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Offers midwifery and auto repair
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Year 3
No. 33
50¢

The Montague Reporter

REPORTER@MONTAGUEMA.NET

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JUNE 2, 2005

Wendell Selectboard Hears Noise Complaint

BY JOSH HEINEMANN

WENDELL - John Cremins has lived quietly for 20 years in his home on Cooleyville Road, but two years ago his world was turned upside down when a budding rock and roll band began to practice next door. Cremins told the selectboard that he normally gets up for work at 4:45 a.m. The band next door practices as often as three nights a week, sometimes until two in the morning. Telephone calls to the neighbor have had no result. The police chief said he was not sure what his enforcement ability was in this situation. Cremins wanted to know the procedure for getting something done, because the situation was becoming critical. Although not a small man himself, he said he was intimidated by the large teenage boys in the band. He has put off coming to the selectboard for two years, but on May 18th he brought photocopies of the *Greenfield Recorder's* article about the noise complaints near Yesterday's bar in Turners Falls, and the Montague selectboard's response to that situation. Montague has recently approved a noise ordinance, giving enforcement authority to the police department and board of health.

The board was sympathetic. Selectboard member Dan Keller said the town does not have a noise ordinance, but that could be an option. Board chair Ted Lewis asked town coordinator Nancy Aldrich to contact police chief Ed Chase and the Montague selectboard for more information. Cremins said in the meantime he would not wait until 10:00 p.m. to make a complaint, and would keep a log. Keller thought maybe one of the selectboard could meet with the neighbor, and invited Cremins to come back before the board in two weeks, when both parties would know more. Lewis suggested another avenue could be a bylaw change through the planning board.

Rosalie Rosser, who runs the Good Neighbors food pantry met with the board, looking for ideas to help keep Good Neighbors' non profit status. Good Neighbors sup-

see **WENDELL** pg 12

Big Ticket Items Dominate Pre-Town Meeting

BY PHILIPPE DEGUISE

MONTAGUE - In a lengthy but informative pre-town meeting Tuesday night, May 31st, about 75 members, town officials and engineers came together to discuss 11 articles that will be voted on at the upcoming town meeting on June 9th. Of particular interest were two big ticket items: the landfill project, which could bring substantial new revenues into town coffers, and upgrades to the town's sewer system and treatment plant, which will drain millions of dollars out again. Because the meeting was purely informational, the final decisions on these and the other nine articles will be made next week, at what promises to be a lengthy and potentially heated town meeting.

Article 5 would give the selectboard the power to identify a vendor "for the purpose of constructing and operating a landfill facility" at the 37-acre Turnpike Road site next to the town's former landfill and burn dump. To secure a suitable ven-

dor to develop the DEP approved landfill site, the board would issue a Request for Proposals (RFP), a legal application process designed by the town landfill assessment committee to determine the best company and the best proposal for the site.

Development of the landfill could generate \$5 to \$10 million dollars for the town over the course of the intended 20-year contract, according to Bob Weimer, engineer for Camp Dresser and McKee. Because of the town's need for revenue



PHOTO: MICHAEL MULLER

Upgrades to the Montague Water Pollution Control Facility on Greenfield Road (above) and sewer overflow remediation totaling \$5.7 million will come before town meeting on June 9th.

to address the need for a police station, school projects, roads and sidewalks, and major work on the town's sewage treatment facility, such a source of revenue could help plug a major hole in the town's need for funds for capital projects.

"The RFP gives us more specific information, which is needed to make a decision," said town administrator Frank Abbondanzio. He reminded town meeting members that a vote in favor of the article did

see **MEETING** pg 11

THEATER REVIEW

Play It Again, Sam a Smash

BY SUDI NIMMS

NORTHFIELD - Delusions of grandeur make the man in Woody Allen's hilarious comedy, *Play It Again, Sam* at Northfield Mount Hermon School. Every fan of Woody Allen should experience his epitome of neurosis come-to-life on stage this weekend at the Silverthorne Theatre.

We open with our hero Allan Felix (Harry Poster) glued to the TV set watching his hero Humphrey Bogart in the final scene of *Casablanca*. As Bogey disappears into the fog, Felix wonders how he could ever be that suave. Felix's wife recently divorced him, causing his self-confidence to tank.

He says his ex-wife Nancy wanted to "swing," travel, and find the good times missing from their marriage.

Produced by Northfield Mount Hermon School at the Silverthorne Theatre

"Insufficient laughter is grounds for divorce," quips Felix as he tries to come to grips with getting dumped.

Enter Bogey (Christopher Bradley), replete with London Fog trench coat and fedora, feet planted firmly on the ground. Throughout the show, he offers Felix 'film noir' advice about how to treat women. From blue, shadowy lights Bogey tells Felix that the way to handle a woman is with a little slapping around and a bullet from a .42. While not all of Bogey's advice is tenable, he does offer Felix enough to encourage his chutzpah in tangible ways.

see **SAM** pg 10

Lousie Shattuck Receives Message from the Great Beyond the Pond

BY DAVID JAMES

L A K E PLEASANT

- Some mail means more than other mail. Who gets excited about getting a tax bill from the town of Montague? But who wouldn't be excited about receiving a letter from the Office of the Royal



Louise Shattuck

Photo courtesy of Spirit and Spa

Highnesses the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall? Especially if the recipient of such a letter is an ardent admirer of all things English, as is the

case with Louise Shattuck of Lake Pleasant.

On April 18th, Shattuck sent a wedding congratulatory letter, along with two of her books, *From Riches to Bitches: Pick of the Litter*, and *Spirit and Spa: A Portrait of the Body, Mind and Soul of a 133-Year-Old Spiritualist Community in*

see **MESSAGE** pg 12

TFHS Class of 2005

Congratulations, Amber!

We are all so proud of you! Now the real journey begins. Love, The Taylor Hill Gang



Congratulations, Danielle!



Graduate, Class of 2005 cum laude, Bridgewater State College Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice and Psychology.

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The Montague Reporter

Published weekly on Thursday
24 3rd Street
Turners Falls, MA 01376
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.

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Millers River Environmental Center Upcoming Events

June 4th -12th: Massachusetts Biodiversity Days

This is a chance to appreciate and document life in our local natural surroundings. Several events are planned for Royalston, including a sketch contest and a display of a 100-year-old collection of pressed plants. Call Beth Gospodarek, 978-249-0358 for more information about Biodiversity Days.

Saturday, June 4th: Spring Birding Trip

8 a.m. - various locations

Join Pat Serrentino on a trip to several hot spots in the lower Deerfield River Valley to search for migrating and breeding birds. Meet at Staples parking lot in Greenfield at 8:00 a.m. to carpool. The Deerfield River Watershed Association is sponsoring this free interpretive hike. Directions: Staples is located on Rte. 2, west of the Route 2/I-91 rotary and adjacent to the Big Y Supermarket. Please register with Pat (413) 772-0520.

Sunday, June 5th: Royalston Guided Walk; 2 p.m.

The Royalston Open Space Committee is organizing a guided walk led by resident mushroom expert Noah Siegel, botanist Matt Hinkler, Athol Bird and Nature Club president Dave Small, beetle specialist Ernie LeBlanc and wildflower expert Elizabeth Farnsworth. Meet at the Royalston library.

Tuesday, June 14th: Millers River Watershed Team Meeting, 1-3 p.m.

This is a public meeting for those interested in clean water and the health of the watershed. Sponsored by Millers River Watershed Council and the Athol Bird and Nature Club. At the Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main Street, Athol. Call 978-248-9491 or email council@millersriver.net for details.

Wednesday, June 15th: Trout Unlimited Meeting, 7 p.m.

Regular third Wednesday

FACES & PLACES

YELENA'S SOFT SERVE

PHOTO MICHAEL MULLER

Open for business on Turners Falls Road

meeting of Trout Unlimited at the Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main Street, Athol.

Saturday, June 18th: Negus Mountain Hike in Rowe, 10:30 a.m.

Hike to Negus Mountain, located above the Deerfield River, to enjoy spectacular views and the mountain laurel in bloom. Most of the climbing will be done by car. Bring lunch and meet at the Shunpike Park on Rte. 2, west of Charlemont

Center. Please register by calling (413) 625-6628.

Sunday, June 19th: Biodiversity Mystery Trip, 8:30 a.m.

Join Dave Small and Ed Giles for this "biodiversity mystery trip by land." Come explore one of the lesser known natural areas in the North Quabbin. Meet at the Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main Street, Athol.

Upcoming Events at Great Falls Discovery Center

Thursday, June 9th (7:00 - 9:00 p.m.): Birds of Conservation Concern - Randy Dettmers of the US Fish and Wildlife Service will give us an overview of the birds of conservation concern in the Connecticut River watershed. At the Discovery Center. For further information, please call 413-863-3221.

Saturday, June 11th (8:30 - 11:00 a.m.): Bird ID Techniques Lamar Gore of the US Fish and Wildlife Service will lead a bird walk and describe the secrets of bird identification in the Turners Falls area. Meet at Discovery

Center. For details call 413-863-3221.

(1:00 p.m.): Great River Art Opening - Enjoy a photographer's view of the river through this show at the opening from 1 to 4 p.m. On display until July 23rd in the Great Hall of the Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls. Sponsored by the Pioneer Valley Institute.

Thursday, June 16th (7:00 - 9:00 p.m.): Migratory Bird Stopover Study - Dr. Tom Litwin will talk about the results of a cutting-edge research project that looked at how spring

migrating songbirds use the landscape of the Connecticut River watershed. He will discuss how the results are being made available on a new website. Litwin is director of the Clark Science Center at Smith College and served as the founding director of their Environmental Science and Policy Program. He received his Ph.D. from Cornell University, where he focused on avian ecology and resource policy, and was a program director at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Held at Great Falls Discovery Center. For more information call 413-863-3221.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES June 6th - June 10th

MONTAGUE Senior Center, 62 Fifth St., Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. Advanced registration at many of our activities is necessary. We need to know how many people will be joining so we can be prepared. A suggested donation of \$1 per exercise class is appreciated. Meal reservations need to be made a day in advance by 11 a.m. Messages can be left on the machine when the center is closed (863-9357). Mealsite Manager is Chris Richer. The center offers a hot noon meal weekdays to any senior. Transportation to the center can be provided. Trip coordinator is Jean Chase. Make trip reservations by calling 772-6356. Payment and menu choice is due three weeks prior to trip.

- Monday, 6th**
10:15 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11:00 a.m. PACE Aerobics
- Tuesday, 7th**
10:00 a.m. Brown Bag
Noon - Birthday Recognition
1:00 p.m. COA meeting
- Wednesday, 8th**
9-11 a.m. Foot Screening
10:15 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11:45 a.m. Mealsite Meeting
12:45 p.m. Bingo
- Thursday, 9th**
1:00 p.m. Pitch
- Friday, 10th**
9:45 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11:00 a.m. PACE Aerobics

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

a.m. with reservations a day in advance by 11 a.m. Transportation can be provided for meals, Thursday shopping, or medical necessity by calling Dana Moore at (978) 544-3898.

- Monday, 6th**
9:30 a.m. Exercise
9:45 a.m. Library
12:30 p.m. Pitch
- Tuesday, 7th**
9:00 a.m. Aerobics
10:00 a.m. Brown Bag
12:30 p.m. Oil Painting
- Wednesday, 8th**
10:00 a.m. Line Dancing
12:00 Noon Bingo
- Thursday, 9th**
9:45 a.m. Aerobics
Noon - SERVE deadline

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

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The Ultimate SUV



J. PARZYCH PHOTO

Give this "ultimate SUV" a wide berth if you meet it cruising down the road

BY JOSEPH PARZYCH

The Ultimate SUV is actually a fertilizer spreader. But it is still not a good idea to cut in front of this baby. Don't try bluffing the driver, either, or he's likely to bury you in lime, or worse.

Bryan Mollison drives the GVM Prowler for Crop Production Services, 25 Elm Street in South Deerfield, to farmers' fields. He arrives empty, according to manager Mike Barlow. Feeder trucks transport fertilizer, or lime, to the fields where the product is transferred to the Prowler via an auger.

Mollison then spreads it onto the fields. The large wheels and tires, coupled with four-wheel drive, enable the spreader to get out onto fields too wet for ordinary spreaders. "In the past year, there was only one day

that I didn't go out," Mollison said, "and that was because it was raining so hard. The Prowler is a good mudder."

On the road, top speed of the Prowler is 47 m.p.h. In the fields, Mollison is just a blur. On-reasonably dry plowed fields, the Prowler can cover 30 to 40 acres with product per hour.

"The Prowler was custom built for us by GVM, located in Pennsylvania," manager Barlow said. The B 5.9 Cummins Diesel engine is coupled to an Allison transmission delivering power to Rockwell axles running 46" rims. Tires stand nearly five feet high. The Prowler has a straight frame, with front wheel steering.

Mollison is a good driver, but it might be a good idea to give him wide berth when you meet him cruising down the road.

Planting a School Garden, Building Community

BY MARK LATTANZI WILLIAMSBURG

How have kindergartners from Williamsburg, teenagers from Holyoke, overworked teachers and busy parents built a teaching garden in the playground at Williamsburg's Helen James School, and made it a part of the curriculum used by each class in the school? Fertile Ground and the Local Hero Schools Network will present a workshop showcasing the garden, now in its third year, on Tuesday, June 7th from 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Attendees will visit the garden and learn about Fertile Ground's educational programs and cultural exchanges with youth gardeners from Nuestras Raices, a grassroots community development and agricultural organization in inner city Holyoke. "I want to teach children about growing food so



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARK LATTANZI

Gardening at Helen James School in Williamsburg

that they can have a healthier future and teach others also," says Nashalee Pagan, Nuestras Raices youth leader. Garden educators, youth mentors, teachers and parents will be available to discuss the project.

Topics for discussion will include curriculum integration, visits to and purchasing from local farms, youth mentoring, and developing parent and community support for school gardens. "The garden has become a focal point for the community," says parent Zevey Steinitz. "We have met people who have brought their out-of-town guests to see it. We picnic there. The workdays are one of the primary ways I've connected with parents."

The event is geared for educators and parents. All are welcome. Professional Development Points are available.

The program is free but space is limited. Please call CISA to register (413) 665-7100 or jennifer@buylocal-food.com. Childcare will be available with pre-registration.

Kayaks Make a Splash for Wendell Library

The Friends of the Wendell Library will be selling new kayaks at a bargain price to raise funds for the library. On Sunday, June 5th from 10:00 a.m. until noon, the Friends will bring four different models of the boats to Wickett Pond for citizens to try out. Basic instruction will be available. The Friends will be taking orders for

new boats that day, and until the order is picked up, probably June 24th. People from Wendell and from out of town are welcome. The kayak designs range from wide, stable boats suitable for fishing to faster, sleeker (and less stable) designs. Come try one out; try them all; it's fun. Free the Wendell Library!

Habitat Seeks Volunteers

BY DORIS MCLEOD

TURNERS FALLS - Construction is about to begin on the house in Turners Falls being built by Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity. Volunteers are needed. Volunteer orientations have been scheduled at three times and locations. Interested persons are invited to attend one of three sessions to learn more about the project and to sign up for crew times.

The first orientation opportunity will be Wednesday, June 15th, at 7:00 p.m. at St. James Episcopal Church in Greenfield. The next will be Wednesday, June 29th, at 7:00

p.m. at South Deerfield Congregational Church. The third will be Sunday, July 10th, at 1:00 p.m. in Turners Falls at St. Anne's Church, Fr. Casey Hall. That is also the date that construction is scheduled to begin at the corner of 2nd and L Streets.

Habitat for Humanity builds decent, affordable homes in partnership with persons in need and then sells them to the partner family on a no-interest mortgage. In 2004 Habitat built 4,651 houses in the United States and thousands more in developing countries. For further information, call 413-586-5430.

Farmer's Market in Full Swing



PHOTOS: ARIEL JONES

A happy Bob Johnson (left) from Deerfield behind his table of annuals and Beverly Blanchette from Greenfield proudly displays her wonderful swan-gourds for sale at the Great Falls Farmers Market, open Wednesdays from 3 to 6 p.m. at Peskeomskut Park.

SLEEP OUT FOR THE SHELTER!

Interfaith Council will sponsor a fundraiser to keep our Franklin County Emergency Shelter open at 15 Farren Ave., in Turners Falls near the Community Health Center
Friday night, June 3rd at 6 p.m.
 Pitch a tent (or box) and sleep out on the Greenfield Common for pledges, or pitch in by making an outright donation to the Shelter Fund at Greenfield Savings Bank.
For more information call 773-7427

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The Montague Reporter

24 3rd Street, Turners Falls, Mass. 01376

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"The Voice of the Villages"

Founded by
Arthur Evans Harry Brandt David Detmold
August, 2002

Crusade? No Thanks

Our region is fortunate to enjoy coverage from a number of excellent daily newspapers, many of which have maintained their independent editorial voice despite being acquired by larger corporate entities. They are well worth the four bits for the cover price, (or six in some cases). When we look over an editorial like the one below, which ran in advance of Memorial Day in the Berkshire Eagle, we feel the subject could hardly be handled better.

President George W. Bush's first response to the attacks of September 11th was to call the nation to war. "This crusade," he said. "This war on terrorism." This unscripted remark was a gaffe, which is when a politician slips up and says what he truly believes and feels. In the Muslim world, the word "crusade" was given its literal translation: "war of the cross," and the reaction was, predictably, negative.

The president's spin doctors hastened to apologize for any offense inadvertently given, saying the president had used the word in its generic sense, as a synonym for a struggle against something bad. But just as Osama bin Laden called for jihad -- holy war -- against the "crusaders and Jews," so many Christians in the United States have taken the president at his word as he has continued to portray America's conflict with Islamic extremists as a metaphysical struggle of good against evil.

There was Lieutenant General William Boykin, who while addressing a prayer meeting, said the president had been "appointed by God," to lead a Christian nation against unbelievers who "will only be defeated if we come against them in the name of Jesus." The Pentagon disavowed these remarks, but General Boykin still has his job in military intelligence. Apparently, he's quite good at it.

Then there is the North Carolina preacher who put up a sign in front of his church that said "The Koran needs to be flushed," a reference to the latest prison scandal at

Guantanamo Bay. There is the scandal at the Air Force Academy, where evangelical cadets have been accused of aggressive proselytizing that borders on religious harassment. And there is the picture of those Marines in Iraq who painted "New Testament" on the barrel of their tank's cannon.

So while the official position is that we are not engaged in a holy war, that Islam is a religion of peace and that we are shocked, shocked at the desecration of the holy book, some people persist in seeing it General Boykin's way. Osama bin Laden's view is the same, only reversed: Israel and the oil states are part of an ongoing western crusade to destroy Islam and subjugate the Arabs, and just as Salah-el-din led the jihad that eventually expelled the crusader knights, so will he eventually prevail. No doubt he smiled to hear George Bush reading from his script.

The rest of us can only watch, aghast, as the holy warriors bring it on. Let us remember how the religious fervor to destroy the unbeliever led to an obsession with the enemy within, how the Crusades led not only to the streets of Jerusalem running with blood, but to the Inquisition. Religious war is greatly to be feared because it is unlimited and open-ended. The other guys are just as fervent in their beliefs, and they may yet gain access to weapons of mass destruction. If we cannot stop it in time, this holy war may end in Judgment Day before any of us are ready.

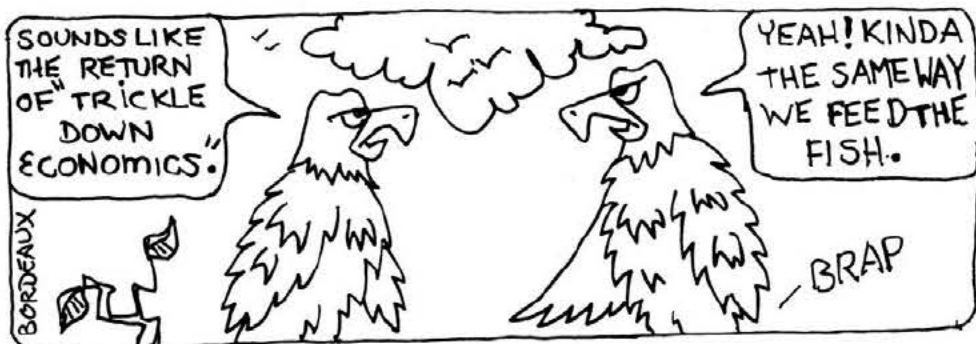
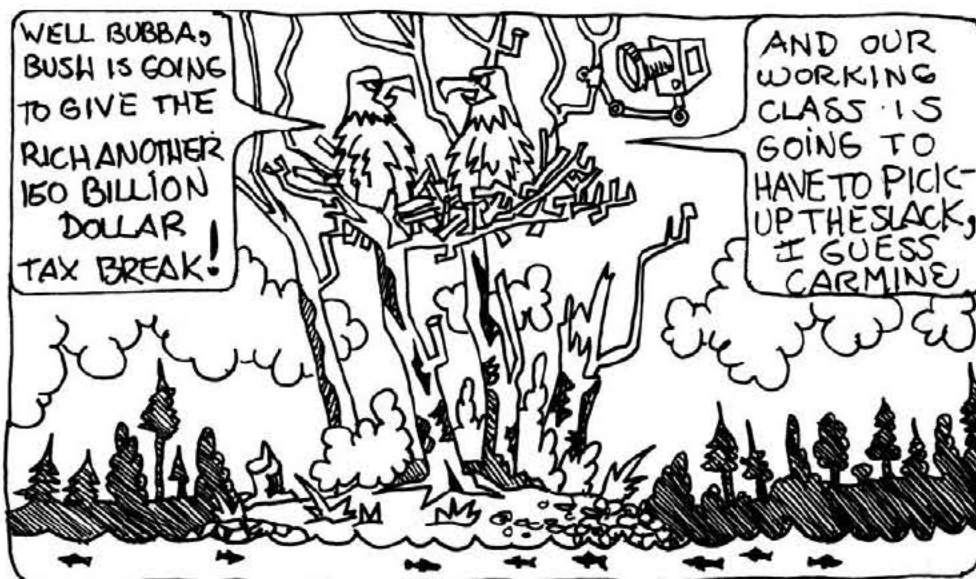
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Bubba & Carmine Wise Guys of Barton Cove



Trickle Down Economics

CARTOON DENIS BORDEAUX

Goodbye from the Box Car

BY TERRY HAERTL

ERVING - I was the leaseholder for the Box Car Restaurant for the last three years, and I am the somewhat significant other of Ms. Toni Wilson. Since the beginning of the lease renewal controversy, I have been in the shadows. Now, with the restaurant closing its doors for good, I figured it is time to speak my piece.

When I leased the restaurant in 2002, we had hopes of being able to buy the Box Car within three years. I sold everything I had to get us up and running, and we started off with a bang. We met many local people who seemed to be waiting for the restaurant to reopen, as it had been closed for a period of time.

From the start, Toni and I strived to make it a great place to stop and visit, and enjoy great food. We made many new friends, all of whom we will miss terribly. We tried to make the restaurant a place like home, and sometimes even better.

I even learned to short order cook. My mother still doesn't believe it, as I had been in the jewelry industry for over 30 years before that, and food service was the last thing I ever dreamed I would venture into.

Our lease was nearing the end, and we were looking for financing to buy. We received a call from the realtor that another party had made an offer, and we had better get ours in. As my lease stated, I had first right of refusal, giving us first chance to match the offer. So we told him to come in, and see what we needed to do.

When the realtor visited we were a little worried. Toni was told that an offer had been made, and that the owners were ready to make the deal. We were told the buyer had offered the higher price in the ad, \$25,000 more than what we thought we needed to have, and that there was a good chance it was a party that was going to tear down the building, and rebuild as a Dunkin Donuts.

Toni was heartbroken, not so much in that we might not get the restaurant, but in that a historical building that is 150 years old was going to be destroyed. She was told by the realtor to make an offer, which she did, and he took it with him.

In a panic of what she was just told, she called the owners to see if it was true. The owners replied it was. Toni began looking for ways to get the needed financing, as well as ways to save the building if she were unable to meet the offer the owners wanted.

She tried the town, she tried the state, and she tried anyone that would listen. Save the Box Car was her number one priority.

The papers wrote articles, and she even got a little TV coverage. All of the media attention apparently upset the owners a great deal. They refused her offer, and raised the asking price another \$10,000. She was then told by the reality company not to talk to the owners any more, to deal with them. She made her offer again, with money down, and began to get to work.

She then had to try even

harder, both to get the needed money to purchase, as well as to save the building if she could. More calls, more newspaper articles, more anger from the owners. The rest is history. "We will not sell to you for any reason," was their final answer.

I am sorry this has gone the way it has. There seem to be a lot of misunderstandings.

There are many fine people in the area, people that became part of our family, before all of this, and more after. I hope that whoever does buy the Box Car, will keep it as it has been for almost 100 years, a great place to eat, and to meet.

I want everyone to know that from the start I wanted to give Toni the chance to have her dreams come true. She wanted this restaurant in the worst way. I want to thank all our friends for their support, and for their best wishes. And, to Toni, I love you.

American Dead in Iraq as of 6/1/05



GUEST EDITORIAL

Waiting For An Open Process on Cable Access

BY JEFF SINGLETON
MONTAGUE No doubt the Montague selectboard is tired of getting letters about local access television. I am certainly tired of sending them. If we had a fair process leading to a normal contract for a normal time frame none of this would be happening. Montague seems to be able to do this in other areas. Why not with local access television?

This is beginning to look very familiar. The response of Greenfield Community Television to the selectboard's decision to implement a fair and open request for proposal (RFP) process resembles the tactics of the old, discredited Montague selectboard - vague lawsuit threats issued behind the scenes, designed to influence policy. Is it a coincidence that a member of the former selectboard is now vice-president of GCTV? I think not.

As far as a potential legal case is concerned, the following points should be made:

GCTV could easily have had a real contract in 2001. They did not want this, in large part to avoid abiding by the open bidding provisions of state law Chapter 30B. Is it right to reject a real contract when you had the opportunity, and then threat-

en to sue the town for violation of an "implied contract?" It makes one wonder how a legal complaint from such an organization would stand up in court!

Similarly, prior to the recent RFP discussion, GCTV never claimed it had a binding "implied" contract that could not be revisited. The statement to this effect in the recent letter from GCTV to the selectboard is simply false. As a matter of fact, documented statements by GCTV director Marty McGuane have either stated or strongly implied that the local access arrangement could be changed at any time. The GCTV "letter of intent" suggests as much. Selectboard members have made similar statements and these have not been challenged by GCTV. Is it then fair to suddenly cry foul and threaten a lawsuit? Again, one wonders how strong a legal case GCTV would have!

One of the arguments for a lawsuit is that GCTV has invested funds in Crocker Studios and would somehow lose this investment if the assignment were changed. Searching through the GCTV files, I find no evidence for this claim. In fact, GCTV has claimed its initial investment was reimbursed through the

capital grant from Comcast (See the GCTV June 16th, 2003 annual report). Subsequent improvements to the studio could clearly have been covered by subscriber income, which now exceeds \$80,000 annually. If GCTV chose to invest more than its revenue in the studio, that is hardly the legal responsibility of the town of Montague.

GCTV has argued that the issuing authority has expressed no problem with the provision of local access services in Montague. This is not the case. In December of 2003, the Montague selectboard requested a detailed accounting of the expenditure of local access funds. The GCTV director agreed to provide a detailed line-item budget. He subsequently reneged on this commitment, arguing, in effect, that line-item budgets were prohibited by state privacy laws. It turned out this was not true, but we still have no budget. Serious concerns were also raised about GCTV shutting down Crocker Studios in the summer of 2003. At that time, selectboard member Pat Allen also expressed concern about outreach, following the firing of outreach coordinator Melissa Martell. Yet there now appears to be no paid outreach coordinator and

virtually no outreach in Montague, a possible violation of the GCTV "Letter of Intent."

Another complaint is that the process that created the current RFP was unfair, or the cable advisory committee (CAC) that created it was "biased." The problem here is that GCTV appears to have virtually boycotted the RFP process. McGuane attended only one meeting of the committee while the RFP was being developed, and one of the members openly sympathetic to GCTV subsequently resigned. The CAC has been more than willing to meet and discuss changes in the RFP. Clearly problems could be resolved, but they are being used as a rationale to stop the process altogether.

Yet another argument appears to be that a change in assignment would not make a difference in the basic services provided to Montague, only a change in the faces on the local access board. While this is not a legal argument, the implication seems to be that an RFP is therefore not worth the risk of potential litigation. With all due respect, I do not see how this judgment can be made without issuing an RFP and seeing what alternatives exist to the current arrangement. Right now, a large

percentage of Montague funds are being channeled to the GCTV central office. It could well be that these funds could be used for outreach and production in Montague, a big difference.


Given the above realities, why are we going to town counsel to get yet another legal opinion? Is counsel being apprised of the above facts? It appears that every time we approach counsel, we get another opinion. This creates the impression that we are, in effect, using counsel to influence an important policy decision. GCTV issues vague lawsuit threats and we go to counsel for an opinion that serves GCTV, not the town.

Again, this creates the appearance that we are using lawsuit threats to influence policy, a tactic of the old selectboard.

I hope this approach will be rejected.


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Lost Love Found

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH
BERNARDSTON - This past weekend, I found my lost love of long, long ago, at the Bernardston Old Engine Show. It was there I met Sandy and Richard MacDonald of Northfield. No, Sandy is not the object of my affections, nor is her husband Richard. It is their 1928 Model A Ford pickup truck.

When I was 17, I joined the Army, leaving my beloved 1928 Model A Ford pickup behind. I had purchased it from Laurence Day in Gill in 1946. The pickup had moldered in his yard for ten years or more. The fabric roof had disintegrated and the engine had not run since Day parked it a decade earlier.

I offered Day \$50 for the 18-year-old truck. He took it, probably feeling guilty for having rooked me. Base price of a brand new Model A car was \$385 -- their fanciest dolled up car cost less than \$600. During the 1930s Depression, a good Model A could be had for \$5 or \$10. But used cars and trucks were scarce during the 1940s, and prices went up as civilian auto production ceased during WWII. It took several years after production resumed before vehicles became plentiful. I knew I was taking a gamble, buying the truck without knowing if it even ran, but I just had to have it. It was love at first sight.

I dumped gasoline in the tank, installed a battery and crossed my fingers. The engine fired right up. Model A's are a marvel of simplistic engineering. The gas tank is right in front of the driver, making up the dash board. A cork float in the tank actuated a gauge in the center of the tank. Having gasoline stored so close to the driver seems dangerous. But it is actually safer from damage in the event of either a front or rear-end collision. There is no need for a fuel pump. The tank is high enough for gasoline to run to the carburetor.

The gas line is about two feet long and all out in the open. It can be inspected, or removed in a few



PHOTO: RICHARD MACDONALD

Joe Parzych stands next to his long lost love.

minutes if it shows signs of being plugged or frozen.

The Model A's can be worked on with simple tools. The carburetor is held together with one large cap screw. The choke knob closes the choke butterfly gradually as the knob is turned. At the same time, turning opens the carburetor needle valve, creating a richer mixture. On a cold winter day, it is a great way to vary the mixture until the engine warms up.

There was no need to worry about insulation on sparkplug wires getting wet or worn. There is no insulation. The "wires" are simply strips of bare copper, about four or five inches long, away from anything to short them out. The engine cannot be hot wired, as with ordinary cars. On a Model A, the hot wire at the distributor is already hot. The wire going to the ignition switch goes to ground. The switch wire is enclosed in a hardened coil steel spring that cannot be easily cut, except with an acetylene torch.

Model A's have plenty of ground clearance. The large

wheels, coupled with the vehicle's light weight, enable them to go sailing over muddy or snow-clogged roads. The engines start easily. The four cylinder 40 horsepower engine has a long stroke (3-7/8 x 4-1/4), giving it great lugging power. Coming from Turners Falls toward Greenfield over the White bridge, a Model A could slow to a crawl for the hair-pin turn, then climb Canada Hill (now closed) in high gear, chugging along as though each chug would be the last. Other cars would need to shift into low gear. The lugging power of these engines made them ideal for homemade tractors. I once saw a man plowing land in Bernardston with a Model A sedan - the family car - pulling the plow. Dump trucks ran with the same engines as passenger cars, but with lower geared rear differentials.

Top speed was supposed to be 60 mph, but that was only on steep hills - long steep hills. On flat going, 45 mph is about the limit unless you have a high compression cylinder head, optional for Model A police cars and fire

engines. They could achieve the advertised 60 mph.

Few cars had heaters in the old days. A very effective optional heater operates by having the Model A engine fan blow air through an air tube enclosing an optional finned exhaust manifold into the passenger compartment. Henry Ford turned out over four and a half million of these endearing vehicles, few of them with heaters.

My father helped me put on a muslin roof on my pickup. Tires were a big problem. They were scarce, especially in the larger size needed for the pickup. While fixing up the Model A, I drove a 1936 Hudson Terraplane sedan converted to a pickup.

On my way to work at Jordan's auto parts barn in Northfield, I came upon a herd of cattle crossing the road. I chose to run off the road, and ran over a couple of concrete slabs covering a catch basin. That maneuver tore out the rear end. I jacked up the truck and got it lashed back together enough to limp to Blassberg's junkyard in Turners Falls where I

spotted a pair of brand new tires that would fit the Model A. Blassberg paid me \$50 dollars for the Terraplane. He offered to sell me the tires for \$50. Blassberg was always willing to haggle, but my father cut me short when I asked Blassberg if he would take less. "Don't be foolish," my father said. "Just buy them."

"Thanks, Dad."

Not long after getting the truck fixed up, I got a letter from Mount Hermon School suggesting I would be happier going to school elsewhere in the fall. A friendly Army recruiter signed me up for 18 months. I trained in Virginia, drove a staff car in Washington D.C., got shipped to California, and then on to Hokkaido, Japan, where I joined the paratroops and wrote for Army Public Relations. A friend in personnel sent me back Stateside early and the Army sent me home four months before my hitch was up, to continue my love affair with the Model A. I was still 18 years old, and could hardly wait to get behind the wheel of my beloved pickup and hear the engine ticking off on all cylinders.

My father had good news for me.

"I got rid of that old piece of junk for \$150," he said with a self-satisfied smile. Thanks a lot, Dad.


Years later, while working as an excavating contractor on a road job in Ashfield, I saw a Model A pickup drive by. The driver stopped. He had a hole in his throat, and wrote a note on a pad of paper. "I saw your name on the side of your equipment. That's your Model A pickup I'm driving. Bought it from your father."

Richard MacDonald, who now owns the pickup, said he bought it from a man in Shelburne, whose brother had formerly owned it. He was not absolutely sure that it was the same one.

"Don't tell me anymore," I said. "I don't want to destroy the illusion."

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NOTES FROM THE GILL FINANCE COMMITTEE

Ducking Under the Levy Limit

BY DAVID DETMOLD

GILL - A fraction of the finance committee met with the selectboard on Wednesday, seeking to close a \$14,000 gap in the town's '06 budget prior to the Monday, June 6th town meeting. Although the committee could take no vote, lacking a quorum, the four members present seemed in accord with the selectboard's recommendations.

Board member Ann Banash said highway department workers routinely spend a half an hour each working day checking over the Riverside sewers, a task which seemed to be budgeted in line items at both the

highway department and the sewer district. Reducing the highway department's budget by \$7,000, and allowing the sewer users to pay for this daily maintenance task would close half the budget gap, Banash said.

The remaining \$7,000, and more, can be found by sequestering a check from the Gill-Montague Regional School District for \$31,943.72 in a bond premium reserve fund, and applying it directly to the GMRSD capital expense article, rather than applying it to next year's free cash and reducing the amount of this year's excluded

debt. Complicated? You bet, and everyone present began calling for the new town accountant, Janet Swem, to come to the town meeting to explain the matter. But, by some quick movement of numbers under the accounting equivalent of walnut shells, it seemed likely the town could avoid breaching the levy limit.

The finance committee members present agreed to muster a quorum to meet with the selectboard shortly before the Monday night annual meeting, to vote final budget recommendations. "I don't like surprises at town meeting," said Banash.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Petty Thievery

Thursday 5-26

1:58 p.m. Shoplifting reported at Family Dollar. Subject summonsed.

8:26 p.m. Report of a domestic disturbance at a 5th Street address.

██████████ as arrested and charged with domestic assault and battery.

Friday 5-27

4:24 p.m. Report of shoplifting at Food City. No charges filed.

Saturday 5-28

9:23 a.m. Report of a larceny at the Montague Fire Department. A wallet was stolen from a car. It was found in the woods.

7:19 p.m. Report of a fight at St Kaz's. Found to be verbal only.

Sunday 5-29

8:46 a.m. Report of a breaking and entering at Thomas Memorial Golf course. Unfounded.

Monday 5-30

5:30 p.m. ██████████ was arrested on a warrant and charged with a restraining order violation.

Tuesday 5-31

8:35 a.m. Report of a larceny at a Millers Falls Road address. A flag was stolen from in front of a business. Person wanted the incident on record.

Wednesday 6-1

10:57 a.m. Caller reported seeing someone taking mail from a Farren Avenue address. Unfounded.

Gill History Facts and Figures

BY ALLAN ADIE

A range of historical facts about our town can be found in the *History of Gill, Volume II*, (copyrighted by the town of Gill, reprinted by permission). A few of them are excerpted here, to interest the public.

1963 - The school committee voted to close the school for the Franklin County Fair in the fall. Local high schools used to take this day off to let students compete in the track and field day at the fair.

1964 - Vital statistics: marriages, births, and deaths were reported in the annual report for the first time. In July, an

auction was held to settle the estate of Orin L. "Roy" Howe.

1965 - The Sealer of Weights and Measures came under state supervision. (Those weights and measures are now housed in the Gill Museum, in the Riverside Building on Route 2.)

1967 - Gill Riding and Driving Club active. The Pitch Club organized at the Old Stone Lodge for the 1967 - 68 season.

1970 - In October, an auction was held after Luther Eddy decided to discontinue his milking operations and sell his 55 Holsteins. In December, Elizabeth "Liz"

Girard and Debbie Holmes decorated the Christmas Tree with popcorn. This tree, planted by the Girl Scout Troop 355 when the Town Hall was renovated, replaced one donated by Merton Ward in 1952.

1974 - Harriet Tidd elected first female town clerk. She still holds that position in 1992.

1975 - Down to the wire in a cliffhanger election for tax collector between Linda Welcome and Kenneth Rewa, with 103 votes each. In the April special election, with other candidates running, Rewa increased his tally to

106, Welcome dropped back to 42, and Rachel Yukl tied her with 42 votes. Rewa continues to hold the office of tax collector in 1992. Gill valuation set at \$8,500,000. State says it should be valued at \$16,000,000.

In October, Gill becomes the first community in the county to carry out a federal order regarding the distribution of food stamps.

1976 - First woman elected treasurer: Joanne Hastings.

1977 - First woman elected to the selectboard: Geneive Krejmas.

More historical facts next week.

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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Erving Purchases Mitzkovitz Property; Millers Falls IP Plant up for Auction

BY DAVID DETMOLD

At a packed special town meeting on May 23rd, Erving voted to spend \$165,000 from free cash to purchase 8.3 acres of land owned by Ken Mitzkovitz on the French King Highway. Facing an unusually large crowd of more than 70 residents, many of whom were near neighbors of the property, selectboard member Andy Tessier assured the voters the selectboard would make no move to develop or transfer the property without returning to town meeting for approval.

The land had been eyed for a private housing development, and later considered as a possible site for affordable homes and senior housing by the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Corporation. According to Lillians Way resident Liz Carroll, "A group of us (neighbors) got together trying to be proactive with the board. We sent out a flyer, and put together a petition," calling for the conservation of the land, which is in a Zone II aquifer recharge area, near the wellhead for Erving's water supply. "Our primary goal was for the town to purchase the property to protect the aquifer," which provides drinking water for 500 resi-

dents, Carroll said.

That goal was realized on the 23rd, with a unanimous vote of the special town meeting.

Millers Falls Plant

Earlier, the board called for more information on the impending auction, on June 13th, of 37-plus acres straddling the Millers River in Erving, owned by International Paper Company, including the 207,000 square foot Millers Falls paper mill, built in 1900, with 38,625 square feet added to

the front of the mill in 1965. The board found out about the auction from signs posted along Route 2 by Higgenbotham Auctioneers. A spokesperson for that company said "IP is looking to move the property," which has lately been listed for \$600-700,000. Thor Holbek, of the Holbek Group, manufacturers of educational display materials, located on 11th Street in Turners Falls, said IP turned down his offer to buy the property for \$550,000 recently.

In other news

Developers Doug Baker and Larry Girard asked the board to outline procedures for having Laurel Lane accepted as a public way. The two have built a dozen new homes on this private way near the east end of Old State Road in Farley. The board told them to have highway superintendent Paul Prest inspect the road, and to bring the matter before annual town meeting for approval.

The board accepted the resig-

nation of part time police officer Bill Bembury.

The Route 2 Task Force will meet on June 9th at 7 p.m. at the Erving Elementary School to seek public comment on design improvements in the area of Semb Drive, by the French King Entertainment Center.

The board approved a \$39,935 contract with Tighe and Bond for a second round of groundwater testing at the closed Farley landfill, to comply with current DEP regulations.

Ariel Jones
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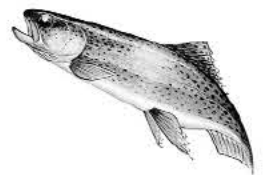
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Learning to Fly Fish Part 9

Disaster Strikes



BY ARIEL JONES

MONTAGUE - Leaving Bradley Airport for home on May 7th, I don't know why I thought the dismal weather was just a fluke. Today is May 31st, and while it is somewhat warmer, there is still a raw chill in the air and clouds are moving in. The rivers are still high. Tom reported to me that the Swift was up to his chest. That means it is practically over my head. Fishing is terrible. A thought troubles the back of my mind; could I actually be happy living in Arkansas?

I see strange sights: a family of pigeons huddled under an umbrella on my window sill; squirrels dashing across tree limbs dressed in little yellow rubber suits. There are rumors about dizzy fish confused at this prolonged depth of the rivers. What is happening? When was the last time it rained every day for a solid month? Is it Tim De Christopher's fault for building that damn Noah's Ark thing?

I dashed into see Richard at Pipione's the other day, but one look at his face told me it wasn't a good time to chat about fishing. Our eyes locked. I nodded sadly, turned and left. I didn't even have the heart to inspect his flies and pick out a few. This was not good. The constant drumming sound on the roof and against the windows is driving me mad.

Finally, a Sunny Day

When a lovely day warm enough to fish came along I went exploring down the Green River and located a spot described to me by a guide I'd met at Sam's in Brattleboro. (To clear up an unfortunate rumor here: no, I do not go to fishing shops to cruise men. I enjoy looking at wooly buggers.)

The river had been stocked; conditions were great, with little

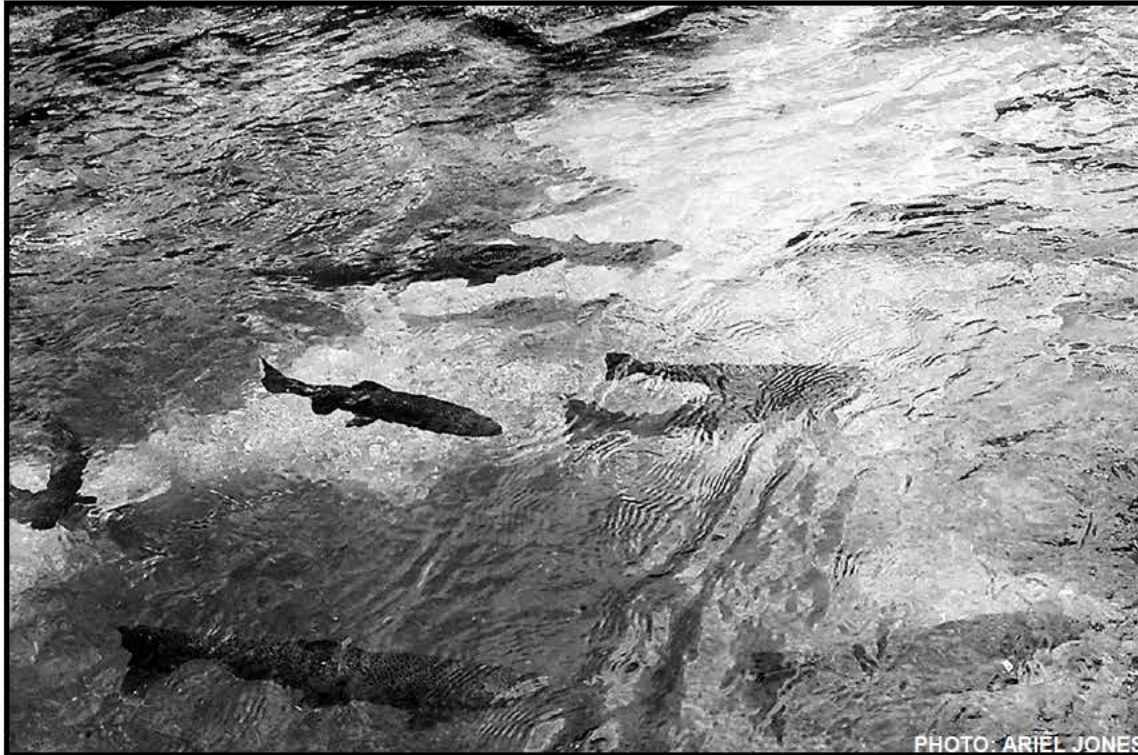


PHOTO: ARIEL JONES

Happy trout in pre-flood days

wind; I was ready. Little did I imagine the catastrophe awaiting me.

Good Morning Heartache

In the process of driving from one unproductive spot to the recommended one, a mysterious accident occurred. When I reached into the car for my rod, ready to head down the bank, I discovered that my lovely Sage rod was now in three sections rather than two. I was so shocked and horrified I sat down on the ground and cried. Was this some kind of test? Had I angered the fishing gods? Do all fly fishers have to suffer to prove they are worthy? Sitting on the ground, staring in disbelief at my shattered rod, I began to hear the sort of songs you listen to when drunk: La Vie en Rose, Good Morning Heartache, Damn that Dream, I'm a Fool to Want You, and so on and on, playing mournfully through my mind as I

blamed myself for such carelessness with an object I truly love.

Trying to pull myself together, I realized I actually didn't know what happened. I had laid the rod at a diagonal across the seats of my car with the tip poking out the front of the window. I had kept checking it, holding it lightly in the middle from time to time, and driven very slowly.

I heard nothing, not a crack or a moan. In fact, I do not know how it broke.

Graphite rods are both tough and very flexible and a Sage rod is one of the better ones.

Fishing is not the Only Form of Madness

OK. There's no crying in fishing. I got back in the car and headed home in the gloomiest of moods, telling myself that this is fixable, I can get a new rod, etc. The problem was a familiar one: blaming myself for an accident. Accepting that it was my fault is

different from unreasoning self-blame. In the larger picture this was not very serious, so why was the sense of culpability so very overwhelming? If someone else told me about this incident, I would agree that it was upsetting, but I would never think, "You idiot; how could you be so careless?" Yet it felt perfectly appropriate to think this about myself.

By the time I reached home I was feeling secretive about it; on the one hand wanting to call someone and on the other not wanting anyone to know. I really didn't want to tell Tom. I thought about my loyal readers. How could I reveal that I had managed to break a lovely rod I had only used a couple of times? Oh God, oh God; what to do? I became drugged with obsessive thoughts and fell onto my bed in a deep sleep. When I woke up, it was raining.

Mountains out of Molehills

After putting on galoshes and making a pot of fresh coffee, a picture rose in my mind of the rod in three sections and the events from earlier that day came rushing back. But now I remembered something astounding: my Sage Lifetime Warranty. Perhaps other people broke their rods? Why else would Sage provide this safety net? Feeling a heart lifting, growing confidence I sat down and wrote a letter to accompany my rod back to the manufacturer in Washington State. Omitting embarrassing self-revelation, I simply stated my rod had broken, could they please replace it? A few days later I received a polite and pleasant telephone call from a woman at the Sage Company letting me know when I could expect my rod back; and could they do anything else for me?

The Deerfield River One Fly Event

My rod will be back on Wednesday, just in time for this weekend's Deerfield River One Fly Event, June 4th and 5th, sponsored by the Deerfield - Millers Chapter of Trout Unlimited. There is still time to register on Friday night at the Charlemont Inn on Route 2, from 4 p.m. until 9:30 p.m.

Email Barry Coppinger at: bcopp@verizon.net to receive a brochure describing the event, giving the time and place, and a registration form via email, or to answer any other questions you may have.

Need more incentive? Take a chance at winning a Thomas and Thomas rod or reel as door prize! Good luck!

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THE HEALTHY GEEZER

Preventing Colorectal Cancer

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - Q. I've noticed that today people talk openly about rectal cancer. This isn't something you used to discuss in polite company. Why the change?

There is a new attitude that protecting your life is more important than protecting your sensibilities. I think the new openness is helping to reduce cancer deaths.

This reminds me of my friend, Pete, who has a "colonoscopy rule." He insists that, if a bunch of us geezers are talking about aches, maladies and visits to the doctors, everyone has to change the subject as soon as someone uses the word "colonoscopy." Usually we switch to grandchildren, which is a lot more fun.

Colorectal cancer-cancer of the colon or rectum-is the second leading cause of death from cancer in the United States. Early detection of colon cancer is especially important because, if it is found in its early stages, it can be cured nine out of ten times.

Who's at risk?

The chances of getting it increase with age. But other risk factors include polyps, your history, diet and whether you've had ulcerative colitis.

Polyps are benign growths on the inner wall of the colon and rectum. Not all polyps become cancerous, but nearly all colon cancers start as polyps.

Colorectal cancer seems to run in families. And, someone who has already had colorectal cancer may develop this disease a second time. So greater vigilance is a good idea if you or your relatives have had it.

This form of cancer is more likely among people on a diet high in fat, protein, calories, alcohol, and both red and white meat. Low-fat, high-fiber diets seem better for the colon.

Ulcerative colitis is a condition in which there is a chronic break in the lining of the colon. Having this condition increases a person's chance of developing



ILLUSTRATION J. HARMON

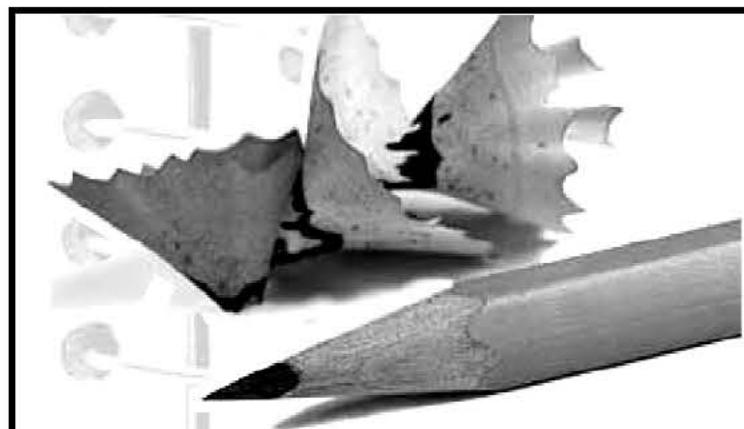
colorectal cancer.

The following are some symptoms of colorectal cancer: blood in the stool, diarrhea, constipation, stools that are narrower than usual, frequent gas pains or cramps, unexplained weight loss, unrelieved fatigue, vomiting.

Go to your doctor if you have symptoms. The medical profession has many detection tools. These include: a test to check for hidden blood in the stool; a sigmoidoscope, a lighted instrument for examining the rectum and lower colon; a colonoscope, a lighted instrument to examine the rectum and entire colon; a barium enema with a series of x-rays of the colon and rectum; a digital rectal exam to feel for abnormal areas.

Two recent studies showed that colonoscopy can find many pre-cancerous polyps that sigmoidoscopy misses. Another major advantage of the colonoscopy is that it enables the doctor to remove any polyps found during the procedure.

A "virtual colonoscopy" is being developed. Doctors would



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be able to see the entire colon using 3-D computer graphics from a computerized tomography scan, or CT scan. This technology could reduce the need

for sigmoidoscopies and colonoscopies, which are more invasive.

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

SAM

continued from pg 1

chutumpah in tangible ways.

Fortunately, Felix decides to discuss his situation with someone he can trust, someone real. He laments that his shrink, along with all the other shrinks in town, has taken a summer holiday. "Where do all the analysts go in August?" He's concerned about his own personal safety in New York City because everybody's running around "crazy until Labor Day."

Felix has the good fortune to have two good friends, Dick and Linda Christie, to listen to his problems and send him out on blind dates. Those dates are all disasters, due to Felix's awkward and nutty behavior. "Analysis won't help me - I may need a lobotomy." But will the sweater-tugging nerd find love in the end?

Harry Poster, from Marlboro, Vermont, is absolute perfection in the lead as Allan Felix. It is almost as if Woody Allen himself (minus a few decades) was there on stage poking at his heavy rims and worrying his wiry locks. The entire show runs on the fuel of Poster's punctual comedic timing and delivery of the script. While the show is a comedy, Poster has grasped the angst of Felix's situation and plays one against the other with natural talent and expertise remarkable for a sophomore.

Also notable in the cast are Felix's best friend Dick Christie, played by senior Trevor Clarke of Northfield. Clarke's fast-talking, inept deal-monger is a study in smooth execution. He adds sincerity where necessary and comic energy in the pre-cell phone days of the business world.

Deerfield's Christopher Bradley's Bogey is a calm, solid presence - this senior displays an enviable Bogey vocalization beneath his smirk.

Award for most charming presence goes to Greenfield's own Clementine Amidon, a junior. Her portrayal of Linda Christie offers the unspoiled sweetness that genuine innocence displays. Yet for her youth, her acting ability encompasses a mature realm of adult feelings with grace and ease.

Behind every great show is an equally great director. *Play It Again, Sam* was guided by the sure hand of the director of the performing arts department at Northfield Mount Hermon, David Rowland. Rowland first came to NMH School in 1978 to begin the theatre program. He's been there ever since.

Of course, there are others

behind the scenes who deserve a good deal of credit for the production. Charles Raffetto, full-time technical director/designer for the department, provided excellent scenic and lighting design for this show. Kudos for costume design go to local hero Sharon Weyers. Weyers is most often noted for her fine work with the Country Players, who perform at the Shea Theatre in Turners Falls.

The sharp-looking set is a two-level interior of Allan Felix's living room and was appointed nicely with the appropriate props in true late-60s style. The groovy Dali-like art on the walls, bright fuzzy rug and throw pillows are rounded out by the strains of Thelonious Monk. All the things that make that era in technology so darn kitschy now are present: a record player, black and white TV and black

rotary telephone. Such attention to detail lends a great deal in taking us back in time.

Previous to this show, I have only attended the Silverthorne to experience the school's exceptional dance performances. In future, I shall make it a point to seek out NMH's theatre offerings as well. As Bogey so aptly points out, "This could be the beginning of a beautiful friendship".

Play It Again, Sam will run Friday, June 3rd, and Saturday, June 4th, at the Silverthorne Theatre, Stone Hall, on the Northfield Campus of Northfield Mount Hermon School. The show begins at 7:30 p.m. and is \$5.00 for general admission. For ticket reservations, please e-mail David Rowland at: david_rowland@nmhschool.org.



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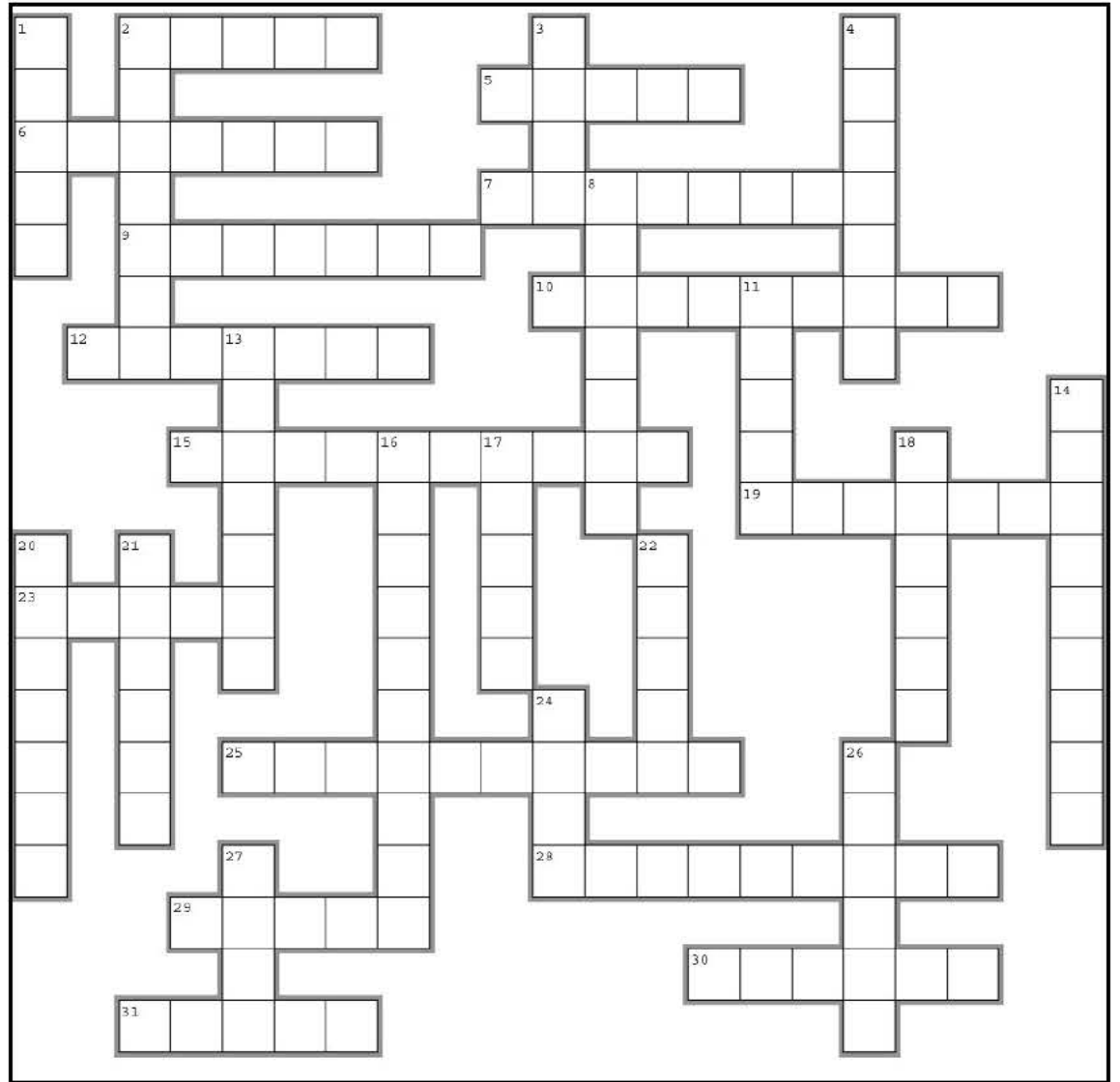
Across

2. Gypsum and glue mixture to coat surfaces in preparation for painting.
 5. Flemish painter of the late middle ages who painted *The Garden of Earthly Delights* and whose work is featured in the package art for Elton John's *Captain Fantastic* album.
 6. An art collector and stockbroker who studied painting under Pissarro and abandoned his middle-class life to be an artist painting famous Tahitian scenes.
 7. Place where film is developed.
 9. American painter who relocated to Europe and joined the Impressionist Movement; was recently commemorated in a series of US postage stamps.
 10. English illustrator known for his magazine and book illustrations as well as naughty caricatures and his friendship with Oscar Wilde.
 12. Post-Renaissance Dutch painter called "the Sphynx of Delft" featured in the modern book and film *Girl with the Pearl Earring*.
 15. Top-shelf brand of artist water-color papers.
 19. Beloved English illustrator of fairy tales, nursery rhymes and fables.
 23. 20th-century landscape and microcosm photographer who preserved pristine views of Yosemite and documented the injustice of Japanese Americans interned at Manzanar War Relocation Center during WWII.
 25. Early-Renaissance Florentine painter whose most famous painting is the *Birth of Venus*.
 28. First photographer featured at the

- Metropolitan Museum of Art (1924) and the standard that all photography was compared to in the US from that point.
 29. Fiber used to make the highest quality artists brushes.
 30. A painter contemporary to Monet, known for soft, airy light and domestic subjects such as his *Luncheon of the Boating Party*.
 31. Painter who also designed textiles, known for his often reproduced painting *The Kiss*.

Down

1. Turn of the century painter known for his ballerina subjects.
 2. Opaque water-based paint.
 3. His etchings recording the horrors of the Napoleonic invasion and his belief that the artist's vision is more important than tradition have led historical references to name this Spanish artist "the first of the moderns" marking the beginning of 19th-century realism.
 4. One of twin, artistic child prodigies from England who illustrated and etched flora and fauna to worldwide acclaim including *Fabre's Book of Insects* and *Arabian Nights*.
 8. Scottish portraitist, a contemporary, friend and painter of Sir Walter Scott.
 11. Late-Middle Ages German artist of The Danube School most famous for his religious woodcuts and mythical engravings like *The Knight, Death and the Devil*.
 13. Early 20th-century French painter, leader of the Fauvist Movement known for expressiveness of color throughout his career.



14. 17th-century Dutch painter of *The Board of the Clothmakers' Guild*, *A Woman Bathing* and *Aristotle Contemplating the Bust of Homer*.
 16. Oleoresin obtained from conifers and used as a solvent or thinner.
 17. Quintessential Art Nouveau commercial illustrator.
 18. Known for her intimate flower

- paintings and marriage to a famous photographer.
 20. Type of knife used by oil painters.
 21. Popular material stretched over a frame to create a painting surface.
 22. Portable stand for the development or presentation of works of art.
 24. A camera's eye.

26. 3-legged support stand.
 27. Spanish painter associated with the Surrealist Movement which he was eventually kicked out of; experimented with pretty much every other movement and technique he was exposed to and is universally known for his melted clock painting.

MEETING

continued from pg 1

not necessarily mean the town would go ahead with landfill development. The RFP would allow the board to select a vendor and a project that would have to go back to town meeting for approval at a later date. Art Gilmore, who served on the committee that developed the RFP, urged those present to vote in favor of the article. "Let's give this town the opportunity to generate income," he said. There are currently three applicants interested in the landfill site, according to Weimer.

"I'm sensitive to the need for revenue," said Doug Dziadzio, chair of the capital improvements committee, "but what happened to the study of alternative uses? We had a proposal that ran a wide gamut," he added, referring to a number of other options discussed last year for alternatives to a landfill. "I'm not sure town meeting has given the selectboard the OK to move forward with the landfill. Why won't the selectboard look at other uses like an industrial park?" he added. Selectboard member Pat Allen responded that a study had been completed a few years ago that determined the site was too small for industrial development, due to the size of the lots required. She added that the configuration of the site made such an idea impractical. "I don't think

putting other things there would do as much for us, said board member Patricia Pruitt. "It's not a thrilling choice," she added. Anyone interested in looking at the RFP should go to town hall before town meeting next week.

Article 6 asks if the town will agree to provide the estimated \$5.7 million needed to address "the combined sewer overflow mitigation and upgrades to the waste water treatment plant." According to Weimer, whose engineering firm has also been consulting on the sewer project, Montague's treatment plant was built in 1964 and updated in 1979. Some of the mechanical components are over 20 years old. The proposed upgrades to the plant, which include electrical code issues, would also make the plant handle sludge more efficiently and reduce disposal costs. Additionally the project would improve the ability of the system to handle hundreds of thousands of gallons of run-off and raw sewage that currently flows into the Connecticut River - without treatment - during major rain events. At present the town is in violation of federal and state clean water guidelines over this combined sewer overflow, and will face the likelihood of serious fines if the issue is not addressed.

No one at the meeting opposed the project itself. It was the method of paying for it that generated controversy. Building

inspector David Jensen argued that the sewer system benefits everyone in town because it allows for the existence of homes, commercial, and industrial enterprises that utilize it. "We have developed a system that attracts industry. They help us," he said. "We're paying 20% of that plant's fees," said Charles Blanker, president of Esleek Manufacturing, the largest commercial venture in Montague. However, he added, "We can't afford to double our cost. We'd go out of business. It is not industry which is putting storm water into the system."

"I've been agonizing (over this) like everybody else," said Allen, who shared some preliminary numbers in regard to the percentage of area of the town dependant on the sewer system. She concluded that 40% was a relatively accurate number, one which could be used to provide a framework for a division of costs (40% for sewer user fees, 60% for general tax levy) for the project. Some voiced deep reservations at this proposal. "I don't think a 60/40 or 40/60 split is OK. It's all that's been presented. I want to know more," said Mike Naughton. "Whatever the board decides, I hope there will be substance to it at town meeting," he added. The selectboard will take up the issue once again at their regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, June 4th.

Article 1, asking the town to

appropriate its share of funding of the 2006 school budget moved ahead without much discussion, especially since superintendent Sue Gee's report was positive. "We are not adding tremendously to the school budget," she said, adding that seven staff positions had been added this past year. She said that increases in the budget addressed increases in health insurance, salaries and heating oil. The budget calls for an increase of 5.6% over last year's total operating expenses for a total of \$15,145,928. Montague's share of that would be \$6,536,021, a decrease of \$126,465 over the initial budget the school proposed. Town meeting will be asked to amend the article to accept the lower figure.

Among the minor articles, the only one that solicited much discussion was Article 4. It asks the town to provide a \$300 reimbursement over 12 months for cell phone use by the town planning department. The money is to be used to reimburse the user the portion of the cell phone contract used for town business. There was some concern in regard to the town's getting into the cell phone business and in regard to how the determination is made as to who is eligible for such a program. Allen agreed that this needed to be established. Abbondanzio added that the town was looking into a town-wide plan for all

departments that regularly use cell phones for town business, primarily employees from the board of health, building, and planning department, the DPW, and police officers. However Carolyn Olsen, town accountant felt the town was getting into a gray area with reimbursements for cell phone use. "I'd like to get out of the cell phone business and put the burden on the employee," she said.



Charity Golf Tournament

Monday, June 20th

Hospice of Franklin County is hosting its first annual golf tournament at Country Club of Greenfield.

Tee times are available from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
 Cost is \$100 which includes cart, breakfast, lunch, gift bag, player prizes and awards banquet. For more information or to register, please call Betty Howe at (413) 773-8608 or Tom Brown at (413) 774-2400.

WENDELL

continued from pg 1

plies up to 65 families with free surplus food, and has a regular group of 20 to 30 families that receive food every week. She gets food for 18 cents a pound from the Western Mass Food Bank, but the food bank now requires a paper stating she has a 501-3(C) nonprofit status. The Wendell Congregational Church sponsored Good Neighbors when Rosser founded the food pantry, but the church has since disbanded. Rosser looked into getting nonprofit status for Good Neighbors, but the forms are daunting; she would need the help of a lawyer, and then have to wait for months before the status was granted. She wondered whether the town could sponsor Good Neighbors.

The board expressed unwillingness to sponsor the food pantry, and suggested the legal-

ty of such an approach might be open to question, but they tried to think of other possible sponsors. Shared town coordinator Nancy Aldrich suggested the New Salem Congregational Church is active, and pastor Joe Greene might be a good person to talk with. Keller suggested other local nonprofit organizations. Lewis suggested that Rosser approach those groups, and let Aldrich know the outcome of her inquiries.

Bill Landry came before the board with Mark Fontaine and Fontaine's son-in-law, Brian, who want to buy and re-license the Mormon Hollow Auto Salvage yard, which Landry bought from Joe Diemand five years ago. Landry said he spent years cleaning up the yard, but recently has wanted to stay closer to home in Templeton, and has spent less time in Wendell. Lewis said the only complaints he has heard about the yard have been from people who have

found it closed when they wanted parts. Fontaine said he planned to continue the operation in a similar fashion, containing fluids, keeping the number of cars to a minimum, and selling parts already removed and shelved. The Fontaine's want to return the focus to Ford products.

Lewis asked how many service vehicles they would use, and Brian answered he planned to use only one ramp truck. The Landry's are not interested in getting into repair work. Selectboard member Christine Heard said Fontaine would have to notify abutters within 300' of the transfer of ownership, with newspaper postings and a hearing as part of the license process. Lewis asked if they had reviewed the terms of Landry's license, and the Fontaine's confirmed they had.

Aldrich told the board that Ray DiDonato had resigned from the open space committee, and Nancy Riebschlaeger was resigning as town accountant. Keller asked Aldrich to write a

letter thanking Riebschlaeger for her service and to begin advertising for a new accountant.

The finance committee updated the board on the Swift River School budget. Linda Overing of New Salem is recommending funding 83% of the school budget, an amount which, if Wendell matches it, would leave the school short \$42,000 from their requested budget.

The two boards went over large capital projects facing Wendell in the near future. The proposed new library, in particular, will require renovation of an existing historic structure (the present town office building) for part of the construction, at a cost of \$400 per square foot. The rest of the library will cost \$225 per square foot, for a total estimated cost of \$1.7 million. An anticipated Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) grant would reduce the town's share of the project to \$800,000, and other grants may reduce the

town's share by a further \$150,000.

The purchase of Anne Marie Meltzer's property, for relocating the town offices to the northeast corner of the common, will cost \$150,000.

The town septic system will cost \$250,000 or more, depending on how it is configured and whether private houses are connected to it.

The Fiske Pond purchase will cost \$130,000, with legal fees.

The town office building is estimated to cost \$185 per square foot, which, for a 5,500 square foot building, will bring the total cost to \$900,000.

A rough estimate to supply water for the town buildings is \$100,000.

Everett Ricketts, the fire chief, has been requesting a new pumper for years. The last estimate for that purchase, now several years old, is \$240,000.

There were long silences between the selectboard and the finance committee as these figures were reviewed.



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MESSAGE

continued from pg 1

Lake, Pleasant, Massachusetts to Prince Charles and the love of his life, Camilla Parker-Bowles, who were married April 9th.

In a letter dated May 16th, Claudia Holloway of Clarence House, London, the Royal couple's residence, replied: "the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall have asked me to thank you for the wedding gift and letter you so kindly sent to them. Their Royal Highnesses are most grateful to you for taking the trouble to send them copies of your two books and they were delighted to learn about your dogs and dog breeding. It really was most thoughtful of you and they have asked me to send you their warmest thanks and best wishes."

"I have been a long-time admirer of Prince Charles," Shattuck said. "I have long

known that Prince Charles is fond of animals and has had experience with Spiritualism through attempts to contact his mentor and friend, Lord Louis Mountbatten, a cousin of Queen Elizabeth, killed by a bomb blast August 27th, 1979, while on his boat off the coast of Ireland." The Irish Republican Army, she said, claimed responsibility for Lord Mountbatten's death.

Shattuck has been to Great Britain a dozen times and toured England, Scotland, Wales, and Ireland, the homeland of her maternal grandmother, Anna Dyer Bickford, who came to the United States as a young girl a century-and-a-half ago and was one of the early mediums in Lake Pleasant as it grew during the 1870s into the largest Spiritualist gathering place in New England. As a member of a three-generational Spiritualist family, Shattuck said she made certain while in the United Kingdom to visit

such religious and spiritual power places as Stonehenge, Avebury, Glastonbury and Castlerigg.

"I entrusted David James of Greenfield, who collaborated with me on *Spirit and Spa*, to mail the package to Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall," Shattuck said. "Unbeknownst to me at the time -- in an effort to get my letter and books past censors and screeners and as high up the royal ladder as possible -- he added the following postscript on the back of the package: 'From an American Anglophile, a flyer on my front porch of the Union Jack, a 12-time visitor to the United Kingdom, a long-time breeder and trainer of English Cocker Spaniels, an animal artist and sculptor, and a Spiritualist for all 85 years of my life.'" The response, Shattuck said, "exceeded my expectations."



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Sox Struggles Continue

BY LEE CARIGNAN

TURNERS FALLS- The Boston Red Sox have been in a tailspin over the last few weeks. They had lost 9 of 13 games going into last weekend's series against the Yanks, pushing them back in the standings with the Yankees and Blue Jays in the AL East. The Sox have had uneven starting pitching and have been struggling to score runs from their underachieving lineup.

Clement (6-0) and Arroyo (4-2) have been solid, but the rest of the starters have been inconsistent. Injuries have plagued the rotation all season. Curt Schilling isn't expected to return now until July. David Wells, (3-4) who just returned from an ankle injury, finally showed signs of breaking out Sunday with a good start against the Yankees. Wade Miller, who is returning from a shoulder injury, looked good in his first

two starts but followed with a bad outing last week where he struggled with his command. The bad start had fans worried about that shoulder again.

Miller rebounded Tuesday night with a great performance to beat a good Orioles lineup, giving up only one run in seven innings. Closer Keith Foulke continues to struggle with a 6.65 ERA. He was lights out last season, but has not been dependable so far this year.

The Sox could be making some changes to the lineup that could help the bats get going. Newly acquired John Olerud may start seeing more action at first base in place of the struggling Kevin Millar (.248, with 2 home runs). Olerud, who hits left-handed, could start platooning at the position and hitting against right-handed pitching. He got off to a great start with 3 hits in his first game with the Sox, in their 17-1 rout of the



Yankees on Saturday. Olerud is hitting over .400 since joining the team. The Red Sox have also been giving Kevin Youklis some work at second base, and may be planning on using him there if Mark Bellhorn doesn't turn things around soon. The Red Sox patience may be running thin with Bellhorn, who has a seesaw history of sub-par seasons following good seasons.

The good news is Manny Ramirez appears to be turning things around. Ramirez' average had dipped to a career low in the

low .230s, but he has recently gotten it back up to .253, with 11 home runs. Edgar Renteria has caught fire in the last few weeks, improving his average to .281. He had a great series over the weekend in New York, going 4 for 4 on Saturday, and has started hitting for power.

Despite their struggles, the Sox are still within striking distance of first place, but are now fighting the Yankees and Blue Jays just to stay in second. The Red Sox have been struggling on the road this season. So far their schedule hasn't been favorable, with 30 of their first 49 games on the road.

The Sox have an important four-game series with the first place Orioles this week. The Red Sox lost the first game 8-1 on Monday night but rebounded on Tuesday with a 5-1 win to remain 3 games out of first place. The Sox have fared poorly against the Orioles this sea-

son and need to at least split with them to keep pace.

Undeafated Turners Heads to Post Season Play

In local sports the Turners Falls girls softball team defeated Greenfield 9-1 last Friday to finish the season a perfect 20-0. Turners Falls ace Julie Girard picked up her 500th career strikeout in the final inning of the contest. Girard had 6 strikeouts on the night, allowing 2 hits and a walk. The Indians scored 5 runs in the fourth inning with RBI doubles by Kelly Brown and Allison Murphy. Brown also hit a big two-run home run in the fifth inning.

Girard's milestone was a perfect way to finish out a super season. Turners Falls, expected to be the top seed in post-season play, will find out this week who they face in the first round.

THE PERSISTENT GARDENER

Mulch, Hey!

BY WOODY BROWN

MONTAGUE CITY- When it comes to getting weeds out of the garden, most of us either simply pull them out by hand or cultivate or both. Cultivating is a very satisfactory gardening practice. I use a three-pronged hand cultivator that works just fine.

Cultivating will help to aerate the garden soil, if it is hard and crusty. As plants become bigger, however, cultivation should be done in a shallow way. You don't want to damage the plant roots. Also, don't cultivate when the soil is wet. This destroys its crumbly structure.

Another beneficial gardening practice is mulching. It conserves moisture, controls weeds and improves soil structure. Organic mulches such as old sawdust, leaves, straw and lawn clippings will also keep the ground cooler, keep it from packing, and add humus to the soil when turned under at the end of the growing season. Any weeds that push up through the mulch can easily be pulled up by hand.



WOODCUT BY MARY AZARIAN

Black plastic makes an excellent mulch, if used properly. It definitely controls weeds.

It also holds moisture in the soil and reduces the loss of fertilizer by leaching. Since dark colors absorb heat and warm the soil underneath, black plastic is particularly beneficial to early-planted crops. Soil under black plastic, however, may get too warm during the summer unless shaded by plant foliage or covered with a material such as cardboard or fine straw.

I've heard some people in

Gill use strips of old living room carpeting for mulch, but we Master Gardeners frown on such practices. Unless of course the carpet is dark, and made with lots of plastic fibers.

A new mulching practice calls for the use of red plastic beneath tomatoes. The reflected light is reportedly a stimulant to growth, thus giving the practitioner an early crop. I'm trying it this year for the first time. (Stay tuned!)

Regardless of the color of your mulch, watering will not be needed as often when the garden is mulched. Hereabouts, crops generally need 1 to 1½ half inches of water per week. If you are into water conservation, mulching is a good practice.

There you have it. Early in the season, cultivate. When your garden plot is nicely weed free, mulch it. Not only will you save water, but you will also save time spent down on your knees extracting weeds. Gardening is for fun. Right? Enjoy!

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Days of Asparagus and Rhubarb

BY FRAN HEMOND

MONTAGUE CENTER - The days of rhubarb and asparagus are New England's reward for seeing through the demanding winter. These two great perennial vegetables give definition to the area. They need the cold winters and they abhor the heat of southern summers. For little basic care after the initial planting, and a couple of years to become established, they offer unmatched delicacies before most annuals have started. And they continue to produce for decades.

The Persian's word for sprout, *asparagus*, has been transferred to our familiar springtime treat. Some of its New England fans have dubbed it "asparagrass," perhaps more suitable to its appearance. A rule of thumb, 'asparagus by May Day,' and 'don't cut after June

25th,' has to be adapted to the cool wet spring at hand.

Cold Brook Farm sent asparagus to the Boston market for decades, first by railroad - the crates hauled to the depot by horse and team - and in later years by truck, the Hibbards of Hadley and Northampton Express picking up an average of fifteen crates a day during the season. And each crate held 24 bunches of Field's fancy or extra fancy jumbo, expertly bunched and tagged and tied with red tape by ladies working in the mill. Each crate was held in Cold Brook until shipping time.



Asparagus at Gardner's Farmstand on Turners Falls Road in Montague

John Bitzer worked at the farm for many years, and relates how the crates were made in the winter. The pine was harvested in the north pasture, and taken back to the main farm where a belt off the wheel of a '27 Buick furnished power to cut the logs. The specific cutting was done

on the bench saws in the mill. Nail the boards together and the crate was ready for asparagus. John was the author of hundreds of crates through the many years he helped on the farm.

And with asparagus comes rhubarb. It adds a tang to spring, makes one sit up and take notice, and it is happiest in mild climates. My granddaughter in North Carolina could not find rhubarb in the more southerly groceries for her rhubarb apple pie, and we sent her some posthaste. Rhubarb gives zip to apples that have lost their flavor, and because rhubarb is so easy to freeze (just cut it up and bag it) it can help out anytime.

My Texas nephew, brought up a Northerner, found rhubarb in the Arkansas hills. Planted in Texas, it would not tolerate the 100 plus degrees demanded of it by the South. The leaves of rhubarb are more or less poisonous, depending on which book you read. They discard easily, and make good compost. Rhubarb can be eaten raw; it does need sugar, which some must consider. Some recipes use brown sugar or honey, which work well. *The Reporter* had good suggestions shortly ago, and modern cooks are innovative. New ideas all the time.

The days of asparagus and rhubarb are treasures. The fleeting fabulous weather hastens these great taste treats that come back every year and give good return for your effort, over and over again.

Naked Theater Serves up Hot Drama in a Noho Bar

BY JESSAMYN SMYTH

NORTHAMPTON - Who needs New York, when you've got the likes of John Hadden staging plays in a Northampton bar? His work has been produced worldwide, he has directed nearly 50 plays in venues from Cologne, France to off-Broadway New York; he is the co-founder and artistic director of the award-winning Counterpoint Theater

Company in Boston, and has taught theatre at Ohio University, Dartmouth, Emerson, and Boston University. You might also recognize him as a founding member of Shakespeare & Company in Lenox, where he has taught, directed and acted for twenty years.

"It's just a good old-fashioned blast, that's all," Hadden said. "There's nothing like the

raucous, raw environment of a simple stage in a bar. I can put up some fun, crazy stuff without worrying about all the complexities of a large, formal performance. I mean, the actors are sitting in the audience with you. When it's their turn they get up and make you laugh, or cry, or guzzle your beer. It's great." Hadden's random and funny piece for the June show is *Orhan, a*

Limerick Writer Down on his Luck, Offers Classes in Improvisational Dance in San Antonio, Texas.

Every Thursday this June, Hadden's work will join that of four other accomplished writers to bring *Naked Theatre 5: Caught Off Guard* to the stage of the Elevens, the Northampton bar that has host-

ed this series of one-act plays woven together by a theme since the founding of Naked Theater two years ago. Showtime, 8 p.m. at The Elevens in Northampton, 140 Pleasant Street. Reservations are encouraged and can be made by calling the Naked Theatre ticket line at 413-582-3945. Ages 21+ only please.

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For more info and to receive a Summer Programs Brochure contact MPRD at: (413) 863-3216 or 863-3229 56 First Street/Unity Park Fieldhouse, Turners Falls, MA 01376. The Summer Programs Brochure is also available at Montague Town Hall, all town libraries, Food City and numerous other locations.

*MPRD is an official Tennis Welcome Center.

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2005 CONCERT SCHEDULE

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| June 20th | Peskeomskut Park, Turners Falls at 7:00 p.m. |
| June 27th | Masonic Lodge, Montague City at 7:00 p.m. |
| July 11th | Peskeomskut Park, Turners Falls at 7:00 p.m. |
| July 25th | Peskeomskut Park, Turners Falls at 7:00 p.m. |
| August 1st | Buckley Nursing Home, Greenfield at 6:30 p.m. |
| August 8th | Peskeomskut Park, Turners Falls at 7:00 p.m. |
| August 14th | Walpole Concert Series in NH at 7:00 p.m. |
| August 19th | "Old Home Days" Montague Center at 7:30 p.m. |
| Dec. 4th | Holiday Concert, St. Anne's in Turners at 7:00 p.m. |

The Montague Community Band is sponsored in part by the town of Montague and by a grant from the Montague Cultural Council, a local agency that is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



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FRIDAY, JUNE 3RD
First Friday Contra Dance with *Moving Violations* at the Guiding Star Grange Hall, 401 Chapman St., Greenfield. 8:00 to 11:30 p.m. (413) 549-1913.

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY JUNE 3RD & 4TH
10th Annual Franklin County Relay for Life 24-hour fundraiser for cancer research. Franklin County Fairgrounds, Wisdom Way, Greenfield. Begins Friday at 6:00 p.m. For info or directions call (413) 734-6000.

SATURDAY, JUNE 4TH
First Saturday Contra Dance with *Wild Asparagus* at the Guiding Star Grange Hall, 401 Chapman St., Greenfield. 8:00 to 11:30 p.m. (413) 772-6840.

MONDAY, JUNE 6TH
The Recital Chorus, under the direction of Margery Heins, with Barbara Hudgik, accompanist, will perform its annual Spring Concert at 7:30 p.m., in St. James Episcopal Church, Greenfield. The concert features music by Schütz, Haydn, Brahms, Delibes and Gershwin as well as madrigals, folk songs, and classic show tunes sung by vocalists of all ages who study singing with Heins. The concert is free, and the public is encouraged to attend.

FRIDAY, JUNE 10TH
The Brick House and the bellybowl Dinner & Music Series

presents *An Acoustic Open Mic*, 6 - 8:30 p.m. for all local musicians, actors and poets. All ages are welcome to join in a fun night of exploring local talents and enjoying some great food! For more information please call the Brick House at 863-9576 or the bellybowl at 863-4064.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15TH
First Annual Montague Thank-you community barbeque in recognition and appreciation of our civic volunteers, sponsored by the Montague selectboard, featuring a presentation of the first **CIVIC INVOLVEMENT AWARD** for volunteer service to the town of Montague, 5 to 8 p.m. at the Schutzen Verein at Barton Cove. Free to members of Montague town meeting and other town boards and committees in 2004 - 2005. \$5 for guests and others. **Reservations required by June 3rd** by calling the town planner at 863-3208 or emailing planner@montague.net.

SATURDAY, JUNE 25TH
Millers Falls Rod and Gun Club annual CLAM BAKE with music by the Mark Snow Band. Chowder at 11 a.m., bake at 2 p.m. Full bake - lobster, chicken, clams and chowder, \$32.50; Chicken and chowder, \$10. For tickets call 863-3748.

Wendell Full Moon Coffee House features Mark Erelli, whose music has been described as everything from "jumpin'



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UPCOMING EVENTS

The Vermont Renaissance Festival announces the opening of its fifth season in Guilford, VT to be held at The Guilford Fairgrounds on **June 25-26th, July 2-3rd, 9-10th & 16-17th 2005**. The Festival is a lush and talent-filled recreation of an English village festival in the 1580s; an exciting, diverse and family-friendly event. Each weekend presents a special performance by well-known international acts. Opening weekend brings both The Empty Hats - featuring Giacomo the Jester, fire-breather and juggler extraordinaire, and Loony Lucy (June 25-26th), and Lord of The Wings - astounding Birds of Prey show. The following weekends are just as vibrant, with Roderick Russell - world-renowned sword swallower (July 9-10th), and as a grand finale the last weekend will

feature the introduction of *L'ensemble Cercamon*, high energy renaissance music (July 16-17th). For the first time at VTRF, sign language interpreters will be translating for the hearing impaired on July 10th. The Paragon Jousting Troupe will dazzle the Queen, Court and the general populace with feats of arms, including fully-armored knights, competing upon horseback in a jousting tournament and in combat using sword and shield upon the field of honor. Additionally, The Vermont Renaissance Festival is proud to present for the first time demonstrations of authentic reproduction cannons, handgonnes, and other more ancient engines of siege warfare. Children will be able to "join the local regiment and participate in pike drills" (with invisible pikes). Opening day, June 25th, offers a special Buy One, Get One Free promotion. July 2-3rd is Kids Free Weekend, for each adult ticket purchased, as many as three children up to 13 years old get in free. July 9-10th & 16-17th VTRF is hosting a



Sleeping Knight almost prepared to perform at the 2004 Vermont Renaissance Festival

MICHAEL A. DE MARTINO PHOTO

Brick House Announces Artist-in-Residence Program and Latest episode of Brick House TV

The Brick House Community Resource Center expanding its community appeal this summer with its new Artist-in-Residence Program (Brick House AIR), which will offer community members of all ages the opportunity to discover, engage, and develop their artistic interests while building a sense of community. Brick House AIR's pilot program, made possible by grants from the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts and Arts Angels, will be taking off on Saturday, June 18th, with an offering for Montague and Gill residents of all ages. Participants will work with a local master gardener in creating a garden and seating space just outside Brick House's new accessible entrance. It will give everyone the opportunity to learn the necessary skills to create such a space, and also give families, individuals, and community members a chance to work together toward a common goal.

Brick House TV takes its study of the Strathmore building a step further, by talking to those

who actually worked there. Also, selections from the May 20th Brick House teen film festival are on display. The show will air Sundays at 10 p.m. and Mondays at 1:00 p.m. in June. The teen FilmFest was a second annual event, featuring such work as a stop motion animation by Justine Regish plus James Damon's capture of Jeremy Latch balancing on a board on top of a can of salmon. There was also an extract from the music video of local teen band "the Me and Them" produced by the Brick House's Third Street Digital Arts Program, under the direction of staff member Robin Mide. Finally, Kit Henry submitted a school project on prohibition and Nate Greene a school project on the death penalty.

The latter two comprise the youth of the Brick House TV Youth Support Team. Brick House TV co-host Mike Langknecht is joined by the new Brick House Executive Director Nancy Emond. The show reaches the five villages of Montague as well as parts of Gill and Erving.

Mabel Zobel
By
Sandra Facto

Be nice to your kids...they will choose your nursing home.

Free Coin - Food Drive: Patrons will receive a free replica coin for each non-perishable food item donated to benefit the Brattleboro Women's Crisis Center and The Drop In Center of Brattleboro Food Shelf, up to 5 coins per person. Admission prices: Adults - \$12, Children (5-13) -\$6, babes in arms are free, no pets please.

Hot Spot Teen Center

Monday - Ongoing Digital Arts Project, 3 to 5 p.m.
Tue & Wed - Ongoing Music Project, 3 to 5 p.m.
Thursday, June 9th - Movie night, 6 to 8 p.m.
Friday, June 10th - Open mic @ bellybowl restaurant, 6 to 8:30 p.m.
Saturday, June 18th - Create a Garden program, 9 a.m. to 12 noon
Thursday, June 23rd - Technology Drop-in hours, 4 to 6 p.m. and Movie night, 6 to 8 p.m.
Friday, June 24th - Open mic, 6 to 9 p.m.
Thursday, June 30th - Technology Drop-in hours, 4 to 6 p.m. and Movie night, 6 to 8 p.m.
These programs are free (except some skate trips) and open to local teens. Some require permission slips. For more info about any of these events or programs please call 863-9576.
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- CRASH R
DAILY 6:00 9:00
MATINEE SAT, SUN, WED 12:00 3:00
- THE LONGEST YARD PG13
DAILY 6:15 9:15
MATINEE SAT, SUN, WED 12:15 3:15
- MONSTER IN-LAW PG13
DAILY 6:15 9:15
MATINEE SAT, SUN, WED 12:15 3:15
- CINDERELLA MAN R in DTS sound
DAILY 6:30 9:30
MATINEE SAT, SUN, WED 12:30 3:30
- STAR WARS III REVENGE OF THE SITH
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Wed - Open Mic with Peter Kim & guest Jim Arnold 8:30 p.m.
Thurs - Karaoke T-N-T
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Empowering Women to Give Birth Naturally

BY KATHY LITCHFIELD
TURNERS FALLS - Corrie Garnet is equipped with a special tote wherever she roams - whether it's to North Adams for a prenatal visit with one of her midwifery clients or to Greenfield to lead an auto mechanics class catering to women.

Always with a warm smile and gentle manner, Garnet uses the tools of her trade to meet people where they are and value their individual strengths. Through her holistic practice, "Birthing Options," as well as through the auto mechanics classes she hosts, she tries to empower women in fundamental ways, reconnecting with the power of natural birth, and teaching the skills of auto repair, two processes that have been all too often dominated by men.

A native of eastern Kentucky, Garnet moved to western Massachusetts eight years ago, and has lived in Turners Falls for the last four and a half. It was in Kentucky she found her calling as a midwife. She had given birth to her first daughter naturally, and a friend asked Garnet to be her labor coach.

"I was so awestruck by the experience, and really moved by it. I felt like for sure that was my thing," said Garnet, who enrolled in nursing courses at Kentucky State University and then apprenticed for three years with a homebirth midwife.

Garnet, who has attended about 70 births since 1990, is a candidate to become a certified professional midwife. She is certified in CPR and as an EMT. Two weeks ago, she graduated from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst's University Without Walls program, which she lauded for its flexibility in allowing her to integrate midwifery in her studies, and to transfer nursing credits from Kentucky. She now holds a human services degree with a concentration in mental health and holistic midwifery, and a minor in psychology, and hopes to integrate counseling into her practice in the coming months.

Since 1997, when she moved

to Heath and then Turners Falls, Garnet built her midwifery practice slowly through word of mouth while home-schooling her two daughters, 16-year-old Megan and 11-year-old Katrina. Megan is enrolled at Greenfield Community College studying liberal arts and Katrina participates in the Tree of Life School at Red Gate Farm in Buckland, a nature school for home-schooling children.

Garnet believes "that birth is a sacred journey and a rite of passage for a woman to pass through into motherhood.

"I am honored to assist women who call on me for support and assistance during pregnancy, and birth. As a midwife I believe that pregnancy, labor and birth are natural events in women's lives and should be treated as such, with care and respect. I believe that all women deserve to have the best possible healthcare for themselves and their families, regardless," said Garnet, who travels extensively throughout western Massachusetts for scheduled prenatal visits and home deliveries.

She offers a free initial consultation with the mother-to-be and her partner and, if hired, schedules hour-long prenatal visits every four weeks during the early stages of pregnancy, bi-weekly at 28 to 36 weeks and once every week at 36 weeks until the baby is born.

Inside her midwifery bag, which is always at the ready, Garnet carries a blood pressure cuff and measuring tape along with a fetoscope, and a doptone, which she uses to listen to the baby's heartbeat. The fetoscope looks like a stethoscope but fits on the midwife's forehead; the doptone uses ultrasound to listen to the baby's heart.

"Using a fetoscope is one of the major arts of midwifery," she said, one she doesn't want



Corrie Garnet of Turners Falls

to see lost to modern technology. Another centuries-old art is "palpation," using the hands to palpate and feel the position of the baby rather than relying on ultrasound to detect its position.

"A lot of moms don't know that," said Garnet, who feels educating mothers-to-be is of utmost importance. "I think a lot of women aren't aware of their options. Homebirth is a good option for healthy women. Hospitals are there for high risk, or if you have a problem with a home birth," she said. "More education would open up more acceptance in our culture, so that more babies could be born in a peaceful environment. I think part of the problem is that it's systemic. Women have been socialized to fear their own bodies. That there's so much fear around birth is just a symptom of our patriarchal culture. Birth is a natural process and I hope that the general public gets a better grasp of that through education. We have come a long way in the past 20 years or so."

If a mother needs to be transported to the hospital during her delivery, Garnet accompanies and supports her client through the entire birth experience and until breastfeeding is established.

"I think empowering women is a big part of it," she said of the rewards of her work. "When

a woman is allowed to labor and deliver her baby on her own, she's so fulfilled and empowered by that experience, as a full woman. Not only as an adult woman but as a mother to her children, and it gives her confidence in herself and in her abilities.

"And, of course, to see all the little babies being born in a peaceful environment and nurtured by family and friends, welcomed by the people who love them," she said.

When she's not caring for moms-to-be, Garnet may be

repairing her automobile, something she taught herself out of necessity, when mechanics diagnosed her car with some very different problems. One said it was the engine while another said it was the carburetor. As it turned out, her car only needed a new fuel filter, which Garnet replaced herself for about \$1 in parts.

Largely for safety reasons, Garnet teaches women to change their oil, check and top off the fluids, change a tire and learn routine maintenance. She has held three courses, thanks to funding from the Women's Resource Center, the Brick House and the Recover Project in Greenfield, and is looking for funding for a fourth.

Garnet also is a phlebotomist who performs physical exams in people's homes for insurance companies; and she loves to face paint -- using non-toxic acrylic art paint in bright colors -- and tie hair wraps at carnivals and local festivals, most recently at Pride Day in Northampton.

Garnet draws many connections between the various parts of her life.

Just as auto mechanics get more money to repair engines and carburetors, she said, doctors get more money to do cesarean sections. Twenty-five percent of all women in the United States have C-sections, which increases the risk of the

mother's death in childbirth as well as the risk of birth injuries, according to Garnet, partially because it's harder to get a baby to breathe when it's taken out surgically, as the baby doesn't have the fluid squeezed out of its lungs while traveling through the birth canal.

While doctors are trained to come in just before the birth and often perform episiotomies, midwives give the perineum support so the woman can stretch.

"I once delivered a baby at home that was 11 pounds, 12 ounces, and the woman had no tear," said Garnet, whose own two daughters weighed around nine pounds. "I felt that if I could do it, most women can."

Garnet also sees similarities between home schooling and home births.

"The idea for me is that the institution just can't cater to the individual. Only one-third of children in the classroom are being taught. One third is ahead of the class while one-third is behind," she said. "With hospital births there is a schedule - doctors expect women to dilate one centimeter per hour and they give them Pitocin (a drug) to help speed that up. That only works for some women. A lot of women take longer to have babies, and some women have babies so fast they would rather they had them at home."


There is pending legislation in Massachusetts that would license midwives and would allow certified nurse midwives (CNMs) to regulate themselves rather than work for medical doctors. Such a bill would be the first of its kind in the country. Garnet could continue to work as she has, but would be regulated by a state board comprised of midwives. If passed, the bill would help low-income women who choose homebirth because some insurance companies, such as MassHealth, would pay for it.

Women wishing to contact Garnet for more information can call her at 863-2129, send email to corrie01346@yahoo.com, call her cell phone at (413) 222-6109 or visit her website: www.corriegarnet.byregion.net.

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