

THE SAWMILL RIVER
By student authors
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WELCOME TO ERVING
Bryant Stewart's Mural
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LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS GILL ERVING WENDELL

Year 3
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50¢

The Montague Reporter

REPORTER@MONTAGUEMA.NET

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JUNE 23, 2005

CHAMPS AGAIN!

BY ZACH SCHONBRUN
WORCESTER - The two teams were so alike it was scary. Luckily for

Worcester State College. For Turners, it marked an undefeated 25-0 season, and their second consecu-

since beating Turners 5-0 in the Division III finals in 2000.

But the Indians in blue were able to outplay the Indians in red, scoring early in the 1st inning on a double by senior third baseman Katie Kidder and an error by Amesbury second baseman Talia Mondalto. They then added another run in the 5th on an RBI triple by senior first baseman Kellie Brown, but one run was all pitcher



DETMOLD PHOTO

Turners Falls Girls' Softball team members revel in their Saturday victory

Western Massachusetts, the local girls played just a little bit better.

The Turners Falls High School softball team beat Amesbury 2-0 in the Division II State championship game on an overcast Saturday afternoon at

tive state crown.

Amesbury (25-1) also entered the game undefeated, and were the Northern sectional champions, back in their first title game appearance

Julie Girard needed.

"She's a junior, and she's not leaving," said a

see **SOFTBALL** pg 10

Capital Projects Go Begging in Montague

BY DAVID DETMOLD

Most people in town breathe a sigh of relief when the annual budget cycle is over. This year a \$2,280,000 debt exclusion vote still looms, to pay for 40% of planned sewer upgrades, but other than that, most residents can put thoughts of town finances behind them for another year. Most residents, but not the intrepid members of the capital improvements committee (CIC).

They take a longer view. The CIC normally

labors far from the public eye, looking over the long term needs of the major town departments for equipment and facili-

walks and roads throughout town are cracked, pocked and crumbling. A number of departments are working in cramped,



PHOTO: RAY ZUKOWSKI

Shutterbug Ariel Jones poses in the slammer. The town has put off building a new police station for over 30 years.

ties. Years of extremely tight budgets have left capital needs going begging. Pavement on side-

antiquated quarters, hampering employees' ability to do their jobs and serve the public. In May, CIC member Mike Naughton see **CAPITAL** pg 13

Owner Promises Quick Fix for Collapsed Egress

BY PHILIPPE DEGUISE

TURNERS FALLS - After years of concern about its structural integrity, the two story brick wall in the rear of 62 Avenue A came crashing down Sunday night, June 19th, leaving tenants to scramble for shelter in the middle of the night. No one was injured, but the attached fire escape collapsed with a thunderous roar leaving the residents with no secondary means of egress. On Wednesday, while first floor tenants were allowed to return, residents of the second and third floors awaited promised repairs that could take some time to complete.

The wall itself, which was part of an

see **COLLAPSE** pg 14

Montague Community Band Concerts In Full Swing



ARIEL JONES PHOTO

In the midst of its 114th season, the Montague Community Band held its first concert on Monday at Peskeomskut Park in Turners Falls. The band is sponsored in part by the town of Montague and by a grant from the Montague Cultural Council, a local agency that is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Upcoming concerts include:

June 27th • Masonic Lodge,

Montague City, 7 p.m.

July 11th • Peskeomskut Park, Turners Falls, 7 p.m.

July 25th • Peskeomskut Park, Turners Falls, 7 p.m.

August 1st • Buckley Nursing Home, Greenfield, 6:30 p.m.

August 8th • Peskeomskut Park, Turners Falls, 7 p.m.

Gill Store will Reopen to a Green Future

BY KATHLEEN LITCHFIELD

GILL - Town residents Alden Booth and Lissa Greenough have purchased the 202-year-old Gill Store and plan to maintain its historical integrity while continuing to build community the way Susie Maddern did for the last 28 years.

Booth and Greenough, who own The People's Pint in Greenfield and run a market garden from their Main Road home, bought the Gill Store building from Maddern on Friday, June 17th.

"Susie has built up an amazing amount of good will for the town center. The store is a very important focal point for the community and we wanted to keep it as a locally owned store," said Greenough. The purchase has been in the works since last fall.

see **GILL** pg 3

PET OF THE WEEK
Worth the Drive



Miles

Miles is a black domestic short hair cat in need of a good home. While some cats may give you the cold shoulder, Miles will likely wind around your ankles and jump up beside you to enjoy your company. He's friendly and gentle and he'd make a wonderful family pet.

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CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS
Dog Visit and Pet Toy Making at Carnegie Library

BY LINDA HICKMAN
TURNERS FALLS - On Monday, June 27th, at 2 p.m., Martha Cutt of the Pioneer Valley Humane Society is bringing two dogs and pet toy making to the Carnegie Library in Turners Falls. Athena the Great Dane and mixed breed Maggie will visit with children of all ages and their families. Martha will discuss pet care responsibil-

ities and talk about her pets. The children can make cat and dog toys for their own pets or for animals in the shelter. Donations of pet food, old bedding and towels for the dogs and cats in the Greenfield Animal Shelter may be brought to the program. For more information, please call the Carnegie Library, 863-3214.

ERVING LIBRARY NEWS
Summer Reading Program Kickoff Event: Books are Celebrations

Minstrel and Storyteller Mary Jo Maichack will lead her hilarious *Books are Celebrations* program at the Erving Public Library on Tuesday, June 28th from 7 to 8 p.m. Children of all ages will enjoy this interactive show of folktales, tunes, fiddling, costumes, and a paper folding surprise story. Participants with a flair for drama will also help enact *The Paper Bag Princess* by Robert Munsch. This program is free of charge.

This fabulous performance is the kick-off event for the Library's Summer Reading Program series. Erving will celebrate the MA Summer Library

Adventure Theme "Going Places @ your library", with biweekly programs. Storytellers, like Ms. Maichack and Davis Bates and live animal programs like *Reptiles* from the Boston Museum of Science and *Out of Africa* from Teaching Creatures will get people thinking about places both far and near. The Erving Public library is located on Route 63 just south of Route 2. Library hours are Mondays 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 5 to 8 p.m., Tuesdays 3 to 6 p.m., Wednesdays 1 to 4 p.m., and Thursdays 5 to 8 p.m. For more information, call the Library at 413-423-3348.

Gill - Montague Community Picnic

Join your friends and neighbors for the closing event of the six villages "Raising Our Children" program featuring: Middle School Principal Jeff Kenney & the fabulous band *Haven't a Clue*.

at Unity Park, June 27th, 6 to 8 p.m.

Free hotdogs, hamburgers, veggie burgers & soft drinks, prizes.

In case of rain, the picnic will be held on June 30th.

Call The Brick House at 863-9576 to check.

Sponsored by the Gill-Montague Community/School Partnership

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES June 27th - July 1st

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

Monday, 27th
9:45 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11:00 a.m. PACE Aerobics
12:30 p.m. "Drug Benefit" program by Lorraine York-Edberg

and Daniel Moraski.
Tuesday, 28th
9:30 a.m. Tai Chi
11:30 a.m. Sing Along with Sylvia
Wednesday, 29th
10:15 a.m. Senior Aerobics
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, 30th
1:00 p.m. Pitch
Friday, 1st
9:45 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11:00 a.m. PACE Aerobics

ERVING Senior Center, 18 Pleasant St., Erving, 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

FACES & PLACES

DETMOLD PHOTO

Cellarholes are all that remain of old farms on Dry Hill Road.
See story, pg 5

Congratulations to
Mr. Michael Bosworth and
Ms. Naomi Bosworth Lindendorf
from all of us at 24 Third Street

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Zoning Bylaws will be voted on.

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August 8-12

All Ages
Create a Garden ~ Sat, July 2nd
Be a Clown ~ Sat, July 9th
Carve a Wooden Sign ~ Sat, July 16

Seniors
Create a Video Memoir
August 16, 23, 30, and September 6
Paint in Watercolors
August 18, 25, and September 1, 8

For More Information
The Brick House
24 Third Street, Turners Falls
413-863-9576

Notes from the Gill Town Hall

TOWN HALL CONSTRUCTION

Due to reconstruction of the front steps of town hall, citizens and visitors must use the side or handicapped entrance into the town hall through Friday, June 24th. Look for updates on www.gill-mass.org

RECYCLING CHANGE

Effective July 1st, the town of Montague will no longer pick up recycling for the town of Gill or accept refuse at their transfer station from Gill residents. Duseau Trucking will pickup both trash and recycling on Friday mornings. Trash and recycling must be placed curbside by 7 a.m. The selectboard is currently negotiating access to a recycling transfer station for residents' use and will

report as soon as an agreement is reached. Rubbish stickers are available 24/7 at the Gill Mobil Station and at the town hall, Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

WANTED

Gill residents to serve on town boards and committees. There are currently openings available on the finance committee, zoning board of appeals and board of assessors. Community is defined as sharing, participation and fellowship. Getting involved is a wonderful way to find out what's happening in your community. Town government cannot survive without it. So, if you feel you may have time to offer, talent to share or perspective to contribute, please contact the town hall at

863-9347.

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Monday, June 27th, beginning at 6:30 p.m. There are six articles on the warrant. Three questions look to town meeting for direction on paving of Barney Hale Road, future use of the NMH gift account and the sale of the Mariamante parcel. The remaining three articles request transfer of existing funds to supplement Fire Department expenses to cover payroll, repair or replacement of the Jaws of Life and replacement of the boiler at Gill Elementary School.

For more information on Gill town news, call the town hall at 863-9347, stop by 325 Main Road in Gill, or send email to: administrator@gillmass.org.

GILL

continued from pg 1

While Booth and Greenough own the building, which includes an apartment above the store space, Vicki Van Zee of Main Road in Gill is the main owner and manager of the Gill Store business venture.

The three are working as a team to complete the interior renovations and necessary maintenance on the building, which includes updating the electrical wiring, replacing a walk-in cooler, increasing the retail store space and putting a fresh coat of paint on the walls, said Greenough.

They hope to reopen the store by late summer.

Under Van Zee's management, the Gill Store will feature a fresh inventory of goods, with a special emphasis on locally grown vegetables and locally produced farm products as well as arts and crafts.

"Gill is rich in local farms and farming products and Vicki wants to emphasize the Green aspects of it, such as selling local honey, cheeses and fresh vegetables," said Greenough, who initially met Van Zee while sharing Gill farmer Cliff

Hatch's equipment and conversing about raising chickens.

Van Zee said she feels blessed to live and work at Hatch's Upinngil Farm, where her passion for "locally produced, good quality food and sustainable agriculture" is fulfilled.

"This is my first shot at having my own business," said Van Zee, who is excited about "starting a new venture and living in a community like this, such a special community."

"We really want to honor the spirit that (Susie Maddern) has created there. She is such a draw to the community," said Van Zee. "We plan to offer some really good quality foods. We'll have a seating area, and a deli, and be open in the mornings for coffee and some baked goods. ...It will evolve as we go. We're open to hearing ideas from people, of what they'd like to see there. We want Gill residents to feel like it's their store."

Maintaining the store's historical qualities is also important to the new owners.

"You look at Gill and people love it because it's so beautiful and has a rural character and small town (charm)," said

Greenough. "We wanted to take what has been working, and keep it going."

Maddern, who closed the Gill Store on April 30th and would love to work as a retail clerk for Van Zee when the store reopens, couldn't be happier with the new owners as she looked toward the future of the business she grew for almost three decades.

"I started praying in October that a Gill family would be our buyers. I said, 'Lord, it's up to you,' and it's pretty precious. They have a love of this little old store and they like old," she said in a recent interview. "I'm relieved that it will remain much the same as it has been and I'm excited about the changes that will happen, too."



POSTCARDS FROM THE PAST

The Grove



The Picnic Grove in Lake Pleasant
COURTESY OF THE MONTAGUE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BY LIONEL GIRARD

LAKE PLEASANT - A pine grove between Barber Avenue and the lake formed a natural amphitheater that was made into a picnic site with a bandstand by the Fitchburg Railway Company in 1872. Later a speaker's platform was built and the hillside above it was ranked with wooden benches for the hundreds of people who came to hear the lecturers.

Weekend trains delivered as many as 2,000 visitors to picnic, dance, listen to band concerts and to hear such speakers as Elbert Hubbard, William Jennings Bryan and Robert Ingersoll. One witness remembers sitting enthralled as Ingersoll waved his clenched fist at the sky and declaimed, "If there is a God in heaven, let him strike me dead on this spot."

The Lake Pleasant Spiritualists were free thinkers. At a time when the Battle of the Little Big Horn waited to be

fought, they advocated women's liberation. Lake Pleasant rode the crest of a wave of earnest inquiry that swept the nation between 1870 and 1920. The Chautauqua movement of education camp-meetings started in New York state spontaneously in 1874, the same year that the Spiritualist and Liberalist Campmeeting Association of Massachusetts was formed at Lake Pleasant and held its first convocation.

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

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Capital Plans

We applaud the work of the capital improvements committee, outlining the needs of the town of Montague for major new facilities and infrastructure improvements over the remainder of the decade. The CIC has advanced a proposal for a community center to combine the library, the senior center, and the parks and recreation department near town hall and Unity Park. They have proposed a safety complex combining the police and fire departments in the center of town.

Putting these concepts on the table is a welcome step. The next step is getting the various departments to agree to them, and winning the support of the townspeople to pay for them.

We are impressed with the foresight of smaller towns, like Wendell, who wisely identify capital needs far in advance and put aside money at each annual town meeting to pay for them. By so doing, they hope to avoid painful and divisive Proposition 2½ override attempts. Wendellites have been salting away \$10,000 a year for a new library for the last five years, and a similar sum for a new pumper for the fire department for nearly a decade. Perhaps smaller towns have more flexibility, and pay less per capita for services like police and road maintenance than Montague, with its urban center and 100 plus miles of public roads.

Still, when it comes to major capital projects, particularly those that will alter the use of landmark public buildings like the Carnegie Library, which has served its original purpose now for a century, we think Montague could take a leaf from the playbook of some of its neighbors. It was the town of Erving that first introduced us to

the concept of the public 'charrette.' *Charrette* is a 19th Century French term adopted by planners in the 21st Century to refer to a community brainstorming session. Erving held a charrette to discuss the future use of one of its old mill buildings. Wendell called a charrette last year, in December, to see where residents wanted to locate a new library. More than 40 people packed the senior center to discuss the matter. A week later, Gill saw 60 residents turn out for a charrette at town hall to consider options for the use of 12 acres of open land the town had recently purchased on Main Road. Residents came away from each of these meetings energized by the experience of participating in fundamental decisions that would alter the makeup of their towns, and shape the use of public space and buildings in their towns for their future, and their children's future. And, equally important, they came away with a sense of responsibility for the plans they helped to make.

There's a world of difference between a small committee of elected or appointed officials choosing where a library, a police station, or a senior center is going to be located, and a decision-making process that invites and involves as many citizens of the town as possible in fundamental public questions like these. Montague will find this especially true if the town is unable to put away sufficient funds to pay for these projects, and is forced to eventually turn to its citizens for a tax override to pay for them. Now is the time to bring together as wide a circle of residents in the planning for our long delayed capital projects as possible.

Downtown Turners is Filled with Aging Brick Buildings

Condemned!

Fortunately, we maintain an aggressive inspection program.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Shut 'em Down

Growing up on suburban Long Island in the 50s, I had no idea what to do with "nature". No one ever told me, and I guess I never asked. Kids only know what they are taught. So, I did things that were kind of weird. They weren't weird then, they were just the stuff of boyhood. "I" and sometimes "we" (the boys I hung out with every day) would shoot at squirrels using marbles and a Whamo slingshot. We also would pull the feet from the bodies of frogs and salamanders. I suppose you could call our behavior "scientific experiments" to be kind and forgiving. But, what was really going on then was complete ignorance. We didn't have a clue, and no one ever told us what was right and wrong, the rules so to speak, about how we should act in the natural world. Today, we have the clues, we have the knowledge, and we know what is right and wrong.

In the 1950s and 60s, another "scientific" experiment was taking place in America. Nuclear power, the splitting of the uranium atom to boil water, make steam, and produce electricity, was sold to us as "atoms for

peace," and in our ignorance, we were told that it would provide us with "electricity too cheap to meter." Nuclear power was the key to "the world of tomorrow." But, we were never told that our air, our land, our rivers and our bodies would be contaminated by the radioactive waste released relentlessly from these reactors. We were never told that we would have to deal with 77,000-plus tons of high-level radioactive waste that is so toxic it must be isolated from all life forms for 100,000 years and more. We were never told there would be a plague of cancers as a result of exposure to radiation. We were never told we would be living next to a terrorist target. We were never told that if a nuclear accident occurred there would be no one to sue, we would have to abandon our homes and there would be no insurance coverage (just read the nuclear exclusion clause in your homeowners policy).

Right now, the Senate is debating the future of nuclear power. The Bush/Cheney power block, owned by the nuclear industry, is pushing for an expansion of nuclear power.

This time, we're not the ignorant children we were when nuclear power was first sold to us. This time we know the scientific experiment failed with a devastating legacy of cancer, toxic waste, and the "taking" of our land, air, and water. This time we can speak up and be heard. This time we can act as if there is a tomorrow. Call the Senate switchboard at 202-224-3121 and tell your Senator, "No expansion of nuclear power, no billion dollar subsidies to a failed technology, shut 'em down!" This time, we know what is right and what is wrong.

- **Harvey Schaktman**
 Citizens Awareness Network
 Shelburne Falls

The Montague Reporter is a nonprofit, independent newspaper; a project of Montague Community Cable, Inc. We welcome and encourage letters, editorials, and articles from all residents of Montague, Gill, Erving, Wendell, and surrounding communities, for publication on a space available basis. We reserve the right to edit submissions.

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American Dead in Iraq as of 6/22/05

US FORCES
 Casualties in Iraq as of this date
 1,713

Afghanistan 192
 Wounded in Action 13,334

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

A Father's Day Trip Through Montague's Past



Hill farmers on Dry Hill, as in other parts of Montague, planted sugar maples beside the roadway for ease of harvest. The old county road has long since washed out, as seen here.

BY JEFF SINGLETON
DRY HILL - "What would you like to do for Father's Day?" Dori asked. I thought about it for a few days before the perfect plan occurred to me: a trip up Dry Hill Road, where signs of one of the earliest settlements of Montague can still be found. By "up Dry Hill Road" I did not mean the so-called "Dry Hill Cross Road" which begins at Chestnut Hill and heads west into Montague. Nor did I mean the disputed short route up the hill through Jim Senn's property to the old graveyard. Father's Day is not the time for litigation or political controversy.

No, I was talking about the road that starts at Route 63 and climbs northeast. It is paved

about half the way; the upper half is a dirt road, a large portion of which is in fact now a streambed. We decided to take mountain bikes to the top and ride back down the long route via Chestnut Hill.

Pushing a bicycle up a rocky streambed is, well, what you might call an acquired taste. "Are you sure you want to do this?" I asked rhetorically. I had already made it clear that this was Father's Day and Dry Hill Road was my call.

Dori and our nine-year-old son Daniel took the concept in stride and enthusiastically peddled the mile or so of pavement to where the dirt "road" starts. Then we began to push our way up through the mud, the bugs and

the rocky streambed. This went on for at least half an hour. Dori and Daniel took it very well, with only one brief near-meltdown and only one "why are we doing this?" My response was the classic, "It's Fathers Day" look.

Then we suddenly came upon a large, old stone foundation. This was clearly a farmhouse that was inhabited in the early part of last century. I told Dori and Daniel there was once a community on top of Dry Hill, with its origins in the eighteenth century. We looked at a reproduction of the 1794 map that shows the road as a major east-west county road. (See www.montague-ma.net; photo essays: Dry Hill Road History.) An 1858 map shows a community, including a schoolhouse, at the top of the hill. It lists the names of each householder. But seeing the old foundation, after climbing a mile of nearly impassible road is different. It gives a dramatic, almost physical sense of time and history.

Dori and Daniel instantaneously got it. There were no more "why are we doing this" glances in my direction.

The farmhouse foundation raised two other questions, however. Why did people settle on Dry Hill over 200 years ago and why did the road decline so dramatically in the middle of the 20th Century. The answer to the first question used to be that the original inhabitants of many New England communities settled on hills to watch out for Indians. Now it appears that the true answer has more to do with ecology than frontier warfare.

Settlers in Montague in the 18th Century established farms and sawmills on Dry Hill, Taylor Hill and Chestnut Hill in order to escape the buggy, marshy lowlands then called "Swampville" (now called Montague Center). The descendents of the original farm families evolved a hard-scrabble culture that included subsistence farming, cattle raising, maple sugar production and lumbering.

The independent, adaptable Yankee hill farmer eventually fell victim to economic and cultural change. Cattle and dairy products ceased to provide the margin that small farmers needed to buy consumer products. And there were more of those consumer products available to those who might prefer to work at a gas station, at the Millers Falls Tool Company, or even to attend the state agricultural college in Amherst, a mere ten miles down the road.

So the community on Dry Hill began to decline, and with it went the road. The hill farmers had no doubt banded together to maintain the road. By the Second World War there were very few farmers left near the top of the hill. The Turners Falls Water District bought up the land of departing residents and, along with private landowners, engaged in logging operations with

heavy trucks. These vehicles may have helped destroy the culverts that kept the spring rains off the road. Then, in the late 1990s, a major flood event - a huge "microburst" - washed out the western section of the road down to rock and ledge.

Near the top of Dry Hill, the road, maintained by the water district, improves dramatically. We were able to bike past numerous foundations and cellar holes, remnants of a community long gone. We imagined that a large foundation might have been the stop for the old stage-coach heading east to Boston. Another seemed to coincide with the map location of the one-room schoolhouse. We visited the old graveyard, and found the broken stones barely visible amidst the late spring brush.

Then it was a fast mile down the other side of the hill, a right on Chestnut Hill Road, through the woods, splashing through mud puddles, jumping the rocks and past another old schoolhouse (still standing). Another right at the old sawmill and we were flying down North Leverett Road. No peddles necessary. Even if you do not have a taste for history, even if you are not a dad, this part of the trip is total compensation for the hard slog up Dry Hill Road.



One of the few remaining culverts that once kept spring rains from washing out Dry Hill Road.

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Local Authors Score with Latest Book

BY PHILIPPE DEGUISE
MONTAGUE CENTER - School's out for summer, but for students in Maureen Keating's 3rd grade class at Montague Center School it has been an unforgettable year. After all, they are some of the youngest authors around, and they have written and photographed and produced a book that is both valuable and wonderful. Entitled *The Sawmill River: Now and Long Ago*, the richly illustrated 17-page text explores the historical development of the river, explained in the children's own words.

Grounded in a year-long multi-seasonal study with frequent visits to the river, the children wrote the words and created the artwork contained within the large bound pages. The resulting tome is a tribute to their hard work, to the dedication of Keating and art teacher Ann Larsen, and to the support of local historian Richard Colton and others who shared their time and knowledge with the young authors.

After completing each piece of their research, the third graders came together for a 'scientific symposium'

run by one of the students in collaboration with Colleen Kelley, elementary science coordinator for the Hitchcock Center in Amherst. They would review what they had learned and examine what they needed to include in their notebooks. Then they would write the text and create the beautiful illustrations to accompany it.

The project was part of a two-year study of the river funded by grants from the Massachusetts Environmental Institute, under a school community program called Environment as an Integrating Context (EIC). The underlying premise of the program is to utilize local learning opportunities like the Swift River, and local resource people to provide an inter-disciplinary

approach to learning. The children put together their exploration of reading, writing, science, history and art to complete the project. In turn the experience provided a whole approach to learning, one well suited to their developmental process.

Although the fifteen children originally wanted to produce a book for kindergarteners, they came to realize that

the complexity of the project would be more suitable for their own age group.

The book is dedicated to the children of Montague Center; it is a great read for all ages.

The Sawmill River: Now and Long Ago will be on display at the Montague Center Library in July.

Don't miss it!



PHOTOS: PHILIPPE DEGUISE

Pictured above, the students in Maureen Keating's third grade class at Montague Center School, proud authors of *The Sawmill River: Now and Long Ago*

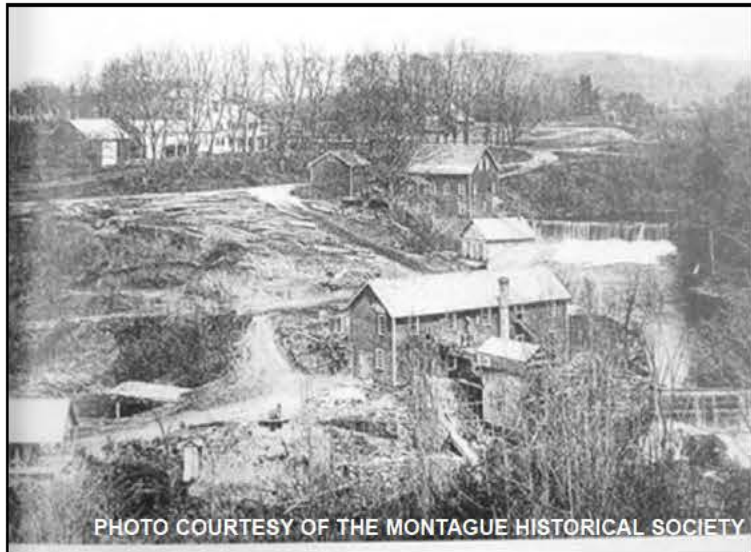


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MONTAGUE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Along the Sawmill River

For thousands of years up to the 1600's, the Pocumtuck Indians lived by the river. Their village was called Mattampash. Today we know that village by the name of Montague Center.

The Dyke Mill on Central Street has been there since the 1700's. It started out as a forge for making things out of iron. Later a water wheel was put on the building and it was used as a grist mill and then a saw mill.

Some of the handsomely illustrated pages from the Montague Center 3rd Grader's book entitled, *The Sawmill River: Now and Long Ago* on display at the Montague Center Library in July.

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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Treatment Plant Concerns Aired

BY IVAN USSACH

ERVING - The selectboard received a letter from the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) concerning an inspection made in March of 2005 at the town's publicly owned water treatment facility in Erving Center (POTW) #2, operated by Erseco, a division of Erving Paper Mill. The board appeared to be familiar with the contents of the letter from previous communications. The letter, dated June 10th, began by summarizing the characteristics of the plant's wastewater (effluent), based on the plant operator's own reports from 2004.

According to the letter, "The facility met the permitted parameters overall with the exception of BOD (biological oxygen demand) average monthly exceedences for the months of April and May and TSS (total suspended solids) average monthly exceedences for the months of April. In addition the monthly average phosphorus limit was exceeded during the months of August, September and October." An error in calculating the amount of fecal coliform present was also noted.

The DEP noted the following concerns from the March inspection: A damaged baffle had been found, that was not containing scum, and had been repaired since the inspection; pH (acidity/alkalinity) was not being properly analyzed; the facility was deficient in submitting several reports required by its discharge (NPDES) permit, including a technical report "analyzing local limits," an annual sludge report, and a plan to monitor "ambient river temperature upstream of the out-fall;" and there was a discrepancy in the analytical procedure used in the determination of BOD.

In the letter the DEP also stated that the facility's plans to convert its existing chlorine gas disinfection system to liquid sodium hypochlorite (which are currently being reviewed by DEP), must include "provisions for an alarm system" and that DEP approval is required for both the facility's possible upgrading of the aeration systems for its lagoons - if this would be considered a "major" modification - and the renewal

of the current 30-year contract between Erseco and the town.

Millers Falls Mill Sale Confirmed

Mark Abramson of Benchmark Pratt Realtor confirmed that International Paper Company has accepted the bid made at auction on June 13th, for the Millers Falls Paper Mill, from Northern California's Tower Investments, for \$500,000, with a \$50,000 buyer's premium. According to Abramson, the closing on the 44-acre property, located mainly in Erving with a thin strip along the Millers River in Montague, will take place by the end of July. Included in the sale is the century-old, 220,000 square foot mill building, which Tower intends to lease out "for appropriate uses," as an investment property.

Historic Commission Inquiry

The board also received a letter from Christopher Skelly, the state Historical Commission's director of local government programs, concerning the need for historic preservation activity in the town. Spurred by publicity over the possible demolition of the historic train station (which housed the recently closed Box Car Diner), Skelly noted in his June 14th letter, addressed to Dennis Rindone of Briggs Street, that "at the present time, Erving does not have an active local historical commission and is not in a good position to preserve its historical resources." Further, Skelly wrote, the town "has outstanding needs in identifying and documenting its historic resources. Do you sense an interest in Erving regarding

historic preservation?" asked Skelly in conclusion.

Parks and Rec Procedures Outlined

Jacquelyn Boyden, representing the town recreation committee, met with the board to update them on a meeting

will be clearly posted at all the parks listing closed/quiet hours from 9 p.m. to 5:30 a.m. The signs are needed for the police department to enforce complaints by residents against youths who might be hanging out and making noise.

There is one open slot on the recreation committee to be filled, for a term through May of '06.

Welcome Sign Complete

Artist Bryant Stewart stopped by to inform the board the new Welcome to Erving "mural" has been installed on the east



Artist Bryant Stewart puts the finishing touches on the new Welcome to Erving mural on the east side of the French King Bridge.

side of the French King Bridge. Several board members complimented him for his work, and board member Andy Tessier added, "Pete is happy," referring to Pete Cavanaugh, an advocate for replacing the old, worn mural painted by Stewart. "You gotta' look at it close," Stewart said.

Stewart also inquired about a call he received from engineering consultants Tighe & Bond regarding a monitoring well on his property. Tessier explained the monitoring well is one of several required by the DEP as part of the process of closing the Maple Avenue landfill. The wells are intended to monitor pollutant migration from the landfill. If the level of pollutants detected is low enough, the landfill can be closed to 1976 standards, rather than the more expensive measures required by today's standards.

In Other News

The board opened three bids received for the contract for roof and skylight replacement at Fire Hall #2. The lowest bid was submitted by Greenwood Industries, Inc., of Worcester,

for \$78,790. The company's bid materials will be reviewed by Tighe & Bond.

The board approved the bid from Advance Corp. of Chicopee for \$43,890 for a fuel storage system, based on the recommendation of highway supervisor Paul Prest.

In response to a request from Kenneth Mitzkovitz concerning long-term access to the property he currently owns and the town is about to purchase, the board has informed him he will not be allowed any access to the property after the sale closing date, which is expected on or around July 29th.

The town will try to lock in its fuel cooperative bid this week at \$1.35.

Administrative Coordinator Tom Sharp was resoundingly reappointed as town rep to the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District. Sharp thanked the many people who have supported him and vowed to make this year the best one yet for the town's solid waste.

The board will convene at 7 p.m. next week at the Erving Elementary School, prior to the scheduled 7:30 p.m. special town meeting. New zoning bylaws will be considered at that meeting.

The Erving Historical Society is holding open houses on Sundays from 1-3 p.m., from July 10th - 31st. Their office is located on Main Street, west of the former Box Car Diner.

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the poetry page

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

- William Carlos Williams

We celebrate in the June Poetry Page the future poets and artists of America.

Poems from the 8-Blue Team, Great Falls Middle School. Teachers: Dave Hoitt, Laura Moore, Amanda Kaczinski and Nancy Champoux.

Sun spills over me when drinking my tea on a day so bright tea tastes light on my tongue wind swooshes through my wavy hair scent of fresh grass touches my nose vivid colored flowers' petals feel soft against my rough feet silent pond my lonely yard you can hear tiny frogs' musical croaking flies buzz with their sticky wings right in front of my nose wind so unexpected soft and gentle bends tops of trees like they are bowing my back starts to hurt from the rough and uncomfortable chair I slip out of the chair and on to grass I sit on grass soft as a kitten's fur bright as an "A" in my grade book enjoy the evening on earth everything starts to live again everything has a new beginning to me it's like life starts over like having a new beginning but to others life never has beginnings only the endings.

--Nadia Filobokova

Fishing

I cast out my line, The reel screeched, going, going, going going like a football being thrown until I couldn't see it, Lost in the shadows, The bait I fought to see, SPLASH It hit the water Sinking, sinking, sinking, It hit bottom, A bewildered look upon the fish Staring, staring, staring, Curiosity caught the fish, I started to reel in, He wriggled off the hook I'll get him again I said, I'll get him again.

--Teddy Dunbar

As we all sit here almost like fake puppets we start to drift off into LaLa Land No one quite pays any attention to much of anything. It all feels as if it's gray like in an old English movie Then everyone is frozen in place. It's just as if we're all a part of a gray painted picture

--Lacy Cardaropoli

The birds are chirping The soft breeze blowing through my hair Then on my body cooling me from the warm sun which I haven't felt for the longest time.

As I look around in this almost unfamiliar environment I see leaves beginning to turn the everlasting green that warms my heart to see.

I look towards the mountains. I can see them waving in the heat of the first day without snow covering the beautiful green peaks of them.

Once I see the signs of a new incoming season I am ready for the change.

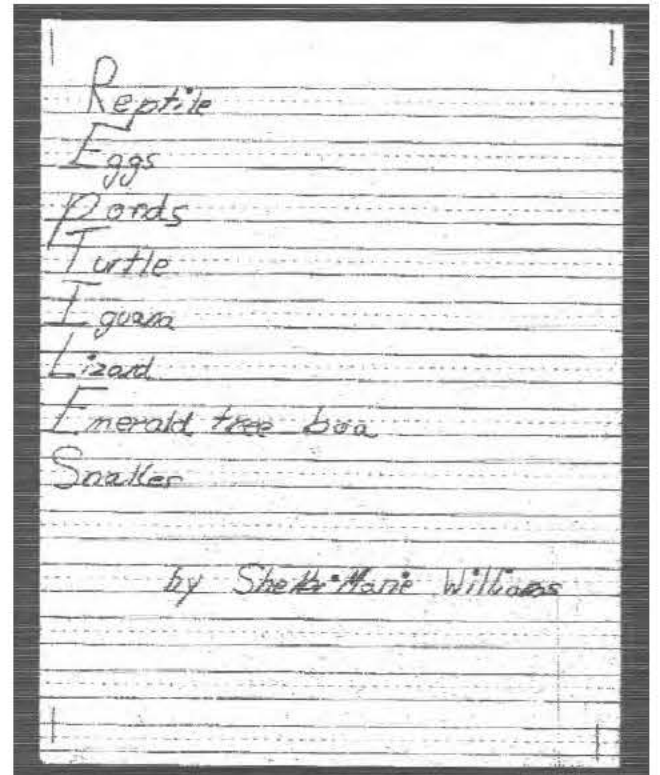
--Tom Field

A mosquito chomps on my arm the first time tonight the fire spitting sparks into my face making me sweat My dad heaves more wood into the fire All I can hear is the snap, crackle and pop of the hissing fire almost reaching the tree limbs above Such a beautiful sight on such a peaceful night

-- Emma Banning

Cool air strokes my sweaty face The sun hammers down on my head It is on fire my skin getting redder and redder riding by a house smelling barbecue ribs hot dogs everything smelling so... scrumptious my dry mouth waters my mind flutters away looking out at the sparkling lake calling me to jump in birds chirp fish jump

--Shelby Sayer



from Sandy Kosterman's Second-Third Grade Class at Gill Elementary School

Scent of hamburgers and hot dogs drifts steadily Birds sing their last songs before crickets take over with a new tune Clothing is yanked from the line Light becomes dark Stars fill the sky The moon is now in charge

--Chelsea Bocon

Tributes to Family - from the Hillcrest School

Family Time

Mothers, brothers, fathers and sisters help us when we are down. When we are hurt. When we are sick, they help us too. They are kind and nice and sweet! When mothers, brothers, fathers and sisters get sick, we help them. Family time is all the time.

--Victoria Dalton & Danielle Conant, Grade 2
--Teacher: Jane Oakes

Families.

A family cares for you when you need a helping hand. If you get hurt, they are there for you. Helping and caring all the time. Friendly to everyone.

--Matteson Heath, grade 2
--Teacher: Gloria Funkhouser

Families

Families help each other Being fair and kind. Playing and working, working and working For fun.

-- Liam Ellis, grade 2
--Teacher: Gloria Funkhouser

Parents Are Very Special

Parents are very special They take us places that put smiles on our faces. They take us to the Creemee to buy us an ice cream cone That is extra gleemee.

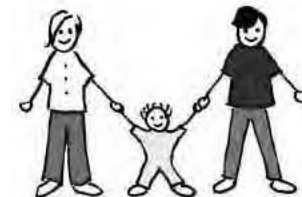
Grandmas and grandpas, uncles and aunts take us to school while our parents work. That makes them cool! When they drive and walk us to school.

--Allison Cooke, Grade 1
Teacher: Betsy Burnham

A Family Poem

Families are great. Brothers, sisters, dads and moms too. Family members there for you. They always help you when they're hurt. Arguments and agreements, too. Families are always around you. Families! Families! Families!

-- Alexander Fitzpatrick, grade 2
--Teacher: Gloria Funkhouser



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The trees
blossom with flavor
It is the fresh blossomed trees
that inspire
my heart
to tingle
It is the smell of spring
the sense
that fills your heart
to tingle
the awesome power
of spring

--Lake Pielock

More poems from the 8-Blue Team, Great Falls Middle School. Teachers: Dave Hoitt, Laura Moore, Amanda Kaczinski and Nancy Champoux.

Pools are opened
Motorcycles are put on the road
The sight of that red '69
Mustang
Makes me want to jump in
And drive away
as fast as I possibly can

The sun is shining
There's not a cloud in the sky
I can't wait
For class to get out
I have a game to go to

I woke up this morning
The sun shining in my eyes
I had to hide my face
under the covers
I heard blue jays and robins
Chirping endlessly
I could tell
By the sound
This was going to be
a wonderful day!

--Jodi Hallett

When

When I see you, it feels like
my heart cries out to you

When I'm next to you,
I get so nervous that sometimes words stay locked
in me.

When you hold my hand I feel like I am
floating and when you let go of me tears begin to fall, I
begin to melt.

When we talk on the phone I feel like I can tell
you everything but when I stand next to you, I hide
what's inside.

All I want to tell you but never can is,
I Love You

--Julissa Ruiz

The Night Before

A new spring day
birds chirping
Deep ridges in the sand
The waves splashing
Just like the wild night before.
Seagull poop all over me,
My head hurt
A broken beer bottle next to me
And I remember a strange figure
Hitting me with it the night before
It must have knocked me out cold
Well what's done is done.
It brings you back to the college days
Doesn't it?

--Kyle Christenson

Baseball in April

We arrive at 2:30,
It's almost too cold for short sleeves,
Until we start playing.
The game starts,
The sun is still high in the sky like a
juicy lemon,
The ground is all muddy and wet like
a half-cooked brownie.
We let up 18 runs in the first inning
and lose the game 24-3,
But at least I'm outside in the fresh
air again.

--Joey Gaida

A Day at the River

She stands on a cliff,
Sacred, as if from the window of an airplane.
Her feet are moist
as if she were standing in a puddle of mud.
Fresh air swirls around her.
She jumps.
Into the water she goes.
When she lands the water splashes
Up and around her body.
She is like a fly caught in the web of a spider.
Little bubbles swirl through her hair,
Like fish swimming through the sea,
Trying to make their way through the seaweed.

--Stephanie Scopu

Prisoner of the Oak

I lay against an oak tree
The bark rough
knots and cracks form an old face
The Merlin peering out after
his judgment, traitor to the old religion
The Moragan bound him to the tree
He can't harm us any more
So I lay against the tree
with my book
Reading of his imprisonment
his legs outstretched around me
his face against my own
His arms hang low to embrace me
I drift into a sleepy trance
I feel the power in the tree
It hums with nature's song
I lay asleep next to Merlin
THE PRISONER OF THE GREAT OAK TREE

--Nick Imbimbo

Gliding down the trail
Wind flying by
The earth shaking
Gray-blue sky

Mud soaring from the tire treads
through the air
making turns oh so careful

Over the hills,
across the streams,
climbing the rocks
that washed up from the rain.

Spitting mud through
the trees like pollen
floating off of
bumblebees

Newborn animals scared
of the sound
well aware of what's around

Breaking in the overgrown trails
back and forth, side to side
climbing slopes in overdrive.

Through the creeks,
Water splashing
Stones flying ATVs crashing.

It must be spring.

--Tyler Hagmaier

How Fast Do Smiles Fade?

Sometimes I come to school with a grin,
Some people wonder: Where has that person been?
But deep down inside, it hurts really bad.
Not many know what experiences I've had.

I come into classes sometimes with a smile,
And most of the time, it stays for a while.
But then it can quickly fade,
When somebody throws a sharp-pointed blade.

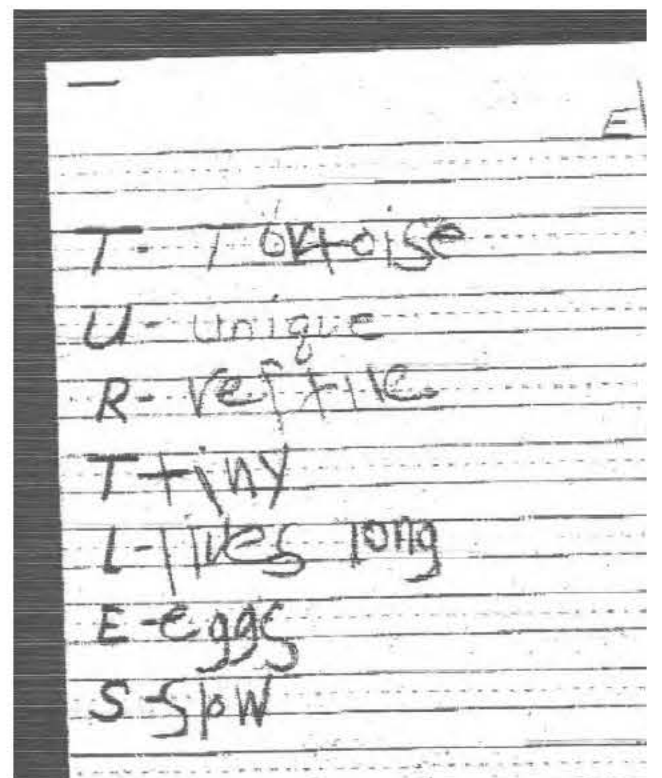
This blade is the words that someone has said,
Had thrown at my heart, and there it is-dead.
The smile has faded, the happiness gone,
That grin didn't stay there for very long.

So watch what you say, it might really sting.
Remember that words are a powerful thing.

--Kathy Alimova

Walking down the street with my mother
So radiant
We look at the sky, a bright glorious sun that goes with
some soft white fluffy clouds
We walk and we hear a sound so uplifting it sounds like
birds chirping
I whistle and they respond to me
Then I hear some kid yelling. It wasn't delightful but it seems
they are having fun
We stop all of a sudden and when I look around I see the
Creemee and we get a nice cold ice cream
Ice cream runs down my face like I was running in a race
I stop and I am sweating like Niagara Falls!
We continue walking back home and I smell some fresh
cut grass
I start sneezing like one of the Seven Dwarves
So we get home and we sit on the porch watching the gold
streaked sunset
The purple clouds gather with pink tips like whitecaps on waves
A cold wind blows and the rain begins
We retreat to the house
What a day it has been!

--Immaculata Gonzalez



from Sandy Kosterman's Second-Third Grade Class
at Gill Elementary School

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SOFTBALL

continued from pg 1

smiling head coach Gary Mullins. "She just got stronger and stronger as the game went on. It was marvelous."

Girard struck out four of the last seven batters she faced, totaling nine on the afternoon, surrendering only four hits and walking none for the complete game shutout. She allowed only two runs on 18 hits in five games this postseason, raising her playoff

down Allison Murphy on a tag-up play at home plate, ending a Turners Falls scoring opportunity after Murphy's leadoff triple.

Waters, a three-time league player of the year, finished the game 2-3 and took the loss on the mound, surrendering two runs (one earned) on four hits, one walk, and three strikeouts.

Turners has now won 31 straight games, and becomes the first team since Monson to win a state title and finish undefeated, as Monson did in Division III in

Kidder, Jillian Sicard, Sara Girard, Jaclyn Bastarache, Shelby Landeck and Marissa Sicley, it will be their last hoorah in Indian blue, and what better than to go out on top? Undefeated in two straight playoffs, unbeaten in 31 consecutive games, unrivaled at the head of the state, these girls have a lot to be proud of.

"We all kind of believed that softball was our sport," said Brown, who is headed to American International College in Springfield where she hopes to keep digging in at first base. "Mr. Mullins has told us to play with our hearts, and if he wants it, we all want it."

"I'm going to miss everyone, everything," added Brown. "Winning is fun."

But it isn't easy. Winning once, maybe, as sports and leagues and competition has seen through its ages, can be a fluke, a whim, a stroke of luck or a twist of fate. The worst teams lose, but the winners aren't always the best. As the Yankees and their fans, in their jealousy, have remarked toward the Red Sox, "even Idiots can get lucky once". But to win twice, now there is something you just don't find in every backyard diamond.

Over the course of the year, or perhaps years, this team has become a symbol of the county. One could see it in the throngs of fans who drove the distance to Worcester or Springfield to watch and to cheer. Or the headlines in the daily newspapers. Or the proud sign posted outside the high school.

And you get the feeling that, win or lose, they've been immortalized, etched into Turners Falls history based purely on not why or when they did it, but how.

Repeat champions, those who start and end with the target on their backs, are built on work, pride, determination, and usually some talent. Or so they say.

Luck has positively nothing to do with it. Unless, of course, it's in regard to the skies, which began to truly open up and pour its showers only after the Turners girls had their trophy in their grasp, again.

Congratulations!

TFHS Girls Softball Team

2004-05 Division II MIAA State Champions!



Team co-captain, first baseman Kellie Brown, exults in victory after Turners' 2-0 defeat of Amesbury High on Saturday, June 18th. Brown's RBI triple in the fifth added an insurance run, but one was all pitcher Julie Girard needed.

unbeaten streak to 10 dating back to last year. "The defense behind me has just become so incredible," said

1991. They join Smith Academy as the only Western Massachusetts team to win back-to-back titles.

1991. They join Smith Academy as the only Western Massachusetts team to win back-to-back titles.



Left to right: Third baseman Katie Kidder, left fielder Sara Girard and right fielder Allison Murphy don their victory medals. Kidder and Murphy each had extra base-hits, and Girard's diving catch on Kati Corrigan's line drive to left in the fifth inning was the defensive highlight of the game.

Girard. "They have given me the confidence to throw all my pitches."

True to her word, the Turners Falls defense backed Girard superbly, highlighted by a diving catch by Sara Girard on a hard-hit line drive by Kati Corrigan in the 5th inning.

Amesbury did not surrender their first loss without a fight. In the 6th inning, Girard pitched out of a first and second jam, as well as an early pressure situation in the 1st inning after a triple by pitcher Ashley Waters, leaving her stranded. A great throw from Amesbury centerfielder Lindsay Miller in the 6th inning gunned

Offensively, Turners was led by Brown, who went 1-2 with a walk, stolen base, and RBI triple, as well as Girard, who helped out her own cause with a single and a run scored. Katie Kidder (double) and Allison Murphy (triple) each had extra-base hits.

For Mullins, it was win number 400 for his career, but he knows it means more for the seniors.

"I guess that's the worst part of this day," he said. "It's the last time you'll get to see them. They have been just marvelous. Three of them have just started as freshmen, and they are an incredible group." For Kellie Brown, Katie



Turners ace Julie Girard bears down for the final out.

And Congratulations to Coach Mullins on his 400th Career Victory!

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The Turners squad lines up to receive the championship trophy.

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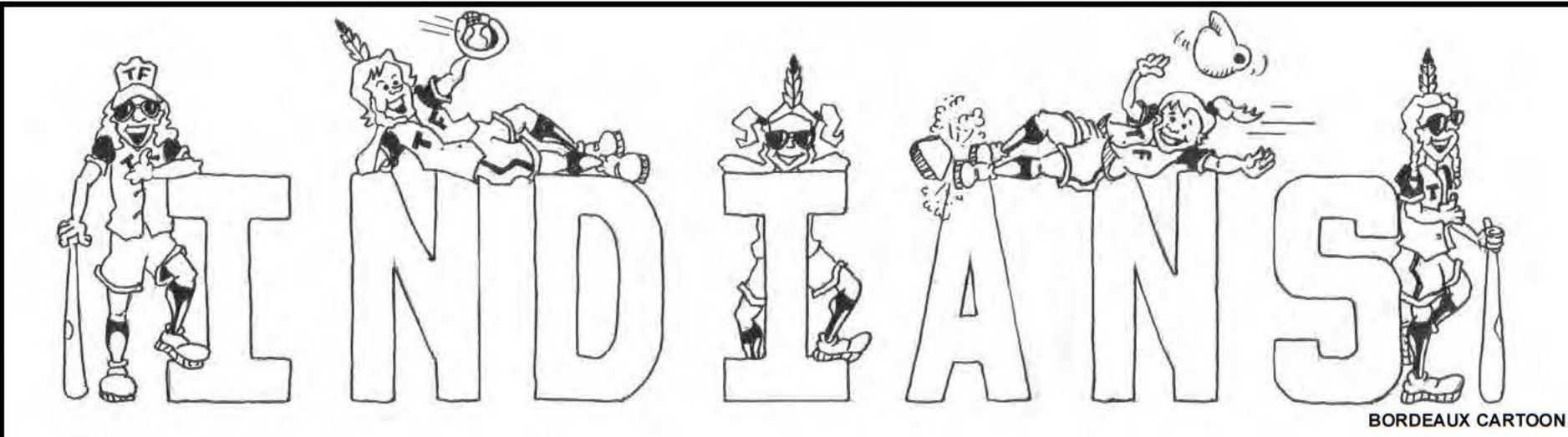
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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Free Cash, Ford Parts and Fiske Pond

BY JOSH HEINEMANN

WENDELL - At its June 15th meeting the Wendell selectboard scheduled two special town meetings, held a hearing for a Class III auto salvage license, and began to deal with the town's ownership of Fiske Pond.

The finance committee shows a free cash balance of \$218,696, which needs to be certified by a town meeting in this fiscal year in order to make it available for use. Because the warrant must be posted two weeks before a town meeting, selectboard member Dan Keller asked town coordinator Nancy Aldrich to have the one article warrant written the next day, June 16th so that as assistant constable he could post it in time for a town meeting on June 30th, the last day of this fiscal year. Aldrich also made calls to town moderator, Kathy Becker, and town clerk, Anna Hartjens, to make sure they were available that evening.

The finance committee recommended that \$80,000 of the \$218,696 be used to lower the tax rate, and the rest be put into

the stabilization fund.

Another special town meeting will be held July 13th for the proposed new library, the town septic system, and the proposed new town office building. The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) will notify the town about its grant application on July 7th. In order to continue with the library building project, the town has to approve its share of the cost. A preservation easement on the front two thirds of the current town office building would allow the town to be eligible for a grant from Mass Historic to be applied towards restoring that part of the building. Librarian Rosie Heidkamp was appointed project coordinator.

At the July 13th town meeting the town will be able to approve money for the final design of the Center septic system. The selectboard appointed a septic design and construction committee consisting of Christine Heard, Jim Slavas, Bob Leet, Dan Keller, Sharon Genzler, and Rosie Heidkamp, all of whom were members of the original town center septic

study committee.

Mark Fontaine, Andy Rice and Brian Shepherd, of Andmar Industries, met the board at 7:30 to apply for a Class III license for the automobile salvage yard at Mormon Hollow. They plan to purchase the business from the current owner, Bill Landry, lease the property, and continue operating much as Landry had. Landry said they wanted to get the license in place before they started the paperwork for transferring the business. Conditions were set that continue the current operations, with an EPA certified furnace that burns all the drained fluids except antifreeze, and a limit of 350 vehicles on the site, although Fontaine and Shepherd hope to keep that number lower. Hedges will be maintained along the property sides, and vehicles in front will be few and orderly. Hours will be 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, with extended office hours until 8:00 p.m. to catch internet business from California, and 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday. Fontaine hopes to take advantage of Mormon Hollow's exist-

ing reputation as a supplier of Ford parts.

Police Chief Ed Chase, finance committee members Michael Idoine and Lee Trousdale, and conservation commission member Charles Smith met the selectboard to discuss issues of parking and enforcement at Fiske Pond. A family whose property abuts Fiske Pond has complained about parking along their fence, and those present decided to post both sides of the road from the corner of West Street and Locke Hill Road to 100' beyond the vehicle entrance with signs saying, "Vehicles subject to towing." The conservation commission will pay for the signs and the highway department will install them. The highway department is building an eight-vehicle parking lot on the property, close to the road, behind a stand of white pines. Vehicles parked there after dusk or before dawn will be towed.

Trousdale said the police could not use conservation commission money for the extra patrols and responses, and Idoine added that the police should contact the finance committee if they need more money.

The conservation commission has contacted Mark Stuart to build a 4' x 5' informational kiosk just inside the parking area.

Keller told Smith the conservation commission needs to contact the board of health about testing the water at Fiske Pond, and to look into who will do the testing and who will pay for it. The board of health has the regulations; in a public swimming area water needs to be tested weekly, and each test costs \$100.

Idoine went on to say that the finance committee had developed the position that the town meeting vote, which had Wendell paying more than its share of the Swift River School

budget for the third year in a row, does not waive the original contract between Wendell and New Salem. That contract states that each town will pay its share based on the number of students attending from each town. He said the contract should be enforced, and a town meeting should add language stating that extra money approved at town meeting was not withstanding the contract, and was taken without regard to the vote in New Salem. Without that language, the town that votes the lower amount of money sets the Swift River budget. The additional language can be added at the July 13th special town meeting.

Neither the town accountant position nor the part time professional assessor's position has been filled yet. Aldrich reported she had received only one response to the ad for a one-day-a-week assessor, and that not promising. Six or eight other towns are looking to fill similar positions. The Franklin County Council of Governments (FRCOG) may be able to provide an accountant, but that would cost the town \$16,000 a year. There may be a possibility of sharing an accountant with Buckland, and the selectboard asked her to talk with someone from Buckland about that.

Aldrich has already been talking with Buckland about the newly authorized professional assessor position. There is a possibility that Buckland and Wendell could hire one person to fill both towns' needs. A job description that was taken from Leverett's half-time professional position satisfied assessor Paul Sullivan, and both he and the other assessor, Mary McBride, were willing to interview candidates. The acting clerk offered another possibility, a consulting firm, Coliere and Trumbell, that could do the job, or even hire and train a person to do the job.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Wrong Place to Run a Red Light

Thursday 6-16

3:55 p.m. Report of illegal dumping at Powertown Apartments. Subject notified and trash removed.

6:20 p.m. Report of shoplifting at Food City. Subject told not to enter store again.

Friday 6-17

7:23 p.m. [redacted] was arrested on a straight warrant.

10:57 p.m. [redacted] was arrested on Avenue A by Subway and charged with operating a motor vehicle under the influence of liquor (3rd offense), driving with an open

container of alcohol in the motor vehicle, and a red light violation.

Saturday 6-18

3:38 p.m. Report of a domestic disturbance at a 3rd Street address. [redacted] was arrested and charged assault with a dangerous weapon and assault with intent to murder.

Sunday 6-19

7:31 p.m. After a 911 call from a Vladish Ave address, [redacted], of Vladish Avenue was arrested and charged with trespassing.

Monday 6-20

5:38 p.m. Report of a motor vehicle accident at TFHS, no

injuries. Male subject summonsed.

6:43 p.m. After a motor vehicle stop on Central Street, [redacted] was arrested and charged with no inspection sticker, seat belt violation, operating a motor vehicle with a revoked license, and possession of a class D drug.

Tuesday 6-21

11:00 a.m. Report of a loose dog on 2nd Street. Referred to Animal Control officer (the complaint, that is, not the dog).

10:35 p.m. Report of a domestic disturbance at a Bridge Street address. Found to be verbal only. Report taken.

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Trust Fund Honors Montague Conservationist

BY AMANDA GARRISON
MONTAGUE - The town of Montague's Conservation Trust Fund has been renamed in honor of Henry Waidlich, Montague farmer, long-time conservationist and resident of East Mineral Road. It will now be known as the Henry G. Waidlich Conservation Trust Fund.

According to town planner Robin Sherman, this trust fund "is dedicated to the purpose of protecting land and resources," in the town of Montague. Over the years, Waidlich has encouraged town meeting members to budget money for the fund.

Waidlich was one of the founders of the Millers River Watershed Council in the 1960s, and served on the Montague conservation commission for over a decade. He has also been a town meeting member and a select-board member, as well as a member of many other town organizations and committees.

According to Sherman, "this fund has contributed to the permanent protection of more than 300 acres of farmland in Montague."

Waidlich remembers when the

money in the trust fund totaled only \$1,500. Now, Sherman said, the fund totals \$65,592, but that is not nearly enough to permanently stave off development on even a small fraction of the remaining unprotected farmland in town.

One of the main purposes of the trust fund is to provide matching contributions to the state for Agricultural Preservation Restrictions (APRs) on local farms. Recently, the conservation commission approved the expenditure of \$25,000 to protect approximately 17 acres of farmland in Montague Center.

However, according to Sherman, there are approximately 1700 acres of farmland in Montague that are not enrolled in the APR program.

"Opportunities to protect farmland often come up quickly, so it's very important to have the funding on hand," said Sherman. There are farmers in town who have shown interest in participating in the APR program, but there are currently none on the waiting list from Montague.

The APR program, statewide,

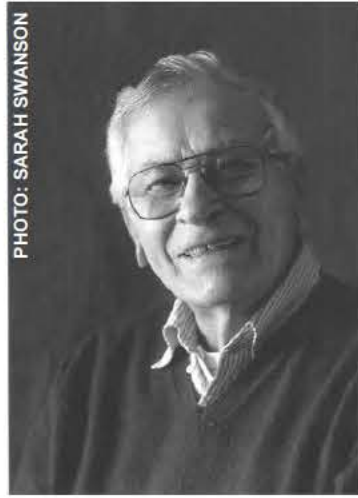


PHOTO: SARAH SWANSON

Henry G. Waidlich

has been generally successful in putting restrictions on farmlands so that development will not eliminate their agricultural use. Land is usually worth more for development than it is for farming, so by paying the farmer the difference in exchange for keeping the land in production, the program provides essential support for conserving working farms.

However, according to Sherman, state and federal funding has always been insufficient in meeting farmers' needs to pro-

tect farmland. There is currently a waiting list for APR funding statewide, with over 30 farms in the pipeline. Very often, a farmer cannot afford to wait to receive funding, and prime agricultural land is lost developers.

Recently, the state has been asking for a 20 percent matching contribution from towns, in order for farms to receive APR funding.

"Good farmland is a valuable natural resource. There is a limited amount of land suitable for the production of agricultural products," said Sherman. "The land along the Connecticut River is some of the state's best farmland."

Waidlich agrees. Farmland in Montague is very fertile. Open land of this quality is highly favored for preservation by the state.

In 1988, Waidlich and his family placed a conservation restriction on their 234-acre farm, long the home of the Waidlich dairy operation. Waidlich considers the farm, which can be seen from the French King Bridge, to be "one of the most beautiful places in

Montague."

Waidlich said that Montague has shown support for agriculture recently by supporting the establishment of a town agricultural commission. He said the commission's main goal will be to support farmers and help to preserve farmland.

"Agricultural land is very limited, and should remain in agriculture," he said.

According to Montague agricultural commission member Dan Rosenberg, "There is a real threat of development facing agricultural land in our town, which relates to the way people are prioritizing land use, and how they value local agriculture. Part of our job is to raise people's awareness of this," he said.

Waidlich encouraged people who care about farms and the future of farming in Montague to contribute to the fund by writing a check to: the Town of Montague, with a memo stating the donation is for the Henry G. Waidlich Conservation Fund. All contributions are tax-deductible.

CAPITAL

continued from pg 1

pointed out to town meeting that this year even normal annual requisitions for capital projects like hazardous waste removal, a new police cruiser, and a new truck for the highway department were funded out of the town's stabilization fund rather than the general tax levy. "That's like using your savings account to buy groceries," Naughton said.

This year, the CIC decided to trade their green visors for a bit of the limelight, delivering a report to town meeting prioritizing Montague's capital needs for the next five years. (See table) The committee also offered a rough estimate for what these projects would cost: "somewhere between \$10 million and \$20 million." For a town like Montague, that's a pretty rough neighborhood.

"We are well aware of the town's financial situation," said committee chair Les Cromack. "But we are trying to make people aware of all the things that are facing the town. We know not all these things can be done at once."

In fact, the town has been putting most of them off for decades. "We're living with a terrible situation," said Naughton.

We haven't spent any money on the police station in 20 years. No money for the library in 100 years. No money from town coffers on the sidewalks in five years. The town hall needs more work, the roof needs replacing, the top floor storage area has been declared unsafe, the air conditioning is old and expensive."

Naughton said the committee tried various approaches to prioritizing the major projects, "What will benefit a lot of people? What won't cost a lot of money? What already has a plan?" But in the end the committee members disregarded these measured approaches, and voted their gut feeling that the town needed to build a new police station even more than it needed a new library, renovated elementary schools, or any of the other pressing capital needs.

"The police station is a lawsuit waiting to happen," said Cromack, who has been a town meeting member on and off for nearly 40 years. The town has been studying where and how to build a new station for almost that long.

"When I first got on the job here in 1976, they were talking about a new facility then," said Montague Police Chief Ray Zukowski. "Back then it was

deemed too small and too antiquated. It's old. It's very crowded. There's no storage space, no room to conduct investigations. When you get victims and defendants in here, they meet at the door. There is no room for female police officers to change. This is the third committee that's recommended a new station, and we still haven't moved."

CIC member Pat Allen said, "The police station may go up with the fire station, to make a logical safety complex in the center of town." She said Ray Zukowski and Ray Godin are working on a friendly, first name basis to advance this plan, and smooth out wrinkles with the fire department's prudential committee and the nearby diocesan land.

Allen said the committee was also working on a concept to build an addition to town hall for a joint community center to house the library, the senior center, and the parks and recreation department, but that concept was in a very preliminary phase.

Naughton asserted the department of public works building "is in terrible shape," and he said that department would be easier to manage if it was headquartered near the recycling center, gravel and sand depot by the old landfill, off Turnpike Road. He

also pointed to the continuing deterioration of the town's roads and sidewalks, and called for a complete "pavement evaluation" prior to any more piecemeal repair work. He said the town used to set aside \$50,000 a year for sidewalk repair, which fell to \$25,000 a year, and then to nothing for several years, until this May, when \$25,000 was again appropriated, for a townwide survey of roads and sidewalks, and some repair work.

Cromack said, "A lot of people don't realize the town owns three of the school buildings: Hillcrest, Sheffield, and Montague Center, and we are responsible for their maintenance and upkeep. He said a proposed expansion at the Tech School would prove a further drain on local taxes.

"Our work could not come at a worse time," s a i d

Cromack, who has chaired the CIC for the past four years. "We are faced with the implications of sewer upgrades now and the annual budget problems. The two combined will be the kiss of death for these projects. But the facts remain." And, as the CIC summed up their report to town meeting, "We would like to emphasize our belief that failure to address the needs that these projects represent will not make those needs go away; if anything, it will make the eventual solutions more expensive."



Montague Capital Projects

Project	Estimated Start
Peskeomskut Park	2006
Shea/Colle completion	2006
Sidewalks	immediate
Highway Garage	2006
Police Station	2007
Water Pollution Control Facility	2007
Town Hall, Phase II	2008?
Carnegie Library	2008?
Recreation Facility	2008?
Senior Center	2008?
Industrial Park	progress by 2008
School Buildings	not before 2010
FCTS	not before 2010
Airport	??
Town Swimming Area	??

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COLLAPSE

continued from pg 1

addition to the main building added on shortly after its original construction served to provide storage space and was not essential to that structure's integrity. Over time water leaked through the roof into a cavity in the brick wall causing extensive damage and resulting in a clearly visible bulge. This prompted town building inspector David Jensen to cite the wall as 'unsafe' in 2002. However, the situation continued to deteriorate, and nothing was done to address the problem. In 2004, Jensen's office sent the first official notice to co-owner Karen Bassett directing her to "do something." Bassett, owner of Doggie Dips and Clips, on the building's first floor, said she purchased the building in 2001 but was unsuccessful in acquiring financing and could not complete the required repairs. By 2005, the wall and attached fire escape were listing dangerously, leaving tenants with a dubious emergency exit strategy.

With the rear addition demolished, "We just need to repoint some of the bricks (in the main part of the building) and rebuild the fire escape," said Bassett, who has returned from vacation to address the issue. According to Bassett, the extent of the problem was not fully disclosed by the previous owner. "He told me a few bricks needed to be repointed, but didn't tell me it was a major issue. The building has been like that for over 20 years," she said. Bassett is awaiting bank financing which she said she expects to have confirmed shortly. Young's Excavating has completed the work of cleaning out the debris in anticipation of construction.

In the meantime the first floor tenants were allowed home on Wednesday. Second and third floor tenants will have to wait until permits to complete the slated work are acquired and the work completed. Until then they have had to find alternative liv-



This two-story brick wall in the rear of 62 Avenue A came crashing down Sunday night, leaving tenants to scramble for shelter in the middle of the night. No one was injured.

ing arrangements. On Tuesday afternoon, one of the displaced tenants, Fred Rusher and his girlfriend, Trudi Willis, said they had exhausted all their resources trying to find temporary housing. Willis spent the night in Respite care in Greenfield while Rusher disregarded orders by the fire chief and stayed in his own apartment. "Hey, there's no fire escape, but there was no fire

about this situation since at least 2002, but they've been pleading poverty to avoid fixing it," he added.

Neighbors Jan and Vern McClish, owners of Pure Light Gallery on Third Street, said they had become concerned about the condition of the rear wall of the building at 62 Avenue A recently. "I walked my dog past there two days before it collapsed," said Jan. "The bricks were bowing out so far I told my husband not to park near there any more, and decided not to walk my dog past there again," she added.

According to Jensen there was no immediate danger to the tenants. "The rest of the building is structurally sound," he said. He stated that Bassett has been forthcoming with information about the status of her efforts at acquiring

escape we could use before," said Rusher.

"The landlords have known

financing. According to Bassett, she was not able to acquire bank financing last year due to tenant

turnaround and other issues, but seemed confident about her application this time. "I wasn't expecting this to happen," said Bassett. "It was going to be torn down in a week or two," she added, referring to her plans to move ahead with the demolition of the rear addition. She added she had spoken with tenants since returning from vacation. "Everybody's been pretty good about this," she said.

Asked whether there were any other buildings in danger of a collapse like this in Montague, Jensen pointed to the former Railroad Salvage building in Turners Falls. "It is in the process of collapsing in on itself unless action is taken soon" he said, adding that the building could remain in a state of partial collapse until next winter. "Railroad Salvage is really dangerous," he added. Asked if he was concerned about the Powers Block in Millers Falls, Jensen said there were issues, but that "90% of the work required to stabilize the structure has been done." He said the building cannot be occupied in its current state and that the owner is currently under orders to fix a brick bulge on the Bridge Street side

of the building, as well as a brick archway over the door.

However, with the Powers Block, Jensen said, "Structural failure is not an issue."

Over in Montague City, the former Rod Shop factory has been taken over by the town because of a ten-year tax delinquency on the part of the owner. Now the town is legally responsible for its condition and maintenance. "We inherited it as is," said Jensen.

According to Ray Godin, fire chief for the villages of Turners Falls, Millers Falls and Montague City, there have been issues with the Strathmore Mill which he has had to address with the owner concerning fire code violations. However Godin is not aware of other structures facing code enforcement violations at this time. He added that addressing such issues is the shared responsibility of his office, the building inspector and the health department. Consequently, he may not be aware of current efforts by other departments.

In the meantime, those who live at 62 Avenue A await someone's OK to go home.



Summer Programs at Brick House
No Experience Necessary!

Housed in the original Turners Falls Fire Department at 24 Third Street, The Brick House Community Resource Center is ready for a summer of exciting programs for teens, families, and seniors. No prior experience is necessary for participation in any of The Brick House's programs or events, although pre-registration is sometimes required.

The Avenue A Music Project (AAMP), which is entering its third year, gives local teens, ages 13 to 21, the opportunity to create their own music and then use specialized equipment to record their work. AAMP recently celebrated the production of its third compilation CD, and it is the hope of BH Youth Programs Coordinator, Jared Libby, that the summer session will give participants the opportunity to record individual CDs.

Montague teens between the ages of 13 and 21 can also take part in the Third Street Digital Arts Project, which will be offering a Video Production Workshop. Participants will learn to direct and produce a multi-camera video production, edit video, and create exciting graphics using animation software.

The Brick House is also launching Brick House AIR, a new artist-in-residence program, which will bring artists from various specialties to The Brick House for workshops with Montague and Gill residents. Offering one-day workshops for all ages in gardening, clowning, and wood carving; week-long multimedia workshops for teens; and multi-week workshops in watercolor painting and video memoirs for seniors, the AIR program offers something for everyone.

The Teen Center hosts Open Mics the last Friday of every month and Movie Nights every Thursday; along with special trips to skate parks and a local swimming hole. The Brick House and bellybowl restaurant co-sponsor Open Mics the second Friday of every month, with the goal of drawing in a wider range of ages in both performers and audience. People share music, poetry, and great food.....a fun night out for all ages!

If you would like more information about any of these programs or events, please call The Brick House at 863-9576 or The Teen Center at 863-9559.



Karen Stinchfield, right, tried to assist third floor tenant Fred Rusher on Tuesday to find temporary housing. Stinchfield said, "You're getting the royal runaround," after calls to the Red Cross, Salvation Army and the building owners' insurance company produced no response. "If you were victims of a fire, it would be a different story."

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Celestial Sights

BY FRAN HEMOND

MONTAGUE CENTER - June's green foliage seems to have fully hidden any trace of the black and white world of winter. The leaf-laden branches bend under their load; the showy iris and peonies replace the advance guard of narcissus and violets. This mid-June even brought a series of mimic August dog days. And then, the sharp retrograde to almost winter chill seemed hardly fair, even for a wicked world. It is a tribute to the elasticity of the human spirit that folks handled the change so well.

Late June may make amends by offering some items on the calendar worthy of note. On June 21st, we had the longest day of the year. Here at 42 plus degrees latitude, we enjoy fifteen hours and about eighteen minutes of light. The summer solstice occurs when, as the Old Farmers Almanac describes in pictures and word, our North Pole is tipped toward the sun and spends its whole day in the light and we, halfway down the Northern Hemisphere, do not see sunset until 8:25 eastern daylight time. The Old Farmer gives the vigilant reader the data to figure out

the length of twilight and standard times that might affect their evening plans.

This June brings hope of planet sightings that are something to remember. Like many events, its appreciation is dependent on weather and opportunity. Right after sunset on June 24th, Venus, Saturn and Mercury will be very close above the western horizon, visible for 30 to 60 minutes. The next night, Venus and Mercury will be in such close conjunction that the almanac suggests that they may look like a single star.

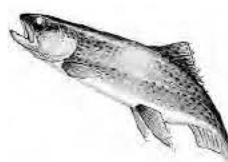
To spot Mercury is always a challenge, not only because it is

low in the sky, but because it is often viewable just at supper time. My first sighting was in Ledyard, CT where we were living in those days. My family was adamant about supper by six. With apple pie as a bribe for a late meal, we made a date to meet at a cliff that looked down on the river valley. This assured us of an open sky and low horizon. The weather cooperated. Mercury, closest to the sun of the planets and hardest to see of those visible to the unaided eye, was glorious, and we joined those who had bothered to look. It made our day.

Writing the dates and places of these events makes a happy record, allowing us to maybe relive them a bit, as photographs do. And these celestial events are not always scheduled in advance. One midnight in the 1940s, we came out of a movie theater to the clear brisk air that comes after a summer rain. High in the sky through the city's trees, a rainbow halo encircled a full silver moon. Fabulous in itself. As we watched the lunar rainbow, a meteor streaked into the halo and shattered.

Learning to Fly Fish Part 11

A Good Day of Fishing



BY ARIEL JONES

MONTAGUE - Non-fly fishing people generally look amused to hear me talk about going out, catching nothing, over and over, or finally catching a nice sized trout only to release it. It is impossible to explain. It's just how it is. Even as a beginner I understand and accept these conditions without question. It's not that I don't fervently wish to catch fish. It is that I know it's not easy, that I have a lot to learn, and that catching is not the same as fishing. I suppose I could say, I am mad about fly fishing, and I love to catch trout also.

Getting frustrated is just part of it, and it usually happens to me when I am over eager, wanting to catch more than to fish.

The Y Pool

Late afternoon last Saturday Tom finally took me to the Y Pool on the Swift River.

As we walked along the path above the river the sun was getting low. The very bright highlights glittering off the foliage and the deepening shadows enfolded us along the path. I felt like I had fallen into a C.S. Lewis novel about two children who go fishing and find themselves in a magical wood.

Fog was rising from the river's surface, softening the outlines of a fisherman in the

water. Wading down into the probably 58 degree, crystal clear Swift felt like heaven after the hot and humid afternoon. We saw some rises and waded in two different directions. This wonderful feeling of being out on the river with a good friend in a beautiful place released the frustrations I'd had the week before, and they vanished into the fog. I began to watch the water, perhaps even reading it, and took my time to cast. I caught several tiny brookies. Lively as school-children released at the end of the day, they practically leapt off my line and swam away.

Who's Your Mama?

We worked our way downstream, had a few strikes but caught nothing else and decided to cross Route 9 and fish the other side. The bank was steep and slippery, and the water deeper than it looked from above. By the time we were in the middle of the river I was up a bit past my waist and my vest was getting soaked. It was beginning to darken quickly now. A small hatch was on. These are conditions ripe for causing Time Panic.

Time Panic can cause you to not change a tippet or fly because it will be dark soon. Time Panic can make you cast too quickly to the wrong places, because it will be dark

soon. When you feel Time Panic coming on, you must take a deep breath and do your damndest to ignore the quickly fading light. Put on the fly you believe is the right one, and cast to the chosen spot with nonchalance. I managed to do this, except I also began calling out to the trout, "Who's Your Mama? Who's Your Mama?"

Of course, that was too much even for the subtle trout. I caught a brightly colored fat

rainbow who put up a good fight. Once I had pulled him in close he made another leap right up at me. Tom thought he had landed in my waders.

He did not, but the feisty clever fellow did jump free of the hook and took off. I saluted him and waded back to the bank under the darkened sky.

It was a good day of fishing.

More fish stories next week.

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WEST ALONG THE RIVER

Knee Deep in June

BY DAVID BRULE
MILLERS FALLS -

*Tell you what I like the best -
'Long about knee-deep in
June,*

*'Bout the time strawberries
melts*

*On the vine - some afternoon
Like to jes'git out and rest,
And not work at nothin' else.*

June just happened this year,
popped open like an umbrella,
after a long damp cool May.

Deep, green vegetation turned
the woodlands rain forest-like,
with bejewelled birds calling
and swooping through the green
canopy. Trees and grasses
crowd to the river edge, water
now laughing bright and full
over the warming stones.

Sometimes though, you just
have to be patient with June.
Tropical heat can send you
indoors where it's dark to sit
near the fan. A walk to the river
is a mission of mercy for the
dog who needs to stand in the

pool of icy spring water to soak
his fur coat - his panting mak-
ing circles and waves spreading
out from his submerged belly
and back.

Just as quickly the heavy
weather can break, and did, one
afternoon, as the front moved
through, twisting and turning
branches, huge trees swaying
and bending under turbulent
skies. The temperature plum-
meted. In just a few hours we
were contemplating whether or
not to tap into next year's wood-
pile and fire up the stove again!

June is the month of new
life. All of the inhabitants of the
river and woods are raising
young. This year's generation
of muskrat and beaver paddle
around with the grown-ups, tad-
poles keep an eye on the cannibalistic bullfrog. The redtail has
a hard time holding onto his
favorite sunning perch, with

bluejays and redwings dive-
bombing to get him to leave
their territory. The winter resi-
dents already are bringing their
young to the feeder; the downy
woodpecker gives his young-
ster a lesson in how to whack a
dead branch just right. The
snapping dinosaur retraces pre-
historic steps to the exact spot
in the floodplain where our gar-
den now is, to lay eggs.

Flowers are everywhere:
wild blue flag, autumn olive,
multiflora rose, mountain lau-
rel, domestic roses of the gar-
den. The explosion of renewal
and exuberance of the cycle is
impossible to inventory.

Pick anytime of the day to
walk out and down to the river,
and you'll not be disappointed.
In the early morning the concert
of birdsong is as stimulating as
the first jolt of coffee of the day.
In the afternoon, the warming

sun coaxes off the jacket, the
bees hum loudly in the flower
bank, emerald green dragon-
flies glitter, the vireo endlessly
recycles his song. In the dusk,
veery and wood thrush echo
their best ornamentations and
vibrato, the heron rows home
through the darkening air, bats
tumble about and whip-poor-
wills question the night. Just
about the best time of the year
for a body to be alive and thriving!

*But when June comes - clear
my throat*

*With wild honey! Rench my
hair*

*In the dew! And hold my
coat!*

*Whoop out loud! And throw
my hat!*

*June wants me, and I'm to
spare!*

- James Whitcomb Riley
1849-1916

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Potential Knitters & Crocheters Wanted

"Can you spare a square?" Stephanie Conrod is holding instructional drop-in hours for knitters and crocheters of all ages and all skill levels at Montague Catholic Social Ministries for her Fiber Arts Program. Stephanie will be on hand Wednesdays, July 6th and 13th from 5:30-7:30 p.m. during Women's Center drop-in hours for community women, on Thursday, July 7th, from 6-7 p.m. during the Parent Led Parent Support group and Tuesdays, July 12th and 19th from 1-2:30 p.m. for area families. Children are welcome. Instruction and a knitting circle will take place in the air-conditioned comfort of the Family Center at MCSM. Bring knitting needles or crochet hooks if you have them. If not, they will be supplied along with the yarn for the squares.

"Can you spare a square?" is a Creating Art/Creating Community program funded by the Community Development Block Grant from the town of Montague. Members of the community are being asked to knit, crochet or weave 5" X 5" squares. The completed squares will be assembled and raffled off as a fundraiser for future art programs at MCSM. Knit with us or create the squares at home and drop them off. Be a part of this community effort!

Montague Catholic Social Ministries is located at 148 L Street, Turners Falls. The parking lot and entrance are on T St. off of Seventh St. Questions? Call Stephanie at 863-4805.

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Scotland the Brave

by Bette Black

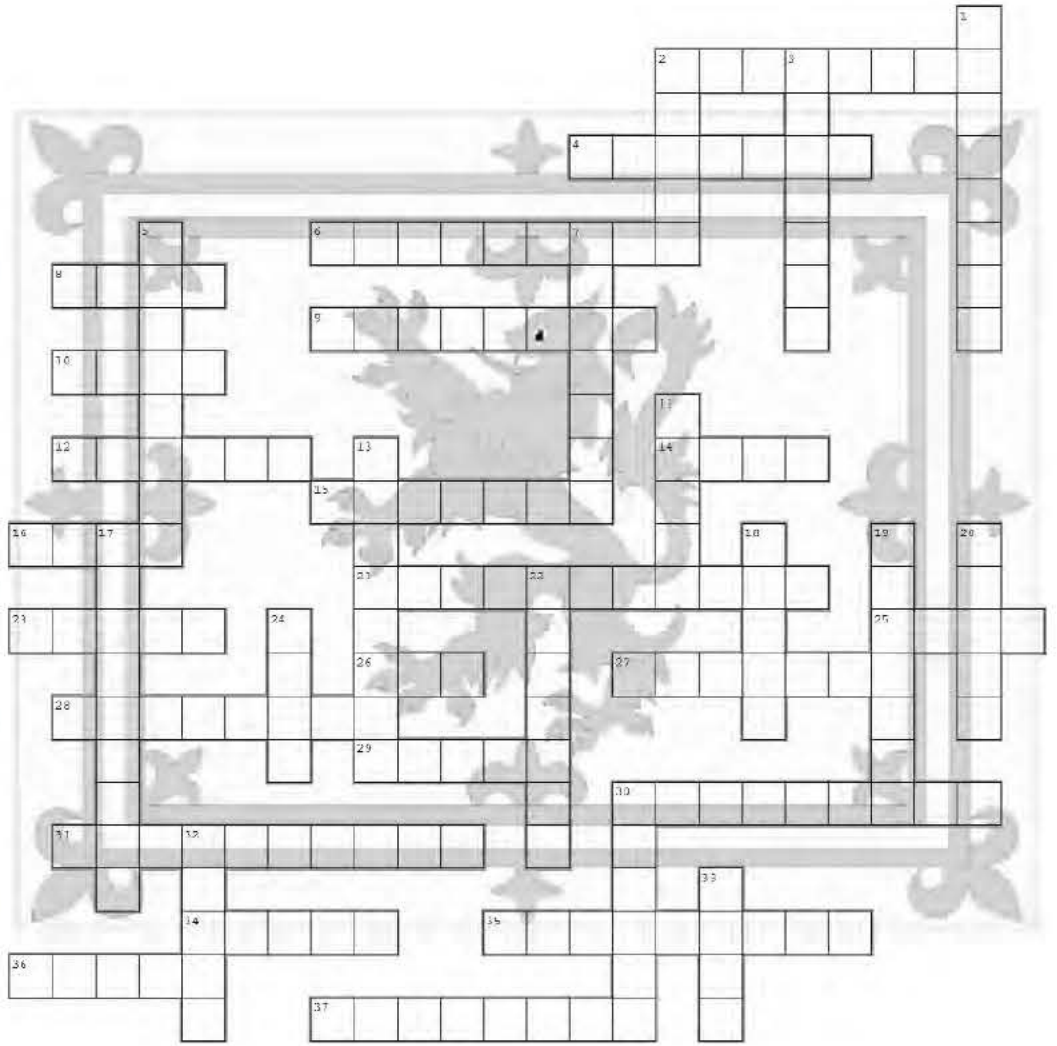
Across

2. Queen Victoria's favorite castle in Scotland.
4. A series of variations on a traditional dirge or martial theme for the highland bagpipes.
6. The water of life.
8. Scottish hillside or slope.
9. Famous Scottish-American who funded the building of libraries all over the US.
10. Zealous Protestant preacher and famed nemesis to Mary, Queen of Scots.
12. Scottish cattle thief.
14. A Highland maiden.
15. William, the inventor of Scottish patriotism.
16. Scots philosopher best known for his views on the nature of morality.
21. Bette Black's favorite scotch whiskey from the Speyside distillery founded in 1886.
23. Ancient people of Achaia, before it was called Scotland.
25. Scots dagger, sometimes ornamental.
26. Monogram of the Scottish born author of Kidnapped and Treasure Island.
27. Wildflower prolific on the moors.
28. The Lord Earl James Graham, proud servant to King Charles II until death.
29. Wool cloth traditionally woven in Scotland.
30. North of the Forth.
31. The Royal Highland Regiment.
34. Scottish babe.
35. Famous proscribed clan of Rob Roy, the prohibition being repealed in 1775.
36. Embossed leather shield.
37. Islands toured by James Boswell and Samuel

Johnson.

Down

1. Most recognizable sword in history.
2. An English translation of this famous book is credited to the instigation of King James VI of Scotland and I of England.
3. That Scottish play by Shakespeare.
5. A supporter of King James II of Scotland, on the Stuart Royal lineage in exile on the continent beginning with the ascension of Dutch William and Mary.
7. Prickly weed whose flower is associated with Scotland.
11. A Scottish tartan is in this pattern.
13. Sainted wife of King Malcolm Canmore credited with church and court reform bringing Scotland more in line with continental style.
17. Hospitable clan members massacred at Glencoe.
18. 19th century Poet and novelist who firmly established remote areas of Scotland as picturesque and romantic tourist destinations.
19. Emperor of Rome who visited "Britain" and ordered the building of a defensive wall against raiding northern tribes.
20. Most renowned poet of Scotland.
22. They can take our lives but they can't take this.
24. It's rampant on the Scottish Royal Standard.
30. Notorious Scottish dish made from innards and oatmeal.
32. Long wooden pole the size of a tree trunk tossed end over end as a demonstration of strength in Highland heavy athletics competitions.
33. Lake with a monster.



THE HEALTHY GEEZER

Oooh... My Aching Bones

BY FRED CICETTI
LEONIA, NJ -

Q. I'm pretty sure I have arthritis in my knee. Is there any danger this will spread?

First, anyone who thinks they may have arthritis should see a doctor. Self-diagnosis is hazardous to your health. Now for some information about arthritis all geezers should know.

Arthritis, which comes in different forms, is inflammation of the joints. Osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis and gout are the three most common forms of arthritis among seniors. Osteoarthritis is the most prevalent. None is contagious.

Osteoarthritis

You get osteoarthritis when cartilage - the cushioning tissue within the joints - wears down.

This produces stiffness and pain. The disease affects both men and women. By age 65, more than 50 percent of us have osteoarthritis in at least one joint.

You can get osteoarthritis in any joint, but it usually strikes those that support weight. Common signs of osteoarthritis include joint pain, swelling, and tenderness. However, only a third of people whose x-rays show osteoarthritis report any symptoms.

Treatments for osteoarthritis include exercise, joint care, dieting, medicines and surgery. For pain relief, doctors usually start with acetaminophen, the medicine in Tylenol, because the side effects are minimal. If acetaminophen does not relieve pain, then non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs such as ibuprofen and naproxen may be

used.

The dietary supplements glucosamine and chondroitin sulfate are used by many who say the supplements can relieve the symptoms of osteoarthritis.

Rheumatoid Arthritis

Rheumatoid arthritis, which is characterized by inflammation of the joint lining, is very different from osteoarthritis. It occurs when the immune system turns against the body. It not only affects the joints, but may also attack other parts of the body such as the lungs and eyes. People with rheumatoid arthritis may feel sick.

There's a symmetry to rheumatoid arthritis. For example, if the right knee is affected, it's likely the left knee will suffer, too. Women are much more likely than men to get rheumatoid arthritis.

Treatments for rheumatoid arthritis include exercise, medication and surgery. Reducing stress is important.

Some drugs for rheumatoid arthritis relieve pain. Some reduce inflammation. And then there are the DMARDs (disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs), which can often slow the disease. New types of drugs called biological response modifiers also can help reduce joint damage.

Gout

Gout usually attacks at night. Stress, alcohol, drugs or an illness can trigger gout. It's caused by a build-up of crystals of uric acid in a joint. Uric acid is in all human tissue and is found in foods.

Often, gout affects joints in the lower part of the body such as the ankles, heels, knees, and

especially the big toes. The disease is more common in men. Early attacks

usually subside within 3 to 10 days, even without treatment, and the next attack may not occur for months or even years.

Most people with gout are able to control their symptoms with treatment. The most common treatments are high doses of oral non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, or corticosteroids, which are taken by mouth or injected into the affected joint. Patients often begin to improve within a few hours of treatment.

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



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Red Sox Face National League



BY LEE CARIGNAN

TURNERS FALLS - Major League baseball did a good job scheduling the Boston Red Sox interleague opponents this season. The Sox have had some interesting matchups with National League teams they faced in some historic World Series over the years, including the Pirates (1903), the Reds (1975), the Cubs (1918), and the Cardinals (1946), (1967), and (2004).

The Red Sox kicked off interleague play losing two out of three games in St. Louis on the very same field they won the World Series last season. The Cardinals looked like a totally different team from the one the Sox faced in the World Series. The Cards got some revenge beating up on the Red Sox 7-1, and 9-2 in the first two games. The Sox managed to salvage the last game of the series behind a great pitching performance by David Wells to overcome their opponents 4-0.

The Red Sox went to Chicago next, to play the Cubs in a three-game series that had historical significance. The Boston Red Sox had not played the Chicago Cubs since the 1918 World

Series, which the Red Sox won in six games. The Red Sox had never played at Wrigley Field before. The 1918 World Series was moved to Komiski Park because it had more seating capacity to handle the bigger crowds. The Cubs also have a curse of their own. The Chicago Cubs have not won the World Series since 1908. The Red Sox winning it all last season definitely changes the dynamic of the series a bit, but the fans of both teams can relate to each other. The Cubs won the first two games 14-6, and 7-6. The Sox again avoided being swept by winning the third game, 8-1.

The Red Sox gave Chicago Cubs shortstop Nomar Garciapara a World Series ring during the series in a private ceremony, even though he was traded in the middle of last season. Ironically the Garciapara trade to the Cubs was what got the Red Sox going last season. There has been some controversy about whether he really deserves the ring. Garciapara, who was one of the most popular Red Sox players during his time in Boston, said all the right things even though he may have some resentment over the trade.

The Sox then went home to open up a three-game series against the Cincinnati Reds. The Reds have not played at Fenway Park since the famous 1975 World Series. Fortunately for the Sox, the 2005 Reds don't resemble the big Red Machine of the '70s, as the Sox beat up on Cincinnati, sweeping the entire series. The Sox also used the series against the Reds to officially name the left field foul pole Carlton Fisk pole in honor of the memorable home run he hit down the left field line to win game 6 in the 1975 World Series. Fisk was very honored to have the pole named after him. The Sox, who already call the right field foul pole Pesky pole, felt it was time to honor Carlton Fisk for his dramatic home run with the Cincinnati Reds in town.

The Red Sox faced the Pittsburgh Pirates over the weekend. They won Friday night's game 6-5 on a bases-loaded single by Johnny Damon in the ninth inning. The game featured one of the biggest plays of the season. In the top of the eighth the Pittsburgh Pirates had players on first and second base when Freddie Sanchez got a

base hit. The Pirates' Jack Wilson, who was on second, had the throw to the plate beaten. But Red Sox catcher Jason Varitek blocked the plate causing Wilson's slide to miss it. The alert catcher applied the tag to get the out and keep the score tied.

On Saturday, the Red Sox were shut out 2-0. This was the first time the Red Sox have been shut out at home since 2003. Pirates' pitcher Dave Williams stymied the Sox all night. On Sunday, the Red Sox shut out the Pirates 8-0 to close out the home stand with a 5-1 record. The win gives Matt Clement his eighth win on the season and the Sox a 7-5 record in interleague play.

The Red Sox have been getting consistent starting pitching lately and have now won seven out of their last eight games. Their offense has been solid, scoring six or more runs in nine of their last ten games. The Sox continue to play well at home (22-10), but need to play better on the road if they hope to catch the Baltimore Orioles. They have one more interleague series against the Philadelphia Phillies starting on Friday night.

Newt Guilbault League

In local sports, the Newt Guilbault League regular season has come to a close. The Montague Elks finished out their season by defeating Pipione's by a score of 7-4 to lock up first place in the Collins Division, and the first round bye in the playoffs. Pipione's finished in second place in the Collins Division, followed by Greenfield Savings in third. In other action, St. Kaziemerz beat Turners Falls Fire Dept. 14-3. St. Kaziemerz clinched first place in the Guy Division along with the first round bye in the playoffs. The Turners Falls Fire Dept. finished in second place in the Guy Division, followed by St. Stanislaus Society in third.

The first round of the playoffs will be held this week, through Friday. Greenfield Savings will face Turners Falls Fire Dept. and Pipione's will take on St. Stanislaus Society. The winners will take on the Montague Elks and St. Kaziemerz in the semifinals.

ART REVIEW: Visual Harmonics at the Center for the Arts

BY LISA DAVOL

NORTHAMPTON - Rebecca Muller and Rick Barnhart have their fingers on the right vibration. A creative collaboration on their current show, *Visual Harmonics: Texture and Rhythm in Color*, at the Northampton Center for the Arts moves us through Barnhart's abstractions of elemental sound, color and geometry to Muller's use of those same elements to comment on life experience.

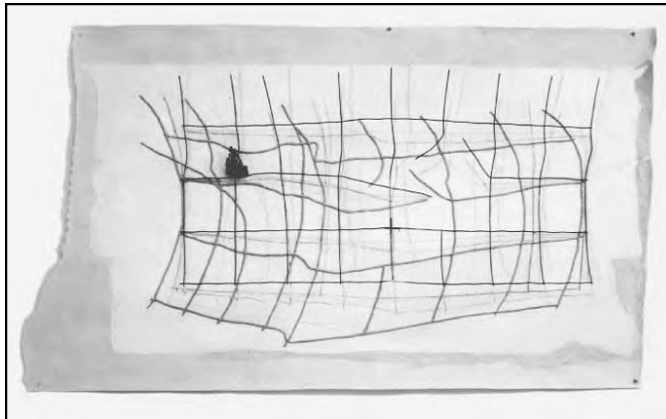
Harmonics is the theory or study of the physical properties of musical sound. In translating musical characteristics, Barnhart visualizes the raw elements of music through his use of color, form and spatial relationship. Emerging inductively, his compositions do not adhere to logic or vision, nor do they suggest a narrative or ideology. They materialize as the composition takes form, guided by the shape of the frame with little reference to life outside of it. Similarly, music employs a set of frequencies within the framework of a key signature, a series of relationships between the notes of a scale. The possibilities are endless within the scale, and, in Barnhart's case, the frame.

Differing frequencies produce color as well as sound and initiate movement when combined in certain multiples. Barnhart's colors are dynamic - bouncing off one another and moving forward. While keeping within his workspace, he starts with a color-chord and then derives a grid on which his geometric shapes are formed, analogous to the staff on which notes of music are placed in relation to one another. His compositions unfold with each shape

building on the last and anticipating the next. On a blue background of contrasting rounded and angled gridded planes, *Composition 2002n06a* uses geometric shapes of strong color that circle and weave in and out of each other. His mixture of similar and complementary colors helps to keep the piece in motion along with repetitive and connecting curves. Little evidence remains of the creator, as the lines are sharp and clean, and the application of color almost of machine quality.

His 3D work is comprised of reliefs, layers of shapes and colors shifting in perspective between the layers and the whole. In *Composition 2005n01a (1985n09b): First Construction*, the focal point is at times the image on the top layer and at other times is the layer's negative space, shaping the strata beneath. The layers come together like musical chords producing one sound comprised of separate notes.

As an entire work of music cannot be apprehended in an instant, Barnhart's digital animations unfold chromatically, with colors, grids and lines chronicling each step of the scale from introduction to resolution. Amid the stationary pieces, video monitors show grids with color and shapes emerging on top of each other to the final completed image. *Composition 2004n04a* is experi-



"Refrangible" by Rebecca Muller

enced as a piece of music is: gradually, attentively, intuitively.

For Rebecca Muller, color is about surface and matter is about color. The materials she uses are meaningfully shaped by perception and perspective, drawing on human experience and events outside the workspace. Her work is subtle, yet it makes a powerful connection to the viewer, suggesting space and atmosphere as well as traces of unidentifiable events, while faithfully remaining abstract compositions.

At first glance and from a distance, *Refrangible* appears to be a two dimensional painting or drawing. As it is viewed more closely, one can see the complex intersection of lines being formed by part of a wire cage attached to a paper backing, with drawn lines to echo the cage. Upon even closer inspection, one can see that some lines are drawn in red and brown, some are of a gray raised material to resemble shadows. Other lines are the actual shadows from the caging appearing only if lighting conditions in the room are sufficient. Clinching the composition in the upper left is a raw

element of rusted metal picking up the brownish drawn lines and hinting at the passage of time and its effects on the appearance of objects as they age. The condition of the object will produce a different color and surface-gray and smooth when new and brownish and textured when aged.

Her use of repeating squares of caging provides additional pattern and texture to her pieces.

Memories outlive actual events that have taken place and are re-colored as experiences and perspectives change. Firmly Grounded is an enhanced photograph of a sculptural piece Muller created in 1985 of the same name. The photograph reflects its vibrant original colors and its stark black background recalls its elegance. The image is fixed in space and can only be viewed from the perspective of the camera. The actual sculpture is also in this exhibit in its naturally aged form and in new context. The almost 4-foot-high piece stands on the floor and is comprised of three smaller pyramid forms stacked to create a larger pyramid. Made of wire caging, the form is airy and allows one to see inside and through it with a new vision from each viewing angle. Each of its three segments is a different color - yellow, red or white, and at points where they overlap the colors and layers float in and out of each other. These colors are

faded as the piece was stored outside for several years. Here it now stands in front of another large reworked photograph of itself, but this time in an outdoor landscape. When it is first approached, there is a moment of confusion before the realization that one pyramid is real and one is photographed. The photograph can additionally be seen through the spaces of the sculpture itself. Muller uses her materials to suggest time, memory, sense of place and self reinvention.

Working in an opposite dimension from Barnhart's interactions of clean edges, solid forms and saturated color, Muller's mutating colors and surfaces examine evolution and reinvention as part of a constant and changing process. Her work is understated, layered with complexity. Initially more tranquil than the overt color and movement of Barnhart's pieces, they then take us off guard as they invade our space and challenge our perceptions.

In *Visual Harmonics: Texture and Rhythm in Color*, Barnhart unleashes color and sets his vibrant geometric creations in motion. Muller then takes the baton and fleshes out the orchestration by harnessing and giving meaning to these raw elements that color our human existence. These artists assert the richness and dynamism under the surface of our textured lives.

Visual Harmonics: Texture and Rhythm in Color is on view until June 28th at the Northampton Center for the Arts, 17 New South St., Suite 303, Northampton.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

WESTERN MASS HIGHLAND GAMES AND CELTIC FESTIVAL SATURDAY, JUNE 25TH 9 - 6, RAIN OR SHINE FRANKLIN COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS see details below



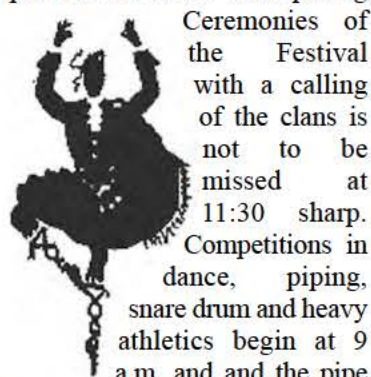
FRIDAY, JUNE 24TH
The Montague Bookmill presents *We Aren't Blocking Traffic. We Are Traffic!* at 8 p.m., a free documentary film chronicling the history and development of the legendary "Critical Mass" bicycle movement to be shown free of charge, with director Ted White in person. Presenting both the successes and failures of this unique movement, the film shows how *Critical Mass* has brought together complete strangers in an exuberant, commercial-free public space filled with creativity and unpredictability. *We Are Traffic!* is a fascinating analysis of a modern political movement that challenges the very notion of what a political movement should look like and how it should function. The film runs 50 minutes, with discussion afterwards. For more info on the film and filmmaker visit: www.tedwhitegreenlight.com

**FRI, SAT AND SUN
JUNE 24TH, 25TH & 26TH**
Ja'Duke Center for the Performing Arts (JCPA), Kimberly Waynelovich and Lisa McCarthy are proud to present the JCPA Showcase *Your Style* on June 24th and 25th at 7 p.m. and June 26th at 2 p.m. This theatrical extravaganza combines the talents of over 130 singers, actors and dancers who will entertain you in Grand Style. The JCPA Showcase will begin with the Ja'Duke Singers performing an original composition by John Waynelovich called *Your Style* and will move into four distinctly entertaining sections which include: *Just Like the Old Days*, *Can You Dance?*, *Premiering on Broadway* and *All About Love*. Combining the talent of Ja'Duke Productions and showcasing the joy and exuberance of JCPA will prove to be a musical night to remember. This evening of drama, song and dance will be a magical way to begin Ja'Duke's Summer Season 2005 which continues with John Waynelovich and Friends, July 23rd & 24th; Elton John's *AIDA*, July 29th & 30th, August 5th, 6th, 7th; John and Nick Waynelovich's original musical *The Cave of Fish*, August 12th, 13th, 19th, 20th, 21st. Ticket prices for all shows are \$12.00 adults, under 12 and

over 65 \$10.00. For reservations please call 413-863-2281 ext 2. Tickets are available at the World Eye Bookstore in Greenfield. For more information please visit www.jaduke.com.

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

Western MA Highland Games and Celtic Festival at Franklin County Fairgrounds, 89 Wisdom Way, Greenfield. 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. rain or shine. The Opening Ceremonies of the Festival with a calling of the clans is not to be missed at 11:30 sharp. Competitions in dance, piping, snare drum and heavy athletics begin at 9 a.m. and the pipe band competition begins at 3 with an excellent view from the grandstand. Sheep herding demonstrations as well as workshops in genealogy, harp, fiddle, bagpipes 101, Celtic Folk guitar and falconry will take place at intervals throughout the day. Live entertainment includes The Bards, Shays Rebellion, Susan Hamlin and Rathkeltair. For more info and directions go to the Western MA Highland Games website at www.wmhg.org.



Wendell Full Moon Coffee House features Mark Erelli, whose music has been described as everything from "jumpin' Memphis rock" to Western swing. Proceeds to partially benefit the Wendell Open Space Committee. For more info and directions go to www.wendell-fullmoon.org.

Open Mic and Game Nite at the Gathering Place, Northfield's finest, funnest coffee house. Drop in for mah-jongg lessons, card and board games for all ages, open mic for readers, sto-

rytellers as well as musicians. Good snacks, coffee, conversation. From 6-10ish at First Parish Unitarian, 72 Main Street, Northfield. Side entrance, tell 'em Mo sent ya. 498-3009.

The Nields will perform a special concert at Memorial Hall in Shelburne Falls at 7:30 p.m., based on the release of Nerissa Nields' new book, *Plastic Angel*. Travel into the world of Nerissa Nields' imaginary characters as she and sister, Katryna, bring them to life through song and story in the debut of her novel about teenage independence and creativity. The album (and performance) that accompanies the book is a stirring folk-rock affair surging to life in the engaging lyrical explorations and expressive vocal harmonies. This evening is certain to make you laugh, give you food for thought and leave you humming. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$18 at the door, and under 18 are half price. You can buy tickets at Dynamite Records, Boswell's Books, World Eye Bookshop, and on-line at www.hilltown-folk.com. For more information, call (413) 625-6878.

The Vermont Renaissance Festival announces the opening of its fifth season in Guilford, VT to be held at The Guilford Fairgrounds on June 25-26th, July 2-3rd, 9-10th & 16-17th. The Festival is a lush and talent-filled re-creation of an English village festival in the 1580s; an exciting, diverse and family-friendly event. July 2-3rd is Kids Free Weekend: for each adult ticket purchased, as many as three children up to 13 years

old get in free. July 9-10th & 16-17th VTRF is hosting a Free Coin - Food Drive: Patrons will receive a free replica coin for each non-perishable food item donated to benefit the Brattleboro Women's Crisis Center and The Drop In Center of Brattleboro Food Shelf, up to 5 coins per person. Admission prices: Adults - \$12, Children (5-13) -\$6, babes in arms are free, no pets please.

SUNDAY, JUNE 26TH
Falltown Players present *America the Beautiful*, a tribute in song and readings to America's finest hours. Bring the family to hum, sing, and reminisce along with the high-spirited Falltown Players, Franklin County's best-loved home-grown group of toe-tapping minstrels. Performance at 3pm, at First Parish Unitarian, 72 Main Street, Northfield. Admission by free-will donation: \$5 per adult or as able.

TUESDAY, JUNE 28TH
Remember Stonewall: Out and Proud
Rally and speak-out on the Greenfield Town Common, 4:30 p.m., to commemorate and celebrate the 1969 "days of resistance" to homophobic violence and oppression; focusing on issues of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer pride, and the history and current status - and links between - our liberation movements. The rally will feature a sing-a-long led by Ann Ferguson, Annie Hassett, and Katie Tolles; and songs and poetry by Arjuna Greist. Signs, banners, instruments, and song sheets are welcomed. Late Friday evening, June 27th, 1969,

the New York City tactical police force conducted one of its regular raids on a Greenwich Village gay bar, the Stonewall Inn. This time, the patrons of the bar and people from the community fought back. The four nights of protest now known as the Stonewall Rebellion are considered to be the inauguration of the gay liberation movement in the United States. Info: Susan Dorazio, 413-367-9356 or susandor@crocker.com.

ONGOING
Now through July 29th - MUDPIE HITS THE WALL, a traveling show of ceramic wall pieces by the members of Mudpie Potters Community Clay Center's shared studio can be seen at the Northampton Cooperative Bank, 245 Triangle St., Amherst during bank hours. For more information about Mudpie Potters or the exhibit, call (413) 548-3939.

Hot Spot Teen Center
Monday: - Ongoing Digital Arts Project, 3 to 5 p.m.
Tues & Wed: - Ongoing Music Project, 3 to 5 p.m.
Friday, June 24th - Open mic, 6 to 9 p.m.
Thursday, June 30th - Technology Drop-in hours, 4 to 6 p.m. and Movie night, 6 to 8 p.m.
These programs are free (except some skate trips) and open to local teens. Some require permission slips. For more info about any of these events or programs please call 863-9576.
Hot Spot Teen Center is in The Brick House Community Resource Center 24 Third St, Turners Falls

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2. STAR WARS III REVENGE OF THE SITH DAILY 12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00 PG13 in DTS sound
3. MR. & MRS. SMITH PG13 DAILY 12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00
4. THE LONGEST YARD PG13 DAILY 12:15 3:15 6:15 9:15
5. MADAGASCAR PG DAILY 12:15 3:15 6:15 9:15
6. BEWITCHED PG13 in DTS sound DAILY 12:30 3:30 6:30 9:30
7. BATMAN BEGINS PG13 DAILY 12:30 3:30 6:30 9:30

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Saturday, June 25th
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ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE UNDER THE SEA

Across	22. NAUTILUS
2. CAPTIAN COOK	23. RED TIDE
4. BLUE WHALE	
5. KRILL	Down
7. MERFOLK	1. MOLLUSK
9. SCUBA	3. MARLIN
10. URCHIN	6. SQUID
11. TSUNAMI	7. MARINE BIOLOGY
13. SEABEE	8. BERMUDA TRIANGLE
14. SEAL	12. GREAT WHITE
15. MEDUSA	13. SEAWEED
18. CORAL	16. PACIFIC
19. BEAK	17. DOLPHIN
20. EEL	21. RAY

Mabel Zobel
By Sandra Facto

Chocolate is my favorite food group.

A Visit to Chase Hill Farm

BY PAM HANOLD

WARWICK - I should have known this would be no common visit to a farm when Whisker spotted me crossing the driveway and made a beeline through the gathered people to greet me with a warm "grin" and gently wagging tail. We had arrived at the Chase Hill Farm in Warwick to learn about the dairy farm and their cheese-making operation. The beautiful drive up, the Celtic-style musicians playing in the back yard, families strolling around everywhere, and the friendly canine well-comers promised an interesting outing.

Dairy farmers and cheese makers Mark and Jeannette Fellows of Chase Hill Farm are the 2005 recipients of the Local Hero Farmer Award. They and CISA (Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture) hosted last Sunday's open house to celebrate. Visitors were invited to wander around the farm, taste the cheeses and milk, ride behind a Belgian team in a wagon, watch a video on cheese-making, and learn about both the farming operation and CISA activities.

Our first stop was to check out the activity under the canopy where we found delicious cheeses, books and information, cider, strawberries, milk and cookies, and good conversation. After sufficient nibbling, we wandered across the road to see the chickens. Housed in a charming refitted wagon for movable nesting inside a light fence, they were busily scratching in the tall grass. Industriously they

scratched deep into the soil for a comfortable rest, thereby lightly tilling the surface as all good gardeners do.

Further up the slope in another part of the field, the cows and calves were contentedly grazing. Tan-brown Jerseys with darker outlines, black and white Holsteins, rich brown Normandes, and their crossbreeds paid no attention to the strangers - except for one alert Jersey who was watching everybody. And that sent me down memory lane.

I hadn't thought about Daisy in years, but she had exhibited that same interest in the world on a farm half a country away. Gentle, except with a new calf, biddable for milking, able to hold her place with the white-faces, she stands out in my memory for a particular act of kindness she granted day after day. I always saved the milking for after chopping and throwing down the silage and feeding the hay and water, and she unflinchingly warmed my half-frozen fingers on her udder, never kicking even when it took several milking pulls to get the stiffness out. What a warm creature she was to lean on in the cold Minnesota winter - and even gener-



A cow grazes at Chase Hill Farm in Warwick.

ous to the cats that waited close for the occasional stream of milk directed their way.

So I looked at the cattle with renewed interest, thinking that Holsteins still seemed more phlegmatic than Jerseys, though this herd all seemed very contented. Well they should be, with rich native grass up to their knees and quiet conversation and music wafting their way. The rotational grazing system used by the Fellows moves both the cows and chickens through different portions of the field in smaller fenced areas. This system provides healthy natural grass with all its diversity for the stock, letting the grass grow undisturbed between rotations.

Standing above the farm looking out over the fields, woods, and farmyard I thought how different it was from the farms of my past. At first it seemed almost untidy, cer-

tainly bucolic, in the spill of wild roses and other plants from the woods over the fences. Not here the rigidly defined, geometrical fields imposed on the land. Then I realized that the restfulness I felt, the satisfaction of a landscape that drew the eye randomly along, was the beauty of a

knew she would have if the owner had let her. Wonderful memories 30 years apart, connecting over a century of experiences.

Jeannette Fellows speaks of wanting people to "come and see what we do and how we farm." We did, and we took away more than I could have imagined - all the day offered and the shared memories of other farms in other places. Should you have time for a beautiful drive to buy excellent cheeses, organic raw milk, grass-fed beef and veal, and fresh eggs from the only certified organic dairy farm in Massachusetts, I certainly recommend a trip to the Chase Hill Farm and our neighbors, the Fellows family.

farm existing in balance with nature. Not free from human impact, but interacting respectfully and working with the natural ecosystem.

One last memory I take away with me, part of that day and part of an earlier time: The small child in the backpack reaching out to bump the nose of the big Belgian horse standing quietly waiting for the next trip down the lane, both calm, secure, and mildly interested, reminded me of another day long ago. On a trip from Minneapolis where she had lived for decades, our 92-year-old grandmother, dwarfed by another team of Belgians, also reached out to touch a velvety nose. Speaking of her childhood love of visiting the horses in the stables in Illinois in the late 1800s, she turned and asked, half mischievously, and half seriously, "Which one can I ride?" - and we

Chase Hill Farm is located at 74 Chase Hill Road in Warwick. For information on CISA and their activities, and on the farm (including directions), visit www.buylocalfood.com. Jeannette suggests that if you are coming from a distance, you might want to call ahead to make sure they have a particular item available in their self-serve farm stand. Phone: 978-544-6327. Although the milk can only be sold at the farm, they do sell some to Our Family Farms. Their eggs, cheese, beef, and veal are available at the Amherst Farmer's Market Saturday mornings. Their hand-crafted cheeses - Original Farmstead, Chive, Garlic, and Cheddar - are available in several local stores and farmstands including Green Fields Market, the People's Pint, Red Fire Farm, McCuskers, and Whole Foods Market.

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