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On Center Street  
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LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 5 - NO. 37

also serving Gill, Erving and Wendell

50¢

REPORTER@MONTAGUEMA.NET

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JUNE 21, 2007

## Town and School Officials Meet G-M BUDGET IMPASSE

**BY DAVID DETMOLD**  
“I don’t know of any district that’s been pushed to the limit we’re at now,” said Gill-Montague school superintendent Kenneth Roche. “This is a failed budget.”

Roche, twelve days into his tenure as interim school superintendent, discussed possible next steps for getting an ‘08 school budget approved with a roomful of select-board, finance committee, and school committee members from the towns of Gill and Montague on Tuesday night, June 19th.

“I’m hopeful we can build on a spirit of cooperation to get through what is clearly going to be a difficult process to reach a solution we can all live with,” said Roche.

He said he had been in close touch with officials from the state Department of Education in the last few days, including the Commissioner of Education, David Driscoll. “If we do not have a budget agreed upon by July 1st,” Roche said, Driscoll will reach a determination “based on last year’s budget, what a one twelfth budget will amount to,” for the Gill-Montague schools to operate on a month by month basis

until a new budget can be approved. Roche said it will be up to the state education commissioner to decide whether a one twelfth budget should include last year’s G-M debt payments for the high school and middle school renovation, even though most of that debt has been retired. If it does, Roche said, operating the G-M schools on a one twelfth budget for ‘08 would result in a total operating budget only \$99,000 less than the amount the schools’ have most recently certified for the coming year: \$16,534,401.

Meanwhile, town meetings in Gill and Montague have approved school assessments that would leave a considerably larger gap: \$863,421. When the state steps in to authorize a one twelfth budget, the commissioner of education has considerable statutory power to force the towns to make up the difference in school assessments.

If the towns cannot agree on a budget for the schools, Roche said, the state could take over the G-M schools, “and put the district under control of another district, or run it from Boston,” and take

see **BUDGET** pg 5



Tobacco grows beneath protective netting off Route 47 in Sunderland.

DETMOLD PHOTO

**BY DAVID BRULE**  
**MILLERS FALLS** - We couldn’t wait to get started! Most of the gang had turned 14 over the winter and spring, and so it was time for us to go to work, get a summer job. Ed Bourdeau and Bill Connelly, our teachers at TFHS signed us up in the spring, and before long

### VILLAGE SKETCHBOOK

we had our social security numbers that, little did we realize, would keep track of us for life. If maybe we had thought a little bit more about it, we would have put off joining the work force for just one more summer, maybe

spending one more season playing baseball, hanging out at Thomas’s pool, mowing lawns or loafing. But no, we were of age, our fathers and mothers, uncles and aunts had jobs at the paper mill or tool shop, brothers and sisters

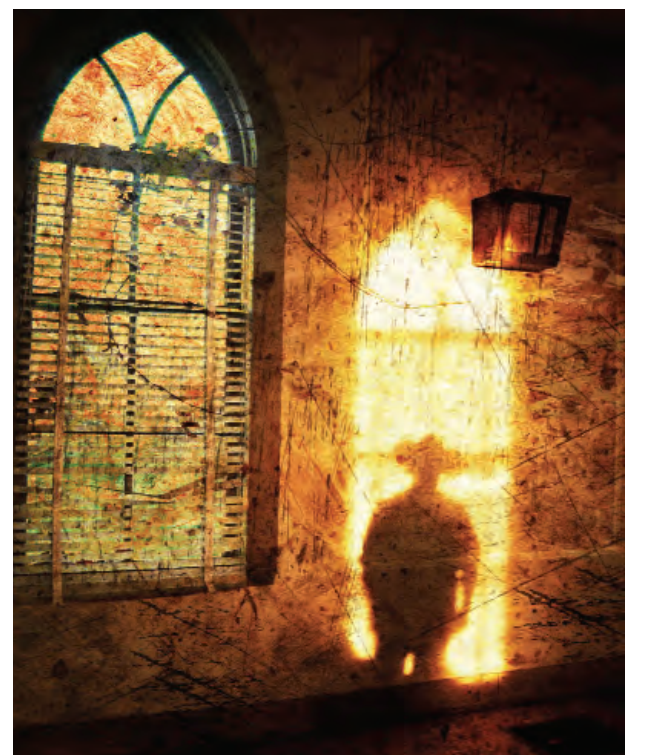
were on tobacco, so that’s what we were supposed to do too. Join the labor force, for the next fifty years of our lives!

Working on tobacco meant getting up and catching the blue Consolidated Cigar Corporation bus at 5:45 to see **TOBACCO** pg 10

## Student Print Show Benefit AT THE HALLMARK MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART

**BY CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUCANNO**  
**TURNERS FALLS** - Let’s say that in the mid-1960s you came across a stunning photograph of Marilyn Monroe, and

being either a fan of Marilyn, or of fine photography, you decided to plunk down \$35 for the print. You didn’t know much, if anything, about the photographer, a young guy named Douglas Kirkland, but you did know that you liked the photo. Had you done that, you’d now have a photo on your wall that’s worth about \$20,000. It turned out that the photographer went on to become one of the world’s leading portraitists. Indeed, the chances are that if you have an image of a celebrity in your head, it’s a Kirkland photograph you’re



Ben Kautt print, on sale this weekend at the Hallmark Benefit see **HALLMARK** pg 7



DETMOLD PHOTO

Town and school officials from Gill and Montague gathered Tuesday night to confront an \$860,000 school budget gap. Left to right: Frank Abbondanzio, Nancy Griswold, Allen Ross, Jeff Singleton, (obscured) Kenneth Roche, Valeria Smith, Patricia Pruitt, Paul Nowill, Mary Kociela, Marje Levenson, Lynn Reynolds and (foreground) Joyce Phillips.

## PET OF THE WEEK Energetic Gal



### Annie

Annie is a one-year-old female hound mix in need of a good home. Annie is an energetic young gal who skips every other step while out on a walk. She is bright, sweet dog who is as happy as can be when we take her out for walks. She has beautiful coloring with soft brindle striping. Annie has a tremendous amount of energy and is looking for a home where she can have a lot of interactive exercise with her owners. She is a jumper and has proven her ability to scale a six foot fence, so she is not a dog that can be left outside alone. Annie would love to attend a training class to learn some basic obedience, especially greeting politely and loose leash walking! Annie can not be placed in a home with cats. For more information on adopting Annie please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at 413-548-9898 or via email at leverett@dpvhs.org.

## ERVING PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS

### Summer Reading Program

BY MARCIA BERNARD

The Erving Public Library will host its Summer Reading Program from June 18th - August 10th. The program is designed to encourage reading and visiting the local public library and is open to children and adults of all ages. In addition to a range of programs celebrating the theme "Catch the Beat at your Library", there will be raffles and prizes including an iPod, gas card, gift card and musical instruments. "Catch the Beat at your Library" is sponsored by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, and the regional library system.

Programs include:

The Springfield Symphony Orchestra's Musical Petting Zoo on Wednesday, June 27th from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. After a brief introduction, children will be able to try a range of musical instruments. This program is targeted to children in preschool - grade 5, and their families.

A Drumming Workshop to take place on Tuesday, July 10th from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Percussionist Ellen Clegg will lead this hands-on program. For all ages.

Children's Songs and Singing Games: A family concert with Roger Tincknell takes place on Wednesday, July 18th from 6:30 p.m. This festive and participatory program of traditional, original and multicultural children's songs is for the whole family. Outside, weather permitting.

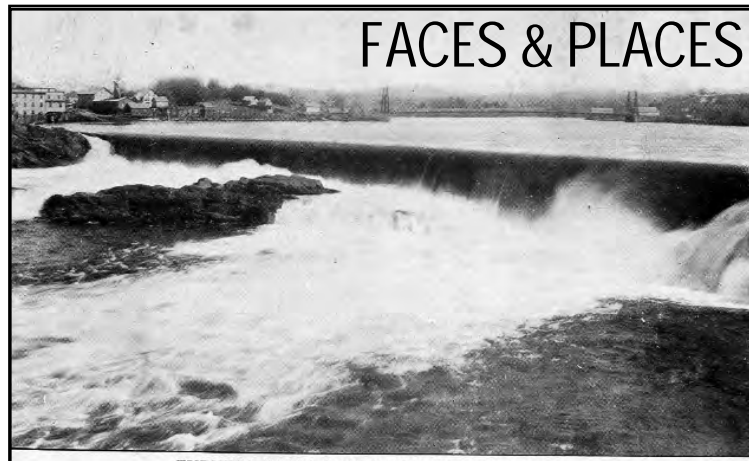
An evening of Native American Drums and Music to be held on Tuesday, July 31st from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Loril Moonbeam and Peter Whitefox will lead this introduction to Native American Drumming and Music. For the whole family.

DJ Brenda Lee will join us for karaoke on Wednesday, August 8th at 6:30 p.m.

This special evening is just for teens to catch the beat at the library.

All of the above programs are supported in part by a grant from the Erving Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

The EPL Chess Club resumes on Tuesdays in August. 6:30 - 7 p.m. beginner lessons, 7 - 8 p.m. open play. All skill levels are invited to



TURNERS FALLS DAM, TURNERS FALLS, MASS.

*A vintage postcard of the Turners Falls Dam, courtesy of Joseph Parzych and Vickie Huttonson.*

join us in the King's game: Chess. Andy Morris-Friedman is back to help you learn the game, or refine your skills. Chess Club is targeted for entering fourth graders through adults. Sets are provided, but space is limited and registration is required. (You do not need to attend all four sessions - register for as many as you'd like.)

The Summer Reading Program concludes with Fog, Flowers and Fireworks a traveling program of the Boston Museum of Science on Friday August 10th at 7 p.m.

What do fog, flowers, and fireworks have in common? Chemistry! Witness some colorful, and explosive indications that a chemical reaction is taking place. This fun and educational program is for the whole family.

For more information on any of these programs, or to register please visit the library at 17 Moore Street in Erving.

### Picnic on the Common on the Gill Common

Sponsored by The Friends of Gill  
Sunday, June 24th

Starting at Noon

Food concessions

- Fall Town String Band 12-2
- Horse-Drawn Hay Rides 12-2
- Children's Sawdust Coin Hunt 2:00
- Fire Trucks

### Free Lunch for Kids

The Gill - Montague Regional School District will once again be offering the Summer Lunch Program. anyone ages 18 and under can receive a free lunch, regardless of their income status, Monday through Friday at either Hillcrest Elementary School or Unity Park in Turners Falls.

The program is sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture and the Massachusetts DOE.

### CORRECTION

In recent articles, we incorrectly identified Brian Carroll as the chair of the Montague airport commission. He was formerly the chair of that commission; Peter Golrick is now the chair.

## CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS

### Catch the Beat at the Carnegie



PHOTO LINDA HICKMAN

BY LINDA HICKMAN

TURNERS FALLS - John Porcino of Amherst entertained 50 children and adults with funny stories and multicultural instruments. The program was

the kick-off the Catch the Beat at Your Library Summer Reading Program.

Pictured are John Porcino with a Pakistani instrument, Shane, and Elli, Lucy and Emily Koester of Warwick. The

event was cosponsored by the Montague Cultural Council, which is funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, and the Montague Public Libraries.

## SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES June 25th - 29th

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

**Monday, 25th**

10 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
11 a.m. Easy Aerobics  
1 p.m. Canasta

**Tuesday, 26th**

9:30 a.m. T'ai Chi

**Wednesday, 27th**

10 a.m. Senior Aerobics

12:45 p.m. Bingo

**Thursday, 28th**

1:00 p.m. Pitch

**Friday, 29th**

10 a.m. Senior Aerobics

11 a.m. Easy Aerobics

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

necessity by calling Dana Moore at 978 544-3898.

**Monday, 25th**

9:30 a.m. Exercise

9:45 a.m. Library

12 Noon Pitch

**Tuesday, 26th**

9 a.m. Aerobics

12:30 p.m. Painting

**Wednesday, 27th**

9:00 a.m. Line Dancing

10 a.m. Weight Loss Group

12 Noon Bingo

**Thursday, 28th**

9 a.m. Aerobics

10:15 a.m. Pool

12:30 p.m. Shopping

**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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Published weekly on Thursday.  
(Every other week in July and August. Wednesday paper fourth week of November. No paper last week of December.)  
PHONE (413) 863-8666  
FAX (413) 863-3050  
reporter@montaguema.net  
Postmaster: Send address changes to  
The Montague Reporter  
24 3rd Street  
Turners Falls, MA 01376  
Advertising and copy deadline is Tuesday at NOON.  
This newspaper shall not be liable for errors in advertisements, but will print without charge that part of the advertisement in which an error occurred. The publishers reserve the right to refuse advertising for any reason and to alter copy or graphics to conform to standards of the newspaper  
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**Three Generations of Wendell Women Honored**

Angela Ferris (right) received her Associates degree with high honors from Greenfield Community College. She has been accepted to Smith College as an Ada Comstock student.

Angie's mother Phyllis Ferris (center) received her Masters degree with high honors in Library Sciences from Simmons College and her Massachusetts Teacher certification.

Her grandmother Rosalie Rosser (left) received a 2007 Unsung Heroine Award from the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women (MCSW) in a ceremony at the State House for her work with the Good Neighbors food pantry.

**Can Your Car or Furnace Run on Used Vegetable Oil?**

Summer is the perfect time to roll down the windows and go for a drive on a country road, but could you be powering that drive with fuel that comes from above the ground rather than below it? And, in addition to living a little greener, would you also be saving a little green stuff from your wallet at the same time?

Bring your questions about alternative fuel cars to Northfield Mountain and meet with Jennifer Paris, owner of Seven Sisters Auto in Hatfield on Tuesday, June 26th from 7 - 8:30 p.m. Jennifer will describe how cars can be converted to burn waste vegetable oil from sources like local restaurants. She will also discuss the work Seven Sisters is doing with alternative home heating. After a brief presentation and audience Q&A the group will head outside to look at how the system works in a converted car. This free program takes place at Northfield Mountain Recreation & Environmental Center located on Route 63, two miles north of Route 2. Please pre-register by calling Northfield Mountain at 800-859-2960

**Six Daughters as Pallbearers**



**WENDELL** - Elsie Diemand's daughters carried her casket to her burial site at the family plot, where she will lie beside her late husband Al. On Friday, June 15th, a large crowd of friends and neighbors gathered at the field beside the Diemand Farm on Mormon Hollow Road to pay their last respects, and to sing *Just a Closer Walk with Thee*, and another song Elsie had specially requested for her send-off: *Leaving on a Jet Plane*, by John Denver.

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<b>Editor</b> David Detmold	<b>Layout &amp; Design</b> Kathleen Litchfield Boysen Hodgson Katren Hoyden Karen Wilkinson Suzette Snow-Cobb	<b>Photography</b> Lisa Davol Joe Parzych
<b>Assistant Editor</b> Kathleen Litchfield	<b>"The Voice of the Villages"</b>	
<b>Editorial Assistants</b> Hugh Corr David Brule	<b>Founded by</b> Arthur Evans Harry Brand David Detmold August, 2002	<b>Technical Administrators</b> Michael Muller Michael Farrick
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## Going Up

The Montague Reporter, like other small publications, was hit a few weeks ago with a steep hike in postal rates for subscriptions sent through the mail. Local rates rose from 31 cents to about 41 cents; while the cost of mailing a paper further afield has risen from 31 cents to 53 cents. Therefore, we will have to raise the cost of subscriptions for people living outside of our immediate coverage area, for the first time in five years, from \$20 to \$25 for a half a year.

Read more about the forces behind this hike, and the chilling effect it may have on freedom of the press, in the following editorial by media critic Bob McChesney.

### Postal Hike Imperils Freedom of the Press

BY BOB MCCHESENEY -

There is a major crisis in our media taking place right now; it is getting almost no attention and unless we act soon the consequences for our society could well be disastrous. It will only take place because it is being done without any public awareness or participation; it goes directly against the very foundations of freedom of the press in the entirety of American history.

The U.S. Post Office is in the process of implementing a radical reformulation of its rates for magazines, such that smaller periodicals will be hit with a much, much larger increase than the largest magazines.

Because the Post Office is a monopoly, and because magazines must use it, the postal rates always have been skewed to make it cheaper for smaller publications to get launched and to survive. The whole idea has been to use the postal rates to keep publishing as competitive and wide open as possible. This bedrock principle was put in place by James Madison and Thomas Jefferson. They considered it mandatory to create the press system, the Fourth Estate necessary for self-government.

It was postal policy that converted the free press clause in the First Amendment from an abstract principle into a living, breathing reality for Americans. It has served that role throughout our history.

What the Post Office is now doing goes directly against 215 years of postal policy. Under the plan, smaller periodicals will be hit with as much as a 30 percent hike. Some of the largest circulation magazines will face hikes of

less than 10 percent.

The new rates were developed with no public involvement or congressional oversight, and the increased costs could damage hundreds, even thousands, of smaller publications, possibly putting many out of business. This includes nearly every political journal in the nation. These are the magazines that often provide the most original journalism and analysis. We desperately need them.

What the Post Office is doing, in the dark of night, is implementing a rate structure that gives the best prices to the biggest publishers, hence letting them lock in their market position and lessen the threat of any new competition. The new rates could make it almost impossible to launch a new magazine, unless it is spawned by a huge conglomerate.

Not surprisingly, the new scheme was drafted by Time Warner, the largest magazine publisher in the nation. All evidence available suggests the bureaucrats responsible have never considered the implications of their draconian reforms for small and independent publishers, or for citizens who depend upon a free press.

The genius of the postal rate structure over the past 215 years was that it did not favor a particular viewpoint; it simply made it easier for smaller magazines to be launched and to survive. That is why the publications opposing the secretive Post Office rate hikes cross the political spectrum. This is not a left-wing issue or a right-wing issue; it is a democracy issue. And it is about having competitive media markets that benefit all Americans. This reform will have disastrous effects for all

small and mid-sized publications, be they on politics, music, sports or gardening.

I know many of you are connected to publications that go through the mail, or libraries and bookstores that pay for subscriptions to magazines and periodicals. If you subscribe to publications that go through the mail, or patronize libraries and bookstores that pay for subscriptions to magazines and periodicals, go to [www.stoppostalratehikes.com](http://www.stoppostalratehikes.com). If there is one thing we have learned at Free Press over the past few years, it is that if enough people raise hell, we can force politicians to do the right thing. This is a time for serious hell-raising.

Bob McChesney is one of the founders of Free Press, [www.freepress.net](http://www.freepress.net), a national organization working to reform the media.

### Note to Our Readers

The Montague Reporter will begin our usual summer schedule, printing every other week, following our June 28th issue. There will be no paper on July 5th and 19th, August 2nd, 16th, and 30th. People wondering why they do not receive a paper on these dates should refer back to this note rather than leave angry messages on our phone machine, as they do each year.



KAREN WILKINSON ILLUSTRATION

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Home Town Girl Heads to American Idol Camp

My 12-year-old daughter Brooke has been accepted to the American Idol Camp taking place this summer at Northfield Mount Hermon. Brooke is an A student who received the President's Award at Sheffield's 6th grade graduation last week. She has been in various productions at the Shea Theater and at her school, and loves the performing arts. She had to fill out an extensive online application to get into Idol Camp, including writing three short essays. She received her acceptance almost immediately, and will be attending the session from July 21st - 30th.

I am a home daycare provider, but work a Sunday breakfast shift at Rooster's Bistro in Northfield, which is



Brooke Martineau as Princess Leona in the recent Sheffield Elementary School play "The Dancing Princesses."

actually doing the catering for Idol Camp. The restaurant is

very excited about this, and some of the regular customers have donated toward Brooke's costs. I also recently entered the Valley Idol 2007 competition and won both the grand prize and the audience favorite award at the Shea Theater. All of the winnings went directly to Brooke's tuition.

We are very proud to be sending our hometown girl to this amazing event happening right in our area! It will be an experience of a lifetime for her.

- Alana Martineau  
Turners Falls

### American Dead in Iraq as of 6/20/07



### Still Champs to your Fans!

To the Turners Falls High School Softball Team:

Whether you have the silver or the gold hanging around your necks, you ladies are the best in our eyes! To accomplish all that you have done this year and in the past, is truly awesome. You are, and always will be, the Girls of Summer to your fans!

Proud to be one of them,

- Linda Ackerman  
and the Greenfield Savings Bank  
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**BUDGET** from pg 1

whatever steps are necessary to resolve the fiscal crisis, "including closing schools."

"I have a deep feeling that it is not in the best interest of the district" to have the state step in and run things, said Rocke. "The end result is a loss of local control. Fiscal decisions always have an educational impact, as we have seen in the last few years. We really have to work as a region if we want to control our own destiny."

But if a solution to the budget impasse cannot be found locally within a few months, Rocke said, "by statute, the commissioner takes control, and sets taxes for the towns. The powers of the commissioner in that situation are pretty comprehensive. It's something we want to avoid if at all possible."

Rocke continued, "If we were able to somehow agree on a budget locally, that will send a very good message that they don't have to step in, and we are in control of our district."

Rocke said the school committee would certify a new budget at their next meeting, Tuesday, June 26th, that would include cuts of 4.4 teaching and staff positions, in addition to the 4.5 positions they have already been cut from the budget. These additional cuts would result in a savings of about \$100,000, Rocke said.

As the meeting got underway, budget subcommittee chair Valeria Smith said the G-M schools had overcome a projected half million dollar deficit to end the current fiscal year approximately \$125,000 in the black. Additionally, Smith said the schools' present free cash reserves (Excess and Deficiency) had been certified at \$168,000. A decision to apply some of these reserves toward the current budget shortfall would need to be taken by June 30th, Smith said, but she cautioned the schools could not operate safely without some cushion to handle unanticipated shortfalls - such as additional special education students requiring out of district placements - that could occur.

The anticipated cuts, and the possible transfer of reserves to meet next year's operating expenses, will not go far toward covering the \$863,421 gap. Moreover, Rocke said, in his discussions with state education

was not set up to put districts in competition with each other, but they are. Losing too many students to school choice can demoralize a district and drain it financially."

Montague town accountant Carolyn Olsen asked if there was any way the G-M schools could avoid going to a one twelfth budget at this point. Rocke said there was not, because even if the school committee approves a new budget on the 26th that the towns feel they can live with, the time necessary to schedule special town meetings would put approval of a new budget beyond July 1st, the start of the new fiscal year.

Montague finance committee chair Jeff Singleton said, "I'm seeing an ongoing crisis, with no end in sight. It never seems to change. It never seems to go away. If we put a band-aid on it this year, when is it going to stop? We need to push the state, here and in other districts. These are their mandates we are trying to fulfill. I've kind of had it with volunteering for the finance committee and walking the gangplank for overrides. But no one is walking the gangplank for higher state taxes."

Singleton has arranged a meeting with state representatives Steve Kulik and Chris Donelan, and state senator Stan Rosenberg for Monday, June 25th at town hall from 5 to 7 p.m.; school and town officials will attend.

Rocke held out some hope for higher than expected regional transportation reimbursement for the coming year, or possibly an allocation of state 'Pothole' funds for regional districts with declining enrolment, like Gill-Montague. But he said, "We can solve the fiscal problem locally. If we send any other message, the situation will start to slip out of our hands. We need to buy time."

"I could spend the next four months managing a budget that is falling apart, or I can put that time into lobbying for increased state aid. You need to be at the table when those discussions take place," Rocke said.

*"We need to push the state. These are their mandates we are trying to fulfill. I've kind of had it with volunteering for the finance committee and walking the gangplank for overrides. No one is walking the gangplank for higher state taxes."*

- Jeff Singleton, Montague Finance Committee Chair

officials they made it clear, "They have concerns about a budget that is reduced further." He cited the school committee's earlier decision to reduce the budget by eliminating a full time curriculum coordinator along with reading and math specialists, positions called for by a recent External Quality Assessment at the G-M schools.

Montague selectboard member Al Ross asked if passing a budget with more staff cuts would be worse for the students than allowing the state to step in and run the district.

Rocke replied that the Gill-Montague district was experiencing financial difficulty, but nevertheless, "We have good schools, we have good teachers, we have good students. If we can sort out the fiscal situation, I don't think the state is looking to step into more districts."

Even amid the fiscal difficulty, Rocke said, "I do think it would be good to somehow find some new initiatives for the district," such as Project Lead the Way, a pre-engineering program designed to introduce students to basic engineering concepts before they enter college that Rocke formerly implemented at the Blue Hill Regional School District with \$40,000 in grant funding. "These kinds of programs can galvanize a district and bring in students," Rocke said. He added, "School choice

The idea of taking an additional \$100,000 out of Montague's reserve funds to help bridge the schools' budget gap was raised. Selectboard members from both Gill and Montague talked of the likelihood of seeking an override to fund the schools this summer. For Montague, an override figure of \$200,000 was mentioned. Singleton said it would be important for the schools to develop a five-year budget plan, showing how they plan to control expenses and live within projected revenues before seeking approval from the voters for an override request.

When mention of an override came up, Montague selectboard member Pat Allen asked people to bear in mind, "We're looking at a debt exclusion for a new police station this year."

Selectboard member Patricia Pruitt said she had heard from some folks in town, "who are starting to feel a little upset about funding a \$4 million police station while we're letting the schools hang out. It may be that resolving the school budget is the best way of getting the police station passed."

To which Allen replied, "My vote would be with the police station."



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# Tanzer Held on \$100,000 Bail

BY DAVID DETMOLD

**NORTHAMPTON** - On Friday, June 15th, in Northampton Superior Court, judge Bertha Josephson agreed to reduce bail for Jonathan Tanzer, accused of setting the fire that burned down Building #10 of the Strathmore Mill on the morning of May 26th, but not by much.

Tanzer's court-appointed attorney, Barry Auskern, asked Josephson to reduce Tanzer's bail, originally set at \$100,000 cash or \$1 million personal surety, to \$5,000 cash.

In making the request, Auskern offered a brief review of

the circumstances of the case, from the defendant's perspective. "At the time of the fire, my client had been working for Mr. Jerry Jones," Auskern began. "He had suffered an accident working at the behest of Mr. Jones, and [Tanzer's] attorney," Joseph Bernard of Springfield, "filed a damage claim against Mr. Jones," which resulted in "Judge Agostini placing a \$1 million lien on the Strathmore" on Tanzer's behalf.

Auskern said the arson case against Tanzer rests on a claim made by Tanzer's "on-again, off-again girlfriend, Amber Hewes,

who made a statement to the Montague police that she had accompanied my client to the mill to recover some loose copper," on the morning of the fire. "They were going to sell it down in Springfield. She would act as lookout. She waited in the car, and after half an hour, Hewes said my client came back to the car and told her, 'The copper's gone. I lit the building on fire.'"

Auskern continued, "The next morning Hewes received a call from her father saying the Starthmore Mill is on fire. She never said a word about Mr. Tanzer's alleged actions. She never said a word to anyone until Tuesday, (June 12th), when she made a statement to the police that her ex-boyfriend lit the building on fire." She claimed she had kept silent for two and a half weeks about the cause of the fire because, "Mr. Tanzer is very controlling and 'never let her out of his sight.'"

Auskern recounted how he had called a recess at Tanzer's arraignment and contacted an individual by the name of Matt McDonough, at Labor Ready in Greenfield, "who confirmed my client, during the intervening 2½ weeks, had worked essentially 10-hour shifts at a bakery in Brattleboro." Auskern since received a copy of Tanzer's work record at Labor Ready, which confirmed he had been working there since June 1st, for a total of 36 hours, not including travel time.

"This calls into question Amber Hewes' explanation that Mr. Tanzer had her under his sight at all times," Auskern maintained.

Regarding the injuries that Tanzer suffered when, in Jones' presence on May 6th, he cut into a 13,800 volt live transmission wire in an attempt to salvage copper wire, Auskern said, "I should point out that this building, because of his lawsuit and writ of attachment, would represent a significant financial windfall if he was successful in



COURTESY MONTAGUE POLICE DEPT.  
Jonathan Tanzer, accused of setting the fire at the Strathmore Mill on May 26th.

his lawsuit. He would have no reason to destroy the one asset that promises him payment for his injuries," which were extensive enough to require skin grafts.

Auskern next turned to discrediting Hewes. He reviewed an assault and battery charge brought against Tanzer by Hewes in November of last year, when she alleged that Tanzer violently assaulted her in Building #10 of the Strathmore Mill, where the couple was apparently living at the time. She told police that Tanzer had beaten her with a metal pipe. When the police arrived, they found Tanzer asleep, and no sign of a pipe, though they conducted an extensive search, Auskern said.

Auskern, who by the luck of the draw also happened to be chosen to represent Tanzer in that case, said after it was brought to court, "Hewes never appeared again," to press charges against Tanzer. By comparison, Auskern said, "My client was in full compliance with his conditions of release, including no drugs, no alcohol, frequent screens, and he showed up at pretrial, he showed up at trial; Amber Hewes never did."

Based on his record in the assault and battery case, which Auskern called a serious charge with the threat of serious jail time, Auskern asked that bail be reduced to \$5,000 cash.

Prosecuting attorney Michael McHale defended Tanzer's bail

at the amount set by judge William McDonough, in Greenfield District Court on the June 12th. "Ms. Hewes never said he wouldn't let her out of his sight," McHale said, referring to Tanzer. "She said, 'He's afraid to let her out of his sight.'" Additionally, Hewes told police, "Her 'conscience was bothering' her, and she was 'confused and frightened,'" McHale said.

"As to the prior case involving Ms. Hewes," said McHale, "It's apparent she was badly beaten. There was blood everywhere," according to police photos, which McHale said showed Hewes had been badly beaten. He said Tanzer was intoxicated at the time of that incident. McHale also told judge Josephson that "off-duty Montague police officers saw Hewes and Mr. Tanzer earlier on the day of that incident, and there was not a mark on her."

He also said witnesses had seen a man and a woman leaving the Strathmore Mill on the morning the fire occurred.

McHale offered a summary of Tanzer's record with the court. "He has a history of substance abuse, and a court record including two straight warrants, 11 default warrants, four violations of probation; he has been incarcerated 12 separate times, including 6 months on violation of probation for a much less serious offense. Since 2001 he has a record of defaults in every single case except this one involving Ms. Hewes. The defendant has a spotty record of showing up in court. He is not originally from this area of Massachusetts. The defendant has ample reason not to appear for trial."

Auskern rebutted McHale on his statement that a witness may be able to place Hewes and Tanzer at the scene on the morning of the 26th. "The witnesses who say they saw a

continued next page

## MCTV Schedule

Channel 17: June 22nd - June 28th

### Barton Cove Eagles:

\*Eagle Broadcast is dependent upon working Equipment at Barton Cove\*  
7A-8A (Daily); 1030A-6P (Wednesday); 12P-6P (Friday); 130P-6P (Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Thursday); 230P-6P (Tuesday)

### Friday, June 22

8:00 am Montague Update: Chris Mason  
9:00 am Montague Selectboard: 6/18/07  
11:00 am Discovery Center: Fabulous Maurice  
6:30 pm Nasa Destination Tomorrow #26  
7:00 pm GMRSD meeting 6/12/07  
10:00 pm Art Fest 2007  
11:30 pm Thomas Jefferson Speaks

### Saturday, June 23

8:00 am Nasa Destination Tomorrow #26  
8:30 am GMRSD Meeting 6/12/07  
11:30 am Art Fest 2007  
1:00 pm Thomas Jefferson Speaks  
6:00 pm The Well Being: "How to Take Care of Yourself Within A Relationship With an Addict"  
7:00 pm Montague Update: The 3D Collaborative  
8:00 pm Discovery Center: Fabulous Maurice  
9:00 pm Senior Center: Senior Aerobics  
9:30 pm Montague Update: Block Party  
10:00 pm Discovery Center: Bat Explore

### Sunday, June 24

8:00 am The Well Being: "How to Take Care of Yourself Within A Relationship With an Addict"  
9:00 am Montague Update: The 3D Collaborative  
10:00 am Discovery Center: Fabulous Maurice  
11:00 am Senior Center: Senior Aerobics  
11:30 am Montague Update: Block Party  
12:00am Discovery Center: Bat Explore  
6:00 pm Montague All Day Town Meeting (6/2/07)

### Monday, June 25

8:00 am Montague All Day Town Meeting (6/2/07)  
6:00 pm Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony  
7:00 pm Montague Select Board (6/18/07)

8:30 pm Independent Voices #30  
9:00 pm TFHS Awards Night (2007)  
11:00 pm TFHS Commencement (2007)

### Tuesday, June 26

8:00am Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony  
9:00 am Montague Select Board (6/18/07)  
10:30 am Independent Voices #30  
11:00 am TFHS Awards Night (2007)  
1:00 pm TFHS Commencement (2007)  
6:00 pm GED Connection #5: Organized Writing  
6:30 pm Thomas Jefferson Speaks  
7:00 pm GMRSD (Live)  
10:30 pm DSS: Let's See it Again  
11:00 pm Sustainable Energy

### Wednesday, June 27

8:00 am GED Connection #5: Organized Writing  
8:30 am Thomas Jefferson Speaks  
9:00 am DSS: Let's See it Again  
9:30 am Sustainable Energy  
6:30 pm NASA Destination Tomorrow #26  
7:00 pm GED Connection #6: Writing Style and Word Choice  
7:30 pm Division III State Softball Championship (6/16/07)  
9:30 pm The Well Being: "How to Take Care of Yourself Within a Relationship With an Addict"  
10:30 pm Carlos W. Anderson: "Passion And Compassion"

### Thursday, June 28

8:00 am NASA Destination Tomorrow #26  
8:30 am Division III State Softball Championship (6/16/07)  
10:30 am GED Connection #6: Writing Style and Word Choice  
11:30 am The Well Being: "How to Take Care of Yourself Within A Relationship With an Addict"  
12:30 pm Carlos W. Anderson: "Passion And Compassion"  
6:30 pm Montague Update: The 3D Collaborative  
7:00 pm Montague Select Board 6/18/07  
9:00 pm Independent Voices #30  
9:30 pm Plains Walk  
10:30 pm Discovery Center: Bat Explore

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# Sink Hole on Center Street

**MONTAGUE CENTER** - An old sewer line on Center Street, which was replaced by a new line in the early 1980s, created a sink hole Tuesday in Montague Center. The old line had a drainage connection to the street, which over time cracked and began leaking water 10' down, mixing with and carrying away the dirt, eventually producing a cavity large enough to undermine the pavement above, which then collapsed. Montague DPW had the hole excavated by 10:00 a.m. and working with the Water Department, replaced the pipes and patched the hole by noon.



A crew from the Montague DPW examine the 10-foot sinkhole that appeared in the middle of Center Street earlier this week.

**HALLMARK**  
continued from pg 1  
you're visioning.

This past winter, the Hallmark Museum of Contemporary Photography showcased Kirkland's work, but, of course, the photos were not for sale. But this coming weekend at the museum, you have a chance to buy perhaps the next Douglas Kirkland. From June 21st through July 1st the downtown Turners' museum will feature the work of the 2007 graduating class of the Hallmark Institute of Photography. The opening reception is this Saturday and Sunday, the 21st and 22nd from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Over 150 11" x 14" photographs will be available not only for viewing, but for sale. And even if your

photograph just pleases you, and even if the student doesn't go on to win fame and fortune, what Hallmark plans to do with the money makes a purchase extremely worthwhile.

Hallmark will donate 100% of the proceeds from the sale of the images to Doctors Without Borders (DWB). Of the many worthy organizations providing frontline care to populations in need worldwide, DWB is among the worthiest. DWB goes wherever they are needed. They provide not only immediate care in war and famine zones but also stay on in the aftermath of catastrophe, running hospitals and clinics, carrying out vaccination campaigns, and caring for those with infectious diseases including HIV/AIDs.

Last year, the museum raised

almost \$11,000 for this same organization, and the year before garnered about the same amount for tsunami relief in Southeast Asia. This year, they're hoping to donate to DWB a similar amount, if not more.

Speaking about the museum's past efforts, George Rosa III, president of Hallmark, had this to say, "This is not a rich community, and yet twice we've managed to raise double digit amounts for good causes. These shows have been successful all around - for the school, the museum and the town." The hope is that this success rate will continue.

The hours for the Museum, located at the corner of 3rd Street and Avenue A, are Thursday through Sunday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

**TANZER** from page 6  
man and woman leaving the mill that morning were referring to Jones and his girlfriend, not my client," he said. Hewes' statement to police stated she had remained in the car as lookout for Tanzer that morning.

Judge Josephson issued her ruling. "Given the nature and circumstances of the case, the defendant's prior record of convictions, record of defaults, violation of probation, his record of substance abuse, bail will be set at \$100,000 cash or surety."

As Tanzer was led off, his wrists bandaged to prevent the handcuffs from chafing against his healing burns, McHale conferred briefly with Auskern in the hallway of the courthouse. Auskern said the prosecuting attorney admitted he had been in error when he told the judge "there was not a mark on Hewes" when off-duty Montague police spotted her and Tanzer walking toward the Strathmore on November 11th, the day Hewes subsequently called police to report Tanzer was assaulting her. Auskern said he and McHale

agreed the police had indeed spotted Hewes and Tanzer together on the day in question, but Hewes already had bruises on her face.

Detective Lee Laster confirmed that fact this week. He said he encountered Hewes, sporting two black eyes, leaving the 2nd Street Sports Bar, followed by Tanzer, with scratches on his face, on the evening of November 11th.

Tanzer will next appear on Tuesday, July 10th, at 10 a.m. for a pre-trial hearing in Greenfield District Court.

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# Turners Falls Bows to North Reading at Division III State Finals

BY MATT ROBINSON

**WORCESTER** - The Turners Falls girls softball team wrapped up a fantastic season with a



MATTHEW ROBINSON PHOTO

*Pitcher Danielle Sullivan in the wind up in Worcester*

disappointing 7-0 loss to the North Reading Fighting Hornets on Saturday, June 16th in the

Division 3 state finals at Worcester State College. Before their trip to Worcester, the Turners squad won their league, won the Western Mass Region, and won the state semifinals. But they peaked one game too early! On Saturday, they finished as the second best team in their division in Massachusetts, losing to North Reading, the same team they beat last year to capture the crown.

Despite the lopsided score, the game was not a blow out. North Reading scored in two innings. In the third, the Hornets got a player on base. Quick thinking and teamwork kept the runner from scoring even as two other Hornets reached base. Then, with the bases loaded, the game turned on one swing of the bat.

The Hornets' slugger, catcher Stephanie Mayne, stepped to the plate. "The coaches saw her in her last game. I was supposed to pitch her low and away," Turners

hurler Danielle Sullivan recalled. "But I pitched high and inside." First pitch. One swing, and the game had changed. Mayne knocked the ball out of the park for a grand slam.

Montague Community Television cameraman Don Clegg, filming out by the third base line, said there was never any doubt about that ball's destination once it connected with Mayne's bat. "I tracked it right over the fence in left center field. She cleared it by a country mile." But Turners didn't panic. They got out of the inning allowing no more runs.

In the fifth, North Reading scored three more runs on singles and a sacrifice RBI. But the Tribe never gave up. Spectacular running catches and accurate throws kept the Hornets from adding any more runs.

Sullivan pitched a complete game. But the Tribe didn't

answer. "We chased a lot of balls out of the zone," Coach Mullins explained, referring to 15 strikeouts by Turners' batters. Many times, Turners found themselves taking a roundhouse swing to connect with only air, or foul balls.

"We beat ourselves," Captain Ashleigh St. Peter lamented. "We swung at high balls and struck out."

Throughout the game, Coach Mullins shouted encouragement to his players. "Everybody moving!" he would yell when they were in the field. To the batters, he would call out, "Do your job. Be a work horse." In the later innings, Coach Mullins took a different tack: "Relax!" and "You're due!" But they never collected the expected runs.

Turners never gave up. Even in the later innings, they played like champs. Running catches and accurate throws kept the

Hornets from scoring in their last at bat. And in the Indians' last inning, they went down swinging.

Though they lost the game, on Saturday the Turners Falls Indians girls softball team kept their incredible run alive. By making it to another state finals, they kept their streak alive for consecutive State Final Appearances, consecutive Western Massachusetts Region Championships, and of course, consecutive League Championships.

This particular group of teammates and coaches will never play together again. But at some distant reunion, when two or three teammates reminisce about this season, they should remember with pride that they fought their way to the state finals and once again made Turners Falls proud. To us, you are always champions.

## Small Towns Softball League --- GIRLS JUST WANNA HAVE FUN ---

BY SARA CAMPBELL

**ERVING** - Turners Falls High School isn't the only game in town when it comes to girls' softball. Local girls are learning the game and having a lot of fun in the Small Towns Softball League.

Since 2000, Montague has fielded two teams in the girls 9 - 12 softball league. This year the league was made up of the two Montague teams, the Diamond Dusters and Purple Panthers, competing against the Erving Wildcats, Gill Pride, Northfield Geckos, Northfield Cougars, and Hinsdale, NH Fillies and Gators.

The parks and recreation department sponsors the program in Montague, managing registration, procuring the uniforms and scheduling officials. Both Montague teams call the Highland Park field in Millers Falls home. The younger

hitters have proved less of a hazard to the adjacent yards along Millers Falls Road than the co-ed adult league that played there in past years. Concrete blocks were donated a year ago from UMass, and it is hoped that permanent dugouts can be added soon.

The 2007 league championship game was played on July 13th at Highland Park between the Diamond Dusters and the Hinsdale Gators. The Dusters triumphed in extra innings. The season ended on a note of good competition and teamwork, with closely matched teams and good hitters facing strong pitchers.

It was an all-Montague division championship game when the Panthers met the Diamond Dusters in a single elimination on June 6th. The final score was 6 - 5 for the

Dusters. The two Montague teams enjoyed a friendly rivalry all season.

The Montague teams' rosters include girls from the five villages of Montague, who attend Hillcrest, Montague Center, Sheffield, Greenfield Center, Cornerstone Christian, Holy Trinity and Bernardston elementary schools. The playing field provides the opportunity to make new friends from the variety of schools, who may later join together at Great Falls Middle School with girls from Gill and Erving.

The Diamond Dusters have had a very successful run, winning the league championship for five consecutive seasons. Lisa Adams coached the Dusters this year, taking over from Brian Costa. She led the girls to an 8 - 3 season. Of the 12 girls on the



SARA CAMPBELL PHOTO

*The Diamond Dusters' roster includes (not in order of appearance) Hannab Adams, Jolina Rose Blier-Roberge, Ali Durant, Emilee Felton, Teagan Glenn, Emma Johnson, Haylee Keene, Hailey Peterson, Mackenzie Salls, Tanisha Sanders, Paige Slauenwhite, Cassidy Stankowski, and Jennifer Tufano.*

roster, eight returned from last season. Next year, half of the team will be moving into Middle School. Twelve-year-olds may play in the league if they have not played on a Middle School team.

In 2006, Montague fielded three teams. This year the Panthers were a blended team, including girls from last season's

Green Dragons and their two coaches, Jeremy Brown and George Carner. Mike Smith-Porter, a Panther parent, assisted with the coaching. The Panthers enjoyed a strong 6 - 4 record. Three of the 15 girls are third graders who joined the team this year. Eight will move up next season.

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MATTHEW ROBINSON PHOTO

# Western Mass. Champions

## and State Division III Semi-Finalists

The Turners Falls Girls Softball Team celebrated their victory over the Narragansett Warriors on Tuesday, June 12th at UMass to become the Division III state semi-finalists. Though they lost to rival North Reading Hornets in Worcester on Saturday, they're still champs to us!

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**TOBACCO** from pg 1

head down to the fields in Hatfield or Whately. My bus was driven by my math teacher, Eddie Bourdeau. He was a big burly guy (in my 14-year-old's eyes) possessed with great authority, and a voice that could cut through fog, a crowded room, a tobacco field, or, from the sidelines, through a roaring crowd at high school football games. He always wore an impeccable blue workshirt, a jungle-style pith helmet, and white gloves, because he was allergic to tobacco leaves!

Down the Valley we'd go in the quiet bus, most of us still half asleep in our oversize work clothes and lunch pails. Then began our introduction to the art and science of cultivating tobacco. First task early in the summer was to do the suckering. That meant we had to tie burlap bags to our behinds through an ingenious method of twines and string, then sit down and drag our cans for miles a day, breaking off useless leaves between the stalk and good leaves of each plant.

Thing is, when you break off a sucker like that, it squirts a sticky juice out onto your hands and forearms. That was our introduction to nicotine juice, and it con-

vinced a lot of us to not even think of putting that tar into our lungs.

It usually took several days for a crew of 30 of us to finish the suckering. At day's end, our fingers, clothes, even way up into our nostrils, were coated with a thick crust of nicotine juice and dirt. Not to mention having a sore ass from sliding it through miles of rows of tobacco plants in the summer heat for eight hours!

Next came the 'twisting'. To help the plants grow up straight, they were guided by strings attached to each individual plant and to guide wires overhead. Before they grew up too high we needed to walk the rows and wrap strings between the leaves and up the stalks. That part was easy, and almost fun, except for the string burns and painful raw grooves you wore into the index finger. We could walk through the rows, twisting the strings, talking and singing without having to drag ourselves along on our behinds for hours.

Eventually, we began picking. First Pick, Second Pick, Third Pick. Starting at the bottom, First Pick meant taking the first three leaves and making a neat stack between plants before humping yourself forward on knuckles and

burlap-covered backsides to the next two plants on your right and left. A hauler would drag a canvas basket down the rows between pickers and place the leaves in the basket, gently! If ever anyone of us bruised the leaves by careless picking, or a random thumbprint on the delicate green surface, we got chewed out fiercely by one of the Polish overseers. Sometimes it was hard to tell why we were getting chewed out because their English was very approximate. But we knew they were mad! Since our leaves were going to wind up as highly prized outer wrappers for cigars like William Penn or White Owls, we usually had enough respect to keep the bruising down.

After sitting down and picking for weeks, by Third and Fourth Pick we were kneeling! For miles! Just when your behind was healing, the pain and blisters transferred to your knees! Same routine. Shuffle forward on your knees for miles, picking, stacking, and hauling. But the word was out: pretty soon we'd be going on piece work, which meant that the speedsters, the older and experienced pickers among us, could start making real money. By then, we could

pick standing up and move through the rows faster, each row picked being worth about 25 cents, so that by the end of the week you could make \$60 or \$70. For guys saving for college or a car, that was good money.

This is where Mr. Bourdeau's math came in. He stood at the end of each row as pickers and haulers came out to move to the next rows. He tabulated each man or team's total accumulative number of rows picked, but of course he never got too close to the plants, because of his allergy.

People like Dougie Reil, Don and Bobby Brown were the speedsters, racking up good scores day after day. One of the sweetest sounds was Mr. Bourdeau bellowing, "Waiting time!" because the pickers were too far ahead of the haulers or the tractors or the sewers in the barn, so we had to take a break while the system caught up with itself. The speeding pickers chafed at the wait; they figured they were losing money, but the rest of us crawled into the shade created by the water wagon to rest and catch our breath. By then it was full summer and the heat under the netting was extreme, not to mention the dust and orange insecticide floating in that enclosed air

from the crop dusters that regularly coated the fields and netting. More than one of us passed out from the heat, but we all revived and survived.

While working the tobacco fields, we came into contact with a variety of characters. Some of them were our bosses; some were more or less fellow workers. In addition to Eddie Bourdeau, there was Bill Connelly, our English teacher. A profoundly decent man, he was a bantam rooster of an Irishman, as witty and gentle as the day was long, but possessed of a fiery temper. You never wanted to get on his bad side. He oftentimes impressed us by speaking Spanish with the migrant workers up from Puerto Rico, because Bill taught us Spanish in the high school too. None of us had ever met any kind of Spanish speaker before, so we were very intrigued! Then there were the Jamaicans. Fascinating, friendly, exotic and always joking, they spoke a wonderfully lilting British English from the islands, that we all tried to imitate, unsuccessfully. They usually worked on the tractors, picking up baskets of leaves and driving them away to the barns. They were

see **TOBACCO** pg 16

## Turners Falls High School Honor Roll • Fourth Quarter

### GRADE 12

#### First Honors

Laura Babij  
Katelin Bailey  
Adam Bastarache  
Shanna Clark  
Michelle Dame  
Anne Fish  
Richard Gallagher  
Benjamin Garber  
Ethan Kociela  
Jenna Lapachinski  
Daniel Leveille  
Jesse Lucas  
Holly Phillips  
Julianne Rosewarne  
Christopher Seymour  
William Shattuck IV  
Valeriya Shumilova  
Ashleigh St. Peter  
Lauren Tela  
Haley Trenholm  
Lauryn Zellmann

### GRADE 12

#### Second Honors

Krista Bascom

Nichelle Cocco

James Deputy  
Gregory Dorman  
Julianna Felton  
Jason Grimard  
Lauren Sena

### GRADE 12

#### Third Honors

Rachel Banning  
Timothy Dowd  
Elizabeth Giknis  
Mitchell Guevin  
Evan Pollard  
Aimee Shattuck  
Timothy Stockwell  
Sean Voudren  
George Woodley

### GRADE 11

#### First Honors

Alix Ackerman  
Lara Ames  
Aliza Broga  
Katie Christenson  
Abbey Daniel-Green  
Amanda Golembeski

Jennifer Jason

Samuel Johnson  
Stephanie Joly  
Corey Leveille  
Molly Perry  
Samantha Stafford  
Alexander Tufano  
Alice Urban  
Gina Varuzzo  
Katlyn Vear  
Erica Zajac

### GRADE 11

#### Second Honors

Brian Campbell  
Aaron Cappucci  
Walter Fitzpatrick  
Kiersten Henry  
Kellie Lastowski  
Colby Lavin  
Brittany Mazor  
Dawn Miner  
Kayla Pecor  
Michael Radzuik  
Corey Shearer  
Caitlyn Sheperd  
Tenzin Soepa

Danielle Sullivan

Courtney Wells

### GRADE 11

#### Third Honors

Christopher Broga  
Krystal Ducharme  
Katherine Eddy  
Zachary Little  
Melony Lucas  
Amber Marion  
Mercedes St. Marie  
Chelseigh St. Peter  
Jeffrey Tela

### GRADE 10

#### First Honors

Amy Baxter  
David Bennett  
Brandon Breault  
Lacy Cardaropoli  
Nicholas Clark  
Samuel Colton  
Nadezhda Filobokova  
Joshua Gammon  
Christopher Humphrey  
Nicholas Imbimbo

Erin Kelley

Atma Khalsa  
Kimberly Nelson  
Sara Pease  
Nicholas Skarzynski  
Samantha Wondoloski

### GRADE 10

#### Second Honors

Joseph Auger  
Leah Booker  
Theodore Dunbar  
Tranae Gallagher  
Allison Giknis  
Amber Henry  
Kelsey Kane  
Joseph Rinaldi III  
Shelby Sayer  
Jeremiah Wawrzyniak  
Kevin Wegiel

### GRADE 10

#### Third Honors

Emma Banning  
Eric Dumas  
Jodi Hallett  
Shamari Kelly

Susanna Khasonova

Angela Marguet  
Anneliese Phillips

### GRADE 9

#### First Honors

Juliana Aprileo  
Jill Bernard  
Ashley Gibson  
Megan Grimard  
Olivia Nicotra  
Sergiu Placinta  
Evan Pleasant  
Kathleen Rinaldi  
Dustin Rivard  
Suzi Ryu  
Ashley Sears  
Christopher Shattuck  
Sarah Underwood

### GRADE 9

#### Second Honors

Ashley Bailey  
Eric Bastarache  
Emma Butynski  
Danielle Dolhenty  
Matthew Garber

Tyler Haskell

Jeremy Nicoll  
Tam Roberts  
Justin Sessions  
Alex Westfall  
Matthew Wozniak

### GRADE 9

#### Third Honors

Tyler Anderson  
Chelsea Bailey  
Hannah Brown  
Scott Brown  
Brandon Deputy  
Lucas Foley  
Mackae Freeland  
Oengus Gallagher  
Tiffany Henry  
Stephanie Hoover  
Cassandra Kazar  
Joshua Lapachinski  
Jacob Lewis  
Christopher McMahon  
Carlyn Perry  
Cayla Pollard  
Elena Rushford

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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

# Class III License Granted for Mormon Hollow Salvage Yard

**BY JOSH HEINEMANN** - At their June 13th meeting the Wendell selectboard granted William Landry and Scott McPherson a class III license for automobile salvage at their yard on Mormon Hollow Road. No abutters came to the hearing, and no one wrote to the selectboard with comments or objections. The terms of the license were kept as they were for the previous operators of the yard, but the name will be changed to Scott's Garage - Wendell. Hours will be 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 8 a.m. to noon Saturday. The office will be open until 8 p.m. weeknights to serve Internet customers on the West coast. For now they are open by appointment.

The maximum number of vehicles allowed on the license is 350, but Andmar Industries had all the vehicles on site crushed and removed. Scott's Garage plans to build inventory slowly.

There is a living space above the garage, and Landry asked if the garage area would be counted as part of the 800-square-foot limit for a secondary dwelling. Selectboard chair Ted Lewis said Landry should take the question to the planning board, or the ZBA.

The meeting opened with Carolyn Manley touching base with the selectboard about decorations in the hallway, and possibly the meeting room of the new town office building. The fire chief said the legal restrictions on hallway decorations are not as severe as they are for a school building, and his only concern is that the building does not become a museum.

Selectboard member Dan Keller said that the chestnut boards salvaged from the frame of the old school building (the former town offices) will be worked into a decorative front for town clerk Anna Hartjen's counter. In the upcoming special town meeting there will be an article to create an interior design committee. There has been a request for a display rack with bylaws, and forms available for public use, but that will be built after the mailboxes are in place. The theme of the interior decor will be Wendell history.

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich said that four people so far have applied for the building

custodian position. Board member Christine Heard suggested that the selectboard should firm up the job description, and Aldrich offered the description of a similar position in New Salem as a framework to start with. Interviews will take place at the July 11th meeting, or later.

The selectboard signed an appointment slip for Everett Ricketts as community emer-

gency response coordinator, and a board of health mutual aid agreement as approved in the annual town meeting.

Sharon Wachsler of Locke Hill Road sent an application for a secondary dwelling for a one-person yurt. No excavation will be necessary for the construction, and the structure will not be visible from the road or from neighboring property.

Aldrich read an announcement that the Franklin Regional Council of Governments will hold a meeting at the Erving Elementary School on July 21st, for a management plan for the Route 2 corridor between Greenfield and Erving, including a half mile north and south of the road.

Without another volunteer, Lewis was assigned to be

Wendell's ex officio representative to the Franklin Regional Transit Authority for fiscal 2008. Meetings are Thursday evenings.

Keller said, "It's good to see (the building update) back on the agenda. He said the buildings are done, although some details still need attention: acoustic treatment for the hall, a window in the copy

see WENDELL pg 14



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## NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

## Police Station Grants Available

BY NICHOLE CLAYTON -

Deb Radway gave a report to the Montague selectboard on behalf of the Montague police building committee on Monday, June 18th, saying the committee was "continuing to refine the site plan after hearing feedback from town meeting." Possible changes to the proposed new safety complex include increasing the size of the parking lot, moving the handicapped parking to a better location, and limiting access to the fire and police stations directly from the busy intersection of Turnpike Road and Turners Falls Road. She said a negotiation with the Turners Falls fire district is ongoing about transferring a parcel of land immediately to the west of the fire station, where the new police station is planned. A maintenance agreement is also being negotiated with the fire district, and since both the town and the fire district share the same law firm, Kopelman and Paige, the selectboard said the same lawyer may draw up a formal agreement for both parties, saving some expense.

Radway went on to address other issues:

- Whether the town or the fire district will pay for the land survey that will be conducted on the parcel of land to be transferred.

- Working with the architect to make the new building as energy efficient as possible, and to explore alternative energy sources for heating, cooling and electricity. She said rebates may be available for municipal buildings that adopt alternative energy sources, from the Massachusetts Energy Collaborative.

- Responding to the town clerk's suggestion that the training room at the new facility be large enough to hold the polling booths for a number of voting precincts, should the town choose to combine them in the future to save funds.

- Plans are for a basic masonry structure; nothing fancy. The new building will blend with the current building "seamlessly". The hallways are to be four feet wide, with steel doors.

- The committee will hold informational presentations on the new police station in each village of Montague in coming weeks.

- Massachusetts is making a \$2 million dollar fund available for police station construction grants across the state. Montague will apply.

Radway said the police station building committee meets every Thursday at the Turners Falls fire station at 5:30 p.m. The public is encouraged to attend, whether they are in favor of the plans or not; the

committee wants public input and will address questions people may have.

Next, the board approved a request by Millers Pub owner Ed Tolzdorf to close a portion of East Main Street in Millers Falls on July 14th between noon and 3:00 p.m., with a rain date of the 15th, for a 'Poker Run' fundraiser. The pub will be the third stop on a motorcycle and classic car Poker Run fundraiser, beginning in Belchertown and ending in Three Rivers, with ten percent of the profits donated by the pub to the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation. Tolzdorf estimated up to 300 motorcycles and a smaller number of classic cars could be coming through the town of Millers Falls that day, and stopping by the Millers Pub for food and a card for the poker hand participants collect on the run.

The board granted a request by Robert Tobin, owner of Interstate Auto Repair on 147 2nd Street in Turners Falls, to expand their repair shop to allow for sale of used cars. The license was issued for a three-year period, contingent upon the area being kept clean of junk and used cars being limited to eight at a time in the lot. Tobin handed around his business card to the board, saying Interstate Auto was a neighborhood shop with neighborhood prices.

In other business, the board:

- Appointed Al Ross as the representative to the FRTA advisory board

- Approved an extension of the lease for the parking lot at Judd Wire for another three years, at \$100 a year.

- Heard an update on progress at Peskeomskut Park. Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio sighed and said no one has been found to bid on a job for repaving the sidewalks, so the park will remain "officially closed" until such time as the repaving can be performed, to meet standards raised by the state Architectural Access Board.

- Heard from Abbondanzio that crosswalk and curb cut reconstruction on Avenue A is progressing well, "ahead of schedule."

- Granted a three-year lease to the Rendezvous on 3rd Street to use a portion of town sidewalk in constructing an access ramp to the bar, at a cost of \$100 a year. Ristorante Dipaolo was granted use of a town sidewalk on Avenue A in front of the restaurant for outdoor dining, for "no consideration."

- Discussed a preliminary policy on outdoor dining and the serving of alcohol on public sidewalks. A written policy will be forthcoming.

## Problem Properties



BY DAVID DETMOLD

**TURNERS FALLS** - Montague building inspector David Jensen offered updates on three problem properties in Turners Falls on Wednesday, June 27th. Regarding the progress of reactivating safety systems at the Strathmore Mill, Jensen said the selectboard had authorized the expenditure of \$5,900 in town funds to repair the sprinkler system at the mill, and a contractor has been hired. "They've been working since Friday," Jensen said. "Building #11 has a working sprinkler system now, and if they stayed on schedule, Building #1 should have a working sprinkler system by the end of the work day today." These are the two abutting buildings that received extensive damage during the course of the May 26th fire that took down Building #10.

Jensen said the selectboard has been apprised of the need to expend town funds to repair and reactivate the electrical system and fire alarm system at the mill complex, and said the town was in discussion with two contractors to get the best price to perform that task.

Although the mill owner, Jerry Jones, had been ordered by judge Dina Fein in Housing Court in Northampton, to undertake repairs to these emergency systems at his own expense, Jones pled indigence. "We could argue with him for months about whether he can do the work," said Jensen. But meanwhile, the mill is a present fire risk, filled with warehoused rolls of paper on many floors, and so the town is moving forward to reactivate the safety systems at taxpayer expense.

Jensen said Jones had managed to secure the windows and doors at the mill, as ordered.

Turning to the former Railroad Salvage building in the Patch, where a partial collapse of the north facing brick wall led to the closure last June of Power

Street, one of the two routes of entry to that densely populated residential neighborhood, Jensen said owner Gary Kosuda was "behind on his schedule" for performing certain tasks at that property, as he agreed to do in Greenfield Housing Court on April 20th. Those tasks include strengthening the safety fence around the property, installing barbed wire on top of that fence, bringing in a structural engineer to assess the stability of the remaining walls, and removing debris from the interior and exterior of the building.

The court gave Kosuda 30 days to complete those tasks. Despite Kosuda's assurance to him that he had the financial wherewithal to do the work, during a recent phone call from his home state of Florida, Jensen acknowledged none of the work agreed to in court has been performed to date. Like Jones at the Strathmore, Kosuda formed a limited liability corporation to own the former mill building, making legal measures to enforce his compliance more difficult.

Over at 181 Avenue A, across from the post office, Belchertown developer Mark Kislyuk has one more week to return the site of his planned three-story mixed use apartment building to a level grade. Jensen ordered a stop work order on that project due to an improperly constructed foundation wall in the summer of 2005, and the site has been an eyesore and an attractive nuisance since. After failing to appear in court hearings about his property six times in a row, Kislyuk was arrested on a default warrant at his Belchertown address and brought into Housing Court in Greenfield on Thursday, May 31st. If he fails to comply with the order to return his property to level grade by June 28th, and remove improperly installed manhole drains, the court will fine Kislyuk \$10,000, and he will be subject to re-arrest.

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THE HEALTHY GEEZER

# An Unpleasant But Necessary Procedure

BY FRED CICETTI

**LEONIA, NJ - Q.** My doctor says it's time for a colonoscopy. Please tell me I shouldn't worry about this exam.

You definitely shouldn't worry. I've had the three major tests for colon cancer: sigmoidoscopy (very uncomfortable), the barium enema (a nightmare) and the colonoscopy.

I was given anesthesia for the colonoscopy and all I recall is getting on the examining table, feeling like I had a cocktail, and waking up in recovery as rested as if I had a late-afternoon nap on the beach.

The colon, or large bowel, is about a five-foot tube that connects the small intestine to the rectum. It removes water and nutrients from digested food.

The colonoscopy is the gold-standard procedure for colon-cancer detection. The colonoscope is a slender, flexible, lighted tube with a video cam-

era at its tip. The examining physician inserts the tube into the rectum. The scope inflates the colon to provide a better view. The camera sends pictures of the inside of the colon to a TV monitor. The exam takes 15 to 30 minutes.

During the procedure, a doctor can remove most abnormal growths such as polyps with tiny tools passed through the scope. Most polyps are benign, but some can turn into cancer. By getting the polyps early, a colonoscopy can avoid a major operation.

Patients are given pain medication and a moderate sedative. Discuss sedation with your doctor in advance. People I know who've had the procedure have experienced different degrees of alertness, recall and discomfort.

After the exam, you might feel some cramping or gas, but it should stop within an hour.



JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

By the next day, you should feel normal. You'll probably need someone to take you home because it takes a while for the sedative to wear off.

If no abnormalities are found, you'll probably be told to come back for another exam in three to five years. If there are abnormalities, you may have to return more often.

Now for the bad news. The preparation for a colonoscopy is awful.

Preparations vary. You take

either pills or liquids to purge the colon completely. You may need an enema. You will spend a lot of time on the throne.

My doctor prescribed the liquids; they taste awful and you have to drink a lot of them. Next time, I plan to ask if I can take the pills.

During the 24 hours before the exam, you have to drink only clear, nonalcoholic liquids. You can eat only soft foods such as Jell-O. And nothing can be red because it could be confused with blood.

Your diet may permit liquids up to two to four hours before the exam. My doctor required total abstinence on exam day.

There are other colon exams available. These include CT colonography ('virtual colonoscopy'), sigmoidoscopy and barium enema.

CT colonography uses computed tomography ('CAT') scanning, a minimally invasive

procedure. CT colonography is an alternative for patients who are at risk of complications from colonoscopy such as patients who are frail. If a virtual colonoscopy finds significant polyps, they have to be removed by conventional colonoscopy.

Like a colonoscope, a two-foot sigmoidoscope is a slender, flexible, lighted tube with a tiny video camera linked to a monitor. In a sigmoidoscopy, the doctor inspects only the lower parts of the colon.

A barium enema, or lower gastrointestinal (GI) examination, is an X-ray procedure.

To make the intestine visible on an X-ray image, the colon is filled with a contrast material containing barium, a silver-white metal.

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

## Outdoor Fun and Games

BY FRAN HEMOND

**MONTAGUE CENTER** - Hurrah! Today we have fifteen hours and seventeen minutes of daylight. It's June 21st; the summer solstice has arrived. We have worked our way up from the short nine hour days and dark nights of December, just by the tilt of our Earth toward the sun.

School's out. For kids of an earlier generation, the fun and freedom of long summer evenings had begun. Many neighborhood streets and yards became the after supper playground. Big kids, little kids, boys and girls emerged to join, at their own wish, some version of 'run and catch' or 'hide and seek' games to come. The narrow side streets were still dirt and maybe muddy. The

horses and wagons of the ragman, the trucks of the iceman and meat man were gone for the day. The old folks rocked on their front porches for a bit of fading light. As the players straggled out from the back doors of their houses, they might be hollering out the name of the game at which they fancied themselves champions.

"Three Feet off the Mud Gutter, Dummy" was a favorite starter. What happened after the first three steps is lost to memory. But it was run and catch, preceded by the stylized picking of the first 'it'.

Whether the incantation was a version of meaningful words, misspoken and poorly heard by accepting players, or the repetition of a Druid appeal, mat-

tered not. It had a fascinating lilt, and kids who found the multiplication table of nine an impossible anathema, handled it with ease. My version, "Itsy bitsy tibtity tib, Delia dyca dominig. Eichie pichie, kychie mychie, Alm, palm, tusk, Alica, balica boo. Out goes Y-O-You!" can well be challenged. 'It' was usually accepted, but a second 'it' was added if the child was too small to ever catch anyone.

The games moved as dusk approached. Versions of 'hide and seek' used the unfenced backyards of childless neighbors as well as the players' homes. The good hiding spots and lawn care or lack of tending was assessed, and Bill Frederick's neat and open property was only a run



MICHAEL MULLER PHOTO

**TURNERS FALLS** -- Once a year the Turners Falls Water District flushes fire hydrants around town. They start at the top of the Hill and work their way down and over towards Millers Falls, until all the water is clear of rust. Standing by the hydrant on Tuesday is Jeff Hildreth, on Unity Street near the Chestnut Street intersection.

This was a time when mothers called "Yoo-hoo!" out the window and children, if reluctantly, ran home. It was a time when you didn't call your friend on the cell phone; you walked over to his house, stood outside his back door and hollered his name.

through. The Prentices' yard was a stumble spot, with untamed spaces for 'Sardines'. In this game, 'it' was the hider and everyone squeezed in as he found him. The game 'Ten, twenty, thirty-two' was in trouble if 'it' got paged by a parent.

We may not find 'Sardines' and 'Red Rover' the answer to neighborhood recreation anymore, but the long June evenings still offer great opportunity for outdoor fun and games.

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

## Big Plans

**BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH GILL** - Polish immigrants generated a fair amount of resentment by living frugally, stuffing their savings into the mattress, then hauling out the stash when banks failed and farmers couldn't pay their mortgages or taxes. Starting off as employees or sharecroppers, they often bought land or the entire farm of their host. Pa followed that formula at Cold Brook Farm in Montague, before buying the farm in Gill. He worked in the paper mill while Ma and the kids worked in the onion fields. He joined them

when he could. After his move to Gill, Pa asked a family friend, Mr. Civic - a grocery store owner who lent money - to loan him money for some coveted tobacco land. Civic advised Pa to pay off the farm first, or at least get another nest egg together. "Bide your time, pay your debts and save your money," he said. "You'll see... times are bad; the owner will drop his price."

With his mill work spotty and no sharecropping income, it was all Pa could do to feed his sizable family. Saving money was nigh impossible. Pa could have rented the tobacco barn and land for a nominal fee and raised tobacco,

but he feared it would drive the price of the land up if he showed too much interest. Instead, he continued to clear the run-down farm he'd bought. "We didn't have proper tools," Walter later recalled. "Just axes to cut the brush and a two-man crosscut saw for the trees."

On a hill at the back of the lot, brush and trees had overgrown an orchard. They cut the trees for firewood. The brush, they stacked and burned. Pa stood surveying the neighboring farms.

"Boys, next we'll buy the tobacco land; then one day, all these surrounding farms will be ours," he said, waving his arm in a grand gesture.

But the boys knew Pa was set in his ways. If they were going to farm with Pa, they wanted to see tractors and machinery.

"Tractors and machinery are

expensive," Pa said. "Takes gasoline to run, and that costs money, too. If you work by hand, you get the job done and you save the money. Save. Save. Save all you can. That's the way."

The boys weren't impressed. They had little enthusiasm for the day he would buy the tobacco land and barn. It only meant more hard labor. Though tobacco was a profitable crop, the boys knew they wouldn't get to share much, if any at all, if Pa's past performance was any indication. He was often scornful of families who paid their kids to work.

"Pay your own kids to work?!" he said with contempt. "How stupid can you get?!"

The tobacco field was about the size of our farm, except that it was largely dry and tillable. A tobacco barn stood on the far end of the land. Pa had his eye on the land when he bought the farm. It

was level and fertile as the Nile river valley, able to grow real money crops. With productive land, the tobacco barn and enough kids to tend the labor-intensive crop, Pa was confident that he would soon be as prosperous as the other Polish farmers that settled in the Connecticut valley.

-Continued Next Week

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### Town of Erving Vacancies


The town of Erving has openings on: Planning Board, Finance Committee, Personnel Board, and Historical Commission. If you have an interest in serving, please call Tom Sharp at 413-422-2800, x 100.

### WENDELL from 11

room (so it does not feel like a closet), a secure box for tax payments, and some heating and ventilation issues. The water line road crossings are filled in and paved, and the site work is done at the town offices. Handford Construction has not completed the billing, and closing on the USDA loan will not occur until Wendell has paid its bill.  
 At a special town meeting in early July, the town will vote to restore money left in the building accounts to stabilization, or to put some aside for building maintenance. The special town meeting will also have a

warrant article for renovating the former public library into a new senior center. But for now, the building committee is ready for a rest.  
**Vandalism on the Common**  
 Sometime between Friday evening June 15th, and Saturday morning June 16th, someone broke down the poles, the brackets and removed the American flags that were lining the Wendell common. Some were recovered, most were not. Anyone with information on this incident should contact police chief Ed Chase, or selectboard chair Ted Lewis.

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



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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



## THURSDAY, JUNE 21ST

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

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

## FRIDAY, JUNE 22ND

Concert at The Bookmill, Montague Center: Traditional Celtic Summer Solstice with *Katherine First*. Masterful musicians play jigs, reels, danceable tunes. Lively fiddling of Katherine First, and an ensemble that includes Buddy Downey on guitar and vocals, Paula Moore on Irish harp, and Tim Donahue on concertina. \$10/\$12. 8 p.m.

Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls. Rock, reggae, hip hop sound with the *Alchemistics*. 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Josh Levangie*, country music, 9 to 11 p.m.

## FRIDAY TO SUNDAY, JUNE 22ND TO 24TH

Ja'Duke Center for the Performing Arts (JCPA), Kimberly Waynelovich and Lisa McCarthy are proud to present the 3rd Annual JCPA Showcase. at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets \$12 Adults, under 12 and over 65 \$10. Reservations! 863-2281 ext 2. At The Shea Theater, Turners Falls, www.jaduke.com.

## SATURDAY, JUNE 23RD

Workshop *Managing Grassland and Shrubland Habitat*. A field workshop including equipment demonstrations, how to create habitats important to wildlife. Jill Liske-Clark, coordinator of MassWildlife's Upland Habitat Management Program, will describe the process of planning and implementing management for grasslands and shrublands at Cass Meadows, part of the Millers River, Athol. Call 863-3221 to register and for details on meeting place. 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Concert at The Bookmill, Montague Center: *Stephanie Corby & Dave*



*Michael Nix performs a special children's program, "Lutes and Lumberjacks," a concert and demonstration program for K-6, and families at 2 p.m., Tuesday, June 26th at the Carnegie Public Library, Turners Falls. Listen to and learn about lutes, mandolins, banjos, guitars, and folk percussion instruments. For more information call the Carnegie Library at 413-863-3214.*

*Crossland*. Award-winning singer-songwriter and acoustic pop balladeer \$10/\$12. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Richard Chase Group*, folk rock, 9 p.m.

## SATURDAY & SUNDAY, JUNE 23RD & 24TH

Reception at Hallmark Museum of Contemporary Photography. 1 to 5 p.m. Benefit Exhibition and Print Sale, through July 1st. All are welcome. Print sale proceeds will be donated to aid the international humanitarian medical organization, Doctors Without Borders/*Medecins Sans Frontieres*.

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

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

## TURTLE TIDBITS FOR TEACHERS

Turtle Tidbits for Teachers at the Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls. Educators who want to know the latest information on turtles of Massachusetts should attend this session. Fact sheets, posters, and a DVD, as well as lesson ideas for students of all ages. To register, call 863-3221. 3 to 4 p.m. Free.

## SUNDAY JUN. 24TH, TUESDAY TO THURSDAY, JUNE 26TH TO 28TH

Refuge Rambles For Discovery Center visitors who would like to know a little more about the museum exhibits, ten-minute informal talks on a variety of refuge topics directly

related to Discovery Center exhibits. Free and open to the public. Info call 863-3221 www.greatfallsma.org. Rambles scheduled 11 - 11:30 a.m. and 2 - 2:30 p.m. each day.

## MONDAY, JUNE 25TH

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

## TUESDAY, JUNE 26TH

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

Can your car (or your furnace) run on used vegetable oil? Bring your questions about alternative fuel cars and meet with Jennifer Paris, owner of Seven Sisters, Hatfield. 7 - 8:30 p.m. For ages 16 and older, Pre-register by calling (800) 859-2960, free.

## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27TH

Great Falls Coffeehouse Open Mic Night. The Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center invite everyone to sing or play an instrument, 7 p.m. Even if you don't perform, come listen to local folks who do. The evening will be kicked off and hosted by musician Michael Nix. Suggested sliding scale of \$5 - \$10, benefits work of the Discovery Center. Info 863-3221, ext. 3.

Concert at The Bookmill, Montague Center: *Larry Gallagher*. Clever satirical tunes from acclaimed guitarist/songwriter, \$10/\$12. 8 p.m.

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

## THURSDAY, JUNE 28TH

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

Co-op Concert featuring local musicians. Three 40-minute gigs each

JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

night from the Franklin County Musicians' Cooperative. Bring a picnic dinner, blanket, or chair and enjoy the music. At Greenfield Energy Park, Greenfield. 6-8 p.m.

## FRIDAY, JUNE 29TH

*Free Spirits* showing at Pothole Pictures, Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls. This documentary about the Renaissance Community and its charismatic, ill-fated leader Michael Metelica Rapunzel chronicles the "birth, life, and loss of a New-Age dream" 7:30 p.m.

Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls. *Heros-rockers*, come to dance! 9:30 p.m.

## SATURDAY, JUNE 30TH

Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls. *John Sheldon & Blue Streak*, 9:30 p.m.

The National Spiritual Alliance conducts a Psychic Fair, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Thompson Temple, Lake Pleasant. Readings and Reiki healings cost \$25 for 20 minutes.

*Silkwood* showing at Pothole Pictures. Vivid and passionate dramatization of the true story of nuclear-parts-plant worker, whistleblower, and activist Karen Silkwood. Meryl Streep, Cher, Kurt Russell. R. Representatives of local anti-nuclear group the Citizen's Awareness Network will lead a discussion about nuclear issues following the film. 7:30 p.m. Music before the movies, Abdul Baki Band, 7 p.m.

## JUNE 30TH

Alien Attack! Join Refuge staff at The Great Falls Discovery Center to learn about local plant invaders in the Connecticut River watershed. Geared towards adults, all are welcome.

## ON GOING

Quinnetukut II Riverboat trips. For reservations, (800) 859-2960. Adults \$10, senior (55+) \$9, child (14 & under) \$5. Group (15 or more) \$8.

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- 3. PIRATES: AT WORLD'S END**  
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- 4. SHREK THE THIRD** PG  
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- 5. SURF'S UP** PG  
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## TOBACCO continued from pg 10

immensely popular with the high schoolers because of their infectious good humor, elegant accents and that foreign exoticism. Not to mention the fact that, being from Turners Falls, none of us had ever met a black person face-to-face before! We were enthralled, and to this day, we can't talk about men with nicknames like "Bronch" and "Born to Lose" without smiling.

Sometimes, some of us worked for a day in the tobacco barns, where our female classmates spent the summer sewing the leaves onto laths to be hung up to dry. When from time to time we volunteered for a job in the barn, we were considered slackers, since it wasn't very hard or very dirty. But it was a good break and a change of scenery.

The girls more often than not wore oversized work clothes and babushka-style kerchiefs while they worked, a far cry from their usual prim attire during the school year. So much for the change of scenery.

In the barns, once the leaves were sewn to the laths, the Jamaicans took them and passed them up to other black men in the rafters, way up to the top of the high ceiling of the barn. Swaying leaves, laughter and chatter drifted down from the green leafy maze twenty feet up as the barns

filled one by one.

We had our share of Polish overseers too, each with a different temperament. There was Staci, Edjiu, and Joe, among others. Joe was a gentle man, as wide as he was tall. He smoked a

went off to college, but came back in the summer working as a field boss. He too would inspect the picking and hauling, but most often we'd get him to tell us what it was like to go to college. Was it hard? How do you get in? Does it

were good days because we could stay in bed longer. There had been times when we worked after an early morning rain, and that was miserable. The orange dust from the crop dusters, the sticky nicotine juice and the

Billy Beaubien, Ron Tuminski, John Pond, and I. Out over to Barton Cove, we had the place to ourselves. Swimming, laughing, splashing, tipping the canoes over, and best of all, a day off! Not worrying about the future, it was summer and we were free for the time being. There was no one to tell us, and who was to know, which one of us would have a happy life, who would move far away, which one of us would battle disease and addictions, whose children would be successful or go astray and be lost, which one of us would die in a jungle in Viet Nam? These are not things young boys who are wild yet with a day on the river ever wondered about. That day, we were far from the future, far from the tobacco fields and that's all that mattered.

When you're fourteen, life starts piling on the lessons and sometimes the apprenticeship is hard. Tobacco fieldwork was hard and dirty and didn't pay much. But for such, Eddie Bourdeau's words stuck with us for a lifetime. He always reminded us, "Take a good look at this job! If you don't want to do this for the rest of your life, stay in school! Get an education!"

All of us who could, took his advice, and after a summer or two, never set foot in a tobacco field again.



DETMOLD PHOTO

Tobacco barn on Meadow Road

corn cob pipe, which he carried upside down in his mouth when it was raining. He often reclined at the end of the rows as we worked our way to him. On the other hand, Edjiu was a mean-acting sort, stern and always threatening in broken English, "Don' you no bruisa dem leafs!" He did crack a smile at the end of the season, however, when the picking was all done, and we good-naturedly gave three cheers for each of our field bosses.

Another hero of ours was Dave Yez, a TFHS grad who

cost as much as they say? We all figured that sooner or later we'd do like Dave Yez and apply and maybe be accepted, but we weren't too sure about how it all worked.

Then there were the days when Eddie Bourdeau telephoned at 5:30 a.m. to say there would be no work that day because of the rain. Those

and warm day presented itself. Before long, Dean Letourneau had called and said he could get us a couple of canoes from the boat house at the end of Ferry Road, and that meant we could spend the day on the river.

Out onto the flat gray Connecticut we went: Dean,

## Millers River Paddle

At 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 23rd, a group of kayakers and canoers will be paddling from the confluence of Trout Brook and the Otter River near "3 Pipes" in Baldwinsville to the Birch Hill Dam on the Millers River in South Royalston (arriving around noon). Use east approach from Maple Street as the west side gate is usually closed. Anyone looking to drop a vehicle at the

takeout area should be at the launch site by 9 a.m. for a shuttle ride. Bring your own kayak or canoe and appropriate safety gear and look forward to a nice downstream paddle through a rural setting. Rain date, June 24th.

For details and directions, contact the Millers River Watershed Council, council@millersriver.net or 978-248-9491.

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