meeting approved on June 2nd for the G-M schools, carried by a two-thirds vote of those present. Finance committee chair Paul Nowill said, "This figure is actually too low, but we need to go forward with this."

After the meeting, Banash said the figure was really a "placeholder," and would need to be revised once the schools approve a new budget and forward it to the towns. When that happens, "We are going to need an override," Banash said.

New G-M superintendent Ken Rocke addressed concerns on the budget, and talked about the process by which the assessment figure was arrived at, concluding with this statement: "State aid continues to drop year after year; that's the reality of the situation."

Emotions began to run high regarding the proposed purchase

or lease of a new dump truck for the Department of Public Works. An override question for \$125,000 to purchase a new truck was defeated on May 21st, by a large margin. Nonetheless, the town meeting once again authorized the new truck, which further research had proved would cost the town slightly less if financed through a five-year lease. This time, after a lengthy discussion, the \$125,000 price tag was approved contingent on passage of a debt exclusion vote by the townspeople at large, rather than an override (the difference being that a debt exclusion article comes off the tax base once the item is paid for, whereas an override becomes a permanent part of the tax base).

The last time the DPW purchased a new truck was in 1989, and selectboard member Leland Stevens underlined the fact that there was no getting around replacing the decrepit DPW vehicle in question. "If you saw that truck, the condition it's in with rust coming off of it, it's better to take it off the road than to put more money into it."

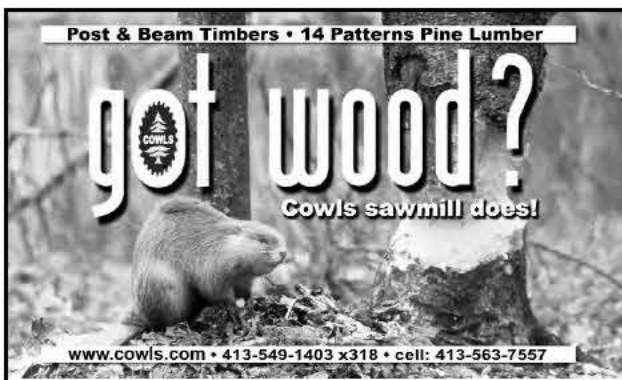
The final item on the agenda, Article 9 regarded town owned land on Barney Hale Road and the possible sale of that land for town funds. The article passed unanimously.

At the end of the meeting, the selectboard thanked administrative assistant Deb Roussel for four years of hard work for the town of Gill. Roussel is taking a new job as town administrator for the town of Hubbardston. She closed the meeting with these words: "The way the people in this town participate on boards and committees, and come together at these meetings to discuss these issues, and walk out as friends and neighbors, that's what America is all about."

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

Post & Beam Timbers • 14 Patterns Pine Lumber

**got wood?**  
Cows sawmill does!



www.cowls.com • 413-549-1403 x318 • cell: 413-563-7557

**LAPINE MULTIMEDIA**

MOVIES, SLIDES, VIDEOS & MORE!  
CONVERTED TO DVD, VHS & OTHER FORMATS!

**Bill & Kathy White**  
**413-773-7747**



**Wanted:**  
Antique Clocks of all kinds.

One clock or entire collection

**Also wanted:**  
Antique pocketwatches and tools

Will pay cash. Will travel.

Bob Pacy 781-438-8489  
88 Washington Street, Stoneham, MA 02180 cell: 508-533-2552



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**  
Vice President **863-4373**



**Renaissance Excavating**

COMPLETE SITE WORK

• SEPTIC & DRAINAGE SYSTEMS • SAND, GRAVEL & LOAM  
MAIN ROAD, GILL

**DOUGLAS EDSON (413) 863-4462**



**AJ's CYCLE**

MOTO GUZZI  
**NORGE 1200 BREVA 750**

274 Rt. 2, Gill

- parts & accessories
- helmets
- books
- apparel

**(413) 863-9543**  
Allan • David  
email: AJCYC@CROCKER.COM  
WWW.AJCYCLE.COM





NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Senior Center Design Selection Committee Formed

BY DAVID DETMOLD - On Monday, June 4th, the select-board appointed a committee to advise the town on the choice of an architect to design a new senior center.

Elementary School off Route 10 in Erving, received initial funding for a \$30,000 feasibility study at annual town meeting last month.

Regional Housing Authority to advertise, interview and hire an architect for the job. Town administrative assistant Tom Sharp said he had been advised by Bruce Hunter of the FCRHA that the new senior center, which if all goes well may see construction in 2009, would be eligi-

ble for up to \$620,000 in Community Development Block Grant funding. The town would likely pick up the tab for the remainder of the project, which has been several years in the planning, Sharp said.

In other news, the select-board:

variation of the Erving Elementary School.

• signed a business license with Leonard Kahle, of 7 Forest Street, for Mill Creek Arts, a home woodworking shop specializing in jewelry boxes and clocks.

• accepted a blacktop bid from Lane Construction for \$86,631 to pave sections of Pleasant Street, Mechanic Street, Maple Avenue, Kavanaugh Street and Union Street this season.

• received a \$220,000 estimate for refurbishing, or \$430,000 for replacing the sand-filtered Farley wastewater treatment plant, from Peter Valinski of Tighe and Bond. The selectboard will take Valinski's report under advisement.

ROCKE

continued from pg 1

whether the one twelfth budget would allow the schools more money than the amount voted at the June 2nd town meeting, since one twelfth of last year's school budget would seem to include the debt for the TFHS/GFMS renovation, which has been largely retired by state reimbursement since last year.

Montague finance committee chair Jeff Singleton said there would be a joint meeting between school and town officials on Tuesday, June 19th at 6:00 p.m. at town hall to clarify the next steps for coming up with an '08 budget.

Rocke told the school committee on Tuesday he was hopeful more state 'Pothole' funding would be made available to rural regional school districts in this year's state budget, to help bridge the budget gap for districts with declining enrollment, like Gill-Montague.

Earlier in the meeting, the school committee rejected the

plea of numerous Montague Center School parents who asked members to fulfill one aspect of the school committee's vote of December 12th, 2006 by allowing their third graders to continue on to a fourth grade at Montague Center School.

In the absence of a fourth grade at Montague Center, some Montague Center parents have decided to send their children to attend fourth grade in Gill next year instead of at Sheffield, and these students, along with some students from Turners Falls who would otherwise be attending Sheffield, will be bused to Gill at district expense, according to NCLB regulations.

The school committee also voted, 5-4, not to close an elementary school for the upcoming school year. Terry Lapichinski said, "Given the lateness of the

vote, I'm going to vote 'Yes' (not to close a school this fall). It's too late to do it for next year, I feel." She was joined in the majority by school committee chair Mary Kociela, Ted Castro-Santos, Brown and Langknecht.

Kociela made it clear the committee would continue with their discussion of reconfiguring the Montague elementary schools in the months to come.

Rocke took the opportunity of his first school committee meeting to address a room filled with roughly equal numbers of Montague Center and Turners Falls parents to make an affirmative speech about the quality of education in the district.

Rocke also took issue with the idea that Sheffield is in any way offering less than a quality education for its students. "I want to stress that Sheffield is a great school, with good teachers, and good classes. This category (Needs Improvement) is statistically driven. It should not be taken as a comment on the educational quality of the school.

Monday 6-11 2:14 a.m. Report of harassment or threatening at a 4th Street address.

was arrested and charged with domestic assault and battery, assault and battery, and intimidation of a witness.

Tuesday 6-12 9:42 a.m. After a continuing investigation,

was arrested and charged with burning a building, burning personal property, breaking and entering in the nighttime to commit a felony in connection with the fire at Strathmore Mill on May 24th.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Parking Dispute on Bridge Street

Friday 6-8 9:24 p.m. Report of a gang disturbance at a Bridge Street address. Caller reported up to seven people fighting, a knife was shown, possibly a gun. At this point, caller was too upset to answer questions and hung up. Officer determined no weapons were involved. Call not as serious as reported. It was a parking issue. 10:32 p.m. After a motor vehicle stop on Avenue A at 11th Street,

stop for a police officer.

Saturday 6-9 1:20 a.m. Request for an officer at an Avenue A address.

was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct and possession of a class D drug.

Sunday 6-10 12:36 a.m. Report of a domestic disturbance at a 4th Street address.

was arrested and charged with domestic assault and battery, assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, intimidation

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) 863-9026 Ad sponsored by Green Fields Market

DEERE '07 SEASON Get a great lawn for a great deal less. Only available at your local John Deere Dealer. EZtrak™ Z445 0% financing for 12 months! 25-hp Kawasaki engine • 54-inch Edge™ Cutting System • 8 mph ground speed. Select Series™ X324 Zero payments and 0% financing for 12 months! 4-Wheel Steering • 22-hp iTorque™ Power System • 48-inch Edge™ Xtra Cutting System. X534 Multi-Terrain™ Zero payments and 0% financing for 12 months! 25-hp iTorque™ Power System • 54-inch Edge™ Xtra Cutting System • Power 4WS • Cargo Mount™ for attachment hook-up. JOHN DEERE SIRUM EQUIPMENT CO., INC. 310 Federal Street • Route 63 • Montague (413) 367-2481 www.JohnDeere.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.)

Matthew Edwards Owner • Climber Insured EDWARDS TREE SERVICE Wendell • 978-544-7452

Locally owned since 1941 FOSTER'S SUPER MARKET Full Service Market Fresh Fish from the Boston Market Beer & Wine 70 Allen Street Greenfield, MA 413-773-1100 FAX 413-773-1105



**JONES** from pg 1

interested in buying the mill to set up a film and television school and production studio - Jones said he would not stand in the way of the town's tax taking proceedings. The town is already moving forward to seize the Strathmore for the \$165,254.60 in back taxes owed on the mill. Jones indicated he would be willing to work with the town to smooth the way for a new owner to take control of the property.

"One of the biggest obstacles, then, is getting the paper out of there," said Jensen, taking a step toward Jones and his attorney.

Godin also advanced toward the center of the hallway huddle, as voices began to rise. "Let's assume he's going to do that," said Godin. "In order to move the paper, he needs the electricity on

to get the elevator working, because the paper is stored on many different levels..." Godin was rounding back on a subject that had failed to gain much traction a few minutes earlier in the courtroom of Housing Court judge Dina Fein, namely, that it is Jones' responsibility to hire a contractor to reactivate the damaged fire alarm system, and, in order to do that, to first bring in an electrician to inspect the mill's wiring.

But Jones, claiming indigence, was having none of it. "The town has to get the fire alarm going, and the sprinkler system done," he cut in.

Godin and Jensen argued back, but Jones interrupted them. "What are you going to do? Are you going to just sit back and let the place burn down?"

At this point, Jones' attorney made sure the conversation continued outside of earshot of the press.

Earlier, in the courtroom, Judge Fein reviewed her orders of June 6th, when she had told Jones to be back in front of her in five days with a plan, price estimates from licensed contractors, and a timeline for completing work to secure the remaining buildings of the Strathmore Mill, and to reactivate the fire alarm and sprinkler systems, as ordered by Godin.

Jones brought in an estimate for repairing the sprinkler system for \$5,900, and an estimate for replacing the entire fire alarm system from Lee Audio and Security for \$29,500.

Attorney Mason: "The building has been boarded and secured. The building inspector articulated to counsel it appears to be OK. Mr. Jones and his LLC made every effort to do that. Mr. Jones is willing to discuss anything further that needs to be done to secure the building."

Building Inspector Jensen: "I did look at it this morning. It takes probably an hour to walk the perimeter of that building, and it is best inspected from inside. Some windows and doors were boarded up. The most immediate access points, they

appeared to be boarded up." Fein gave Jones 48 hours to complete the boarding up and securing of the Strathmore to Jensen's satisfaction.

Turning to the sprinkler and fire alarm system, Fein said, "These reports were to include a timeline. I don't see a timeline here."

Mason: "These companies are not going to give you a timeline until someone writes them a check. The LLC has nothing but the building. Mr. Jones is indigent." Motioning in his client's direction, his attorney said, "There are no funds over here."

Mason continued, "Mr. Jones is about to sell the building to a film production company. The fire occurred, interrupting a transaction whereby the town would have gotten all its back taxes paid, and Mr. Jones would have skimmed \$50,000 off the top. His former residence, all his personal property, was destroyed by the water used to extinguish the fire. He has four used vehicles totaling \$500. He has no ability to enter into these contracts."

Mason went on, "He wants to walk out of this town without running away. He could run to bankruptcy court today. He has relinquished all of his claims in land court, so he could work out this business transaction with Mr. Anctil. He could just give the keys back to the town, 'Here's your foreclosure proceeding, good-bye.'"

Mason then claimed, "The town has the ability to get grant money to clean up the debris from the fire. They have the ability to go directly to land court, complete the foreclosure, and proceed with Mr. Anctil."

Attorney Kathleen O'Donnell, for the Turners Falls fire district said, "The fire district is concerned about the health and safety of the neighborhood, and the neighboring businesses. We take exception to the idea that if Mr. Jones is not able to clean it up, then the town should do so with taxpayer money. There is a present risk to adjacent buildings

and the downtown, from conditions at the site created by Mr. Jones, and these conditions should not be the responsibility of the fire district." As someone familiar with tax takings, O'Donnell said, "The land court is not the swiftest of instruments. It could take six to nine months to get a judgment from the court. Until then, we have the risk."

Godin said, "Mr. Jones just bought a new car. He has an estimate here for \$5,900 to repair the sprinkler system. He should be able to do that. I would like to have the court order Mr. Jones to reactivate the sprinkler system, to get this work started, to get this work done."

Fein sided with Godin on that one, and gave Jones until Friday, June 15th to hire a licensed contractor and have the sprinkler system at the Strathmore returned to working order.

Talk then turned to the fire alarm system, with Godin questioning whether a lesser approach to reactivating the alarm had been looked into, instead of the \$29,500 quote for replacing the entire system. Mason said it had been determined that the present system was damaged beyond repair during the fire.

Mason continued: "Please focus on who is responsible here. Mr. Jones is not a responsible party." Mason cited a chapter of Massachusetts law he said showed "that a manager of an LLC has no responsibility for a contract." He cited a similar provision in the lawbooks of Delaware, where, apparently, Western Properties LLC, Jones' shell company, is registered. Jones stipulated in court on June 6th that he was the sole owner and shareholder of Western Properties, LLC. Mason tried to have the case dismissed on those grounds.

Fein responded, "I'm not going to deal with that on an oral motion," and told Mason to have a written motion prepared by June 22nd, and be ready to hear the motion to dismiss on July 13th at Housing Court in Greenfield. Regardless of how

that hearing turns out, Fein said, "It's not clear to me that he [Jones] is not responsible for an enforcement report."

O'Donnell: "It is the fire district's position that Mr. Jones is the owner, operator, and probably an illegal resident at the site, and is the responsible party for illegal activities at the site."

Fein: "It's going to be an interesting motion."

Mason rejoined, "There is an impossibility to perform any order you might give that will entail Western Properties, LLC to engage in these repairs. He does not have that money. The Turners Falls fire district should be very aware of that fact."


Mason continued: "He's prepared to file an affidavit of indigence. His son, Scott Jones, an attorney in Boston, will file that."

Fein cut him off, "So that you don't go chasing butterflies," she said, "I have an order here to abate an immediate health and safety problem I need to pay attention to. You need to respond by complying or by filing [an appeal]. There's a big building up there that's exposed to some serious risk right now. I'm going to respond to that," by ordering Jones and his LLC, jointly and severally, to secure the Strathmore Mill within 48 hours and to hire a licensed contractor to bring the sprinkler system into working order by the weekend.

Outside the courtroom, with Jones standing at his side, Mason told Godin, "The reality is, he's not going to have a check in the mail. He's going to walk away from that. Western Properties, LLC is going to walk away."

Godin replied, "We have reason to believe he's not as indigent as it might appear."

Previously, Jensen said he had been informed that Jones had sold \$40,000 of scrap copper to Kramer's metal recycling in Greenfield since January.

However, on Wednesday, Jensen said he would seek immediate authorization from the selectboard to hire a contractor to reactivate the sprinkler system, at town expense. 




**Nursery and Garden Center**  
135 Millers Falls Road, Turners Falls

**46 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

**Roses & All Perennials**  
Buy One, Get One Half Price  
(higher price prevails)

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

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

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



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

BY CHANCE OR APPOINTMENT.

TELEPHONE 413.863.9299  
email: carriagehouse@signedinstone.com

65 CANAL STREET • TURNERS FALLS, MA 01376



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!*

**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**





**A Custom Touch**  
Interior/ Exterior Painting & Home Repairs

**Anthony C. Tucker: 863-4833**

70 Oakman Street, Turners Falls

**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

**NEGUS & TAYLOR, INC.**  
line memorials since 1893

We engrave memories that last forever

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

"The perfect remembrance"

**Simply Computing**  
computer set-up  
training  
QuickBooks



**Debbe Dugan**  
**774-5451**

Your Pace at Your Place



## THEATER

continued from pg 1

case some of their award-winning work for ACT's 37th anniversary season.

The first act is comprised of five shorts by Ballon, two of which he directs: Paddy McClintock, and Spirited. Two are directed by ACT Board members Sondra Radosh, (Benefit), and Barbara Kasper, (Syphilis?). In the program, the fifth piece, Ricky Boy, isn't attributed to a specific director, but in her bio, actress Phyllis Roy gives many thanks to ACT board member Robert Freedman, and William Spademan, "... for helping me tackle my first dramatic monologue -- and first non-musical play. Quite a different type of challenge, to be sure." But you wouldn't know it.

Roy's portrayal of Barb MacIntyre, the mother of a son lost to AIDS, is as gripping and real as if Roy had been 'tackling' serious roles since she began with ACT in the 1970s. As she sits and holds a portrait of her son, we come to know him - and feel the deepness of her loss. Never overplayed, Roy's performance elicits a woman who has spent several years dealing with her loss and looking upon it now from a point of view somewhat removed from emotional grief. Barb MacIntyre has made peace with her son's death, though it still touches her deeply, and she can look at his picture now with a smile and tell the

## RIVER from page 11

future generations to enjoy, as our former selectmen had so wisely decreed.

All three of these former selectmen were owners of large prosperous dairy farms. They raised grass fed animals without using commercial fertilizer. The milk produced from the cows was organic milk, though not so named. Present day farmers have been prospering, or at least not going broke, by going back to this more natural farming method of lower costs and higher prices commanded by organic milk. Dr Zak, who lives in Lynn, MA, when not at the family farm, hopes to get his farm, now farmed by a young progressive farmer, back to the days when the three Gill selectmen also prospered using natural farming methods without commercial fertilizers.

Present day selectmen seem to be more concerned with what young lovers are apt to naturally produce in the seclusion of the river banks than preserving a historic road.

One proposal is to close the road to all but one lot so that the present landowners could build a house, there. The question to ponder is why the road should be closed to Gill residents while allowing the present land owners to enjoy an area to the exclusion of all others. Dr Zak strongly feels that everyone should have access to that area.

"The three selectmen ruled that the road should remain open so everyone can enjoy that beautiful spot by the river, and it should stay that way," Zak said. "I just want to set the record straight."

audience what a truly wonderful person he was. Roy brings clarity and compassion to her role.

In Spirited, an early 20th century spiritualist medium played by Deborah Bix, defends her position in an occupation designed to comfort her clients. She shares secrets amid the tricks of the trade while swirling gracefully across the stage, weaving intriguing accounts of her craft.

Su Hoyle reminisces beautifully as Mary O'Connor in Paddy McClintock. We are whisked away to the Emerald Isle for a taste of a life so sweet.

Benefit is another dramatic piece featuring Garrett Keefe as the minister and Jean Devereux Koester as Meg; a woman who has some items to donate to the upcoming church tag sale and a bone to pick with the preacher. The minister is a complex character, and Keefe portrays him well. Koester's part is equally challenging and we are rewarded with her deft depiction. However, Koester's finest work comes in Act Two; but we'll get to that.

Wrapping up the first act,

Ballon hits us with the comedic Syphilis? where we listen in on privileged conversation. Deborah Bix again takes the stage admirably and Mark Hildreth is masterful in his characterization.

If one may digress slightly... Naturally at intermission one may stretch one's legs and chat with friends old and new. However, what must not be missed at this and most, if not all ACT shows, are the fresh chocolate chip cookies offered for sale at the concession counter. This, along with a steaming cup of coffee -- or a cold bottle of water -- will put anyone in the right frame of mind for Act Two.

It seems playwright Jessamyn Smyth has taken every horrific experience of the trials and tribulations of community theater -- whether witnessed or overheard -- and compiled it all here in the hilarious Hedda Gabler Has Left the Building, directed by the superb Bob DuCharme, who elicits wonderful performances from his cast.

There is the requisite self-proclaimed diva (Lauren Wilfong),

the crunchy granola feminist (Sarah Hodge-Wetherbe), the whacked techie Calvyn (Eric Delisle) as well as Dominic Baird and Randall Furash-Stewart all turning in fine performances. The stressed-out director (Marnie Tibbetts) and her raiisseur stage manager (Steve Woodard), and the not-to-be-forgotten blowhard theatre-owner (Marvin Shedd) all give fantastic portrayals. Indeed this production benefits greatly by the reappearance from Act One of Jean Devereux Koester. Her characterization of "Moll Sanders" is reminiscent of Patricia Routledge playing 'Hyacinth Bucket' ("That's 'Bouquet'!") in the English sitcom Keeping Up Appearances. Even if Koester had no lines, her facial expressions would be enough to evoke gales of laughter.

No more can be said about the story line without giving too much away, so you'll have to see for yourself. There were plenty of laugh-out-loud moments for all the appreciative audience. Make sure you are in the next one!

"The Big Way Small Things

Happen: Short Works" is a definite must-see this weekend for everyone who enjoys good theatre. How it can make us think, how it can make us dream, how it can make us remember -- and how we'll never forget. And -- who couldn't use a couple of belly laughs on top of all that?

It is to ACT's credit that they bring these local playwrights out into the open to remind us how much great talent there is right here in the Pioneer Valley. ACT's mission has been to bring quality entertainment to the local venue, and they have done just that for the past 37 years. They do so admirably in this weekend's production at the Shea as well.

The show runs Friday and Saturday nights, June 15th and 16th at 8:00 p.m. at the historic Shea Theater at 71 Avenue A in Turners Falls. For ticket reservations and more information, call the Shea Theatre at 413-863-2281, extension 3, or go to the Arena Civic Theatre web site at [www.arenacivictheatre.org](http://www.arenacivictheatre.org). Enjoy the show!



## TURNERS FALLS WATER DEPARTMENT 2006 Annual Drinking Water Report

July 2007

The Turners Falls Water Department's main source of water consists of two artesian wells located off Center Street in Montague Center these gravel-packed Wells #1192000 1G and #1192000 2G, pump 1.2 to 2 million gallons of water per day to the filter plant. The treated, filtered water is then discharged into the gravity fed distribution system. The storage facilities in Turners Falls have a total storage capacity of 6.3 million gallons. Lake Pleasant and Green Pond are emergency backup surface water supplies.

Contaminants that may be present in source water before we treat it include: Microbial contaminants such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operation and wildlife. Inorganic contaminants such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or results from urban storm water runoff. Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture and residential uses. Radioactive contaminants are naturally occurring. Organic chemical contaminants including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm runoff, and septic systems. The Department of Environmental Protection has granted the Turners Falls Water Department a waiver on testing of Inorganic and Synthetic Organic Compounds because the source is not at risk of contamination. The last samples collected for these contaminants were taken on 1/21/03 for SOC and 8/28/03 for the IOC and both were found to meet all applicable EPA and DEP Standards.

### Protecting Turners Falls Water Supply

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has prepared a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) for the water supply source serving this water system. Although the TFWD has many safeguards in place, the overall susceptibility ranking to contamination of the ground water supplies is high, based on the presence of numerous high ranking threat land uses within the Zone II water supply protection areas. The report commends our water system on its proactive approach to source protection. A complete SWAP report is available at the Turners Falls Water Department, Board of Health and online at [www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/dws](http://www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/dws). For more information call the TFWD 863-4542. **Things You Can Do To Protect Our Water Supply** Use fertilizers and pesticides sparingly, Do Not use the river beds to dispose of any waste, Take used motor oil and other such fluids to the Towns hazardous waste collection sites.



### Cross Connection Control Program

A cross connection is formed at any point where a drinking water line connects to equipment, a system containing chemicals, or water of questionable quality, and backflow may occur into the drinking water line. Examples of where cross connections may occur are at boilers, air conditioning systems, fire sprinklers, irrigation systems, laboratory equipment, plating trays and chemical vats. If you are an owner of industrial, institutional, or commercial property or a homeowner with a lawn irrigation system you must have your home/facility's plumbing surveyed for cross connection hazards and install proper backflow devices or eliminate cross connections entirely. For more information, contact the Turners Falls Water Department at 413-863-4542.

### STAFF

#### Superintendent

Michael Brown

#### Pump Station Operators

John Collins

Jeffrey Hildreth

Stephen Fitzpatrick

#### Clerk/Collector

Nancy Holmes

### BOARD OF WATER

#### COMMISSIONERS

Kenneth Morin - Chairman

Stephen Call

Kevin McCarthy

#### Regular Meetings

1st Wednesday of the Month

At the Fire District Office

#### Annual Meeting of

the Fire District is held the third

Tuesday in April

### Numbers to Remember

#### Turners Falls Water

#### Department

PWS-1192000

226 Millers Falls Road

Turners Falls, MA 01376

413-863-4542

Fax 413-863-3175

#### Email

[turnerswater@yahoo.com](mailto:turnerswater@yahoo.com)

### Environmental Protection Agency's

#### Safe Drinking Water Hotline

1-800-426-4791

### Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

1-413-784-1100



THIS WILD PLACE

# The Saga of Little Nicky



ILLUSTRATION BY ANJA SCHUTZ

BY KARL MEYER

**COLRAIN** - We have entered what is probably the richest part of late spring. The humidity deepens as the calendar swings toward summer. The silky, moist air of early evening is full of oxygen. Traveling home from dinner in Amherst last night I watched as a flickering thunderstorm deepened. Running along back roads I knew I would just be skirting its edge as I made my way back to Franklin County. In cornfields at the edge of Greenfield I turned off the car, opened the windows, and watched lightning flicker from cloud to cloud, then pulse straight to earth - pounding life-giving nitrogen into the soil. The storm was just east of me; I hardly had to use the wipers.

I started back up, taking a winding dirt road much of the

rest of the way home. That rainstorm had trailed through here minutes before. Wisps of fairy-fog drifted over the roadway. The bursting trills of grey tree frogs waffled in and out of earshot as I rode along. Here and there spring peepers called. Then, like little ghosts in the twilight, I began seeing frogs bounding across the headlights. Maybe every three hundred feet one would bounce briskly over the dampened road. There weren't many, but I slowed the car, making it easy to avoid the surprising sprints.

They were small - bigger than spring peepers, but smaller than toads or green frogs. Slowly it dawned on me that I was witnessing the mating migrations of grey tree frogs.

They don't mate in trees - duh! The singing males have to come down from their high

perches and get things done in late-spring and early-summer breeding pools and puddles where females visit. They get together to deposit up to 2,000 fertilized eggs in life-giving water where hundreds of young will hatch. I'd just never witnessed one of their more active migration nights before, at least not one I recognized.

Grey tree frogs are about 1½ - 2½ inches long. They have mottled-gray skin, dry to the touch, and relatively large eyes. Their Latin name, *hyla versicolor*, describes one of their unusual traits: the versicolor means they change color - which they do, to camouflage themselves with their surroundings. They can be a deep brown to a pale, almost washed-out grey. Another odd color trait is that there is a screaming fluorescent orange wash along the

inside of the hind legs - only visible to humans at close range and when the frog is moving. Generally, these camouflage experts make themselves extremely hard to find, even when they are singing just a few yards away.

I came into possession of a personal grey tree frog sometime back. It was a tragic mistake - at least for the frog. I was working in an office and had closed a window after the early morning cool began giving way to July heat. I was off for a few days, but the next time I went to open that west-facing window there was the desiccated corpse of a grey tree frog, still clinging to the screen where it had baked in the sun. It had climbed the window using the suction-discs of its feet, and was likely hawking insects there each evening. Some fool

decided to turn the window casement into an airless terrarium.

Oddly, the frog had become an instant fossil. Hard, dried, it had amazingly long hind legs, and I got to see that outrageous orange, rarely glimpsed. I showed it around the office some, mostly to the appreciation of a fairly streetwise crew. Now what? It was such a strange connection I had to this frog, plus there was this oddly artistic freeze-dried arrangement the frog had morphed into. I kept it. I brought the little straw-dry critter home, found a lock-tight, soap dish sized container - complete with carry string, and encased him on a foam bed in see-through red plastic. He now hangs like some weird talisman above the kitchen sink. For a time I referred to him as "Little Nicky." Go figure. I'm staring at him right now.

Nick's little tree-climbing and bounding brethren will spend the summer hawking bugs perched on branches and clinging to screens and shrubbery at night. You may find one resting quietly in your window box during the day. Come fall, they'll make a short migration to upland woods where they'll plow themselves into the top layers of soil to spend the winter, literally half-frozen, before the 60 degree nights of late spring find them sending their bursting trills across the landscape once more.

*Cooling thought:* Common-sense alternatives to the constant slathering of petro-based sunscreen - shade, a loose fitting white shirt, a hat with visor, and a beach umbrella.

## 2006 Water Quality Testing Results



### Lead & Copper Testing

The Turners Falls source water and the water in the distribution system is lead free. However, some older homes may have lead soldered joints or lead or copper pipes as part of the plumbing. The lead may dissolve into the water while the water is not moving, generally overnight or times when the water is not used for several hours. On August 31, 2004 the TFWD sampled 30 homes for Lead and Copper. Again our results are below the Lead & Copper rule action levels. Our next round of Lead & Copper samples will be due the 3rd quarter of 2007.

Substance	Date Collected	Action Level	MCLG	90th Percentile	# of sites above action level	Likely Source
Lead	8/31/04	15 ppb	0	1 ppb	0	Corrosion of household Plumbing; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper	8/31/04	1.3 ppm	1.3	0.0362 ppm	0	Corrosion of household Plumbing; Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservation

## Water Quality Report

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contamination. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1-800-426-4791. Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1-800-426-4791.

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Substance	MCL	MCLG	Range Detected	Highest Level Detected	Sample Date	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Source of Contamination
Nitrate	10 ppm	10 ppm	0-0.14	0.14	04/22/03	N	Run off from fertilizer use Leaching from septic tank sewage Erosion of natural deposits

### Definitions

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** - the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set close to the MCLGs (see below) as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)** - the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

**Action Level (AL)** - The concentration of a contaminant which if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**90<sup>th</sup> Percentile** - Of every 10 homes sampled-9 were at or below this level. ppm-parts per million ppb-parts per billion



June 23rd, 5:30 p.m.

Montague Center  
Congregational Church

Baked Stuffed  
Chicken Breast

Rice, Gravy, Salad  
& Hot Veggies

Homemade Breads

Strawberry Shortcake on  
Homemade Biscuits

\$9.00

Children 10 & under:  
\$4.00

For reservations  
call: 413-367-2194



## THE HEALTHY GEEZER

# Hand Me Down My Walking Cane

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - Q. I had to have some minor surgery on my foot and I want to get a cane. What kind should I get?

This is a question that opens up the whole subject of mobility aids, the icons of aging. We'll discuss canes in this column and save crutches, walkers, wheelchairs and scooters for the future.

First, get a cane that fits. Let your arm hang at your side. The top of your cane should line up with your wrist. You can get an adjustable cane that can be expanded from about 31 inches to 40 inches, in 1-inch increments. With your cane in your hand, the bend in your elbow should be about a 30-degree.

There are many styles of canes.

The old reliable 'Crook Cane' is still very popular. Offset canes put your weight

more directly over the shaft and are usually adjustable.

There are also folding canes that are easy to store. Broad-base canes with three or four legs have greater stability and are good for people with balance problems. In addition, there are canes that come with folding seats.

Decide upon a material. Wood canes are light, resilient and inexpensive.

Aluminum canes are durable, adjustable and foldable. Graphite and fiberglass are very light and exceptionally strong; they're also comparatively expensive.

Choose a handle that feels good in your hand. Try different ones. They come in many materials and shapes. You might like a foam grip or one that's molded to fit your hand. If you experience any numbness or pain in your hand, choose a different grip.

Check the weight limit.



JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

Typical canes can hold about 250 pounds. Some slimmer canes are limited to about 175 pounds. And there are canes made that will bear up to 500 pounds.

When you walk with a cane, hold it in the hand opposite the side that needs support. The cane and your 'bad' leg should hit the ground at the

same time.

To climb stairs, step up on your good leg first. Then step up on the injured leg with the cane supporting you opposite the injured leg. To go down stairs, put your cane on the step first, then your injured leg, and finally the good leg.

The tip of your cane should have a tread that gives you traction wherever you go. You don't want one with a tip (or tips) that is worn out. Walking with a cane that doesn't grip the road is like driving a car with bald tires.

If you begin to use a cane, here are some tips to prevent injuries around the house:

- Keep the items you need handy and everything else out of the way.

- Remove scatter rugs and tuck away electrical cords.

- Clear floors where you walk.

- In your bathroom, put down non-slip bath mats and

install grab bars.

- Wear rubber-soled, low-heeled shoes.

- Always hold the handrails on stairways.

- Put night lights and light switches close to your bed.

- Insure that every room in your home has a light switch near the entrance.

- Use bright bulbs in your home.

- Keep your telephone near your bed. During the day, keep a portable phone with you so you won't have to walk to answer it.

- Use a shoulder bag, fanny pack, or backpack to leave hands free.

- Check curb heights before stepping down.

- When entering rooms, look for differences in floor levels.

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

## TO THE PUBLIC'S HEALTH

# A Brief History of Town Nursing in Montague



BY JOAN PAJAK

The town of Montague nursing department began modestly in 1915, when \$500 was appropriated at town meeting for the express purpose of engaging the services of a nurse to provide free care to the residents of the town. This nursing service was to be carried out under written orders of a physician and subject to the board of selectmen. Mrs. Alice Brown became the first town nurse in Montague. Once established, the department continued essentially unchanged until 1946, when it expanded, and two RN's were hired.

In July of 1966, the department met requirements to become a home health agency under the Social Security Act known as Title XVI. At this time the town of Montague nursing department signed a contract with the Franklin County Public Hospital to add physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy services. An advisory committee was established with professionals from the towns of Greenfield, Montague, and Northfield. There were four other certified nursing agencies in the area; the Ashfield-

Conway-Deerfield-Whately public health nursing agency, the Northfield public health nursing service agency, the Greenfield visiting nurse association, and County Home Health Care, Inc.

In addition to becoming a certified home health agency, the town of Montague nursing department continued to carry out a total public health program for the town. Although under the supervision of the selectboard, the department worked closely with the board of health. Responsibilities included the investigation of communicable diseases, case finding, immunization clinics and newborn baby checks.

In 1980, the towns of Northfield and Sunderland joined the town of Montague nursing department to become the Montague District Nursing Department. However, the dramatic proliferation of home health care regulation brought about through Medicare and Medicaid made it extremely difficult for smaller agencies to maintain certification. This factor, coupled with Montague's difficulty in hiring a qualified nursing administrator as required by the regulations, forced the town to disband the agency in 1986. The Ashfield group and the Northfield agency also disbanded.

Those individuals receiving care and whose service was reimbursable through third party payment were referred to the Greenfield VNA. Selectmen as well as agency staff

expressed concern regarding the availability of nursing service to those individuals whose needs were not covered by third party payment. In order to assure the continued provision of these functions, it was decided that the town of Montague nursing department would continue to operate on a part-time basis.

On July 1st, 1986, the nursing department in Montague was established in its current form. On July 1st, 1992 it became part of the newly created Montague health department, and its authority was changed from the selectboard to the board of health.

Throughout the years and despite its many changes, the town of Montague nursing department has remained close to its roots.

Since its inception in 1915, one of the principle directives of the agency has been to provide free care to Montague residents. Currently the department charges a nominal fee for some of its services. However, many services are free to everyone, and no one is denied acceptance because of inability to pay.

The town of Montague, through its nursing department, continues to implement the mandates established by the Massachusetts State Department of Public Health, health promotion activities, immunizations, home care visits to those individuals without medical insurance or whose medical needs are not covered

by third party payment, and, since 9/11, emergency preparedness planning.

Over the last decade, public health nursing services to the Montague community have been ably guided and supported by the following people:

Gina McNeely, current health director, Chris Boutwell, Jay Dipucchio, and Michael

Nelson, current board of health members, Albert Cummings, Nancy Parks-Mieczko, the late Lloyd May, the late Mark Nelson, former board of health members, and Joan Barry, former health director.

Joan Pajak is the public health nurse for the town of Montague.

## Montague's Nurses

Alice Brown (1918- ?\*),  
Glynnis Doran,  
Julianne Sivik (1948-1953),  
Julia Dunham (1945-1960),  
Isabelle McCarthy (1951-1953),  
Phyllis Boucher,  
Thelma Borthwick (1952-1976),  
Flecia Finck (1970-1985),

Melinda Chase  
Mary Ann Forsaith  
Cheri Ducharme,  
Rita Belanger (1979-1989),  
Phyllis Hannon (1977-1979, 1990-1996),  
Ruth Sterling (1996-1998)  
Joan Pajak (1998- present).

\* Records are incomplete

*Your Clear Choice*  
*for*

**QUALITY VINYL  
REPLACEMENT  
WINDOWS  
SUNRISE**

(413)498-4318

Fully Insured  
Free Estimates

Honest Work  
Honest Prices!

Mass. Contractor Reg. #107141  
Mass. License #059565



**JOE GRAVELINE**



# JEP'S PLACE: Faith, Hope and Other Disasters Part XXXVII

## Horse Sense

**BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH GILL** - Stanley had left home when Pa bought an unbroken young mare. I don't know where he bought her, but he was quite proud of her and let me choose a name. I picked "Maggie" from Maggie & Jiggs in the comic strip *Bringing Up Father*. I thought Maggie was a classy name.

The mare's build was not as heavy as that of the plodding

Prince. Her steps were light and prancing, and she was the best horse Pa ever owned.

Pa's friend Mr. Cislo said he'd help break Maggie. He was a grinder in a cutlery shop and fancied himself a horse expert, managing to doctor a fair number of healthy horses to death.

We spotted Mr. Cislo coming down the road with his horse hitched to a two-wheeled sulky. When the horse got to the bridge, he came to a dead stop, and turned his head to eye the

patched bridge. The town road crew had nailed new planks down in the wheel tracks across the old half rotten bridge planks. That was fine for the wheels of cars or the sulky, but the middle of the bridge was rotten. The horse wouldn't budge. Mr. Cislo slapped him with the reins and urged him on. The horse stood like a statue, head cocked to one side, eyeing the bridge.

We all gathered at the windows, watching as Cislo tried leading the horse across. The horse would not set foot on the bridge. Mr. Cislo turned back.

"He's going to go way around and try to come in the back way," Pa said. But Mr. Cislo turned the horse around a good distance from the bridge, and whipped him into a gallop. The horse came thundering across the bridge. One leg crashed through the rotten planks between the strips of new planking. The horse fell, hitting his nose. The horse

was resting on his belly with one front leg down through the planks, nose cut and bleeding, eyes wild, thrashing to get up.

"Quick, get a saw," Mr. Cislo said. He held the horse's bridle, talking in soothing tones to quiet the horse until we got a saw and cut the planks back enough so the horse could pull his leg out and continue over the bridge. After that, I knew what people meant when they spoke of "horse sense."

Mr. Cislo did not try to break Maggie that day, and he always took the long way around after that. When he came to break Maggie, Pa and Mr. Cislo harnessed her to the sulky and ran her around the tobacco field until she was exhausted. This all happened before Arnold Studer bought the land. Pa didn't ask permission to use the tobacco field to break Maggie. He reasoned that he'd spoken for the land, making it as good as his,

with only the payment to be made and the papers signed.

At first, Maggie didn't seem to know what the bit in her mouth was for and galloped around like a runaway. They yanked her head from side to side until she got the idea that it was to steer her in the direction they yanked. Soon, her mouth was dripping blood and foam. Her eyes rolled wildly in her head. I wanted to tell them to stop hurting her.


For most of the day, they ran her around the field. When she became exhausted and slowed to a walk, they considered her broken. By then, she was wet with sweat and trembled all over. With a good horse, and the tobacco land nearly within his grasp, Pa figured he was on his way to putting his sharecropping days behind him, and was sure to rise to prosperity as other Polish immigrants in the area had done.

- Continued Next Week

## BORDEAUX WHINE

### THE BOOK

**NOW ON SALE**  
**RAVE REVIEWS!**



*at Equi's, Food City, Wendell Country Store & more*

**REPORTER CLASSIFIEDS CALL 863-8666, FAX 863-3050**

20 words for \$6. 15 cents each extra word. 3rd week free.

**FOR SALE** - High-quality legal size 5-drawer file cabinets. Finest domestic manufacture; unbeatable price: \$150. Call Just Things: (413) 498-5043.

**WANTED** - Tennis racket, in reasonably good condition, for a reasonable price. Call: 413-863-9293

**TUTOR AVAILABLE** - Emphasis on reading, writing and verbal skills. Steady clients only. Must be motivated. (413) 863-5149.

**LIVING ROOM YOGA** - Individual instruction and small group classes. Find your strength and passion. Serene home studio. Chestnut Hill Road. Certified teacher. 413-367-2658. www.livingroomyoga.net

**CLASSIFIEDS: \$6 FOR 20 WORDS**  
**RUN SAME AD TWICE, THIRD WEEK FREE**  
**MONTAGUE REPORTER 24 THIRD STREET TURNERS FALLS, MA 01376**

.15 for each additional word			

Check enclosed for \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ weeks.  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## Spirit in the Flesh Reunion Set for Shea

**TURNERS FALLS** - In the early 1970s they played Carnegie Hall and many other major venues around the country, and released one album on a major label. But they were best known as the band from the Brotherhood of the Spirit (later the Renaissance Community) with its controversial founder and lead singer, Michael Metelica Rapunzel.



A 1971 photo of Spirit in the Flesh, who will perform a reunion concert at the Shea Theater in Turners Falls on Saturday, June 30th.

Spirit in Flesh broke up in 1974 and went their separate ways until January 2006, when they came together to record the sound track for *Free Spirits*, Bruce Geisler's acclaimed documentary film about the Brotherhood of the Spirit/Renaissance Community.

It was an emotional and uplifting experience for former bandmates Rob Hincks, Joe Podlesney, John Sullivan, Tom

perform at the Shea Theater at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, June 30th. Sadly, Tom Howes passed away last year; his former bandmates are dedicating the concert to him. Tickets are \$15 and may be reserved by calling the Shea box office at 863-2281, bought online at www.theshea.org/productions.html, or purchased at World Eye Bookshop, Greenfield; Boswell's Books, Shelburne Falls; or Wagon Wheel Restaurant, Gill. All proceeds from the concert will go to a new foundation to benefit former Brotherhood/Renaissance commune members in need. Up to 200 former commune members are expected to return to the area for the concert and a benefit screening of the documentary, "Free Spirits" on Friday, June 29th at 7:30 p.m. at Pothole Pictures in Shelburne Falls. Both the film screening and concert are open to the public.

Spirit in the Flesh will

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



Since 1895  
On the Common  
Greenfield, Massachusetts  
Turners Falls, Massachusetts

## McCarthy

FUNERAL HOME

(413) 774-4808  
John C. Davis  
Director

www.mccarthyfuneralhomes.com



## The Smokin' Hippo

A Family Restaurant and Barbecue

20 French King Highway  
Erving, MA 01344-4444  
Phone: (413) 423-3220

**More Than Just Great Barbecue!**  
Full Regular Menu & Liquor License  
Now Serving Our Award-Winning Clam Chowder!

Hours: Tuesday through Saturday 11:30-9 • Sunday 12-8  
Local Photographs and Hippo Paintings also available

Richard Mascavage  
Owner (413) 863-4246  
Open 7 Days A Week

## Pipione's

SPORT SHOP

Fishing - Hunting - Athletic -  
Live Bait - Paintball Supplies  
CO. Fills - T-Shirt, Uniform & Cap Printing

101 Avenue A Turners Falls, MA 01376

## HK

### Power Town Apartments

152 Avenue A  
PO Box 48  
Turners Falls, MA  
413-863-9433

professionally managed by:

## HallKeen Management, Inc.

rental office on the corner of Ave. A & 4th St.

Sharon Cottrell  
Property Manager



## CARSENSE AUTOMOTIVE

Your Automotive Answer

Check Engine Light on? We Can Help!

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

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



# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

**FRIDAY, JUNE 15TH**  
Deja Brew, Wendell: *Franco Funicello* - Indie Pop Rock, 9 to 11 p.m., no cover.

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY, JUNE 15TH & 16TH**  
Artists invited to Matthew Leighton's Studio, 9 Mill Street, Greenfield, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. to take materials to create a work in his memory. The memory pieces will be exhibited in the fall at Artspace. Artists may also take materials for their own art creations. Recycled materials in every texture, shape and type are abundant at the studio. These are the things that Matthew had collected over the years for his assemblage work. If you are interested in participating, call: 413-772-6811.

**FRIDAY TO SUNDAY, JUNE 15TH & 17TH**

Arena Civic Theater presents An Evening of One Acts: *Hedda Gabler Has Left the Building*, a one-act comedy by local playwright Jessamyn Smyth and several short works by Richard Ballon. At the Shea Theater, Turners Falls. Friday & Saturday 8 p.m. & Sunday 2 p.m. 413-863-2281

**SATURDAY, JUNE 16TH**  
US Air Force Band of Liberty, Colonial Brass

Concert Playing traditional favorites. Greenfield Energy Park, Greenfield. 6 p.m.

New England Ringers Premier community handbell ensemble performance. Sunderland Congregational Church, corner of Routes 116 & 47, Sunderland. 7 p.m. (978) 851-3024

Concert at the Bookmill, Montague Center: *Mawwal*, Spirited Middle East-inspired world folk & groove. 8 p.m. \$10 - \$12.

Echo Lake Coffee House, Leverett Town Hall. Singing CIA Agent George Shrub and satirical songster, Dave Lippman, bring the Counter-Intelligence Cabaret! Get ready for high-end pop parodies and some very wise cracks. \$12 - \$10 seniors. 7:30 p.m.

Get Down in the Gutter at the Village Coop's Annual Fling! Annual outdoor celebration of all things Leverett. Local artists and kid's activities start

at 10am, lunch at noon, live music and dance performance from 12 - 5 p.m. For more information call the Village Coop (413) 367-9794, 180 Rattlesnake Gutter Road, Leverett. Free!

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Blame It On Tina* Folk Rock, 9 to 11 p.m., no cover.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 17TH**  
Deja Brew, Wendell: *Adam Bergeron* - Classical Piano, 7 to 9 p.m., no cover.

North Quabbin Center for the Performing Arts at the 1794 Meetinghouse in New Salem. Jazz piano with Jack Senior Septet - "A Senior Moment" 4 p.m. \$10, Age 12 and under FREE. (978) 544 5200 or

activity. Geared towards preschool aged children; all are welcome. At the Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls. Free. 10 a.m. Info 863-3221 or www.greatfallsma.org.

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20TH**  
Great Falls Farmers Market, corner of 2nd Street and Avenue A, next to the Discovery Center, Turners Falls. 3-6 p.m. Wednesdays thru October.

**THURSDAY, JUNE 21ST**  
Fairy Boats Magical Morning begins by reading Tracy Kane's Fairy Boat and building a boat for the fairies. Northfield Mountain Recreation Area, Route 63, Northfield. 9 to 11:30 a.m. For ages 4 and older. 800-859-2960.

**Native Pollinators Week Celebration.** Get the current information on the status of honeybees and our native pollinators. This topic is in the news, one we all need to know about. Held at the Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls. 7 p.m. Free. Info-863-3221 or www.greatfallsma.org.

Orange Farmers Market Featuring local produce, plants, baked goods and crafts. Support local agriculture - you'll be delighted with the results! At Butterfield Park, East River Street, Orange. 3-6 p.m.

Co-op Concert featuring local musicians. Three 40-minute gigs each night from the Franklin County Musicians' Cooperative. Bring a picnic dinner, blanket, or chair and enjoy the music. At Greenfield Energy Park, Greenfield. 6-8 p.m.

**BEGINNING THURSDAY, JUNE 21ST**  
Hallmark Museum of Contemporary Photography hosts a two-week Benefit Exhibition and Print Sale, through July 1st. Reception **Saturday & Sunday, June 23 & 24**, 1 to 5 p.m. All are welcome. Print sale proceeds will be donated to aid the international humanitarian medical organization, Doctors Without Borders/Medecins sans Frontieres.

**FRIDAY, JUNE 22ND**



*Pitchfork will kick off the live music performances at the Leverett Village Coop's Annual Spring Fling, Saturday, June 16th at noon. Rob Skelton (left), bandleader and songwriter for Pitchfork, is a Village Coop regular. He describes Pitchfork's music as "groovy folk with a punk-ass edge." Joining Pitchfork on the lineup will be John Sheldon, the Equalites, Attar and her students performing folkloric Middle Eastern fusion dance from 12 - 5 p.m. Admission is free.*

www.1794meetinghouse.org

**UNTIL SUNDAY, JUNE 17TH**  
Exhibit: John Willis' and Tom Young's "Recycled Realities and Other Stories". Haunting and surreal series of black and white images at Erving Paper Mill. Also images from "View from the Rez" and "Timeline". Hallmark Museum of Contemporary Photography, Turners Falls. Thursday to Sunday 1-5 p.m.

**MONDAY, JUNE 18TH**  
Live Jazz at Ristorante DiPaolo, Turners Falls, 6 to 9 p.m.

**TUESDAY, JUNE 19TH**  
Common People Concerts on the Gill common. 7 p.m., free. Sponsored by the Gill Cultural Council. Tuesdays through August. Info: damons\_of\_gill@yahoo.com.

Garden Series for Children. Creatures are welcomed and helpful in the garden. Story and hands-on

at the Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Watch out Weeds! Garden Series for Children (3rd of 4) Learn about the quick spreading nature of some of our local invasive plants, how you can prevent this from getting worse! Include story and hands-on activity. Geared towards preschool aged children. 10 a.m. Free www.greatfallsma.org.

Concert at The Bookmill, Montague Center: Traditional Celtic Summer Solstice with *Katherine First*. Masterful musicians play jigs, reels, danceable tunes. Lively fiddling of Katherine First, and an ensemble that includes Buddy Downey on guitar and vocals, Paula Moore on Irish harp, and Tim Donahue on concertina. 8 p.m.

Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls. Rock, reggae, hip hop sound with the *Alchemistics*. Don't miss these guys, 9:30 p.m.

**FRIDAY TO SUNDAY, JUNE 22ND TO 24TH**  
Ja'Duke Center for the Performing Arts (JCPA), Kimberly Waynelovich and Lisa McCarthy are proud to present the 3rd Annual JCPA Showcase. at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. This theatrical extravaganza combines the talents of over 200 singers, actors and dancers who will entertain you in "Grand Style". Tickets \$12.00 Adults, under 12 and over 65 \$10. Call 863-2281 ext 2 for reservations. At The Shea Theater, Turners Falls, info www.jaduke.com.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 23RD**  
Benefit concert for the Montague Veterans Memorial featuring the *Commander Cody Band*, *Lonesome Brothers*, *Dad, Come Home*; and *Nexus*. At the Schuetzen Verein grounds, Gill. Cash bar, food. 5 p.m., \$20. Tickets available at the Turners Falls Fire Department, Montague Police Department & World Eye Bookshop.

Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls. *Strange Brew*, rock & roll, come to dance! 9:30 p.m.

**THE LADY KILLIGREW:**  
still proudly serving  
**BROWN RICE SALAD**

440 Greenfield Rd, Montague MA  
7 Days 7:30am - 11pm (at least)  
(413)367-9666

**MONDAY, JUNE 25TH**  
Storyteller and musician John Porcino performs at Cushman Library, Bernardston. This free performance is funded in full by the Franklin County Family Network, a Community Action! program. 3 p.m. Info call (413) 648-5402.

Live Jazz at Ristorante DiPaolo, Turners Falls, 6 to 9 p.m.

**ON GOING**  
Quinnetukut II Riverboat trips. Call for reservations, (800) 859-2960. Tickets: Adults \$10, senior (55+) \$9, child (14 & under) \$5. Group (15 or more) \$8.

**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

**GREENFIELD GARDEN CINEMAS**  
Main St. Greenfield, MA 413-774-4881  
www.gardencinemas.net  
Showtimes for  
**Fri., June 15th - Thrs., June 21st**  
Contact Famouse Bill's for a Dinner & Movie Deal

- NANCY DREW PG DAILY 12:00 2:15 4:30 7:00 9:00
- FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER PG in DTS sound DAILY 12:00 2:15 4:30 7:00 9:00
- PIRATES: AT WORLD'S END PG13 DAILY 12:00 3:30 7:00
- SHREK THE THIRD PG DAILY 12:15 2:15 4:15 6:45
- HOSTEL 2 R DAILY 9:15
- SURF'S UP PG DAILY 12:15 2:15 4:15 6:45 9:15
- OCEAN'S 13 PG13 in DTS sound DAILY 12:30 3:30 6:30 9:30
- KNOCKED UP R in DTS sound DAILY 12:30 3:30 6:30 9:30

**Dona Med**  
Cafe & Pub  
Draft Beer Fine Wine Great Food  
Open Wed-Sun at 4 p.m.  
**Friday 6/15**  
Indie Pop Rock - *Franco Funicello*  
**Saturday 6/16**  
Folk Rock - *Blame It On Tina*  
Music 9 - 11 p.m. Weekends  
**Sunday 6/17**  
Classical Piano  
*Adam Bergeron*  
7 to 9 p.m.  
NO COVER ANY NIGHT!  
**978-544-BREW**  
57A Lockes Village Road  
Next to the Wendell Country Store

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

**Montague Webworks**  
Easy to use Community & Business Websites

- Multiple designs, or custom made
- Built-in page editor, do it yourself!
- Messages, calendars, downloads
- Private customer areas w/ login
- Multiple "group" areas for users
- Fast setup, in-town support
- Call today and get a quote

863-0030, 24 3rd St. Turners  
michael@mullertech.com  
www.MySiteServer.com

**The Diemand Cutter**  
Hairstyling Family Salon  
Lin Diemand, Stylist  
Next to the egg farm on Millers/Wendell line

114 Mormon Hollow Rd.  
Millers Falls  
978-544-3045  
for appointment

**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 Greenfield (413) 773-7516



# Confi and the Magic Stones at Montague Center School

**BY FLORE** - The goblin Confi leaped about like lightning on the stage of Montague Center School last Thursday evening, June 7th! You could hear 'Ahs!' and 'Ohs!' of excitement running through the audience in the community room filled with parents, sisters, brothers, relatives and friends responded joyously!

Who is he, this wise bearded *Lutin*? Could he be a gnome? An elf? A kind goblin?

The young student actors wandered up to him and questioned him.

Confi is the main character of

stones he carried. He handed them around to his fellow students. "Yes," he said, "they could help solve any major problem, like finding a math solution, concentrating on doing homework, or spelling difficult words. Researching historical or scientific data, creating a masterpiece in the classroom, or checking on the sudden discovery of fantastic fish in the nearby pond."

Bang! The stones disappear. No such thing as magic?

For we carry in us something larger, bigger than magic.

We don't need to hold onto tal-



Orlando Wildman-Hanlon, left, poses after the play with Confi, Jackson Blain, at Montague Center School.

this meaningful *aubade*. (An *aubade* goes back to Medieval times, when troubadours presented in songs, ballads, and cleverly composed music, messages they wanted to convey.)

The script for "Confi and the Magic Stones" was written as a collaborative effort by the school's eager young folks and teachers, and performed at the traditional end of the year Spring spree!

Confi showed the magic

ismans. We can do all these difficult feats very well on our own!

Guess what the magic word is? The kids at Montague Center School will tell you!

That word will carry us further than the stars, closer to understanding others, guide us through storms from childhood to adulthood. That very magical word is: Confidence!

Grand summer holidays for all of you, at the little brick school. See you in September.

## THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

# Which Mulch to Choose?

**BY LESLIE BROWN**  
**MONTAGUE CITY** - The combination of heat and rain which followed the Memorial Day weekend has produced significant growth in tomato, pepper and strawberry plants, peas, onions, leeks and garlic, all of which seem to have gained several inches. Unfortunately, it has also produced a bumper crop of weeds. Coping with the weed crop can be done mechanically with tools like your hoe or cultivator, or manually with plain old hand-pulling. Or, there's the mulch solution.

Mulches are rated in several ways: appearance, insulating value, decomposition value, access they provide to air and water, as well as ease of use. For this column, we'll look at three common mulching materials using this scale.

As regular readers know, I've touted the use of plastic mulch for tomatoes, peppers, and squash. Plastic mulch is high in insulating value. It holds the sun's soil-warming properties so that a more even temperature is maintained for heat-loving crops, and it helps to retain moisture in the soil so that plants are not stressed during dry periods. On the downside, it isn't pretty, and plastic doesn't self-compose or add nutrient value to the soil, so it must be removed at season's end.

I think the payoff in reduced weeding is worth the aesthetic drawback of black or red plastic in your garden. Besides, once these plants develop and spread, they will, in large measure, cover the offending mulch. True, the plastic won't add organic properties to your soil, but by heating up the soil and holding onto moisture, it will promote a great crop of these vegetables.

Dry mulches like straw or bark chips are often high on the list of recommended materials



MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK

for organic gardeners. I do plan to spread straw for the strawberry bed now that I've used the hoe to weed it again. Straw is recommended by professional strawberry growers. It keeps the weeds down, is a good insulator, allows the soil to readily access air and water, and decomposes to provide nourishment and aeration to the bed at the end of the growing season. It also helps to keep the berry crop elevated and clean.

Straw mulch is not unattractive, but can pose a problem if it is not harvested and sold to you relatively weed-free. Straw is rated number one for winter mulch protection, because its hollow strands provide dead air space, and thus it is the perfect insulator. However, its insulating prowess does come with a caveat: it can hold in too much moisture, and thus promote mold and mildew. For this reason, it is never over-wintered in my garden.

A brief word about bark mulch: it's great for floral beds and around trees. It looks good, is a good insulator, winter and summer, is easy to apply and allows the soil to continue to access air and moisture. However, it does not break down readily. The serious downside of using bark in the vegetable garden is that it needs to be removed at the end of each season. This process can involve unnecessary work, as

the bark tends to work into the ground as the season moves along and the soil compacts. Once buried, it needs to be retrieved. This is not a treasure hunt you need as you try to put your healthy garden soil to bed in late October.

Lastly, newspaper is a simple, inexpensive mulch favored by many gardeners. Newspaper keeps weeds down, and provided rain or watering is regular, keeps the soil moist over time. A couple of layers are all that is needed. On the downside, if you don't weight it down, you'll lose it. Many gardeners lay down newspaper and then cover it with hay or straw, creating a two-step process. Newspaper is a great weed inhibitor, although it's not especially pretty in your garden and does cost more than you might think. While the newsprint is free, you have to anchor it in some fashion, which may or may not have a price tag attached. It is true that newspaper is a great mulch for gardeners who plan to plant and then travel for a large part of the summer. Newspaper will protect the crops for these lucky folks who will likely return to reap a healthy, relatively care-free harvest. You can't leave newspaper to winter over and enrich the soil; it doesn't have any nutrients to give. Further, some organic gardeners worry about the metals in the ink.

When choosing a mulch, you need to consider how well the mulch will protect and enrich your plantings and how labor intensive the application and removal will be. Mulching is designed to protect and improve a crop, not add to the gardener's labor.

After all, if you can't take some time to sit back and admire and enjoy the product of your labors, what's the point?

Happy gardening!

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

**About-Face Computer Solutions**  
Veronica Phaneuf  
(413) 367-0025  
about-face@verizon.net

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

**Pam Veith Real Estate**

75 Main Street  
Northfield, MA 01360  
Office: 413-498-0207  
Dtc. Fax: 413-498-0208  
Barbara A. Edson-Greenwald  
Home Phone: 413-863-9166  
Home Fax: 413-863-0218  
REALTOR®  
Email: bedson1@comcast.net

"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.rebuild.net](http://www.rebuild.net)

**DOLAN & DOLAN**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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

PERSONAL INJURY, WILLS & ESTATES, WORKER'S COMP

**Barlow Landscaping, Excavating & Paving, Inc.**  
Bryan Barlow, CEO

Demolition  
Seal Coating  
Treework  
Construction Services  
Septic Systems  
Paving  
Snow Plowing, Sanding

P.O. Box 386  
Turners Falls, MA 01376  
413-772-2155  
Cell Phone:  
413-775-3376

413-256-6217

*fine instruments  
bought and sold  
repaired and restored*

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