



TFHS GRADUATION
Valedictorian Kelly Terault
/ Page 5



TURNERS TAKES TWO
Regional Finals Saturday
/ Page 13

LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS GILL ERVING WENDELL

Year 3
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The Montague Reporter

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JUNE 9, 2005



DETMOLD PHOTO

Storm in the Shade

The Shady Glen

BY CHIP AINSWORTH
TURNERS FALLS - A 30-year-old Easthampton man will appear in Greenfield District Court on June 14th to face charges stemming from an incident inside Ed's Barber Shop that allegedly occurred on Feb. 1st. John Zantouliadis was charged with vandalizing property, assault, threat to commit a crime and disorderly conduct.

The fracas underscores a power struggle that began last November in the village of Turners Falls after the popular Shady Glen Restaurant was sold to Dimitrios "Jimmy" Zantouliadis.

The transition ended

more than four decades of ownership for John Carey and his wife Linda, who opened the Glen the same week in 1963 that JFK was assassinated. In the years since, diners feasted on homemade food at prices that would make Sam Walton blush, served in the type of comfortable ambience that beckoned the ghost of Norman Rockwell.

The restaurant attracted a faithful clientele from as far as Connecticut, Vermont and New Hampshire, who mingled with an overflow crowd of locals.

In the last few years, business had never been better. When three nearby

eateries closed within months of each other -- the Corner Cupboard and Howard Johnson's in Greenfield and the Main Street Café in Northfield -- the Glen was inundated with new customers wary of the encroaching franchise restaurants.

The influx in business might have been a welcome development in Carey's younger days, but now it was a drain. Carey was as hands-on as they come. There was food to order and equipment to clean, plus chores to do that often kept him busy until almost sunrise.

He'd had enough. "It was wearing us down," he

see GLEN pg 10

Blanker Warns Rising Sewer Fees May Force Esleek to Close

BY DAVID DETMOLD
MONTAGUE - William Blanker, chairman of the Esleek Manufacturing Company, warned the Montague selectboard on June 6th that his paper mill may have to shut down if too great a percentage of the cost of planned sewer upgrades are placed on his company. With the town still reeling from the news that \$14 million would be needed to redevelop the idle Strathmore paper mill, next door to Esleek, Blanker told the board, "You're concerned about one empty building down there. You may have two of them."

Blanker and his son, Esleek president Charles Blanker, appeared before the board to discuss the impact the proposed \$5.7 in combined sewer overflow (CSO) abatements and wastewater treatment plant upgrades would have on their paper mill. Esleek, the largest sewer

user in town, contributes 11% of the flow to the treatment plant, and maintains its own pretreatment facility, formerly shared with Strathmore. Tonight, town meeting will consider what percentage of the EPA-mandated CSO and related plant upgrades to bill to the sewer users, and what percentage to bill to the taxpayers. Finance committee chair Jeff Singleton said billing 40% of the \$5.7 million repairs to taxation, as the finance committee and the selectboard have proposed, will require a Proposition 2½ override. Increasing that "will be a tough sell," agreed the senior Blanker.

But building inspector David Jenson argued that in the wake of the passage of Proposition 2½ in the 80s, homeowners felt shielded from the cost of infrastructure improvements, and where possible - as with sewer improvements - are content now to

let sewer users unprotected by a tax cap bear the brunt of bringing the town's treatment plant up to code and town sewers into compliance with federal and state law, even though the whole town will benefit from such upgrades. Private septic users will find improvements to sludge processing to their economic advantage, and homeowners' property taxes will continue to benefit from the higher percentage commercial enterprises like Esleek pay under Montague's split tax rate system. An upgraded sewer system will be a draw for more economic development, further benefiting the residential sector, Jenson argued.

William Blanker said, "There's another aspect to this whole thing. The sludge surcharge (Esleek and one or two other commercial facilities in the industrial park) are paying

see FEES pg 3

Gill Town Meeting Votes Down Clerical Help for Volunteer Boards

BY PHILIPPE DEGUISE
GILL - It appears volunteer boards will have to go another year without clerical support. Gill town meeting members voted down a \$5,632 request for a part-time clerical support person in the town offices on Monday night by a vote of 22 - 29, but voted unanimously in favor of a request for a new 4-wheel drive dump truck for the Highway Department, to the tune of \$54,620. Although one resident put forth the idea of looking into the possibility of purchasing a less expensive military surplus vehicle, that notion was quickly set aside and the article passed without a

hitch.

The meeting opened with the reading of a tribute to Harriet Tidd, long-time Gill resident, town historian, former reporter, and town meeting member. Tidd, who is retiring as assessor's clerk on June 30th, has also served on the town's finance committee, school committee and as town clerk. "I may be rescheduled, but not retired," quipped Tidd after receiving a standing ovation. Tidd then proceeded to berate the selectboard for its failure to keep town residents adequately informed. "We don't know what's going on in town hall," she said. "Perhaps the selectboard

should post something in the paper," she added. Tidd specifically alluded to the failure of the selectboard to inform Gill residents that the town was getting money back from the school budget this year.

Town meeting did approve an operating budget of \$2,509,821, an increase of 7.4% over last year's omnibus figure, to accommodate increases in salaries, rising fuel costs and general maintenance. The discussion over salary increases initially focused on a request by the finance committee to amend the article to separately consider the salaries for town

see GILL pg 16

Rt. 63 Roadhouse Celebrates Bluegrass on the Grass

BY PHILIPPE DEGUISE
MILLERS FALLS - On a warm Sunday at the beginning of June patrons enjoyed sunshine, music and cold drinks as they came to celebrate the first weekly bluegrass jam session on the lawn at the Route 63 Roadhouse in Millers Falls. By car, by motorcycle and by foot they came to dig the vibes at what promises to become a mainstay of Montague's weekend social scene throughout the summer.

"This is about making people feel comfortable," said Steve Sanderson of the Drunk Stuntmen, emcee for the afternoon proceedings.

The bluegrass jams are the brainchild of James Snyder and Carol Cameron, co-owners of the establishment. "People wanted an outlet to play and Carol is a fan," said Snyder when asked what gave them the idea.

"Besides," he added, "This is a nice piece of



PHOTO: PHILIPPE DEGUISE

John Candotas of Easthampton. "I'm a back," he says.

property to share." Snyder waved his "see BLUEGRASS pg 16

PET OF THE WEEK A Handsome Dog



Theodore

Theodore is a six-year-old Shepherd mix in need of a good home. What a sweet boy he is! Theodore has a soft silky flowing coat; he's great with other dogs; he's a little too interested in kitties to live with them. He would be a nice companion for gentle children. He is a nice medium size at about 55 pounds. Loving, easygoing, handsome - what else could you possibly be looking for? Theodore is a Dixie Dog, adoption fee is \$250. To learn more about adopting Theodore, please contact the Dakin Animal Shelter in Leverett at 548-9898 or via email at info@dakinshelter.org.

Summer Child Care ... What to Do?

The YMCA has 7-day camps for ages 3-14 with early and late care available
6:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

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Three different paper routes are available for after school hours on Thursdays on the Hill section of Turners Falls. Contact the *Montague Reporter* at 863-8666 for more details.

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GILL LIBRARY NEWS

Slate Memorial Library's Summer Reading Program

BY LIZ GARDNER

Slate Memorial Library in Gill announced the start of the fifth season of the Growing Readers Summer Reading Program, *the Amazing Reading Race: What's Going On Around Here?* Freshly designed for a new season of hands-on fun, learning, and discovery, Summer Read 2005 hopes to engage area residents of all ages in a summer-long feast of happenings, local history explorations, and reading adventures. Through ongoing and special programming for kids, teens and adults, a challenging reading game for children of all ages and abilities, and ongoing exhibits, interactions, and extras, the Summer Read 2005 Program aims to take participants back in time to explore Gill through the ages, digging into its unique geologic past and pre-history, discovering its Native American roots, experiencing its natural history, questing through Olde Gill, and exploring a treasure trove of local talent, sites, and flavors.

Whether being read to, just learning how to read, reading aloud or with a buddy, reading independently, or reading voraciously, each and every child can benefit from the host of tools and great programs at the library all summer long. The program gets underway with a registration kick-off party on Saturday, June 18th, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Slate Library in Gill. At this time, growing readers of all ages, families and adults are invited to take an interactive journey back in time

to several hundred years ago, when Gill was known as Pocumtuck. Throughout the day, families will be able to visit Jennifer Lee in her conical wigwam for a historic reenactment of what life might have been like in the Native American Pocumtuck settlement of the 18th century. Through Abenaki and powwow songs, black bear stories, Native legends of the land and historical stories of the river, Jennifer will teach about traditional Northeast woodland Indian life and local Native history. As well, she'll have several native-made and trade items to show, pass around, and learn about. Participants may also make their own mini wigwams to take home, decorate and create bark baskets, and try their hand at weaving. Jennifer and her wigwam will be set up for most of the day, and any and all interested residents are encouraged to come out for an hour, the morning, or the whole day!

Additional registration for the summer program will take place during Story Adventures on Friday, June 17th and 24th, from 10 - 11:30 a.m. at the library, during regular library hours the following week, on Monday, June 20th, from 2 - 6 p.m. and on Thursday, June 23rd, from 2 - 8 p.m., and during the Tie Dye Fest, used book sale, and Friends of Gill Picnic on Sunday, June 26th. Special arrangements for early registration and pick-up of program materials can be made through Liz at 413-863-8626.

FACES & PLACES



Fiona Tierney, age 5 and Jake Wallace, age 4½, seem impressed by the Boston Red Sox championship trophy, which visited the Gill Elementary School on Friday, May 27th.

CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS

Carnegie Library's Summer Reading Program

BY LINDA HICKMAN

The Montague Public Libraries Summer Reading Program signups begin Tuesday, June 16th. Children of all ages are invited to participate in the fun read-at-home program. This year's theme is "Going Places @ Your Library." Many exciting programs and activities will be held at the libraries throughout the summer. Upcoming events will be announced in future editions of *the Reporter*. For more information and summer program schedules, visit the Carnegie, Millers Falls, or Montague Center Libraries, or call 863-3214.



Brianna Aubrey of Millers Falls and Isabel Zantouladis proudly showed off their papier-maché ponies at the successful Children's Art Festival at the Carnegie Library on Saturday, May 21st. The event featured artwork from library after school and preschool program participants. The Friends of the Montague Public Libraries sponsored the event, with assistance from Food City, Coca Cola of Greenfield, Stop and Stop and Freibofer's

Three hundred and forty nine children participated in the Carnegie Library's Summer Reading Program in 2004.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES June 13th - June 17th

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, 13th

9:00 a.m. Foot screening
9:45 a.m. Senior aerobics
11:00 a.m. PACE Aerobics
12:30 p.m. Canasta

Tuesday, 14th

9:30 a.m. Tai Chi
10:00 a.m. Writing class
11:00 a.m. Alzheimers info session, see below

Wednesday, 15th

10:15 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11:15 a.m. Mealsite meeting

12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday, 16th

1:00 p.m. Pitch
Friday, 17th
9:45 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11:00 a.m. PACE Aerobics

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

Monday, 13th

9:30 a.m. Exercise
9:45 a.m. Library
12:30 p.m. Pitch

Tuesday, 14th

9:00 a.m. Aerobics
9:30 a.m. COA meeting
12:30 p.m. Oil Painting

Wednesday, 15th

10:00 a.m. Line Dancing

12:00 Noon Bingo

Thursday, 16th

9:45 a.m. Aerobics
10:15 a.m. Craft class

Friday, 17th

5 and 6 p.m.
Spaghetti Supper

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

"Alzheimer's or Forgetfulness?"

While some things are a natural part of the aging process, other things are not. Many things, including medications, can alter your memory. Learn about this important topic at a FREE workshop by Ms. Wanda Landry at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, June 14th at the Montague Senior Center. Call 863-9357 to register or for more info.

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Adopt a Planter

BY LINDA HICKMAN

TURNERS FALLS - Do you like to garden? Would you like to see well-tended plantings in the planters on Avenue A in Turners Falls? You are not alone.

Several months ago, local residents and concerned individuals started a streetscape committee. In preliminary discussions, four aesthetic detractions in downtown Turners were identified: litter, stray shopping carts, dog droppings and the overgrown, mostly untended planters.

The streetscape committee decided to seek businesses, organizations and individuals to "adopt" the planters. As a further incentive, a competition with prizes was suggested.

Anne Marie Allen approached most of the business owners along Avenue A and asked them if they would adopt the planters in front of their locations. Many of the businesses agreed to either take full responsibility for "their" planters or offered to help pay for costs for others to do so. Anne and Michael Bosworth have compiled a list of "orphan

and semi-orphan" planters. Around 10 of the 32 planters are still available for full or partial adoption.

Individuals, organizations and businesses are needed to partially or fully adopt planters or offer incentive prizes. This does not need to be a large commitment. The plantings can be simple. Advice and guidelines are available. The selectboard has agreed to fund \$2,500 toward the cost of mulch, soil improvements, and signage for the planters. The signs will credit both the sponsors and whomever is maintaining the planter.

At the next streetscape committee meeting, Tuesday, June 14th at 3 p.m. at the town hall in Turners Falls, more planter assignments will be made. Interested individuals are also invited to join the committee and help make downtown Turners an even more attractive area. To find out more information, or to adopt a planter, please call Michael Bosworth at the Brick House, 863-9576 or Linda Hickman at the Carnegie Library, 863-3214.

The Bridge of Names

BY LIONEL GIRARD

LAKE PLEASANT - By 1880, the campmeeting grounds at Lake Pleasant became so crowded that a 50-acre plot called the Highlands was designated for expansion. Although a dozen cottages were built, the precipitous path across the Dingle made the Highlands difficult to reach. In 1888, Frank Bickford was commissioned to build a foot-

gates were built and the bridge dedicated to the memory of Fred Rutter. By October, 1958, it had fallen into such disrepair that it was torn down shortly after by the Turners Falls Fire and Water District, who had recently acquired the land under it.

In April, 1974, the Lake Pleasant Village Association was formed and dedicated itself to the bridge's restoration. Under the leadership of chairman Robert Begg, a new bridge was built, opened August 17th, 1975.



The Bridge of Names in Lake Pleasant as it was in 1906
COURTESY MONTAGUE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

In 1929, Mrs. Minnie Rutter of Utica, NY donated money to the New England Spiritualist Campmeeting Association to build a memorial for her son, Fred, who was killed in an accident. The 40-year old bridge was extensively renovated, lych

The 220-foot span was built by the men of the village. Cost of the new bridge was about \$7,000, of which \$3,050 was borne by a grant from the Massachusetts Bicentennial Commission. The balance was raised by the villagers, and by selling memorial pickets, one of which was reserved for Fred Rutter.

FEES continued from pg 1

is another whole ballgame. We are paying a lot heavier fee than what was originally envisioned.

"We've been there producing paper for 105 years. That's a long time to be producing paper. Even when I was a young man, I remember when there were four viable paper mills in town, three in Turners and one in Millers Falls. We're the only one left. Twenty-five years ago, our company came pretty close to being

liquidated. We put together a leveraged buyout. The only reason we did that was for the sake of saving jobs in the community. Every dollar we made went back into the business."

Blanker continued, "The present shareholders never had one penny in dividends. Everything went back in to the business. We are paying twenty-five percent of operating the (town's) treatment plant." Zeroing in on the hidden assessment of the sludge surcharge, Blanker said, "All the overhead costs are being added

in, even some from town hall is buried in there. It just can't continue."

He went on, "We've had some good times; we've had some bad times. We're in some very bad times now. In the last five years, one hundred paper mills have gone out of business in this country, representing 300 - 350 machines out of production. Some, like us, are hanging on, operating at less than full capacity." A steep, sudden rise in sewer fees "is not anything we can pass on" to consumers in this

market, Blanker said. "When you look at these things, you have to bear all this in mind."

Board chair Allen Ross said, "We're not trying to hardball with any industry, especially one that has had such an impact on the town for 100 years."

Blanker responded with an invitation for Ross and Singleton to come look over the company's books, which they accepted. Whether they will be able to take advantage of his invitation before tonight's town meeting is another question.

Montague Reporter Friends' Meeting June 13th

The Friends of the Montague Reporter will meet again on Monday, June 13th at 7 p.m. at 24 3rd Street in Turners Falls, 1st Floor. The Friends offer advice to the staff and help with fundraising events, t-shirt sales, and subscription drives, as their time or inclinations permit. They provide the staff with invaluable moral support and encouragement. If you like the Montague Reporter, please come to the meeting and join the Friends.

YMCA Program Expands

BY PHILIPPE DEGUISE

GREENFIELD - After a year of running a successful after school program for children at the Gill Elementary School, the YMCA of Greenfield is expanding its services to include the Montague Center School in the fall. The program will serve children in grades K-3 and will include physical education, arts and crafts, computers, reading and homework time, and a snack.

Whole childcare will be provided five days per week from 3 - 6 p.m., and will include coverage for half-days of school as well as vacations.


The added after school program came about after interested parents of the incoming kindergarten class at the Center School indicated widespread interest to

Jeff Salk, youth program director at the Y. He is hopeful that the program will meet with the same success as the one in Gill, which will be continuing in the fall on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

This year, nearly 40 children took part in arts and crafts, soccer and other sports, enrichment classes and the ever-popular climbing wall. The Gill PTO has already asked Salk to expand the program next year.

Programs are licensed by the Massachusetts Office of Child Care Services and cost \$11.00 per day, which includes all activities. Limited financial assistance may be available.

For further information on the after school programs, call the YMCA in Greenfield and ask for Jeff Salk at 773-3646.



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Brick House News

14th Annual Meeting

* Friday, June 10,
5:45 - 7:30 p.m.

24 Third Street, Turners Falls
The public is cordially invited
Pizza, soft drinks
& lively conversation.

Join us as we celebrate our
success and provide input for
the future of the Brick House.

*We want to know
what you think!*

* Saturday, June 18 9:00 - Noon

All are welcome to learn the fine
art of gardening, hands-on!
Create-a-garden with a master
gardener at the Brick House.
- Call 863-9576 to register -

* Thursday, June 24
Open mic for Teens
The Hot Spot Teen Center

Montague Parks & Recreation

Summer Programs
Your place for summer fun!

Youth Programs

Summer Playground Program:

- Pre-school Playgroup - Ages 3-5
- Discovery Program - Ages 5-12
- Sports & Adventures - Ages 9-14
(Turners Falls High School)

*Tennis Lessons
American Red Cross
Babysitting Courses
Soccer Mania Camp

Teen Programs

*Tennis Lessons
ARC Babysitting Courses

Adult Programs

Tennis Lessons
Tennis Doubles-Mixer League

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

*MPRD is an official Tennis
Welcome Center.

The Montague Reporter

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Vermont Made Nuclear Sellout

The Vermont legislature agreed last week to a measure that will allow Entergy Vermont Yankee to construct six concrete and steel storage containers on plant property, and to hold another six casks in reserve, to store long-lived high level nuclear waste. Entergy balked at Montpelier's proposal to pay \$4 million annually to state coffers for the privilege of setting up a nuclear waste dump on the banks of New England's longest river, but after weeks of backroom arm-twisting, hammered out a deal to increase by \$2.5 million a year their \$2 million per annum offer for the privilege of increasing power production at the 32-year-old boiling water reactor by 20%. Entergy's operating license for the plant expires in six years, and they plan to seek a 20-year extension on it. If they clear their final regulatory hurdles, Entergy stands to gain an additional \$40 million a year in revenue from the 20% boost in power, for every year they run the aging radioactive steam kettle at 120% of its original design capacity.

The NRC has never failed to approve an uprate increase; this is the first one that has met significant opposition. Much of the opposition came from citizens and legislators living downwind of the plant, in places like Hinsdale, NH and Gill, MA. Montpelier is closer to Canada than to Vernon, and the legislators there can easily slip across the border if the nuke melts down on their watch. By some curious oversight, none of the millions in

bribe money will find its way to affected communities in our state.

Ray Shadis, technical advisor for the anti-nuclear citizens group New England Coalition, said, "The Vermont legislature defaulted on a golden opportunity to protect the people and the environment of our region. The fact is these casks will each contain 68 fuel assemblies (when full). There's enough material in them to manufacture 50 or more nuclear weapons. One assembly, scattered to the wind, would far exceed the radioactive material discharged at Hiroshima. That is a hell of a potential for harm." Shadis said the legislature caved in to Entergy's vague assurances of environmental concern, failed to push for hardened, below ground storage of the containers, which will remain vulnerable to attack or accident. The 80' foot high spent fuel pool, on an upper floor of the main plant, will remain even more vulnerable, and will contain even more spent fuel assemblies under the limited dry cask storage agreement.

Talk about bartering away our children's safety for short term gain. They will be left to care for the carcinogenic waste while never receiving the benefit of the electricity that produced it. The deal struck on dry cask storage at Vermont Yankee, as it presently stands, is a myopic sellout, opening the door for two more decades of operation - at higher rates of power with lower margins for error - for our nuclear neighbor.

We fear for the future.

Wendell Fully Funds Swift River

BY JOSH HEINEMANN AND DAVID DETMOLD

Working swiftly, for Wendellites, voters at annual town meeting passed 26 articles and passed over three before adjourning for the evening, Wednesday, June 8th. Wendell approved spending \$387,901 for the Mahar Regional High School, the last town to give approval for the district school. But the town balked at following the finance committee's recommendation to cut more than \$36,000 from the Swift River School's request, and give the regional elementary school \$297,5888, to match the percentage approved by New Salem voters at their town meeting. New Salem sends 65% of Swift River's enrolled students; Wendell, 35%.

"Maybe it's time we hold New Salem's feet to the fire," opined Jonathon von Ranson. But voters feared it would be their own children who would get burned, and supported the school committee's request for the full \$333,634. This is the third year in a row Wendell has paid more to support the elementary school than the percentage required by the joint agreement with New Salem.

Voters agreed to conceptual plans for the new library, ponied up \$36,000 for a down payment and the demolition of the house on the Anne Marie Meltzer property on 9 Morse Village Road, site of the future town office building. The new library - slated to cost \$1.7 million - will be added on to part of the historic building currently housing town offices. The town's share of the library will be roughly \$800,000, with most of the remainder coming from a Mass Board of Library Commissioners grant.

Voters surprised fire chief Everett Ricketts by finally approving his request for a new pumper, with \$150,000 to come from borrowing and \$90,000 to come from stabilization. Ricketts has been asking for the pumper since 1995, and the town has been salting away \$10,000 a year since then to defray the cost.

The meeting will take up the three passed over articles dealing with a septic system for public buildings in the town center tonight, (6/9) when the meeting resumes. Seven other articles are on the docket, including a call for the return of National Guard troops deployed in Iraq.

School's Out!



"Hey Brunehilde, guess what?! I made the On-a-Roll!"

ILLUSTRATION: NINA BANDER

GUEST EDITORIAL

Another Violation of Tribal Land

BY FLORE FLAGSTAFF, AZ - Is it due to chronic amnesia that people keep forgetting whose land this is? To whom it really belongs?

Let me explain to those who have never climbed Interstate 17 from Phoenix.

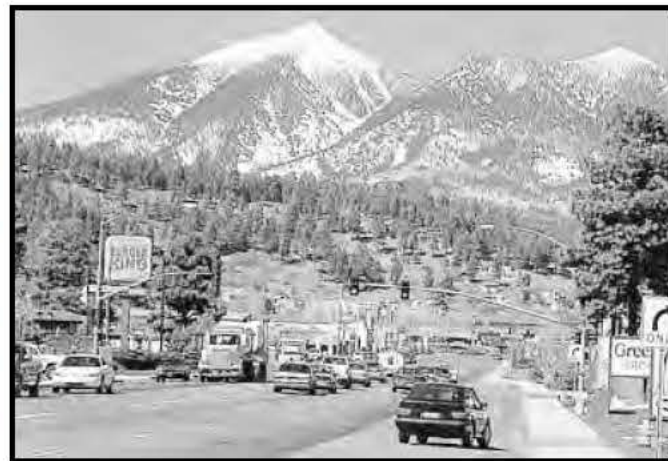
Just before reaching Flagstaff, at a 180 angle, stands one of the most stunning sights on earth: the San Francisco Peaks. It has the majestic allure of a Mount Fuji. It is a mountain sacred to the Native Americans of the Southwest, home of the mountain spirit *Gaan*, the messengers of the Creator.

Forty Native tribes are working against the proposed desecration of this sacred place, about to be committed in the name of expanding the ski area known as the Snowbowl. The proposal would expand the use of artificial snowmaking, employing wastewater, for winter sports.

The Coconino National Forest gave its accord to proceed with the submitted plans, in spite of repeated appeals by tribal governments and conservation groups. The US Forest Service in Albuquerque will issue its decision, midweek, after analyzing the appellants' claims.

Should the Snowbowl expansion plans receive the green light by Coconino Forest supervisor, Nora Rasure, the department will be facing federal lawsuits, spurred by Navajo Nation president Joe Shirley, Jr. Other Native American leaders, including the Hopi elders, are expected to join in the fight.

Has anyone ever wondered why Navajo Medicine men travel these peaks? They are not



San Francisco Peaks on the outskirts of Flagstaff

only gatherers of herbal remedies for healing ceremonies, but the pillars of a religious way of living, called culture.

Navajo Medicine Man Larry Archie gets straight to the point in an interview given to *the Arizona Republic*.

"The Peaks have a lot of religious power, left undisturbed. Putting wastewater (on them) would be like turning our shrine into a toilet."

How many times have we admired Humphrey Peak, gazing up at its crest 12,600 feet above? Did you know, the giant has powerful residents: Changing Woman for one, mother of the four original Navajo Clans?

Sporadically, Spider Woman spends time continuing her weaving and teaching, as she did in the beginning of time.

Other Native Amerindian deities said to inhabit the peaks include Yellow Corn Girl. Katchinas journey there punctually, from August till mid-winter.

The rest of the year they travel from village to village atop

the three Hopi mesas. They are the active participants in various dances for the health and well-being of the people and the bounty of the crops. After the final home dance, the Katchinas return to the Peaks.

"The continued expansion of the ski resort, could destroy beliefs of

our people. How could they believe that it is still the sacred home of the Katchinas?" asks former Hopi chairman Abbott Sekaquaptewa. Charles Vaughn, chairman of the Hualapai tribe adds, "The peaks are represented in all our geneses. First Woman lived in a cave giving birth to two sons. It's an integral part of our culture, because of the interaction we have kept historically with the Hopis."

The ski area provides about 400 seasonal jobs and brings about \$20 million a year to the town of Flagstaff. Is that argument enough?

Where and when did we forget, we are only guests in this vast awesome land?

American Dead in Iraq as of 6/8/05

US FORCES
Casualties in Iraq
as of this date

1,682

Afghanistan 187

Wounded in Action 13,234

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Class Of 2005 Graduates From Turners Falls High School



Valedictorian Kelly Terault

BY ALI URBAN

TURNERS FALLS -- Turners Falls High School graduated 64 seniors at a commencement ceremony June 3rd at Bourdeau Field.

Valedictorian Kelly Terault addressed the class, urging the graduates to face their fears head on. "Everyone is capable of amazing things. No matter who you are or what you did in high school, you have the chance to recreate yourself. Your slate is wiped clean," she said.

"After today, we will

all go our separate ways, and each of us will hold our future in our hands. As you go through life, be careful not to drop it, for it is fragile," she continued. "If you do encounter difficulty, don't change your goal, change your direction to get there."

Marissa Sicley, salutatorian of the class of 2005, reminded her classmates that true success comes from present happiness. "Even though our experiences influence the creation of memories, all memories are day-dreams, and dreams influence what we may become in the future," she said.

She stressed the importance of personal happiness to achieve

one's goals. "The goals we hold for the future are crucial, but only if we feel happy right now in wanting to achieve them... We can only rely on the here and the now to make us happy with ourselves," she added.

Class president Christopher Austin served as class marshal and led the graduates -- the girls dressed in white caps and gowns, the boys in blue -- along the track to their seats on the football field. As class president, he also addressed the graduates, predicting a bright future for them.

Turners Falls High School principal Robert Morrill was impressed by the graduating

class. "This is a remarkable group of young people, with what they have been able to accomplish in the past 13 years. I am very hopeful that their success will continue through the coming years," he said.

Of the graduates, 39 percent will be attending a 4-year college, 37 percent will go to a 2-year college, and 24 percent will be attending a technical school, joining the military or taking other career paths.

This was the first class to graduate from the newly renovated school.

OBITUARY

Patricia A. Watts

Patricia "Patty" Ann (Harris) Watts, 53, died on June 1st, 2005 at the Franklin Medical Center after a three-year battle with breast cancer. Patty, a 30-year resident of Colrain, MA, was born on October 28th, 1951 in Jersey City, NJ. She predeceases her mother, Rachel A. (Albert) Harris of Greenfield, her father, Donald G. Harris, and stepmother Mary Beth Harris, of Ringwood, NJ.

She leaves behind five siblings and their partners; Donald Harris, Jr. of Gilford, NH, David Harris of Virginia Beach, VA, Kate Harris of Amherst, MA, Michael Harris of Waterford, CT and Barbara Harris-Fried of Buckland, MA; stepsister Kathleen Monroe of

CA, and six nieces and nephews.

With former husband, George W. Larkin of Lake Pleasant, Patty has five children; Jessica (Larkin) Harmon of Turners Falls, wife of David and mother of adored grandson, Isaac, Sarah Larkin of Belchertown, Benjamin Larkin of Sunderland, and Casey Larkin of Shelburne Falls. With former husband, Philip J. Watts of Greenfield, Patty has one daughter, Felicity Watts.

Patty worked for several years for the former Energy Food Factory as a sales representative. Other employment included McCusker's Market as deli manager and Mohawk Trail Regional H.S. as a one-on-one

aide. Patty created two successful home businesses; Cotton Plus, natural clothing, and Radiant Enterprises, booking and talent agency. The former outfitted many Franklin County families, the latter brought musical diversity locally and across the nation and continues to do so still. Through these connections Patty touched the lives of an enormous number of people and furthered the spread of values she held dear.

Patty was a long-time member of Brussels Sprouts food cop and Green Fields Market. She regularly donated money to environmental and political causes, participated in related events, and was a supporter and consumer of local and organic

food.

All who feel touched by Patty's life are invited to join her family in remembering her. A service will be held in her honor at the Colrain Community Church, 306 Main Road, on June 18th, 2005 at 11:00 a.m. Following the service will be an outdoor celebration of Patty's life at the Old Carey House Bed and Breakfast, 7 York Road, Colrain, from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. Potluck contributions would be appreciated.


In lieu of flowers, the family asks that contributions be made to NELCWIT, 10 Park Street,



Patricia A. Watts


Greenfield, MA 01301, or Hospice of Franklin County, 329 Conway Street, Greenfield, MA 01301. If you wish to remember Patty with flowers, please plant something in her honor.


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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Montague Elks Visit Erving Town Hall

BY IVAN USSACH

The Erving selectboard was visited by members of the Montague Elks Lodge on June 6th. Don Traceski, Doug Brown, current exalted ruler of the Montague Elks, and Pam Lester, along with Erving police officer Angela Flanders, were present as the Elks presented a check to the town for \$400 to help purchase a "Your Speed Is" sign.

Finance committee members Erik Semb and Stanley Gradowski met with the board to finalize eight warrant articles for the special town meeting on June 27th, the last such meeting of FY '05. The articles include formation of a new seven-member committee to determine the future use of the Boy Scouts building located next to Veterans Park in

Erving; zoning bylaw changes and a new zoning bylaw for groundwater protection; \$1,000 for accounting software fees in FY '06; \$240.80 for FY '06 planning board salaries; \$1,000 for FY '06 planning board expenses; \$10,000 to pay expenses associated with the search for a police chief; and \$20,000 to increase the FY '06 police department wages, in case a new chief's salary is higher than the salary currently allocated for the position.

Chief Christopher Blair is on medical leave, and is seeking disability retirement for an unspecified medical condition.

The special town meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the Erving Elementary School.

The board also received a

visit from Montague residents Daniel Healey and Jenea Curbow-Healey, whose offer to buy the Starlite Diner on Route 2 has been accepted. The husband and wife business team plans to operate a Texas-style barbecue restaurant and came to introduce themselves to the board. They also requested input from the board on matters such as the smooth transition of the liquor license, traffic issues, and support for financing from the Franklin County Community Development Corporation. The board agreed to send a support letter to the CDC.

Healey was formerly the executive chef at Woodbridges in South Hadley. The couple is excited about the prospect for the Route 2 location, and hopes to have

their establishment open by September 1st.

In other business:

The board amended a contract with Tighe & Bond for engineering services for the roof at Fire Hall #2, from \$5,000 to \$7,000.

The board signed a contract for replacement of seven sewer manholes with Freidas Construction of Ludlow, for \$66,100.

The board appointed several police officers from the surrounding towns of Gill, Bernardston and Northfield as mutual aid officers for FY '06, with authority to respond to calls in Erving. Michael Kelly was appointed as a new part-time police officer, with a probationary period. Kelly, who lives in Turners Falls, current-

ly serves as a part-time police officer in Bernardston. Bev Stone was reappointed as assistant tax collector.

Highway superintendent Paul Prest was authorized to trade (sell) some 1970s-era tractors.

The board signed a contract with the state to receive \$50,115 in Chapter 90 funds for town road maintenance in FY '06. The funding level is based on the amount of town road mileage, and the modest size of the Chapter 90 funds reflects the large stretches of state roads in town.

The town clerk reappointed Betsy Sicard as assistant town clerk for FY '06.

The board went into executive session at 9:40 p.m. to discuss potential litigation.

THE HEALTHY GEEZER

Before You Forget... Consult Your Doctor

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - Q. I've been forgetting names of people lately, and I have this dread that this is an early symptom of Alzheimer's. How can I tell?

A. I don't know a geezer who hasn't asked this question. Once you hit 60, you begin to wonder if your lost keys have greater significance than they did when you were younger.

The scary truth is that Alzheimer's begins with difficulty remembering the familiar: people, things, events. Or, you start having trouble doing simple arithmetic in your head. These annoyances are common to seniors with healthy brains, so most of us don't get too worked up over them.

But, as Alzheimer's pro-

gresses, it can make people forget how to brush their teeth or change channels on a TV. And it gets worse until patients require complete care.

So, when should you go to your doctor to discuss your memory lapses? That's a personal judgment call. I've found that I can't remember the names of movie stars and ball players the way I used to. I attribute this to what I call the "overloaded filing cabinet." As we get older, we accumulate so many memories that it's impossible to find the one we want.

I'm not sufficiently worried about my memory difficulties to mention them to my doctor. But if you are worried, get tested.

The available tests include a thorough physical, neuro-

logical, and psychiatric evaluation. A medical history will probably be taken. This history includes information about use of medicines, diet and past medical conditions.



ILLUSTRATION J. HARMON

Blood and urine tests may be done. There are also mental tests of memory, problem-solving and language. A brain CT scan could be ordered.

If you're having some memory lapses, go to the doctor with a positive attitude. The fact is that many different medical conditions may cause

Alzheimer's-like symptoms. Some of these medical conditions may be treatable. You could be suffering from the effects of a high fever, dehydration, poor nutrition, reactions to medicines, thyroid problems or a minor head injury.

And then there are those pesky emotions. Feeling sad, lonely, worried, or bored can affect people facing retirement or coping with the death of a loved one. Adapting to change can make you forgetful.

There are benefits to an early diagnosis of Alzheimer's. Knowing early helps patients and their families plan for the future. It gives them time to discuss care while the patient can still participate in decisions. Early diagnosis also offers the best

chance to treat the symptoms of the disease.

Today, some people in the early and middle stages of Alzheimer's disease are given the drugs tacrine (Cognex), donepezil (Aricept), rivastigmine (Exelon) and galantamine (Reminyl) to delay the development of some of the disease's symptoms. Another drug, memantine (Namenda), has been approved for treatment of moderate to severe Alzheimer's.

Scientists are working to develop new drugs to treat Alzheimer's. Although research is helping us learn more about the disease, we still do not know what causes Alzheimer's, and there is no cure.

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

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Acrostic Poems from Sandy Kosterman's Second & Third Grade Class at Gill Elementary School (continues next page)

Tortoise
Under water
Run slow
Turtles lay eggs
Eat plants and meat
Slow

--Alex Morin

Slithering
Nature
Acrobatic
King Cobra
Eggs

--Malcolm Crosby

Tortoises
Under the shell
Reptiles
Turtles
Lay eggs
Eats food
Slow moving

--Amanda Lee Williams

Slithering
Never go near a snake
A reptile
Kills with venom
Egg laying
Sheds their skin

--Jason Thompson

Reptiles
Eggs
Ponds
Turtles
Interesting
Lizards
Earth
Snakes

--Ryan Bezio

Tortoise
Under water
Red-eared-turtle
Terrapin
Leatherback turtle
Eastern box turtle
Spotted turtle

--Finnian Tierney

Basilisk
Amazing
Strange
Incredible
Lizard
Ivory colored
So fast it can walk on water
Kinky

--Alexandra Kawecki

Frog and Toad!
Ribbet says frog!
Oh! No!
Go froggy!
Amazing!
New! Pet frogs and toads!
Danger frog and toad!
Toad look out!
Oh great!
American toad run!
Do it!

--Gracie Reeder

Slither
Nature
Ate mice
Killer venom
Egg laying


--Nicholas York

Rattle snake
Earth
Pond
Turtles
Iguana
Lizard
Eastern box turtle
Snakes

--Nicole Whiting

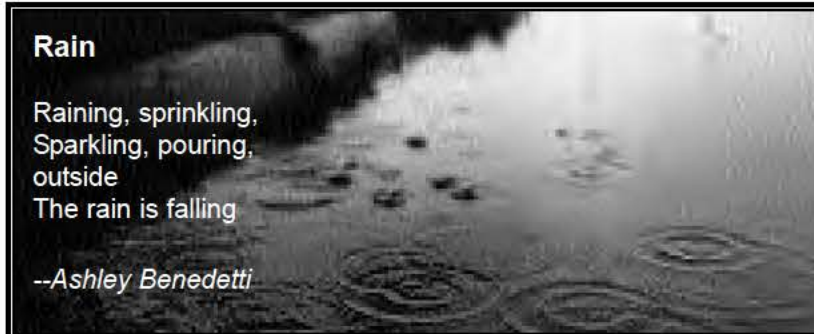
Frogs are amphibians.
Ribbit is the sound they make.
Orange frogs are beautiful.
Glass frogs are green.

--Stephanie Robertson



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.*



Rain
Raining, sprinkling,
Sparkling, pouring,
outside
The rain is falling
--Ashley Benedetti

The story starts.
Hiding in my Gri Gri tree.
Eating Mami's delicious food and forgetting the notepad.

Closing my eyes.
Opening up to Guarío about the notepad.
Learning how to dance Meringue at my favorite spot.
Obviously a writer.
Reading my story about the sea monster to the whole village.

Officials want to take our village.
Feeling fear as we fight for our village.

Mysterious Mami.
Your Papi is your Papi, so why isn't my Papi my Papi?

Why doesn't Angel like me?
Oblivious to all sounds.
Rolling in the waves.
Dead, Guarío is dead.
So the story ends here.

--Imogene Pruitt-Spence
Grade 6, Greenfield Center School

Haiku Poetry from Michelle Hazlett's Fourth Grade Class at Sheffield

Thunder Storm
The rain is pouring
With the summer
thunder storm
I sit outside, watch
--Ashley Benedetti

Dogs lay belly up
Under the willow
softly
Waiting for a treat
--Summer Forest-Bulley

The wind blows
quickly
Through the hard
forest floor
A ghost whispering
--Summer Forest-Bulley

Poem from Maureen Keating's Third Grade Class at Montague Center School

Chloe my Kitten
Chloe is as soft as a velvet blanket.
When I gave her water she definitely drank it.

She's brown, gray and black with white paws.
Now and then you have to trim her claws.

Then she'll eat her kitten chow.
After that she'll meow meow meow.

When she meows it's really loud,
When she's quiet she's really proud.

I got her from the Animal Shelter.
She started purring when I pet her.

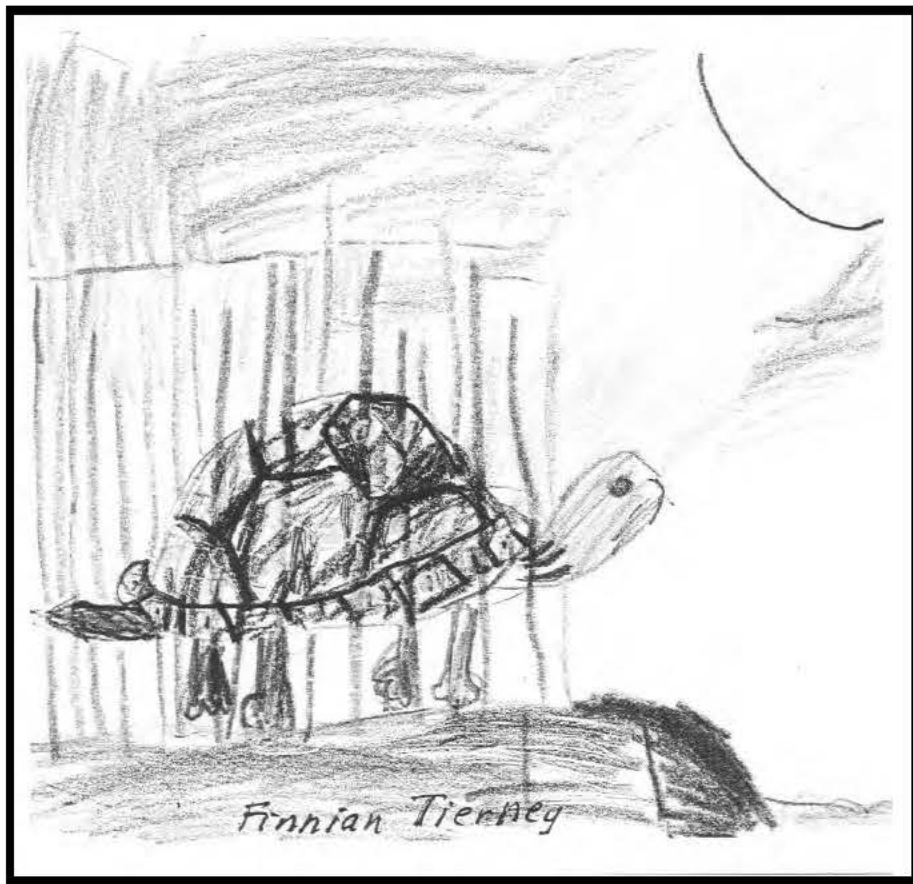
If you throw her little mouse,
She'll run like crazy around the house.

I love her a lot and she loves me.
She's my special little kitty.

--Katri Mizula

Frogs
Green Frogs in a lake
Jump to each green
lily pad
Playing spring leap
frog
--Brandon Lenois

Pigs
Pig in the mud rolls
Making a mess of
himself
Now he needs a bath
--Brandon Lenois



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More student poems next week!



Poems from Maureen Keating's Third Grade Class at Montague Center School

My Auntie's House

My auntie's house in California
Is next to a town called Passadonia.
It's a beautiful place
with lots of open space.
There is a pond with lots of quack-
ing ducks.
The ducks like to go in the back of
the pick-up trucks.
The cattails in the pond look long,
tall grassy fields
Look like orange peels.
That's all I can tell you right now!

-- Sierra Bodell

Dena and Serena

Dena and Serena are not good pals.
Dena is a good horse
and Serena is not.
When she goes in a trailer
She wigs out about the dark.
Dena goes on
like she is just walking.
Someday Dena and Serena are
Going to be in the horse arena.

--Jonathan Rawls

My Dog

My dog eats like a hog
He chases frogs
Through the bog.
The frog lands on a log.
My dog jumps on the log
But he falls in the pond.
My dog gets up, he is mad.
My dog goes home.

--Robert Reed

My Cat Holly

My cat Holly is quiet as a mouse
And she is aloud of the house.
Holly likes wet cat food.
It puts her in a good mood.
She gets in fights with other cats.
And she takes a lot of naps.
Holly is very soft.
And she doesn't have a loft.
Holly doesn't chase mice.
And she doesn't have lice.
I got Holly when I was four.
Her birthday is in August.
And that is my cat Holly.

--Emma Johnson

My Grandma's and Grandpa's House

My grandma's and grandpa's house
never gets dirty
And it always stands sturdy.

The dishes are cool
and the decorations are neat
The house smells good
The smell I can't describe.

There is a pond there where
You can go fishing.
There are many different kinds
of fish there
And I am not kidding!

Now you have heard about their
house,
Do you like it? I do.

--Ryan C. Chapdelaine

Pow Wow

Pow Wow was cool on hot days
Warm on cold days.
Go for a swim
Get caught in a current
You could wind up in the
Connecticut River.
Get back at 7:00
Have potluck.
Watch a movie
Roast marshmallows
Have a spooky story
And a can of soda
Go to sleep,
Wake up,
Go home!

--Stephen Cushing

Cat

My cat is fat.
She likes to bat.
When you give her a toy
She likes it.
Sometimes she will attack you!
She likes dry food but,
We give her wet food too!
She has a bed.
And last night
She was sleeping tight.

--Kelly Gamache

My Fish

I have two fish and they live in a dish
Their names are Sonny and Bob
If they ever fell into a bog they'd
have to look out for the frogs
Fish are pretty as the flowers after
spring showers
They're as silent as the moon
And they live in my room

--Sam Peabody

Really neat
Exciting to watch
Pretty smart
Tons of scales
Iguanas to turtles
Land or water
Eggs
Some small, some big

--Tyler Richardson

Turtle
Upper shell is the carapace.
Reptile
Tortoise
Incredible reptile
Eggs
Slow

--Cole Tognarelli

Snake
Noiseless snake
Acrobatic snake
Killer venom
Egg laying

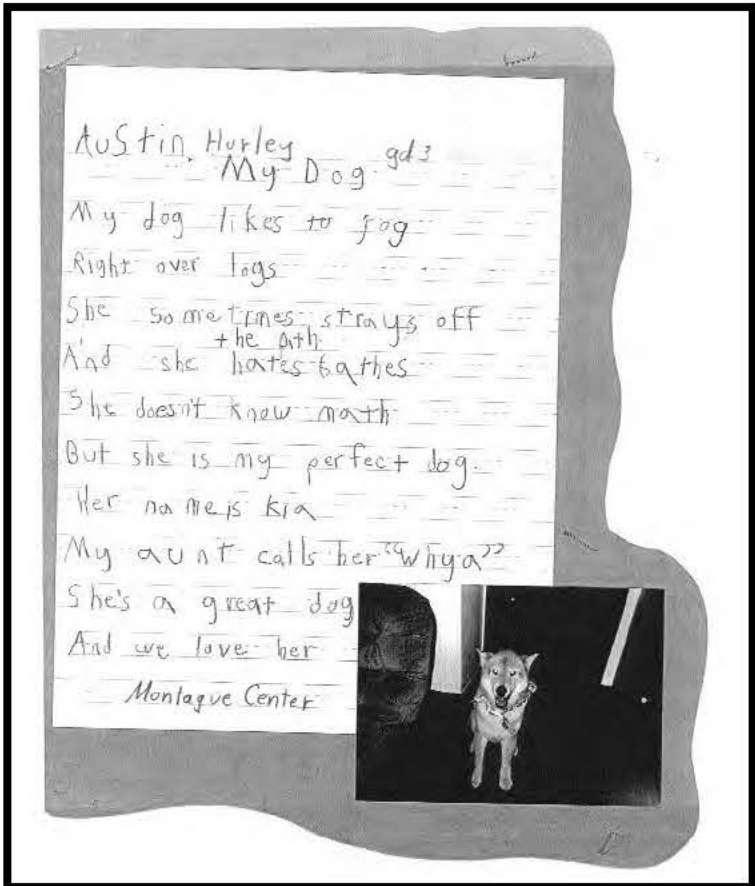
--James Elliott

Run on water and land
Eat meat and plants
Pond is their home
Turtle
Iguana
Lizard
Egg laying

--Spencer Hubert

Slither
Nature
Anaconda
Killer venom
Egg laying

--Craig Bodell



My Dog Max

My dog Max he's very pretty.
He does not live in the city.
Max is a pest sometimes.
And he whines sometimes.
He is smooth and shiny.
His birthday is in July.
He sleeps with my sister.
And he comes from Worcester.
And all of it is true.

--Heather McKenna

Camel

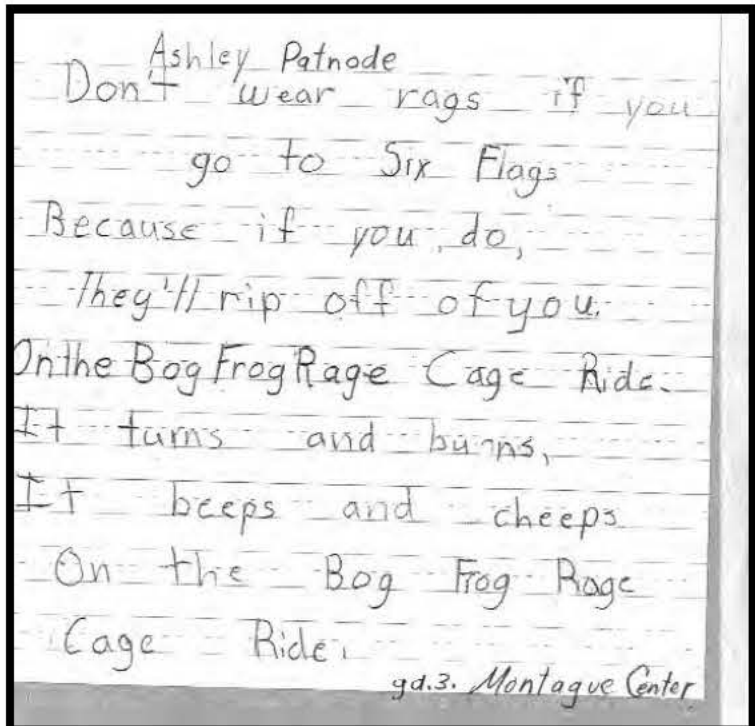
A camel is a mammal.
Their humps are big as bumps.
Humps are like lumps.
Camels live where it is hot
And it doesn't rain a lot.

--Daniel Costa

My cats

My cats are fat
I love them so much
I like when they purr on their mats.
They lay on my pillow-
They're soft as a pussy willow.
Their hair is so long
That it sheds on our beds.
Some times at night
The cats like to fight.
They let out howls and roars
That are so loud we
Have to shut our doors.

--Elyssa Carner



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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Board of Health Proposes Reduced Septic Requirements

BY JOSH HEINEMANN

The new elected members of the board of health, with their chair Don Richardson, met with the Wendell selectboard on June 1st. Richardson announced the health board intends to hold a public hearing to consider reducing Wendell's requirements for separation between a well and a septic system, and between a septic leach field and the highest normal ground water level. Wendell's current requirements in these areas are stricter than the state mandates. The board will propose reducing the town's septic requirements to the less stringent levels required by the state.

The board of health first reviewed the plans for the proposed town center septic system. Richardson thought the DEP was required to perform such a review, but selectboard member Dan Keller, the selectboard's representative on the septic study committee, said the DEP needs to review plans only if system capacity is over 2,000 gallons per day. The proposed town system is designed for 1,900 gallons per day, just under the baseline for DEP review.

The system is actually expected to receive usage closer to 1,100 gallons per day. It is a STEP system (septic tank, effluent pumping), the simplest and least expensive system the committee considered, and the committee recommends that only town buildings be connected to it. Each town building will have a holding tank, and the effluent from those tanks will be collected and pressure dosed into the leach field. The leach field will have two pipes for leachate, and those pipes will be alternated annually, a process that will more than double the life of the field. In addition, there is room to duplicate the entire leach field. The leach field will be in the northwest corner of the Meltzer property, as close to the lines as the law allows, which places it as far as possible from the properties down hill and from the well belonging to the house next to the Meetinghouse.

Health board members examined the plan, noting positions of wells on neighboring properties and brought the plans and the draft report home to examine more closely. They asked that the final plans label

abutters.

Richardson also informed the selectboard that the board of health is changing its meetings from the 2nd and 4th Mondays to the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month, still at 6:30 p.m.

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich announced that the police department is buying a radar display from the New Salem police department for \$1,000, the money to be taken from the police budget.

Aldrich passed on to the board two resignation letters from Don Chapelle, one from the conservation commission, and one from his position as representative to the Franklin County Solid Waste District. Chapelle said he was willing to stay on as an associate member of the conservation commission, to work on Fiske Pond. Selectboard chair Ted Lewis told Aldrich to post the positions, and selectboard member Christine Heard asked her to write a letter to Chapelle thanking him for his years of service.

Aldrich told the board there has been no response yet for the position of town accountant. Keller said it might be worth

contacting the COG, although using their accountant is expensive.

Starting now, the Highway Commission will meet the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month starting at 6:30. This is a change from their old schedule which was the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Vehicle Violations

Wednesday 6-1

7:15 p.m. Person reported being shot at with a pellet gun near the Shady Glen. Under investigation.

Thursday 6-2

1:04 a.m. Report of a motor vehicle accident on 4th Street. A car ran into a stone wall.

was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle under the influence of liquor and driving to endanger.

9:57 a.m.

was arrested on a default warrant.

Friday 6-3

9:07 p.m. Report of a motor vehicle accident on Ave A by Aubuchon's.

was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle under the influence of liquor (2nd offense), driving

to endanger, and leaving the scene of a property damage accident.

11:14 p.m. Report of a loud party at a 4th Street address. All parties spoken to. Peace restored

Saturday 6-4

2:49 a.m. Report of a motor vehicle theft at a Court Square address. Report taken.

3:29 p.m. Report of a fight at the little league field on Crocker Ave. Found to be verbal only.

6:15 p.m. Report of a domestic disturbance at an Avenue A address. Male party summonsed.

8:54 p.m. Report of a disturbance at a Lake Pleasant Road address. Found to be verbal only.

Sunday 6-5

8:35 p.m. Report of kids in the Connecticut River between Riverside and Turners Falls. Gone on arrival of officer.

Monday 6-6

12:21 a.m. After a motor vehicle stop on 3rd Street,

was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle under the influence of liquor and a red light violation.

3:54 p.m. Report of kids swimming in the Connecticut River by the buoys. Officer checked on them. They were fine.

Tuesday 6-7

1:36 p.m. Report of a larceny at the Franklin Area Survival Center. Report taken.

9:21 p.m. Report of a breaking and entering at a Bridge Street address. An apartment was broken into. Report taken.

Wednesday 6-8

8:35 a.m. Report of a breaking and entering at a Walnut Street address. A car was broken into. Report taken.

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Peter Diemand: Running an Egg Farm Ain't Cheep

BY DAVID DETMOLD

WENDELL - Costs are rising at the Diemand Egg Farm. The diesel bill for the delivery truck topped \$10,000 last year. A trailer load of feed, a week's worth of grain for 18,000 layers, went up from \$3500 two years ago to \$5,000 a trailer load today. The farm's electric bill climbed \$150 within the year, propane went up more than \$500 in the same period of time, while health insurance for four families rose \$355 a month. The price of baby chicks has been peckish, tapping out at 73 cents. They were 59 cents a year ago. Even the price of egg boxes rose from 9 or 10 cents a year ago to 15 cents today. The cost of running an egg farm ain't cheep.

Meanwhile, the price a dozen eggs fetches on the Boston Commodity Market, the bellwether for local egg prices, has dropped by one third in the last year and half, according to Peter Diemand, who has co-owned and managed the farm with his sisters Faith and Anne since their father Al died in 2000.

The price of eggs on the commodity market fluctuates, based on whether suppliers from around the country have a glut of eggs or not. But whether or not the wholesale price rises or falls, the consumer will not necessarily notice a difference in price at the cash register. It is usually the producer - the farmer - who feels the difference.

"The price you sell eggs for



Peter Diemand holds a young chick at Diemand Egg Farm in Wendell.

has nothing to do with the input into that product," said Diemand,

pausing in the midst of his day as relatives and customers swirled around his busy farm stand office. "Right now, we are locked into a contract at some bigger stores where the price we're getting per dozen doesn't even cover our costs."

Faced with these factors, the Diemands have done what they can to cut costs by reducing labor, delaying improvements to the farm and buildings, and eliminating all unnecessary expenses. Still, after meeting with three different consultants over the winter and spring, the Diemands feel their only sure course is to raise the price they are charging for a dozen eggs - by a few pennies - to their outlets. They hope they can convince the buyers to

continue to handle their eggs, and to persuade consumers to spend a few cents more to buy them.

"Our eggs are fresher," said Tricia Sylvia, who manages the books at the Diemand Farm. "Our chickens are raised on quality grain with all natural, 100% vegetarian ingredients. No antibiotics, no hormones, no GMO (genetically modified) feed."

"And they taste better," Diemand averred. "You fry up one of our eggs, you can taste the difference; customers tell us that," compared to eggs raised on factory farms. Diemand said stores that offer big sales per dozen eggs are often trying to see **DIEMAND** pg 11

GLEN

continued from pg 1

said.

Two years ago around Christmas he gathered the staff together. "I warned them I was only guaranteeing everybody one more year."

Eventually the news of Carey's discontent reached a restaurant entrepreneur named Jimmy Zantouliadis, who drove up to the Glen on Super Bowl Sunday of 2004.

"He and his wife had a whole history of doing business, an Italian restaurant in Palmer and numerous pizza businesses, and then they bought the Miss Florence Diner," said Carey. "I told them how difficult it was, but they acted like it was going to be a piece of cake."

After a few months of wheeling and dealing, the two reached an agreement. "I was blessed," said Carey. "I got paid to walk out of there. I had visions of having to clean the place out and auction stuff off. Who's crazy enough to want to work seven days a week?"

Carey, who got \$150,000 for the business, leased the property from local businessman Sam Couture, who sold everything to Zantouliadis for \$210,000. When the sale was finalized last November, Zantouliadis turned control of the restaurant over to his son George and daughter-in-law Beth.

According to Beth Zantouliadis, both were prepared for the long haul. "I love it here and I want to stay," she said on June 1st. "Both my husband and I take turns working 60-hour weeks."

Yet knowing what they know now, would they do it over again?

She paused and replied, "Probably."

What Beth Zantouliadis knows today is that being out-of-towners in a small village has made their new enterprise a risky venture at best.

"There's turmoil, then it calms down, now there's turmoil again."

The transition was initially smooth for both sides. Long-term cook Penny Bernier even got a raise, bumped from \$10 to \$12 per hour. But the slide down the slippery slope began the morning George Zantouliadis told Bernier he was getting a new egg supplier. "He said his father would have a fit if he knew how much he was paying for the eggs," said Bernier. "He said an egg is an egg and that he didn't want me talking to the customers about it."

Beth Zantouliadis said the decision was a no-brainer. "It was a business decision. Diemand Egg Farm (in Wendell) was charging (substantially more than a competing distributor)... brown eggs, same size. I don't think Diemand has super chickens that produce spectacular eggs."

The real problems began when Zantouliadis informed the full timers they wouldn't be getting paid vacation until they had worked a year. No wilting wallflower, Bernier decided to challenge the new policy, telling Zantouliadis she'd be taking her vacation later in January.

"Vacation time?" replied Zantouliadis. "You don't have any vacation time. This is a new business. You have to start over.

You have to be here one year before you get vacation."

"I went home. I was in tears," said Bernier. "I told my husband, 'Forget about Laconia. I have no vacation.'"

Her husband Mark subsequently confronted Zantouliadis, then returned to tell his wife she had been fired, along with her daughter Stacy Urban, and longtime waitresses Nancy Kelley and Michelle Wonsey.

Although Beth Zantouliadis claimed the four had quit, customers loyal to the Glen were infuriated. One morning long-time customer Rene Stone of nearby Gill announced to whomever would listen that she was boycotting the establishment. The way Stone recalled the incident, "Beth must have overheard me because she sat down and tried to convince me to stay. I told her, 'You've been nice since you've been here, but nobody likes your husband.' Afterward I went out to the parking lot. He came over and raised his fist and said, 'I want you off my property. I wish you were dead.'"

Beth Zantouliadis gave a different version of what transpired. "Rene came over to me and said, 'I'm just here to tell you I'm never coming here again, you're an a---- and so is your husband.' I went home in tears and George came back and told her to get off the property."

Around the same time, Mark Bernier asked the owner of Ed's Barber Shop, Denise Edwards, if he could put a sign in the window saying the four waitresses had been unjustly fired. She agreed, which led to the incident involving Zantouliadis' brother

John.

According to the police report written by Montague officer Brian Dobosz, John Zantouliadis came in and asked to use the phone, then picked it up and threw it against the wall. He then grabbed both sides of the chair Edwards was sitting in and told her he'd "break every bone in her body" if she didn't remove the sign.

When questioned by Dobosz, Zantouliadis admitted he had initiated the confrontation, that it got loud and out of control, but that he had simply warned her she "would have problems" if the sign didn't come down.

After learning of the incident, Jimmy Zantouliadis said, "For 35 years this family has never had anything, not even a speeding ticket. My kids have never been in trouble."

Until now.

The prosecution is recommending jail time on all four counts and the case will be heard before a jury of six.

When told of her brother-in-law's behavior inside the barber shop, Beth Zantouliadis called it a lie. "It's a complete fabrication. I'll call him right now, and if it's true I'll eat my hat."

She picked up the telephone and called the Miss Florence Diner, where John Zantouliadis works. "John, there's a reporter here who says you were charged with busting up a barber shop and I told him it's a lie."

Beth Zantouliadis listened and peered straight ahead, then said, "I defended you John. I stuck up for you, and now I look like a fool."

After another pause she added, "No, John you can't shoulder this. This is going to

fall on our shoulders. I defended you. I stuck up for you, telling people it was a lie."

When she hung up, tears streamed down Zantouliadis' face. "I wish I never knew this."

Told of her reaction, Bernier said, "How could she not know, is she living in a cave? Everybody knows about this."

It became even more bizarre that night, June 1st. George Zantouliadis claimed to police that Mark Bernier had driven by the Glen and fired a shot from a BB gun at him.

Then Penny Bernier claimed Beth Zantouliadis had driven by their home, beeping and waving her middle finger at them.

The police investigated. "More tit for tat stuff," concluded Chief Ray Zukowski. "There was no gun."

Today many customers who once patronized the Glen go to the Four Leaf Clover in Bernardston where the former Glen morning crew serves breakfast. Yet not everybody has turned their backs on the new owners. At noon on Wednesday, all the booths were full and most of the counter seats were taken.

"We went all winter and the food was fine," said Grace Antone of Greenfield. "It's just not John Carey and that makes a difference, but these people are trying, just give them time."

The good news is that despite Wednesday night's flare-up, both sides seem to be tiring of the squabble.

"If they want to rebuild the business, that's fine," sighed Bernier. "We should leave them alone, and they should leave us alone."



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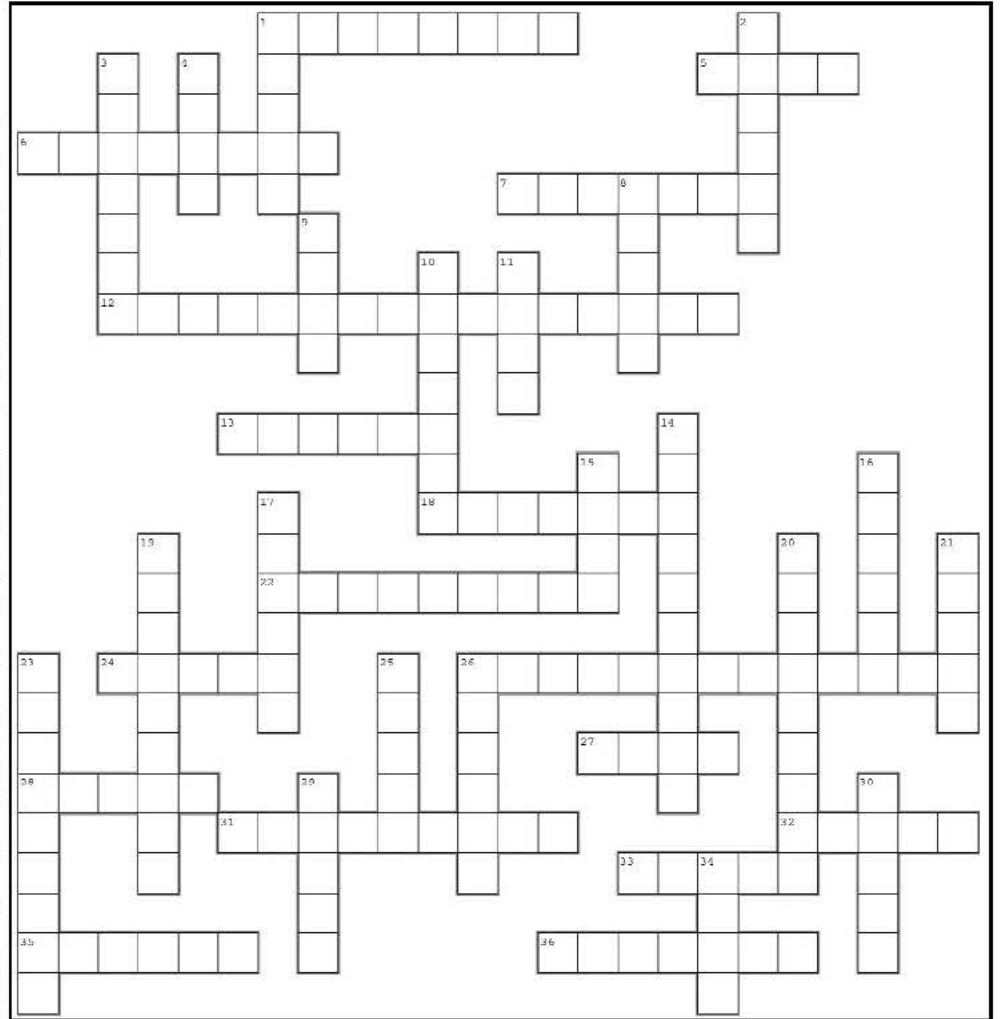
- 1. The other Elvis.
- 5. Johnny who always wore black.
- 6. Dead tribal cult that became a travelling musical, artistic and political revue never seen before or since.
- 7. Pop star Jon turned movie actor known for being wanted dead or alive.
- 12. Singer famous for her rendition of *Son of a Preacher Man*.
- 13. Holiday Madeleine Peyroux is compared to.
- 18. Brass band featuring trumpeter and recording genius Herb Alpert.
- 22. Trio which first introduced the music world to Sting.
- 24. David aka The Thin White Duke.
- 26. Aretha Franklin hit covered by four neo-divas for the film soundtrack *Moulin Rouge*.
- 27. Big hit for the Village People.
- 28. Songwriter partnered with Garfunkel.
- 31. Monumental concert event where Richie Havens accidentally opened up the show.

- 32. Simon who wrote and performed the theme song to James Bond film *The Spy Who Loved Me*.
- 33. Avant Garde songwriter Frank who named his daughter Moon Unit.
- 35. Guitarist Randy famous for his classical stylings while playing with Ozzy Osbourne's *Crazy Train* album and tour who was killed in a small plane tragedy.
- 36. Alt-country phenomenon Williams who recently went blonde.

Down

- 1. Billy Ray with the achy breaky heart.
- 2. Rumanian virtuoso Gheorghe the panpipe sensation who took the world by storm in the 70's and recorded works from just about every genre.
- 3. Neil with big hit *Sweet Caroline*.
- 4. Campbell the rhinestone cowboy and Witchita lineman.
- 8. Miss Jackson whose name aint "baby."
- 9. Call letters for local radio station that styles itself *The River*.
- 10. Song about a painter

- who cut his ear off written and performed by Don McLean.
- 11. American punk pioneer Pop, from Detroit, known as a real wild one.
- 14. Notorious Scottish militia that transformed into a modern day military parade band standard.
- 15. Contemporary African songstress of *Lover's Rock* fame with one name, like Cher.
- 16. Famous cellist, other than Gideon Freudmann.
- 17. English punk rock epitome Johnny.
- 19. *Captain Fantastic* keyboardist and songwriter who was a dear friend of England's Princess Diana.
- 20. First real hard rock band to win an Emmy.
- 21. Tom who covered Prince's song *Kiss*.
- 23. Rocker reinvented as a crooner with his *Great American Songbook I and II*.
- 25. Joplin from Texas who blew the closed doors off of the pop music charts for



- obstreperous female performers ever since.
- 26. Annie who was partnered with Dave Stuart in the Eurythmics.
- 29. Buddy known for bringing a rockabilly/pop hybrid sound to the American charts
- 30. Performance artist Jones who has also appeared as a model, in films and recorded dance-club hits.
- 34. Floyd with iconic graphic album about the dark side.

DIEMAND

continued from pg 10
move product that is reaching the end of safe shelf life. For eggs that means 45 days.

When Al Diemand started selling eggs from the family farm in 1936, his was one of nearly 300 egg producing farms statewide, his son recalled. "By egg producing farms, I mean farms that make their livelihood mainly on the sale and production of eggs." The number of such farms has dropped to six, in Massachusetts. In Connecticut there are two "million bird" farms that dominate the market, and Maine has one with 4 million birds. Large factory farms like these rely on a conveyor belt system of egg production, different from the hands on approach at the Diemand Farm, where the health of the chickens is checked daily.

"When Dad started in 1936, egg farming was good business. Sure, the price on the commodity market might be just 50 or 60 cents a dozen, but grain was \$2 a 100 pounds (now it's \$12 a \$100) health insurance was affordable, fuel cost 13 cents a gallon, and a new car could be bought for \$2,000. Plus, labor was cheap, especially if you had 12 children to help with chores.

Many of the Diemand clan

still work together to keep the farm running, but it is Peter, Faith and Anne who are responsible for making the financial ends meet. Sales of turkeys have grown to make up 20% of the farm's income, but that is largely seasonal. Another fifth of the revenue comes from turkey pot pies, sales of laying hens (to buyers for Southeast Asian immigrants from coastal communities), and other farm store income. But the rest - 60% - of what the farm brings in comes from the sale of eggs by the dozen, and those eggs must bear most of the weight of the farm's steadily rising costs.

Diemand said they are in negotiations with buyers from the larger supermarkets to get a fairer price per dozen, one that reflects the Diemand's actual costs. If those negotiations fail, they may seek other markets, including institutions like local private schools, or they may scale back, cut down on labor costs, and focus on their core base of support: consumers who prefer fresh eggs from a local farm.

"We are the only egg producing farm left in Franklin County," Diemand said. Many customers may share the opinion that a family farm is worth supporting, even at a higher price per dozen.

Concerning the recent decision by the new owners of the Shady Glen to discontinue his eggs, Diemand said, "I was saddened by the fact we lost the account. But from a business point of view, I see their point. But when he asked me if I could meet the lower price, I should have replied, 'How would anybody stay in business if they couldn't cover the costs of production?'"


John Steiner, dairy manager at Food City in Turners confirmed Diemand eggs cost substantially

more per dozen than the competition. "But customers still buy them. They go for the name, like any local product." Steiner only carries the Diemand Farm's large brown eggs, and prices them nearly 50 cents above competing brands on the shelf, to stay within his mark-up. Even so, Diemand eggs account for 10% of his market's egg sales, Steiner said.

"These are our neighbors," Diemand said. He thinks many may share a belief in the importance of maintaining a local food

supply. Diemand also talks about the quality of life that farms bring to rural communities. "I love to see well-maintained farms and hay fields, crops coming into season, the land open." But these once familiar sights are fading from the landscape, and preserving them may come with a price.

Speaking of farms, he summed up his feelings this way: "Smaller and more of us may be better, rather than fewer and bigger."

And further away. 

Gill History: Facts and Figures

BY ALLAN ADIE

RIVERSIDE - For people who love the anecdotes that make up the history of any small town, you can never have too many at your fingertips. Here are a few more, taken from a chapter I

wrote in the *History of Gill, Volume II* (copyrighted by the town of Gill, reprinted by permission).

1978 - A skating rink was built at the Riverside playground through the efforts of parents, the Renaissance Community, who donated heavy equipment and labor, and the fire department, who flooded the rink. Years ago everyone skated on the Connecticut River. It is still a controversial subject as to why the river doesn't freeze like it used to. (*Can't have anything to do with that muke plant in Vernon. - ed*)

1980 - Thanks to the efforts of Noreen Girard and

Mrs. Wilfred Mayrand, we can now call Bernardston without it being a toll call.

1986 - Another first for Gill women. Sharon L. Hosley elected first woman moderator.

1989 - In August, a sudden storm with 60 - 90 mile per hour winds hit Gill. Trees two to three feet in diameter were felled. Special police chief Ronald Kelley said he saw the storm move to Highland Road and then to the tail end of Mountain Road with hail the size of golf balls. The north end of Gill was without power most of the night.

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Patriots Face Tough Decisions



BY LEE CARIGNAN

TURNERS FALLS - When the Patriots signed Tom Brady last month to a huge \$60 million contract you had to wonder if there would be any side effects on the team from lesser paid players looking for their own big payday.

There have been some rumblings that Richard Seymour and Rodney Harrison are both unhappy with their current contracts. Both players are in the middle of multiyear contracts that represent good value for the

Pats.

Harrison signed his six-year deal after coming off an injury-plagued season in 2002 with the San Diego Chargers, which turned out to be one of his worst seasons. That gave the Patriots leverage at the bargaining table. Harrison has been extremely productive in his first two seasons with the Pats and has been a great leader on Belichick's defense. Harrison has done a good job helping out the younger players in the secondary: Eugene Wilson, Randall

Gay and Asante Samuel, and has been the glue that has held the secondary together over the past two years. With four seasons remaining on his contract, the Patriots have all the leverage. Harrison and his agent haven't said anything publicly about the issue - if there is an issue - but Harrison has been absent from the Patriots off-season workout program.

Richard Seymour, who is 25 years old and entering his prime, is in the middle of his six-year rookie contract. Seymour is considered one of the best defensive linemen in the league. He is a bargain for the Patriots at \$2.8 million this season, and \$1.2 million plus incentives in 2006. He will be looking for big money on his next deal. The usually affable Seymour has been very quiet of late. The big defensive lineman only has two years remaining on his deal, but it may not be in the Patriots' budget under the salary cap to give him a fair market contract in the \$6-\$7 million range per season. It's not known whether Seymour would accept a hometown discount similar to the one Tom Brady took to stay with the Pats. The drawback for the Patriots is if they wait too long, they will probably lose him when his deal is up.

The Patriots also have plenty of other players who will be free agents in the next couple of years, which makes it even harder for them to sign Seymour and keep their current roster together. At the end of the 2005 season the Patriots will have five players that will be free

agents, including David Givens and Jarvis Green. They will both be looking to sign lucrative contracts, as both players hit their prime years. Givens, who was a seventh round pick, has worked very hard to become a reliable, sure-handed receiver. He will draw plenty of interest from other teams. Christian Fauria and Ted Johnson will also be free agents after the 2005 season, but they would probably take hometown discounts to finish out their careers with the Patriots.

At the end of the 2006 season, the Patriots will have tough decisions to make. They will have 10 key free agents including Seymour, Deion Branch, Daniel Graham, Dan Koppen, Asante Samuel, Willie McGinest, and Tyrone Poole.

Deion Branch will certainly be looking for his big payday. Branch, who was the MVP of Super Bowl 39, is still playing under his rookie contract, which gives him \$475,000 this season. Branch has become Tom Brady's go-to guy and has opened eyes around the league as he continues to just get better. Dan Koppen was a fifth round pick who became a starter in his rookie season and has never looked back, becoming one of the top centers in the league. Koppen will be looking for a big contract when his rookie deal ends.

One of the drawbacks of success for the Pats will be the challenge of keeping their team together. They should have enough money under the salary cap to keep the core of their

team together, but they won't be able to hold onto everyone. The Patriots will probably try to resign the younger players, such as Branch, Koppen and Samuel, but will end up having to cut corners with other players, especially the old pros like Ted Johnson and Willie McGinest. The Pats will also try to keep using the college draft to replenish their roster, whenever they lose players. They have done a great job with it in the last few years, and will have to keep it up if they want to continue winning bowl games.

It seems the loss of offensive coordinator Charlie Weiss may not be as problematic as originally thought. Offensive players who are participating in the Patriots off-season workouts have been saying everything has been business as usual at camp. Some players had even forgotten the Patriots don't officially have an offensive coordinator. That's because head coach Bill Belichick will have a bigger role with the offense this year. The Patriots will also be running the same exact system that the players are used to, making the adjustment smoother. There has also been more involvement from the assistant coaches, taking some of the pressure off Belichick. Another dimension that makes the transition easier is Tom Brady. His experience, decision-making, and knowledge of the system give the Patriots a coach out on the field. The Patriot players admit they will miss Charlie, but know it's part of the business.

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TURNERS FALLS GIRLS' SOFTBALL

Turners Nips Greenfield, 4-1

BY ZACH SCHONBRUN

TURNERS FALLS - Greenfield girls' softball wasn't going to let #1 seed Turners Falls cruise through without a fight, and that's exactly what happened Saturday in the first round of the western Mass. softball playoffs.

In front of packed stands at Turners Falls high school, the #1 Turners beat the Green Wave 4-1, a tightly contested pitcher's duel between Julie Girard and Maggie Kucharski. Turners will now move on to face the winner of the #5 and #4 seeds, Belchertown and South Hadley respectively, in the semi-final game on Tuesday at UMASS.

For Turners, it was their 21st consecutive win, their third versus Greenfield this season, but head coach Gary Mullins knew they could not take this rivalry lightly.

"You can see by the turnout just what this rivalry means," said Mullins. "This is a special night. And they played well, they hit the ball the best they've hit it against us."

A 1-1 game up until the 5th

inning, both Greenfield and Turners relied on the arms of their two starters. For Turners, this was no surprise, as pitcher Girard has carried the team through much of the season, striking out nine Green Wave hitters and allowing only four of them to reach on hits.

Greenfield's starter Maggie Kucharski pitched valiantly, even refusing to be taken out of the game after taking a line-drive to the face off the bat of first baseman Kellie Brown in the 3rd inning. She allowed four hits, three unearned runs, and struck out one.

After a controversial call at third base in the top of the 5th allowed Turners to sneak out of a second-and-third jam, they rallied their bats in the bottom of the inning, behind back-to-back singles by Brown and Katie Kidder, followed by a wild pitch by Kucharski, and a passed ball by catcher Shannon Weeks, allowing two runs to score. An RBI ground-out by Allison Murphy made it 4-1, and that would be all the offense Turners needed to win.

"We made some mistakes that cost us," said Greenfield coach Mike Kucheski. "Against good teams, if you make too many mistakes it will come back and bite you. Unfortunately, those things happen."

Greenfield nearly found a way to get back into it in the top of 6th, as Girard walked Kucharski to load the bases. But she then found her composure, striking out Aly Zagame, who went 2-3 with two stolen bases and a run, to end the inning.

Turners got on the board early in the first inning, after two errors by second baseman Jill Putnam set up an RBI single by Brown. Greenfield then answered in the third inning, after singles by Zagame, Putnam and a throwing error by center fielder Jaelyn Bastarache allowed Zagame to score from second. Putnam was later thrown out at home by Girard on a groundball by Jess Riendeau.

For Greenfield, who finish 13-7 and entered the tournament as a #9 seed, it was an "up-and-down

season". After a thrilling win over Wahconah 6-4 in the preliminary round, they knew meeting up against powerhouse Turners would be struggle.

"We kind of struggled toward the end of the year," said Kucheski. "But we played well tonight, and there's nothing to take away from our season."

Turners Falls coach Mullins couldn't be happier for his team, as well as the county softball rivalry that has seemingly been born because of it.

"I've been thinking about this thing all day long," said Mullins with a laugh. "So I'm relieved."

There certainly was an air of the surreal at Turners Falls high school in the first week of summer, a Field of Dreams sort of tranquility and enchantment, as two whole towns seemed to file in, family by family, to watch a local softball rivalry unfold. Each town stood or sat behind their respective benches, along the foul lines, into the outfield, cheering on their girls with each respective good play.

There was a noticeable disparity, too, between adoring sides. Turners, heavily favored, featured a confident yet anxious fan base, a business-like determination even from the supporters. Greenfield's gallery was perceptibly louder, more rambunctious, particularly from the throng of high school seniors there to cheer on their classmates in what would be their last game. Greenfield clearly checked in for a good time.

And when the game was over, some tears were shed but not enough to dampen the moment - it seemed like nothing short of an extra-terrestrial spacecraft landing or a Greenfield victory could have turned the town of Turners Falls' collective smile upside down. But neither of that happened anyway, and even the mosquitos seemed happy to be there, enjoying a birds-eye view of a county spectacle too unexpected to be long remembered, and yet, like a dream, far too impressive to be easily forgotten.

Turners Limp to Victory over South Hadley

BY DAVID DETMOLD

AMHERST - The Turners girls' softball team is no stranger to post-season play, but you wouldn't have known it Tuesday afternoon, June 7th, as they squeaked out one unearned run on a couple of walks and a wild pitch in the 6th inning to beat the South Hadley Tigers in the Division II Western Mass semi-finals. The Turners batters did everything they could to make the South Hadley hurler, junior Courtney Kapinos, look good. Kapinos allowed only one hit, struck out five and walked four. On the mound for Turners, junior Julie Girard gave up four hits, fanned nine, and walked just one. Top ranked Turners, the defending state champion,

advances to the regional finals at UMass on Saturday, at 3 p.m., against second place Drury High School (19-3) from North Adams.

Girard, who pinned back the Tiger offense with a blistering fastball and a deceptive change-up in the 92 degree heat, did everything to carry her team to victory except hire the stretcher



Teammates congratulate Julie Girard (center) on carrying her team to victory in Tuesday afternoon's squeaker against South Hadley.

bearers. But her teammates nearly let her down.

Of his squad's performance

minimized the Turners' offense in the clean-up slot, striking out in the first, going down swinging

in the batter's box, coach Gary Mullins said, "We were chasing balls over our head, swinging at balls in the dirt. We got ourselves out several times." Slugger Katie Kidder, "usually a tough out" (a Mullins' understatement) epitomized the Turners' offense in the clean-up slot, striking out in the first, going down swinging

in the fourth, and managing to draw a walk in the sixth.

Girard got the team's only hit, in the first inning, after Kapinos struck out lead batter Ashley St. Peter. Girard smacked a solid liner to deep right field, sliding into third just under the throw. Mullins pulled her for a courtesy runner, Chelseigh St. Peter, who stared as Kellie Brown drove the ball over the second baseman into shallow center field. Tiger CF Jackie Destaroins nearly collided with right fielder Lauren McGee as she hauled it in, but managed to keep the ball in her glove. By the time St. Peter thought about tagging up, a more experienced runner would see **SOFTBALL** pg 14

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A Visit to the Fishway

BY FRAN HEMOND

TURNERS FALLS - The Turners Falls Fishway was built in 1980, has given access to spawning grounds further up the Connecticut River to the anadromous fish that leave their ocean home "at Shadbush time" for a fresh water sojourn. This cold spring they are getting going a little late. But right now and until June 19th, the Fishway Observatory is open, Wednesdays through Sundays, 9 - 5. The public is invited to view the fish passing the viewing window, free of charge.

Northeast Utilities owns and operates the fishway, and has a helpful and knowledgeable staff to explain that anadromous fish are special kinds like shad, salmon, sea lamprey and blue-back herring that live in salt water, but swim upstream each spring to spawn in fresh water. The company's Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center sched-

ules school groups and offers specific information.

Before the dams were built in the Connecticut River, fish could maneuver upstream, and apparently manage the natural barriers. Earlier generations counted on the shad run every year for food and fertilizer. Shad was considered the poor man's salmon. Actually it is a very tasty fish, but watch out for the bones. Even below the big dams, before WWII, the harvest of a shad run on the river in the Middlehaddam, CT area was a tremendous sight, a huge silver net, gleaming in the moonlight.

The environmental concerns that led to cleaning up the river and installing ladders were a slow sell in the early twentieth century. To some people

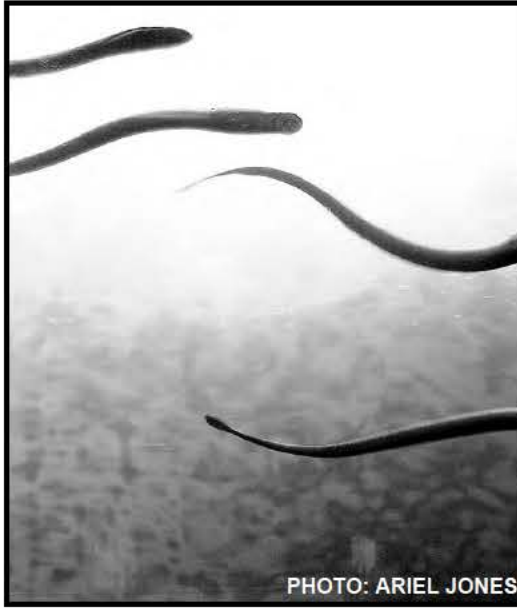


PHOTO: ARIEL JONES

A few more suckers climb the fish ladder.

brought up where there was plenty of river and space, what better way to get an offending substance out of sight and out of mind than to toss it in. The cost of proper sewer systems, the fact that it was the town down the river that was being

polluted, made the need for environmental controls a difficult exercise in democracy. The immediate cost to industry was great, and to the industrialists who appreciated and supported this real gain to their society goes credit.

The upstream journey the fish undertake is incredible. The literature available at the fishway details the 122 miles of swimming against the current, which is racing toward the ocean at various speeds, depending on wind and water.

Climbing two ladders in the Connecticut for a height of 72 feet, then getting a lift up the elevator at Holyoke for 30 feet, is an impressive achievement in verticality, for fish brave enough to attempt it.

Back in the days before the

elevator in Holyoke, in 1955, the Holyoke Water Power Company, one of the mergers of Northeast, tried to make some accommodation for the fish who could not get over the dam. There had been unsuccessful attempts at a ladder years earlier. Men had been sent to the Columbia River to learn how the Pacific salmon made it up over the dams there. An unpopular effort was made to furnish the linemen, and anyone else available, with buckets to carry fish up and over the dam via manpower.

A visit to the Robert E. Barrett Fishway in Holyoke, where more than 100,000 fish have been "elevated," or to the Turners Falls Fishway, where the fish scale the heights on their own power, is provocative. Certainly, the destroyed ecosystem could not be repaired without vision and effort.

SOFTBALL

continued from pg 13

have been crossing the plate.

"I'll take responsibility for that decision," said Mullins, of his choice to pull Girard off from her scoring position and replace her with the freshman base runner. "I wanted to keep Julie fresh."

Fresh she was, and a little wild in the top of the second, after working hard to let Sheila Pronoust, who led off with a single, die on third in the first inning. Girard was throwing high and low before settling down and forcing shortstop Caitie Bowler to ground out to second. She faced her rival, Kapinos, who tagged one off Girard's glove. Katie Kidder

scooped it up at third and made the throw to Brown at first, but not in time. Courtesy runner Justine Vieu, in for Kapinos, stole second, and advanced to third on a fielder's choice. Just as in the first inning, Girard bore down with two away and a runner on third. Facing McGee, Girard allowed the count to advance to 2 and 2 before catching the right fielder with a sweet change up to retire the side.

It was three up three down for Turners, and Girard back on the mound, sweating it out in the top of the third, with two down and Destaroins at the plate. She smacked a solid single over second base, and advanced to second as Girard gave up a walk to Molly

Hamlin. Clean-up batter Jenna Korbut was up next, and she nailed a blistering line drive straight back to the mound. Without missing a beat, Girard snagged it, snapped her gum, and headed for the dugout.

No action for Turners in the bottom of the third. Kapinos, at the plate for South Hadley with one away, waited for a change-up from her rival, on a 1 and 2 pitch, and smacked another single, this one over Girard's head. Courtesy runner Vieu, a freshman, was not content to steal second this time, but took third as well, but Girard fanned the next two batters and left her there.

Bottom of the fourth, and coach Mullins exhorted his team, "Start doing your job! You have three strikeouts already. They've got four hits; we've got one!" But the best Blue could manage was a walk for Allison Murphy before the side was retired.

Scoreless at the top of the fifth. Tigers three up three down, with the Turners fans whooping as shortstop Shelby Landek stopped a drive from Pronoust with a split second reflex. The Turners defense, at least, was doing their job.

But by the bottom of the inning, the underdog South Hadley team was starting to feel a little cocky. Pitcher

Kapinos was doing the hokey-pokey on the mound, with a turn to center field and little hop into mid-air before Turners puts another batter in and she puts another Turners batter out. Kim Lastowski grounded out to second. Sara Girard went down swinging. And Kapinos dominated designated hitter Ashley St. Peter, as she did all game, forcing her to pop out to short on an 0 and 2 pitch.

Top of the sixth, third baseman Hamlin fouled off three pitches, making Girard work in the relentless sun. With the count at 2 and 2, Hamlin drove the ball hard down the first base line, just fair, off the glove of right fielder Alison Murphy. Hamlin took second on the play, and the Tigers were smelling blood. Clean-up batter Korbut at the plate, and Girard threw a wild pitch, advancing Hamlin to 3rd, with none away.

Korbut smacked a one hopper at the mound, and looked like it would go right over Girard's shoulder and bring the runner home. But Girard, saving the day almost singlehandedly, leaped and snagged the ball at the top of her stretch, landed, glared at the Tiger baserunner until she turned tail back to third, and fired to first to get the out. Next batter up,

Bowler, tried to bunt, popped it up in front of the plate, where Girard leaped forward to snatch it in mid-air, turned, and fired to Landek covering third to pick the runner off, retiring the side.

Rattled, Kapinos walked Girard, leading off in the bottom of the sixth, on four pitches. Brown forced Girard into a fielder's choice at second. Mullins pulled Brown momentarily when she landed hard on her ankle avoiding a pick-off at first. She seemed to limp a little walking off, but she was back on the bag at second after Kidder drew a walk. Alison Murphy's ground out to second advanced both runners, putting Brown in scoring position with two down, and Landek coming to the plate. With the pressure on, Kapinos threw one strike, and then a wild pitch, allowing Brown - sore ankle and all - to score. And that, after the Tigers went down in order in the seventh, was all she wrote.

"We got a break today," said Mullins. "But we have to take care of the bats if we're going to take on Drury. They are a perennial contender, and they played very, very well against Holyoke Catholic" to make it to the regional finals. See you there, on Saturday.

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Amy Ware and Marc Cameron rehearse a scene from Proof, opening at Shea Theater in Turners Falls on Friday, June 10th at 8 p.m. and playing also on the evenings of June 11th, 17th 18th and a Sunday, June 19th matinee at 2 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 10TH
The Brick House and the belly-bowl Dinner & Music Series presents *An Acoustic Open Mic*, 6 - 8:30 p.m. for all local musicians, actors and poets. All ages are welcome to join in a fun night of exploring local talents and enjoying some great food! For more information please call the Brick House at 863-9576 or the bellybowl at 863-4064.

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY JUNE 10TH & 11TH

Arena Civic Theatre presents the Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award winning drama *Proof* by David Auburn, Fridays and Saturdays June 10th, 11th, 17th, and 18th, at 8 p.m. and a Sunday matinee on June 19th at 2 p.m. at the Shea Theater on Avenue A in Turners Falls. In *Proof*, directed by Benjamin Ware, love, truth and trust collide. Structured like a conventional mystery unraveled through flashbacks and revelations, this powerful drama explores the many conflicts inherent to our most emotionally charged relationships. How hard is it to convince us that our firmly-held beliefs are wrong? What kind of proof does this require? At the center of this drama is Catherine (played by Amy Ware), a young woman who has spent the better part of her life caring for her father, Robert (Nick De Ruiter), a once-brilliant mathematician crippled by mental illness. The presence of Robert's former student, Hal (Marc Cameron), suggests the potential for some stability in Catherine's emotional life, but the young man's search for something of value amidst his mentor's mad scribbling conjures for Catherine a future she fears and a past she wishes to forget. The discovery of an incredible mathematical proof complicates a burgeoning romance with issues of truth and trust, and Catherine must grapple with the possibility that she has inherited as much of her father's madness as his genius. Tickets are \$12.50 general, \$10 seniors/students. They are available at Jones Library (Amherst), World Eye Bookshop (Greenfield), or reserve by phone at the Shea Theater box office at (413) 863-2281, ext. 3.

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SATURDAY, JUNE 25TH
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Wendell Full Moon Coffee House features Mark Erelli, whose music has been described as everything from "jumpin' Mephis rock" to Western swing. Proceeds to partially benefit the Wendell Open Space Committee. For more info and directions go to www.wendell-fullmoon.org.

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. Each weekend presents a special performance by well-known international acts. Opening weekend brings both The Empty Hats - featuring Giacomo the Jester, fire-breather and juggler extraordinaire, and Loony Lucy (June 25-26th), and Lord of The Wings - astounding Birds of Prey show. The following weekends are just as vibrant, with Roderick Russell - world-renowned sword swallower (July 9-10th), and as a grand finale the last weekend will feature the introduction of *L'ensemble Cercamon*, high energy renaissance music (July 16-17th). For the first time at VTRF, sign language interpreters will be translating for the hearing impaired on July 10th. The Paragon Jousting Troupe will dazzle the Queen, Court and the general populace with feats of arms, including fully-armored knights, competing upon horse-

back in a jousting tournament and in combat using sword and shield upon the field of honor. Additionally, The Vermont Renaissance Festival is proud to present for the first time demonstrations of authentic reproduction cannons, handgonnes, and other more ancient engines of siege warfare. Children will be able to "join the local regiment and participate in pike drills" (with invisible pikes). Opening day, June 25th, offers a special Buy One, Get One Free promotion. July 2-3rd is Kids Free Weekend, for each adult ticket purchased, as many as three children up to 13 years old get in free. July 9-10th & 16-17th VTRF is hosting a 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.

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Mabel Zobel
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Saturday, June 18th - Create a Garden program, 9 a.m. to 12 noon
Thursday, June 23rd - Technology Drop-in hours, 4 to 6 p.m. and Movie night, 6 to 8 p.m.
Friday, June 24th - Open mic, 6 to 9 p.m.
Thursday, June 30th - Technology Drop-in hours, 4 to 6 p.m. and Movie night, 6 to 8 p.m.

These programs are free (except some skate trips) and open to local teens. Some require permission slips. For more info about any of these events or programs please call 863-9576.
 Hot Spot Teen Center is in
The Brick House
 Community Resource Center
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Memorial Hall Theater
POTHOLE PICTURES

June 10th & 11th
Rivers and Tides

For Riverfest. Visually intoxicating portrait of the magical relationship between art and nature. German filmmaker Thomas Riedelsheimer followed the Scottish sculptor Andy Goldsworthy for over a year to several outdoor locations. Very few art documentaries are as deeply in tune with the spirit of their subjects. Film at 7:30 p.m. Music before the movies at 7: Friday - Dave Dershom's original roots folk, Saturday - Swing Caravan's gypsy swing.

51 Bridge St., Shelburne Falls 625-2896

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SHOWTIMES FOR
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 MATINEE SAT, SUN, WED 1200 300
- STAR WARS III REVENGE OF THE SITH
 DAILY 600 900 PG13 in DTS sound
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- CINDERELLA MAN PG13
 DAILY 600 900
 MATINEE SAT, SUN, WED 1200 300
- THE LONGEST YARD PG13
 DAILY 615 915
 MATINEE SAT, SUN, WED 1215 315
- MADAGASCAR PG
 DAILY 615 915
 MATINEE SAT, SUN, WED 1215 315
- MR. & MRS. SMITH PG13 in DTS sound
 DAILY 630 930
 MATINEE SAT, SUN, WED 1230 330
- STAR WARS III REVENGE OF THE SITH
 DAILY TIL 614 630 930 PG13 in DTS sound
 MATINEE SAT, SUN, WED 1230 330
- BATMAN BEGINS PG13
 DAILY BEG 615 630 930, MAT WED 1230 330

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Friday, June 10th
ROCK 201
 It's rock'n'roll and it's ladies' night, no cover, 9:30 p.m.

Saturday, June 11th
Four on the Floor
 It's rock'n'roll, 9:30 p.m.

Sundays in June
Bluegrass Blast
 1 to 5 p.m.
 Horseshoe lawn, picnic lunches welcome and we now have an outdoor liquor license.

Karaoke T-N-T
 8 to Midnight

Wed - Open Mic at 8:30 p.m.
Thurs - Karaoke T-N-T
 Promo night, givaways, 8 p.m.

www.rt63roadhouse.com
 32 Federal St., Millers Falls

GILL

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clerk, tax collector and treasurer. According to the committee, those increases exceeded the standard 3.1% allocated to other town employees and deserved to be considered on an individual basis. However, the amendment was eventually defeated by a 38 to 9 vote, since it was agreed that the increases for the elected officials were justified.

Yet the matter was brought to the fore again when the finance committee pointed out that the percentages on the handout had been improperly calculated and were misleading. For example, the assessors' clerk salary increased from \$6,644 to \$13,140, a 98.88% increase, rather than the 49.44% listed. As it turned out, the percentages were based on the difference between the 2005 and 2006 figures and not as a percentage of the 2005 figure. After clarifying this math problem, however, selectboard member Ann Banash was able to run through the rest of the budget, which passed easily. The evening's main discussion centered on Article 12 and the hiring of a part-time clerical support person in the town offices. Speaking in favor of the new hire, Suzanne Smiley, chair of the planning board said her board was overwhelmed with paperwork. "I have concerns regarding the possibility of not being able to meet a legal deadline," she argued. Smiley explained that her full-time job in Northampton did not allow her to address the committee's needs at the drop of a hat, and that having someone available on a part-time basis to process mail and other documents would be helpful.

"The world isn't what it used

to be. It's more complicated. This would be a good investment for the town," said Tim Storrow a former chair of the conservation commission. Added Sally Shaw, "We need to be careful of volunteer abuse."

However, others felt strongly the work of volunteer committees could and should be handled by its members. "We got along without one for many years," said Ernie Hastings. "The departments should make a budget and hire from it," he added. Allan Adie felt the boards and committees' clerical work should be done by administrative assistant Debra Roussel, "like Bev Demars used to. "Although the article was supported by the Finance Committee in a 7-0 vote, and by a letter from the board of health stating the town was losing revenue due to dormant paperwork it could not process, the measure was defeated by 7 votes. In other business, town meeting voted to appropriate the sum of \$3,000 to the board of assessor's revaluation account. This sum was added to the \$8,000 remaining in that account. In addition, the cable commission received \$1,500 to help pay for fees for an attorney to help the town negotiate a new cable contract with ComCast, and appropriated the sum of \$12,000 to conduct a full financial audit for fiscal years '04 and '05. Bringing two items on the town's ledger to a close, the meeting agreed to fund the final payment for work on the elementary school roof, for \$32,406 and the other for \$4,645 for the roof at the Turners Falls High School. These items were paid for from excess funds returned to the town by the Gill-Montague Regional School Committee in '05.

A special town meeting will be held on Monday, June 27th.

A Few Words about Harriet Tidd

BY LYNDA HODSDON MAYO

I'd like to take this opportunity to say a few words about a most special Gill resident. Harriet Tidd is stepping down from her position as assessor's clerk on June 30th. However, it is more than that. It is about a career that has been all about Gill.

In 1948, Harriet began as a reporter covering the town of Gill. She wrote the Gill news items, she covered important events, she did her own photography. She also kept a very close eye on the town clerk at that time, Earle Squires. As time went on, Squires realized Harriet

knew as much if not more than he did about the doings of Gill. When he retired in 1974, Harriet became the first woman town clerk in Gill. She served until 2000, when she became assessors' clerk.

All total, we are talking about 55 years here. When you ask Harriet a question, you really get an answer. You get educated.

Allan Adie shared with me how, in her desire to get what was best for Gill, she at times found herself fighting a one woman battle on the floor of annual town meeting. We also have her to thank for the valuable

Stoughton Genealogy.

Harriet remembers - from all those years of experience - she remembers it all. She owns a wealth of information about Gill.

Harriet, you are and have been: Gill's reporter, Gill's photographer, Gill's finance committee member, Gill's school committee member, Gill's historian, council on aging member, record keeper, town clerk, assessor. You've done it all for Gill.

Harriet, thank you for your time, your energy, and your constant dedication to making Gill what it is today. We love Gill, and we love you.

BLUEGRASS

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this is a nice piece of property to share," he added.

Snyder waved his hand toward the gently sloping lawn out back where patrons are encouraged to spread out a blanket and bring a picnic lunch. Others can try their hand at horseshoes off to one side of the tent where the musicians play. Snyder invites everyone to play, and is always up for a challenge.

Ed Costello and his wife Evelyn, who live in Millers Falls, saw the sign on the road and stopped in. As they sat on a bench sipping an ice-cold beer, Ed mentioned he had once played bluegrass music himself. When asked what instrument he played, he said, "The belt buckle and the paper bag." But, he

added, "You can't play the bag too hard." Minutes later he returned from his car, hooked up his belt buckle, took out two metal casino chips and began tapping out a beat as John Candrotas of Easthampton and Greg Walker of Greenfield played guitar. The instant trio reflected the theme of the day: to bring together those with a musical ear for some down home jamming.

"This is my favorite place to play. It's hard to beat the atmosphere," said Sanderson. "It's like Cheers, outside," he added.


Sanderson reminds anyone interested in playing that this is an open jam at which only acoustic instruments are allowed. Picnics are encouraged, but no beverages can be brought on site. However, both alcoholic and non-alcoholic

beverages may be purchased on premises, including juices, sodas and water. The event takes place rain or shine, and there is no cover charge. Anyone interested in finding out more should contact Jaime or Carol at the Route 63 Roadhouse by calling 659-3384, or by contacting Steve Sanderson at stuntmansteve@drunkstuntmen.com.

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