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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MARCH 1, 2007

Bad Smell Traced to Australis Sewer

BY DAVID DETMOLD
TURNERS FALLS - There's something fishy in the neighborhood of Norman Circle, and it smells like rotten eggs. A pervasive smell of raw sewage has bothered residents of that street since last summer, according to Barry Kostanski, who lives at 27 Norman Circle. Kostanski has taken the trouble to survey his neighbors about the problem, and to talk to local businesses to see whether they have been bothered by the odor too. Kostanski found both residents and business people fuming over the smell, which has led Hallmark labs to call the Turners Falls fire department on one occasion, and the Turners Falls High School to open all the first floor windows to air out classrooms in January.

Now, tests conducted on behalf of the Turners Falls Water Pollution Control Facility have pinpointed the source of the persistent noxious odor. The smell is coming from a three gallon a minute flow in a sewer line carrying effluent from the 200,000 gallon manure storage tank at the Australis fish farm on Industrial Boulevard.

That sewer joins the town line and travels past Norman Circle to Turnpike Road, and passes the high school on its way to the treatment plant, according to WPCF superintendent Robert Trombley.

Josh Goldman, managing director of Australis Aquaculture LLC, one of the largest indoor fish farms in America, which has operated on Industrial Boulevard since 1989, said the first he had heard about the odor complaint was two weeks ago, in a phone call from Trombley. He said, "We are committed to fixing the problem."

"We'd independently called Bob [Trombley] because we'd noticed the smell, too. He came over with a meter and measured the presence of sulfite, in one [waste] stream, coming out of the plant."

Trombley said, "The good news is, it's only a flow of three gallons a minute. The bad news is, the level [of sulfides] is high." But with a small flow, Trombley said, industrial pre-treatment at Australis should be able to manage the problem, now that it has been clearly identified.

see **ODOR** pg 12

Airport Brouhaha at Selectboard Hearing

BY DAVID DETMOLD
TURNERS FALLS - Airport commissioners strongly defended the performance of embattled Turners Falls Airport manager Michael Sweeney at a packed hearing before the Montague selectboard on Monday night, February 26th, while members of a group of pilots and other users of the airport seeking Sweeney's ouster claimed he was turning the airport into an "economic dead zone" with hostile policy enforcement and anti-business rent hikes. By the end of the two-hour hearing, both sides seemed far apart; jeers and angry outbursts punctuated the dialogue, and a number of audience members stalked out of the room expostulating in frustration.

The selectboard called on both sides to reconcile their differences and work toward a common goal of an improved municipal airport.

Selectboard chair Patricia Pruitt laid down some guidelines before opening the floor to discussion. She said she would hold both sides to 30 minutes to present their case, and begged them to address each other with respect, guidelines honored

more in the breach than the observance as the presentations unfolded. "This is not a disciplinary hearing," said Pruitt, "but an individual's job has been called for, and that is a serious matter."

Speaking for the ad hoc group of pilots and airport users calling themselves the Committee to Save the Turners Falls Airport, pilot Bill Gibson, of Leverett, ran through a slide show of complaints that led 162 members of the airport community to sign a petition calling for

Sweeney's removal, a list the group said contained the names of all the airport's hangar owners and "95%" of the pilots who use the airport.

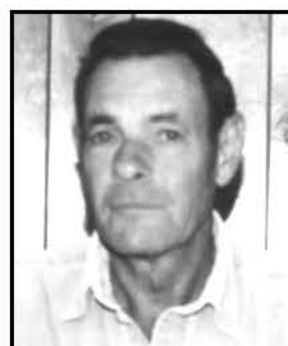
"We are respectfully requesting the removal of Michael Sweeney as airport manager. That's the bottom line," said Gibson. In collecting the 162 petition signatures of pilots, instructors, mechanics, hangar owners and friends of the airport, Gibson said, "Our batting average was nearly perfect. One or two did see **BROUHAHA** pg 16



Turners Falls Airport manager Michael Sweeney goes over airport revenue projections with the Montague Finance Committee, Wednesday, February 28th (Town manager Frank Abbondanzio, foreground)

Maddern Will Not Run for Another Term

BY DAVID DETMOLD
GILL - After serving the town in one capacity or another for most of his adult life, and as a member of the selectboard for the last 15 years, Phil Maddern has decided not to seek another term. Board member Leland Stevens made the announcement on Friday, February 16th for his longtime colleague, who has been recuperating at home from an illness, and absent from board meetings since the turn of the year. Stevens said Maddern planned to fill out the remainder of his term, and to resume attending meetings when his health improves sufficiently.



Phil Maddern

Administrative assistant Deb Roussel said the present members of the board, including Maddern, Stevens and current chair Ann Banash, had served together for 12 consecutive years, which she thought might be some kind of record for Franklin County.

see **MADDERN** pg 15

Erving Seeks Deeper Cuts in '08 Budget

BY KEVIN FOLEY - The proposed '08 budget for the town of Erving is running in excess of \$100,000 above the expected total of available funds. Town officials are committed to making cuts to balance the budget, rather than seeking a tax override or dipping into the town stabilization account. But the areas where cuts can still be made are limited, according to Erik Semb, chairman of the finance committee. "In the last three years we've asked the highway commission, police department and all other departments to level fund as best they can."

The selectboard and

finance committee requested Joan Wickman, superintendent of schools for Union 28, to review the Erving Elementary School budget and make any cuts possible. That won't be easy, Wickman said.

"The vast amount of our increase is due to things we have no control over," said Wickman. "We don't have a lot of wiggle room other than staffing." There are at least 35 staff members at the school, including non-teacher or administrator positions, and 148 students.

The elementary school's proposed budget for fiscal '08 is

see **ERVING** pg 14

Community Center Forum

Tuesday March 6th • 7 p.m.
Gill-Montague Senior Center
Fifth Street, Turners Falls

We need your input. How do you feel about a combined facility for the Senior Center, Parks & Recreation Department and Library? Please come and share your ideas with us.

PET OF THE WEEK

Baby Blue Eyes



Snowflake

Snowflake is a two-year-old male gray and white domestic short hair cat in need of a good home. Snowflake is a fairly large boy, transferred from the MSPCA. He's got a lovable round baseball head and awesome blue eyes. He just loves to be pampered and have his head rubbed! For more information on adopting Snowflake, please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at 413-548-9898 or via email at leverett@dpvhs.org.

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MILLERS FALLS LIBRARY NEWS

Music in Millers Falls

BY LINDA HICKMAN

TURNERS FALLS - The weekly Music and Movement series with Tom Carroll and Laurie Davidson will be held at the Millers Falls Library on Thursday mornings at 10 a.m. during March - June. Young children of all ages and their families or caregivers are invited to the free programs. Registration is

not required. The program is sponsored by the Gill-Montague Council of the Family Network. In the case of snow, the program will not be held if school is cancelled or delayed for the Gill-Montague Schools. Weather cancellations will also be posted on montaguema.net and WHAI. For more information, please call 863-3214.

International Women's Day Action

BY SUSAN DORAZIO

GREENFIELD - On Thursday, March 8th, a local International Women's Day "Sisterhood in Our Community, Sisterhood for Global Change" rally and speak-out, will be held at 4:30 p.m. on the Greenfield town common to highlight and honor the connection between grassroots feminist actions and a commitment to a national and international perspective on women's rights and personal and social change. All are welcome. Bring signs, banners,

songs, instruments, and literature. The rally is sponsored by Code Pink, the Connecticut Valley Coalition for Women's Lives, the Greenfield Community College Women's Studies Department, and Peace and Social Justice Program, the Western Massachusetts Local of the Socialist Party, and the Western Massachusetts chapter of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. More info: Susan Dorazio at susandor@crocker.com, or (413) 367-9356.

Town of Erving Elections Update

Monday the 19th of March is the final day for nomination papers to be submitted to town hall by anyone interested in running for a town office. Erving town elections will take place on May 7th.

As of February 28th, no one (including the incumbents) has filed papers to seek candidacy for the offices of:

- Selectman
- School Committee
- Planning Board
- Recreation Commission

Anyone interested in any of these elected positions, please call administrative coordinator Tom Sharp at Town Hall: 422-2800 x100.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES March 5th - March 9th

MONTAGUE Senior Center, 62 Fifth St., Turners Falls, is open Mon. - Fri. from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. Make meal reservations 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. Special trip coordinator is Jean Chase. Make trip reservations by calling 772-6356. Payment and menu choice is due three weeks prior to trip.

Friday, March 2nd

1:00 p.m. "Forcing Spring Through Plants." \$5 registration for Gill and Montague residents; all others \$10. Suzanne Kretzinger from Hunting Hills will be sharing ideas for spring decorating with plants. Participants of this workshop will make a spring wreath and learn additional decorating tips on how to brighten your home by forcing spring plants. Call 863-9357 to register.

Monday, 5th

10:00 a.m. Aerobics
11:00 a.m. Easy Aerobics

1:00 p.m. Canasta

Tuesday, 6th

Hemoglobin A1C screening
9:30 a.m. T'ai Chi
10:00 a.m. Brown Bag
1:00 p.m. Council on Aging

Wednesday, 7th

10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics
12:45 p.m. Bingo
11:00 a.m. "Emotional Wellness and Aging." How do you maintain emotional wellness as you age? What are the most common emotional challenges that seniors face? Come and find out the answers to these and other questions at the presentation.

Thursday, 8th

Hemoglobin A1C screening
1 p.m. Pitch
9:45 a.m. "Urinary Stress and Incontinence." A talk by Rose Marie Aquilizan, Physical Therapist, mainly on urinary incontinence but will briefly define the various incontinence so people who do have incontinence can understand what type they may have. and then focus on what Physical Therapy can do for stress incontinence.

Friday, 9th

10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11 a.m. Easy Aerobics



PHOTO: SUZETTE SNOW-COBB

The Katie Clarke Band performing at Great Falls Coffeehouse.
From left: Art on the Mandolin, Katie Clarke, Charlie Conant.
You can see this show and others like it on MCTV.

Town of Montague Sewer Bills Mailed

The second half of the Fiscal 2007 Sewer use bills were mailed on February 22nd, and are due by Friday, March 23rd. For the convenience of the town of Montague residents, you will now be able to pay sewer use bills on line. To pay a bill online, have your bill(s) and checkbook in hand, and then go to www.montague.net, click on Departments, Treasurer/Collector, Online bill

payments, then complete each screen to process your payment. It's convenient, fast and secure.

To obtain a receipted bill, enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope and both copies of the bill with your payment. Any new owner not in receipt of a sewer bill, should contact the Tax Collector's office at 863-3200, ext. #202. The office is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 to 4:30.

Writers Wanted

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is looking for writers to cover news events, arts, features, etc.

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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.

COLLISION AT MAIN AND WEST GILL ROAD



Photos and story by roving reporter Joe Parzych, author of *Jep's Place*.
Pictured: Gill firefighters attempt to open Jeep Sport hood to disconnect the battery to avoid a short circuit starting a fire.

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH - At 12:12 p.m. on Friday, February 23rd, a Honda Prelude headed south on Main Road in Gill collided head on with a Jeep turning left onto West Gill Road. Fred's Four Wheel Drive Service hauled the cars away on his flatbed wrecker. BHA ambulance transported the driver of the Jeep Sport to the Franklin Medical Center, according to Gill police officer Adam Sokoloski. The four occupants of the Honda denied need for medical assistance, despite the Honda receiving extensive damage.

MPRD would like to announce its slate of programs for the spring. We are taking registrations for the following: Youth & Teen Programs - Tee Ball, Rookie League Baseball and Softball, Senior Girls Softball League, Pepsi Pitch, Hit & Run Competition, Create Your Own Comic Book (Ages 10 - 16), Kayaking (for teens also), Swimming Lessons; Adult Programs - Yoga, and Basic Firearms Safety; Family Programs - Kayaking, and Basic Firearm Safety. We would also like to announce that we'll be holding a 5K Fun Run on April 29th for the Annual Crabapple Festival, and mark your calendars for Saturday, April 7th as we will be bringing our 2nd Annual Peter Cottontail's EGGstravaganza at Unity Park in Turners Falls. For more information, and to receive a Spring Programs Brochure, call MPRD at 863-3216.

Montague Dems to Hold Town Caucus April 4th

BY JAY DIPUCCHIO
 Montague Democrats will hold their caucus to select candidates for town office elections on Wednesday, April 4th, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the first floor meeting room of town hall, 1 Avenue A, in Turners Falls. Successful candidates will receive the party nomination to appear on the May 21st town election ballot. Voting is by paper ballot.
 Only registered Democrats may run in this caucus, which amounts to a primary election for local offices. Democrats who wish to run in the caucus must deliver their intention in writing to Democratic town committee chair Jay DiPucchio by 5:00 p.m., on Friday, March 30th. Notice may be by mail, email or in hand.
 Individuals choosing to run without a party nomination should gather nomination paper signatures to be turned in to town clerk. Occasionally, candidates for the caucus nomination also gather signatures for nomi-

nation through the town clerk process so that they can still appear on the May ballot if they are defeated at the caucus.
 By the Democratic town committee's vote following the 2003 caucus, registered unenrolled voters may vote in the caucus. There is no provision in the bylaws or a procedural vote to allow for absentee ballots.
 As of yet, no incumbents have declared to the chair their intention not to run. Two, Debra Bourbeau for town clerk and Jay DiPucchio for board of health, have so far indicated their intent to run.
Office Term Incumbent Party
 Selectman - 3
 Patricia Pruitt, Dem.
 Town Clerk - 3
 Debra Bourbeau, Dem.
 Treasurer / Tax Collector 3
 Patricia Dion, Dem.
 Assessor - 3
 Teresa Miner, Dem.

Board of Health Member - 3
 Jay DiPucchio, Dem.
 Library Trustee (3) - 3
 Vacant
 3
 Karen Latke, Dem.
 3
 Leslie Lomasson, Dem.
 Park & Rec. Comm. - 3
 Linda Ackerman, Unenrolled
 Soldier Memorial Trustees(2): Veteran - 3
 John Murphy, Dem.
 Veteran - 2
 Al Cummings, Dem.
 Tree Warden - 3
 Mark Stevens, Unenrolled
 Direct questions and letters of intent to:
 Jay DiPucchio, Democratic Town Committee Chair
 35 Central Street
 Turners Falls, MA 01376
 413-863-8656 home
 here now@verizon net

Spring Programs at Montague Parks & Recreation Dept.

MPRD would like to announce its slate of programs for the spring. We are taking registrations for the following: Youth & Teen Programs - Tee Ball, Rookie League Baseball and Softball, Senior Girls Softball League, Pepsi Pitch, Hit & Run Competition, Create Your Own Comic Book (Ages 10 - 16), Kayaking (for teens also), Swimming Lessons; Adult Programs - Yoga, and Basic Firearms Safety; Family Programs - Kayaking, and Basic Firearm Safety. We would also like to announce that we'll be holding a 5K Fun Run on April 29th for the Annual Crabapple Festival, and mark your calendars for Saturday, April 7th as we will be bringing our 2nd Annual Peter Cottontail's EGGstravaganza at Unity Park in Turners Falls. For more information, and to receive a Spring Programs Brochure, call MPRD at 863-3216.

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Hail to the Blue and White

BY DENIS BORDEAUX

BRATTLEBORO - The first time I saw him sticks out in my mind as one of those crystalline, almost hypnotic moments of my adolescence. Elementary school kids from the provinces, i.e. Montague Center, Lake Pleasant, Millers Falls, Montague City and Gill had just converged on Crocker Avenue's Junior High School at the beginning of 7th grade, 1961. Besides the hype of meeting a ton of new kids, the excitement in the air was like strong coffee. This was it, man! The big time, the Majors, the Show, the real world. No more kiddy stuff. We were real people now, with real thoughts, real opinions, real acne. We actually had to carry a stack of books around looking home to mom with a couple of papers with a caterpillar and a star stuck on them. We were definitely on the road to adulthood.

After the first hectic week, we settled in. One of the perks of this new 'big kids' world was art class. Once a week, we'd get to march out of junior high, through the auditorium and up a short flight and, Bingo! You were there. High School! All the openness of junior high, only bigger. And something else. It wasn't just that here kids didn't have to stand in line or that you had your own personal home at school, your locker. Something else.

I remember a warning from a centenarian: "Life is Gonna Humble Ya," and it did. While sucking in all the high school ambiance I could, it happened. A shadow, literally, moved slowly over all of us, instant peons. It was Him, the Man, the Light, the Hope that would end 11 years of Turkey Day frustration against Greenburg.

Now, let me stop here to say that if you have by now guessed who this person is, and you graduated after 1970, give yourself 100 bonus points. Of

course, it was "Big Zew," although the only ones who called him that were his idolators. My sister Janice and his other classmates usually called him Ed or even Eddie, while teammates reserved the right to simply call him Zew. I think I loved my sister a little more just because she was friends with him. He ambled by with the typical Jock Walk: a little pigeon toed, a little bow-legged, except his thighs were like 5 gallon buckets. He was 6'6" tall, which is tall enough, but because of his iconic, athletic status in football, basketball and track, it seemed like I only came up to his waist. He had on his varsity jacket, with tight curly lamb's vest and real leather sleeves. His hair looked like he'd gotten out of the shower, used his fingers for a comb once, and said, "That's that." His toothy grin was only on one side of his mouth, so even when he wasn't talking it looked like he was saying, "Natch," or "You betcha," all the time. Cool!

And then he did it. He walked across the main corridor, put his forearm on top of the lockers, leaned in and started talking with girls. Yep, girls. See, in the elementary school world we had just come from, talking with girls was a no-no, and mutually not very interesting. But now, you'd had to endure the gibes of your mates because lately, especially last summer, you'd started to kinda wanna spend more time with the opposite sex than with your dorky buds.

And here was Big Zew, The Man, talking and laughing with not one but three girls. They talked back, they laughed, they were like, man, having a conversation. Not only weren't his buds giving him flak about it, but when a few came over to lure him away he dismissed them with a curt, "I'm busy," to which the girls noticeably

see BLUE pg 6

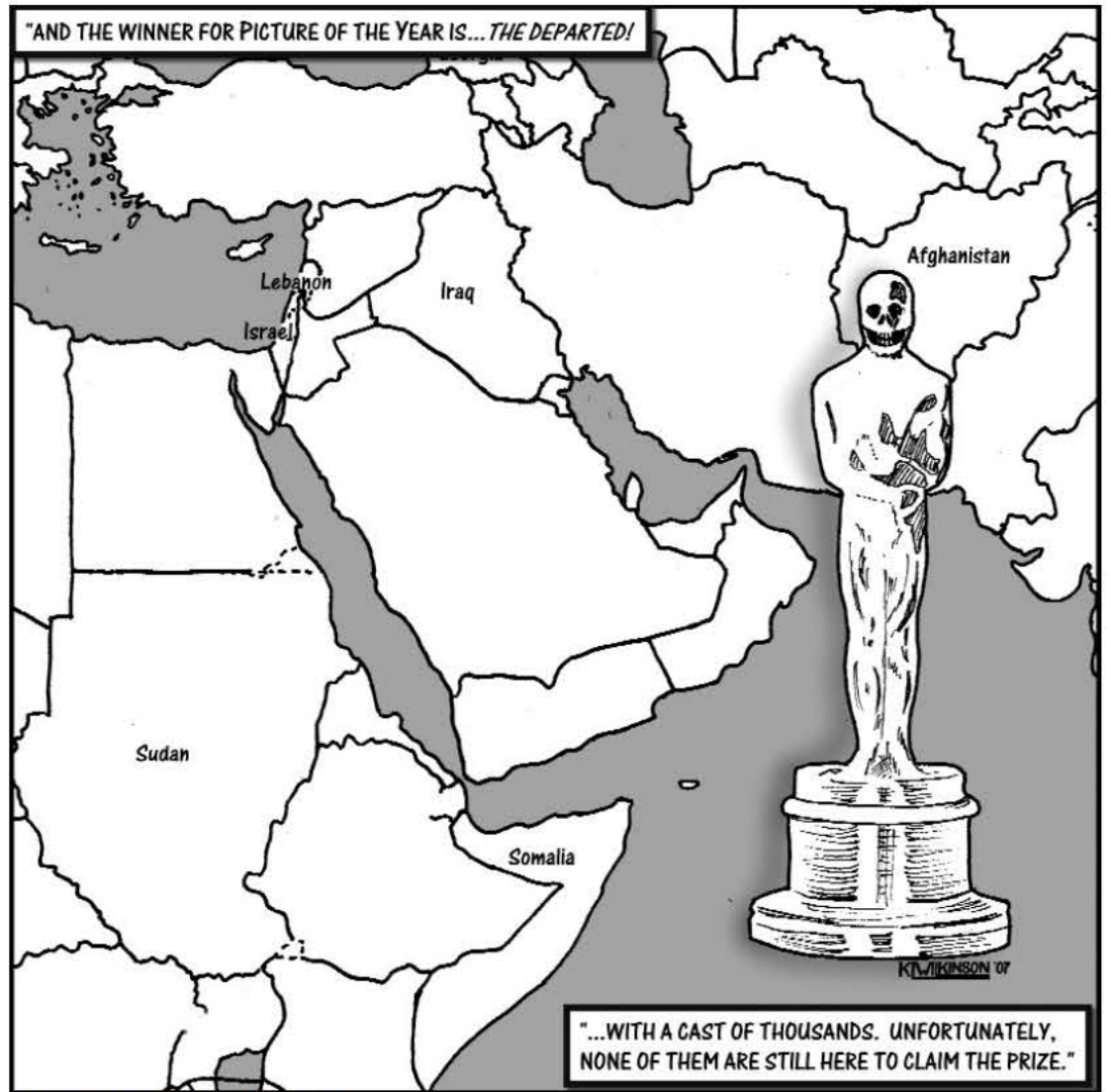


ILLUSTRATION BY KAREN WILKINSON

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Memorial Plaque Questioned

An Open Letter to the Trustees of the Soldiers Memorial:

Congratulations on completing the final planning for Montague's long awaited memorial project. As a long time proponent and contributor to the project, I am writing to express my concern about a part of the new memorial as described in a recent newspaper article:

"There will also be a granite pedestal for a lectern. It will be engraved with the names of the people on the Soldiers Memorial Trustees Board: Chris Boutwell, Al Cummings, Don Girard, John Murphy and Art Gilmore."

Please reconsider this deci-

sion. I appreciate the efforts of the current and past trustees and everyone whose contributions have made this project possible. All should be properly and publicly recognized, but not in the same manner as those citizens who answered their country's call to arms.

The time, place and manner of recognition for the trustees should be at the dedication ceremony and in the form of words spoken, not carved in stone or cast in bronze.

- Bradford Councilman
Winchester, NH

Editor's Note: Art Gilmore, chair of the Trustees of the Soldiers Memorial, said he

would bring Councilman's letter to the next meeting of his board for discussion, on Wednesday, March 7th, at 6:30 p.m. on the first floor meeting room of town hall. The public is invited. Gilmore also said the list of names under consideration for engraving on the granite pedestal was meant to include the past chairman of the Trustees, Mike Cenzano.

Gilmore also said the memorial will likely go out to bid this month, and more donations to defray the expense of construction are still needed, to the Trustees of the Soldiers Memorial, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376.

Is Impeachment Necessary?

BY EMILY WEST - Two public forums on Ending the War in Iraq will be held in the Pioneer Valley in March. Speakers, including Cindy Sheehan, mother of Casey Sheehan, killed in Iraq; Dan DeWalt, citizen activist from Vermont; and John Bonifaz, author of *Warrior King: The Case for Impeaching George Bush*, will discuss the practicality of impeaching the president to bring the war in Iraq to an end. The forums will be held on Saturday, March 10th, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Greenfield Middle School, 195 Federal Street in Greenfield and on Sunday, March 11th, from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m., at the First Churches, 129 Main

Street in Northampton. The forums, sponsored by the Progressive Democrats of America, are free and open to public.

To help bring a resolution to impeach President Bush and Vice President Cheney to Montague town meeting, contact Committee to Protect the Constitution, P.O. Box 172, Montague, MA 01351, or: jeanne@crocker.com.

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GUEST EDITORIAL



The Bush Agenda in Iraq: the New Oil Law

The following excerpts are taken from the Tuesday, February 20th broadcast of Amy Goodwin's radio show, Democracy Now.

In one of the first studies of Iraqi public opinion after the US-led invasion of March 2003, the polling firm Gallup asked Iraqis their thoughts on the Bush administration's motives for going to war. One percent of Iraqis said they believed the motive was to establish democracy. Slightly more - five percent - said it was to assist the Iraqi people. But far in the lead was the answer that got 43 percent - "to rob Iraq's oil." Well, with the four-year mark of the Iraq war less than a month away, the answer may come into clearer view. After a long negotiation process involving US officials, the Iraqi government is considering a new oil law that would establish a framework for managing the second-largest oil reserves in the world.

What would this new law mean for Iraq? With me now from Washington D.C. is Raed Jarrar, the Iraq Project Director for Global Exchange. He has obtained a copy of the proposed oil law which he translated from Arabic and posted on his website. And Antonia Juhasz is on the phone with us. She has written extensively about the economic side of the US occupation of Iraq and is the author of the book, *The Bush Agenda: Invading the World One Economy at a Time*. Antonia is a Tarbell Fellow at Oil Change International. We welcome you both to Democracy Now.

AMY GOODMAN: Raed Jarrar, first, how did you get this document?

RAED JARRAR: The document was leaked by Professor Fouad Al-Ameer and published on a website called al-ghad.org. And then it was leaked to other important websites like niqash.org and other places. There are different copies of it. Some are scanned, and others are of the original document, but it just hit the internet last week.

AMY GOODMAN: And explain what it says, now that you've finished translating it.

RAED JARRAR: It said so many things. I don't think we can summarize it in this short time, because it's a very long document, around thirty pages. But there are three major points I think we should talk about. Financially, it legalizes very long-term contracts that can go up to thirty-five years and cause the loss of hundreds of



"There have definitely been targeted actions against the oil system [in Iraq] as demonstrations of opposition to the occupation." - Antonia Juhasz

billions of dollars from Iraqis for no cause.

And the second point is concerning Iraq's sovereignty. Iraq will not be capable of controlling the levels, the limits of production, which means that Iraq cannot be a part of OPEC anymore. And Iraq will have this very complicated institution called the Federal Oil and Gas Council, that will have representatives from the foreign oil companies on the board, so representatives from, let's say, ExxonMobil and Shell and British Petroleum will be on the federal board of Iraq approving their own contracts.

And the third point is the point about keeping Iraq's unity. The law is seen by many Iraqi analysts as a separation for Iraq fund. The law will authorize all of the regional and small provinces' authorities. It will give them the final say to deal with the oil, instead of giving this final say to the central federal government, so it will open the doors for splitting Iraq into three regions, or even maybe three states in the very near future.

AMY GOODMAN: Antonia Juhasz, what is the significance of this for Western oil companies?

ANTONIA JUHASZ: Well, in my mind, the law certainly opens the door to US oil companies and the Bush administration winning a very large piece of their objective of going to war in Iraq, at least winning it on paper. The law does almost word for word what was laid out in the Baker-Hamilton recommendation, which is, at the very basic level, to turn Iraq's nationalized oil system, the model that 90% of the world's oil is governed by, to take its

nationalized oil system and turn it into a commercial system fully open to foreign corporate investment on terms as yet to be decided. So it leaves vague this very important question of what type of contracts will the Iraqi government use. But what it leaves clear is that basically every level of the oil industry will be open to private foreign companies.

And, as Raed said, it introduces this very unique model, which is that ultimate decision making on contracts rests with a new council to be set up in Iraq, and sitting on that council will be representatives - executives, in fact - of oil companies, both foreign and domestic. In addition, it does maintain the Iraq National Oil Company, but gives the Iraq National Oil Company almost no preference. It's almost in all cases just another oil company among lots of other companies, including US oil companies. And this council, the new oil and gas council, is going to be the decision making body to determine what kind of contract the Iraqis can sign, and all contract models are still on the table, yet to be determined. I think that's left vague or open, so that the very necessary criticism to earlier drafts of the law, which included specific production sharing agreements, might be quieted.

But the law definitely sets a very dangerous setup for Iraq's future economic stability, economic development, and certainly sets the stage for a tremendous amount of increased hostility and violence to US soldiers positioned on the ground, as being seen as the implementers of this oil hijack.

AMY GOODMAN: Antonia, what about the advocates' argument for Western

company involvement, that they need to come into Iraq to kick-start the oil development?

ANTONIA JUHASZ: Iraq's oil development has actually been going quite well since the invasion under the guidance of the Iraqis themselves. Prior to the war, Iraq produced 2.5 million barrels of oil a day. Since the war, it's been producing about 2.2 million barrels of oil a day. That's definitely dropped most recently, because of the intense violence in Iraq of late. And there have definitely been targeted actions against the oil system as demonstrations of opposition to the occupation. So I believe there is a very concrete argument that can be made that the best thing that Iraq can do right now to see its oil infrastructure secure and pumping at a reasonable level is to see the US occupation end.

Given that Iraq's oil only costs less than a dollar per barrel to pump and oil is selling at over \$50 per barrel, the Iraqis are already making a tremendous return on their oil. The danger is that under the different models of oil contract that are being put on the table, the Iraqis would lose the vast majority of that profit to the foreign oil companies.

Now, Iraqis have lost a fair amount of expertise, technical know-how, as technology has increased over the past eleven years and the Iraqis were shut out because of the sanctions. The answer to that is found in the models put forward by their neighbors, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia and Iran, which are technical service contracts that countries sign with foreign companies to bring in that expertise, but under very limited time frames and very specific economic benefits to the

companies and to the country, not these 35-year contracts, as Raed said, and the potential for vast profits leaving the country.

AMY GOODMAN: Finally, Antonia, who has the largest oil reserves in the world, the top three?

ANTONIA JUHASZ: Saudi Arabia is one. Iraq is two. Iran is three. And I think in that list, particularly obviously Iraq and Iran, you can see pretty clearly a key focus for the Bush administration in its remaining years in office.

Oil is about profit, and it's about the money that the oil interests in the United States, which of course also include members of the Bush administration, can get.

But controlling the second and third largest oil reserves in the world also has a tremendous amount to do with imperial power and global power that the Bush administration wants. Controlling that oil denies it to other countries that want it, like China and India, countries that the Bush administration now sees itself in rivalry to.

And it also gets the government in control of a resource that is obviously dwindling in supply and which they want to hold onto. And they have been quite clear, meaning members of the Bush administration, but also the United States government, in its dedication to securing Middle East oil for the United States, and that agenda has hit high speed under this administration, where corporate and oil interests are part and parcel to government interest.

And I definitely think that if we in the United States want to end the war in Iraq and want to prevent another war in Iran, we have to pull back this curtain over that three-letter word, "oil," and expose this agenda. The four-year anniversary of the war, coming up March 19th, is a critically important opportunity to do that and in the lead-up to that anniversary to really target our attention on demanding that our members of Congress de-fund the war and that we direct our attention and our protest energy on revealing this oil agenda.

• Raed Jarrar Iraq Project Director for Global Exchange. He is an Iraqi blogger and architect. He runs a popular blog called "Raed in the Middle."

• Antonia Juhasz, author and activist. She is a Tarbell Fellow at Oil Change International. Her latest book is called "The Bush Agenda: Invading the World, One Economy at a Time."

GUEST EDITORIAL

RESPECT - this is what it Means to Me.

BY JOYCE PHILLIPS
TURNERS FALLS - Responsibility to Every Student; Pay attention to Every Community member; Together we build the future.

Each of us, at home, at work, or as a part of society, have the 'power' to make certain decisions, take certain actions, or impose our views on others. This does not mean that the decisions we make are always

right, or in everyone's best interest. There is a big difference between having the power to make a decision, and making a decision that is ethically and morally right. What generates acceptance of a decision is knowledge and understanding.

I listened on the night of February 12th when the Montague selectboard, after hearing the community's issues

regarding the Gill-Montague school committee's elementary school configuration vote, encouraged the petitioners to address the school committee. I heard finance committee chair Jeff Singleton's remarks to the selectboard that, "People boycotted the forums, and then they all got angry and said the school committee did not listen." He asked why they waited until the decision had

been made to start raising issues.

How did we get to a point where our community was motivated by feelings of anger, frustration, pain, disappointment, and a lack of trust to bring forth a petition? Let's take a quick look back - not all the way back to 16 years of configuration studies - just back as far as the past six months.

I attended all of the forums and school committee meetings following the process. Only four configurations were brought forth in open forums: consolidation at Sheffield, campus model at Sheffield and Hillcrest; K-5 or K-6 at Sheffield and Hillcrest; and K-5 or K6 at Sheffield and Montague Center.

see RESPECT pg 8

BLUE

continued from pg 4 swooned a little more.

That was it. The one something I couldn't pinpoint. Here in High School it was cool to talk to girls. Not only did Big Zew talk with girls, he visibly enjoyed doing it, and nobody was gonna give any crap to

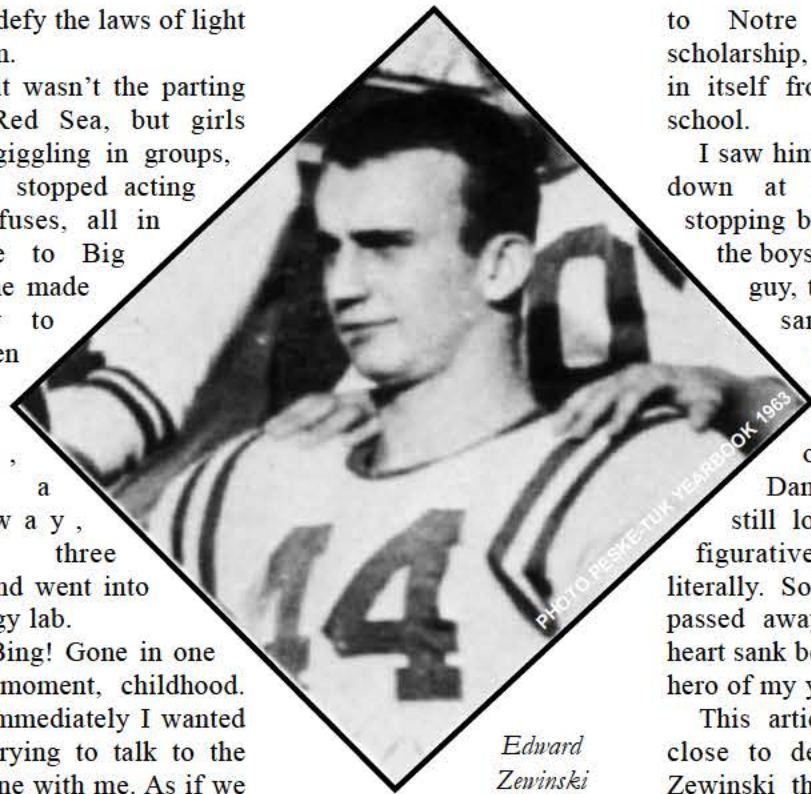
Big Zew. The anticipation of dances, and football games and basketball games, proms, movies, cars: it was all right there. The real world where guys and girls did things together.

He finished talking, turned and started walking away. But he never seemed to get smaller, as if he were so Big

he could defy the laws of light and vision.

Now, it wasn't the parting of the Red Sea, but girls stopped giggling in groups, and guys stopped acting like doofuses, all in deference to Big Zew as he made his way to class. Then he turned right, filled a doorway, ducked three inches, and went into the biology lab.

And, Bing! Gone in one singular moment, childhood. Almost immediately I wanted to start trying to talk to the girls in line with me. As if we got the message together, the girls wanted in on this grown-up stuff too, and started talking with me instead of with each other. This was the homework that really counted, and we had some catching up



Edward Zewinski

to Notre Dame on a scholarship, an amazing feat in itself from such a small school.

I saw him many years later down at K Street, just stopping by to say, "Hi," to the boys. He was the same guy, the same jock, the same haircut. Unpretentious. He had the varsity jacket, only with Notre Dame's colors. And I still looked up to him, figuratively as well as literally. So when I read he passed away last week, my heart sank because I had lost a hero of my youth.

This article doesn't come close to describing the Ed Zewinski that people closest to him knew, but written only through the eyes of a young athlete he inspired.

The two inch by six inch obit I read in the paper wasn't enough for a guy of such huge stature around here.

So stand up Power Towners Raise your glass with me Shout it loud and shout it proud

Hail to the blue, Hail to the white

And Hail to you, Ed Zewinski

And a special tip of the cap from yours truly, Big Zew. Which brings us back to that thing of being at ease talking with women.

Well, the jury is still out. After all these years, I still haven't decided if it's been an asset or not. We need more testing!

Ladies, shall we dance and talk about it?



MCTV Schedule

Channel 17: March 2nd - March 9th

Table with 3 columns listing TV programs and their times for each day from March 2nd to March 9th. Includes programs like 'The Well Being HIV Aids Today', 'Montague Music Train', and 'NASA Destination Tomorrow'.

Annual Bulb Show at Smith College

NORTHAMPTON - A spectacular array of blossoming crocus, hyacinths, narcissi, irises, lilies and tulips are at Smith College's Lyman Conservatory from Saturday, March 3rd, to Sunday, March 18th. The Annual Spring Bulb Show is open to the public at no charge daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Friday nights, March 9 and 16, from 6 to 8 p.m. For more information: (413) 585-2742.

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GUEST  EDITORIALS

Why We Voted for the G-M Elementary School Reconfiguration

BY RICHARD COLTON & MICHAEL LANGKNECHT MONTAGUE CENTER, & TED CASTRO-SANTOS, GILL - A few years ago, with hardly a note of complaint, the town of Montague spent about a million dollars for a high school swimming pool. Yet today some are balking at spending a fraction of that sum for a good school. Though the 1998 feasibility study for the Gill-Montague Regional School District is old, it tells us that Montague Center Elementary School's renovations have been the least expensive in town: two thirds that of Hillcrest and one third that of Sheffield Elementary Schools. A new roof is needed this coming year at Montague Center, estimated to cost \$158,000, whether the building is retained as a school or not. The other major project will be, in future years, an ADA lift. Both Hillcrest and Montague Center Elementary require kitchen improvements, and Montague Center Elementary will need some improved wiring for computers.

Truth is often the first casualty in any conflict. And for too long the GMRSD school committee has failed to provide reliable information to our constituents. As elected public officials, we are however accountable to the community - unlike some private individuals who have been promulgating erroneous dollar figures in an effort to eliminate Montague Center Elementary School through petition. For three years, we committed ourselves to understanding the pros and cons of various ideas and models for reshaping elementary schools of the towns of Gill and Montague so we got the most for our money. This past December 19th, a majority of the Gill-Montague school committee voted for a model

that efficiently harnesses our district's particular strengths and provides for a promising future for our youngest learners. The quality of what the community purchased was considered in terms of educational outcomes and cost savings - all of which supported the reconfiguration for the reasons given below.

The school committee went with the longer unbroken grade span of K-5 because it is supported overwhelmingly by the families of the school district, and studies of educational effectiveness clearly indicate that it is best for student achievement.

The single mega-school model has been consistently

rejected by voters. The most recent confirmation of its unsuitability for our community comes from the National Rural Education Association, whose 2005 Rural School Consolidation Report stated that children of low-income rural districts have better achievement levels in small schools. This is the same conclusion found in other forums, as well. Also, large schools are subject to large inefficiencies, are less accessible and less connected to school families and community, who are a major part of a child's education, and tend to 'lose' students most in need of services and help - especially critical in the early years.

As for saving taxpayers money by closing two buildings, this is something of an illusion, since the buildings would still be on the town's rolls for maintenance and upkeep. The money to maintain them would simply come from a different pot, both of which arrive at the taxpayer's doorstep. The 'campus' model of Sheffield and Hillcrest was also widely rejected as inconsistent with both the broad grade-span model, and cost effectiveness.

The decision to reconfigure Hillcrest Elementary utilized the major strength of its pre-K program. The building has structural assets including extra bathrooms, sinks, and a state-

mandated pre-K barrier in the playground that no other elementary school in town has. With another, larger elementary school not 200 yards away, there is essentially no dislocation impact for K-2, including bus routes, walking, etc. Also, since Hillcrest is so accessible and centrally located, with adequate parking, it is the best candidate for reuse by the community and possible rental income.

About \$96-98,000 would be saved the first year from closing all but the pre-K of Hillcrest Elementary. Next year, and every year thereafter, the savings are estimated to be

see **SCHOOLS** pg 8

Shocked at "Hillcrest" Petition

BY LAURA WILDMAN-HANLON

MONTAGUE CENTER - I want to express my deepest despair over the Hillcrest petition and subsequent school committee decision to rescind the vote for school reconfiguration, once again putting the survival of Montague Center School in question. The reconfiguration was a difficult choice; one that was, after much research and discussion, determined by the school committee for the betterment of students, the school system and the taxpayers. It was made only after many hours of debate and tears. I'm not sure how looking at this decision again will change any of the reasons it was originally made.

I am also deeply upset and shocked that Hillcrest, our sister school in the district, could choose to pass around, not a petition to keep their

school open but instead gather signatures to close a sister school in their district! It angers me that the town leaders have chosen to ignore this fact and by their lack of comment show support to something that is to the detriment of the entire community of Montague and its taxpayers.

This is not the first time a call has been made to close Montague Center School. I have to ask the question, "Why?" Why is there such strong animosity towards a school that has proven to be successful? I think the answer is extremely complicated and goes well beyond the needs of the Gill-Montague Regional School District.

Last year, in the parking lot after attending what was my first GMRSD budget subcommittee meeting, one of the school committee members stated to me that she

believed Montague Center School should be closed because "those who live in Montague Center are classist," and that "those who live in Montague Center look down on those who live in Turners Falls and believe they are better than us." Yes, this is a quote. It was shocking to hear, especially as my husband and I are working parents who are trying to raise three children on a combined pre-school teacher and secretary's income. Being "classist" is not a label I would ever think of as applying to my family. And, having friends throughout Montague, we saw the names Turners Falls and Montague Center as being only geographical labels, not separation lines.

This opinion should not be coming out of the mouth of someone who is supposed to be working for the good of the

entire school district! And to be called classist is very ironic, since I've heard that in the past, when arguments were made to close Montague Center School, those who lived in the Montague Center area were called "hicks."

The constant threats of school closure have put a great deal of stress on the children of Montague Center as well as on the parents. I want our children to stay in a small school environment. I don't want them to face a major transition during the first year of MCAS testing. I want to see a stop in the hemorrhaging of the school budget caused by those who become frustrated at the insecurity of Montague Center School and opt to choose their children out of the district.

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MORE GUEST EDITORIALS!



Encounter in a Waiting Room

BY SHARON HORTON

TURNERS FALLS - Here is a message to English language speakers, if you are willing to be adventurous in meeting your many new Spanish speaking community members. Speaking Spanish is fun, and you don't have to know very much of it to make initial overtures. Just swallow hard and jump right in.

The following encounter took place in a dentist's office. I noticed a solitary Hispanic woman sitting in the waiting room, her baby in her lap, seeming isolated. A man seemed to be trying to break the ice by picking up something she had dropped, but the lady remained silent and serious.

A young bilingual man arrived and helped her with her

paperwork. Her face lit up the whole time he was there, speaking fluently to her. I eavesdropped on them, obediently, as my Spanish teacher had advised us to do in class. I found myself understanding more than I thought I would, and found myself inspired by the man's facility with the language. Enviously, I told myself, "Someday, I will speak Spanish that well, and be able to be that helpful!"

But when the young man left, and the woman was alone and isolated again, I knew that 'someday' couldn't come soon enough. I wanted to connect with her, right then, right there. I wanted the language exposure my teacher had advised us to get. I knew just one sentence or one phrase would be all it

would take to get a conversation started. I was nervous she would reply so rapidly in Spanish I might not be able to understand, but I wracked my brain to recall how to tell her my name and to ask hers, and I summoned the courage to speak up.

That was indeed all it took. I understood less than 15% of what she said, but that was enough. She spoke to me using passionate gestures, and after a while, I caught on to what she was saying. I found the presence of mind to listen with my eyes and heart, instead of my ears and head. She told me the baby's father had died recently, while she was pregnant. She used the father's actual death certificate to convey this to me, when my limited understanding

of her words failed. I was thankful, at least, that I remembered how to say, "I'm sorry," ("*Lo siento*") in Spanish.

My Spanish teacher had taught us that language acquisition comes with, "practice, practice, and more practice," and my ability to recall words was proving her true. I was surprised to be able to recall how to ask, "How do you say...?" ("*Como se dice...?*") for whatever word I was searching for in Spanish. I thanked my new friend for helping me with my Spanish, and she thanked me for helping her with her English. I gave her my phone number, and she laughed and seemed to say that maybe we would one day learn enough of each other's language to speak on the phone.

It was a thrill for me to watch a communication barrier crumble right before my very eyes that day in the waiting room. I took Spanish because I wanted to be able to connect with someone from a different culture, and I found the connection was easier to establish than I had imagined. I look forward to other such opportunities now. Although I was not able to be as helpful as the bilingual man in the office, even with my limited Spanish I was able to bring a smile to this woman's face, and perhaps help her feel a little less isolated.

I think crossing language barriers has more to do with intention than with skill. Speaking Spanish is indeed fun, and you don't have to know very much of it to try.

RESPECT

continued from pg 6

I remember when school committee member Richard Colton presented a fifth option: 'status quo,' at the first forum in Gill. School committee chair Mary Kociela said that was not an option for school committee consideration for the forums. The school committee was seeking feedback on four specific configurations, which would later be discussed and voted upon by the committee.

As it became more and more evident that the SC could not reach the eight votes needed to close a school, they started tossing out various school committee scenarios. A change in configuration would only require five votes. Time was moving quickly; the question was how to reach a decision. I remember asking at the November 28th

committee meeting why at the eleventh hour were they proposing a new configuration, K-5 or K6 at Sheffield and Montague Center, with Hillcrest technically remaining open as a pre-K center. This configuration had clearly not been put forth in advance to the community. The committee responded, "It was to help the process, and that more data would be provided before a final vote." On December 19th the vote was cast. We all know the reactions that followed, resulting in a vote by the committee on February 12th to rescind the decision. Some school committee members appeared dazed or mystified by the community's reaction.

Did they not expect the community to be upset, confused, and frustrated? Did they not think the community would find it insulting to cast a vote because of the lateness of the


hour or because some type of vote had been promised? Did they not expect the community to want a clear rationale for this decision? Did they not expect the taxpayers to want accurate figures on capital costs? Did they not expect parents and community members to question why the school committee disregarded the recommendation of the professional staff?

There would be no claims of 'mystery' or 'inaccurate figures' raised if the school committee had demonstrated trust and conviction in the figures distributed at the forums. It has been the school committee questioning, challenging and doubting the administration, the feasibility studies, and the capital improvement committee that has led to this. Hypothetical surveys on school choice must be based on currently choiced-in families to show real dollars,

not families, that have already left the district. The solution is real figures supported by real data.

Two school buildings, Hillcrest and Montague Center School, must be examined based on current conditions, capital costs and future growth. There is no logic in opting for minimal savings on district operating costs coupled with higher spending on capital costs. Every grade configuration has its own strengths and weaknesses. The campus model supported by our educators will provide a longer grade span. A building project that supports enrichment to education could physically join the two facilities, providing a location for shared services, the arts, administration, etc. With town and SBA support this could realistically happen. The argument that a broad grade span can only

occur if students are physically located in the same space has as much validity as saying that the quality teachers, programs, and parental support in one building cannot be retained in a new location.

Have you always lived in the same house? When you moved, did you leave your family values, teachings, love and support for your children in the old house? When we join together, we are enriched by each other's talents, expertise, and knowledge. We can 'promote intellectual, ethical, and social growth within a dynamic educational community in order to develop knowledgeable, productive, and caring citizens,' if we teach our children by example. This school district and the community can and will move forward with trust, open dialogue and RESPECT - this is what it means to me! 

SCHOOLS

continued from pg 7

close to \$150,000. Closing Montague Center Elementary instead would net, counting mostly staff cuts, about \$150,000. The loss of Montague Center Elementary, a well-performing school in the fastest-growing residential area of town, would also result in greatly increased "choicing out" by frustrated families, judging

from the past record and from recent constituent interviews.


The impact of school choice is truly huge. It is the single largest loss of funds to the district in the last six years, and dwarfs any savings in school building closings. Last year, we paid out over \$700,000 in school choice. As of December, 2006 that figure has climbed to \$927,655, with no substantial increase in students "choicing in" to district schools. That dif-

ference in just the last year is more than any that could be realized from closing a school. Clearly, arresting or reversing this outflow of money is critical to the survival of the school district. A disturbingly large number of sampled residents indicated they would "choice out" of the district under the single school consolidation or campus model. And a conservative estimate of the cost to the district of closing Montague Center

Elementary School was over \$200,000 each year in lost Chapter 70 revenues. It could easily be twice that. Ignoring this dynamic and reality, we feel, is both irresponsible and shortsighted.

The December 19th reconfiguration offers us a school district in which families will have good reason to enroll their children. It gives us, finally, a roadmap by which we can move beyond misunderstanding in our

community, and in which we may begin to harness the talents and promise of our socially rich towns and build a brighter future for all our children.

Richard Colton, Ted Castro-Santos, and Michael Langknecht are members of the Gill-Montague school committee. The opinions expressed here are their own, and do not represent the thinking of the entire committee. 



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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Lack of High Speed Internet Impeding Town Accountant

BY JOSH HEINEMANN - Town accountant Janet Swem met the Wendell selectboard as the February 21st meeting opened with good news on the free cash front from the recent town audit. Corrections from previous audits give the town approximately \$100,000 in free cash, and departmental accounts that have been zeroed out with money still in them bring the total amount for the town's free cash to \$265,000. The town has to vote on what to do with that money by June 30th, or it will be tied up in free cash until the next fiscal year.

Swem also said there is work she cannot do without a high speed internet connection, which means she cannot do the work in Wendell. The town had a trial use of a T1 line that cost \$1,000 a month, but the year allowed for its use has ended. The cost for a T1 line is now closer to \$550 a month, and selectboard member Dan Keller said at that price it might be worth it, especially if it allows the town to eliminate some ordinary telephone lines.

Keller reported that the town office building is on track for substantial completion by March 3rd. Ceilings are 80% in, light fixtures and millwork are

done; he said so much progress has been made that Ted Lewis is finally happy. On Sunday, February 25th members of town boards were scheduled to walk through the building and make a list of what cabinets and furniture they will need. The walk through should have been of short duration, because the paint fumes in the building are still strong. Final paving, landscaping including drainage, and the finish paint coat will have to wait for warmer weather.

Abutter Brian Anderson asked by letter for a copy of the variance that was given to allow the office building to be located where it was located.

In the new library, sheetrock is done and work is starting in the basement. The old basement floor will be demolished, and a new one put in with perimeter drains. Keller said the new project manager for Handford Construction is better than any of the previous project managers. (Lewis retorted, "That's not saying much.") He has bent over backwards for the town, is making decisions in the field, and has been relatively generous towards the town; work is now progressing quickly. He is making a serious effort to complete the project on time.

If everything is complete and the grass is planted by May 15th, time will be tight for completing the paperwork for the USDA loan before the June 19th loan deadline. Until that loan is secure, the town must continue with a short term loan with a higher interest rate.

The town center septic system still needs to be inspected, and for that controls need to be wired in.

The town historic commission turned in its report for the annual town report. The report is a single page, with a picture of the old school building, where the new library now stands. Underneath is written, "R.I.P."

The Fiske Pond advisory committee has had three gates installed for the access roads for Fiske Pond; two of them are at Fiske Pond, and one is on a road off Montague Road. Lewis asked, "What gives them the right to put up gates?" and restrict access to town-owned land. The town has owned the land on Montague Road for 100 years, and he said, "Why do we need to gate it now?" The gates were put up with Valley Land Trust money.

The Department of Veterans Services invited Wendell's selectboard, along with select-

boards from other towns, to a Purple Heart Ceremony to be held Saturday, May 19th at the Sunderland Elementary School.

The Franklin County plumbing inspector wants to raise the fee for an inspection from \$28 to \$30, and for each additional fixture from \$8 to \$10. The selectboard approved that request unanimously.

The board signed an appointment slip to the broadband access committee for Ben Schwartz.

Planning board chair Deirdre Cabral said she has not seen much interest in developing a town forest management plan. Grant money is available for professional help in developing that plan, but it must be spent in this fiscal year.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE GILL POLICE LOG

Trouble on Main Road

Thursday 2-22
4:58 p.m. Motor vehicle off the road at South Cross Road. Officer assisted motor vehicle to summon tow truck.

Friday 2-23
12:12 p.m. Three-car motor vehicle crash at Main Road and West Gill Road. Officer took reports. Injuries were treated by EMTs.
1:30 p.m. Car reported off the road on Main Road.

Officer assisted with traffic while operator maneuvered the car back into traffic.

2:10 p.m. Report of a car parked in the middle of the road on Main Road. Officer requested the operator to move. The operator complied.

Sunday 2-25
11:15 a.m. Assisted Erving police with a motor vehicle stop.
1:20 p.m. Assisted Erving police with a motor vehicle crash. One person crash. Officer stood by to assist with traffic.

Monday 2-26
5:15 a.m. Officer called for a barking dog complaint in the South Cross Road area. Officer responded and collected information. Unable to find the dog. Officer turned all further information over to the animal control officer for further handling.

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Swift River Science Club Studies Arsenic Contamination

BY SARAH THAYER

NEW SALEM - Is there arsenic in our drinking water? Are horses and cows eating grass contaminated with arsenic when they graze in the pasture? These are the questions Chris Wings and her afterschool science club of twelve fourth and fifth grade students from the Swift River School are asking, and trying to find the answers to.

When you walk into Chris Wings' fourth grade classroom, you will notice a long rectangular table covered with planting flats, full of dark, rich-looking soil, and a loud humming sound coming from a large insulated tank. The tank contains Atlantic salmon eggs, and the soil is part of an ongoing research project for STEM RAYS.

STEM RAYS stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Research Academies for Young Scientists, and the Swift River science club is funded by part of an \$800,000 grant from the National Science Foundation, as a model program for encouraging fourth through eighth grade students to study science and math. Swift River School is one of ten local schools that are partnering with the University of Massachusetts and Greenfield Community College in the pilot phase of the program. According to Allan Feldman, UMass professor of science education, the project is funded through 2008, but coordinators are hoping to interest sponsors to continue the program beyond that. The two pilot research programs available for students to research this year are arsenic in the environment, led by UMass chemist Julian Tyson and Pioneer Valley Watershed studies, led by GCC's Brian Adams, professor

of environmental science. While participating in the weekend workshops offered to teachers, Chris Wings chose to lead her group in an investigation of arsenic in the environment.

Wings' love of science is evident in her classroom.

Her class is fully involved in the Atlantic Salmon Egg Rearing Program, which involves raising Atlantic salmon from eggs to their release in local streams. She is excited about STEM RAYS because it allows her students to develop their own experiments.

She explained that teachers involved in the program each have a research project, and their students assist with the research. Her project is related to her life-long love of horses. Wings is exploring whether arsenic contamination of soil and water might be making its way up the food chain through plants to reach herbivores.

Until 2003, pressure treated wood used in outdoor decking was treated with arsenic, which leaches into the soil over time. Many barns and paddocks, as well as fences and swing sets are made with pressure treated wood. Wings is interested in



Owen Gauthier and Clay Derderian of New Salem conduct a test to see if pressure treated wood contains arsenic.

finding out how much arsenic is being taken up into the plants and, further, how acid rain affects absorption rates.

There are many components of this research project. The STEM RAYS model is inquiry based, so students have opportunities to explore the impact of arsenic contamination in their own environment in a way that is meaningful to them. Wings and her students have tested arsenic levels in the school drinking water and their home tap water. Thankfully, they found no evidence of arsenic contamination in any of the water samples.

According to Django, a fourth grader participating in the research project, the group may offer to test residents' drinking water to determine if any arsenic is present. "I used to think science was something far away from me, and now I know it is

right at my fingertips," said Django.

The students are now developing experiments involving soil and plants, hence the planting flats soaking up the sun in Wings' large classroom windows. Wings said the students have developed formulas for creating synthetic acid rain as well as "background rain," which contains pre-Industrial Revolution pH levels.

Kaitlyn, another fourth grader who said she joined STEM RAYS because it was an opportunity to be involved in a science activity, explained that they will plant Red Clover seeds in the soil, which contains varying levels of arsenic. They then will water the plots with either "acid rain" or "background rain."

"I am curious to figure out how to test the clover to see if it has arsenic in it," said Django.

One of the aspects of the afterschool program that both Kaitlyn and Patrick, a fifth grader, are looking forward to is the chance to take research fieldtrips. They have already had one field trip, consisting of walking along New Salem Road on a cold wintery afternoon. The students mapped out where there was identifiable pressure treated wood within walking distance of Swift River School. They returned to school and used a Google satellite mapping program to get an aerial view of the area they traversed. As the weather gets warmer, they will again foray out to take rubbings from pressure treated telephone poles and obtain soil samples nearby.

Django explained the students use coffee filters to determine the levels of arsenic in a material. "We tested the coffee filters and they contain no arsenic, then we rub them for two minutes on the wood we are checking," to determine if the contaminant is present.

The STEM RAYS afterschool program will continue into June, culminating in a science workshop students will attend at the University of Massachusetts.

Next year, STEM RAYS research projects will include research on weather, air quality and birds and this year's participants are eager to take part. "It's a must," said Django.

Wings explained that one of the purposes of the grant is to see if enrichment programs will encourage students to enter STEM (Science, technology, engineering and math) careers.

"Before STEM RAYS I thought science was a good subject in school," said Patrick. "Now I love it!"

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First Friday Film at Sheffield: The Ant Bully

The Montague police department, in partnership with the Montague recreation department will present the free film *The Ant Bully* (88 Mins) on Friday Evening, March 2nd, at the Sheffield School auditorium. The feature picture starts at 6:30 p.m. The family movies are funded by the Montague Elks, and are designed to provide a family night out without cost to families. Parents are encouraged to attend with their children. The movies should end at approximately 8:00 p.m.

Attendees please limit refreshments carried in to bottled water and dry snacks only, to prevent messy cleanups. Additionally, in case of bad weather or building closures, please tune in to the local radio station (WHA1 98.3) and Montaguema net web site for cancellations.

In the *Ant Bully*, ten-year-old Lucas is the new kid on the block, and the local bullies make sure he knows it. Tired of being a punching bag, Lucas takes out his frustration on the ants living in his lawn. But when the ants strike back, shrinking Lucas down to their size with a magic potion and forcing him to live like an ant within the colony, an astonishing new world opens up to him. Lucas learns, first-hand, the value of friendship and teamwork, ultimately leading the ants in an effort to save their colony from annihilation. And in the process, he obtains the things he wants most: friends, companionship, acceptance and the courage to stand up for himself.

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Capital Needs Examined at Montague Center School



SHAWN WOOLSEY PHOTO

BY DAVID DETMOLD - A seven member committee of parents and teachers and school committee members from around town met on Wednesday night, February 28th at the Montague Center School, in a cafeteria where ceiling tiles bulge from a curved roof, inefficient incandescent light fixtures hang from the ceiling, and a nearby kitchen waits for electrical upgrades to be able to meet the lunchroom needs of a larger school population envisioned by at least some of the Gill-Montague school committee members, if that school is to expand to add back fourth and fifth graders. A brightly painted mural on the cafeteria wall maps out "Montague: One Town, Five Villages!" with no hint of irony.

Tom Thornton, Gill-Montague Regional Schools facilities manager, delivered a packet of information detailing specific capital needs and the costs required to meet them at each of the district's elementary schools to the committee.

Building inspector David Jensen met with committee members briefly, before heading back to town hall for a ZBA meeting. He toured the building, pointing out the roughly five foot rise that would need to be accommodated with a wheelchair ramp at the front door, and indicating a likely spot to install an elevator between floors in the area near the front entrance where the principal's office is currently located.

He said a similar ramp had cost between \$40,000 to \$50,000 to install at the Carnegie Library some years ago. But a concrete ramp is not necessarily the only way to meet the ADA requirements at the front of the building, a pressure treated wooden ramp

could meet the requirements at less cost, Jensen said.

He said the school building's roof was clearly "on borrowed time," and would have to be replaced regardless of what the town chose to do with the building, in the very near future. One contractor estimated cost for a new roof, including the removal of a skylight, at \$158,000.

Jensen said the building's Americans with Disability Act requirements would "absolutely" remain the town's responsibility, regardless of its future use, as long as it remained a town-owned building.

He said the school was three years behind on meeting its schedule for ADA improvements, and continued progress would need to be made to satisfy the requirements of the act.

Jensen said \$50,000 in electrical improvements would be needed to bring the kitchen up to code and ready to install a new, larger dishwasher to meet the needs of a larger student population. He said magnetic door locks needed to be installed at certain doors to meet fire code requirements.

The committee said they had heard from GMRSD technology and grants administrator Martin Espinola that \$10,000 would be needed to install a new server for needed upgrades for computer technology, if a fifth grade is eventually added to the school.

Sue Dresser, a Montague Center PTO parent and committee member led the group in an exercise prioritizing the school's capital improvement needs in three categories: urgent, intermediate, and long term. Here is the list they came up with:

Urgent -

New Roof - shingles and skylight removal
 Fire alarm activated door magnets for last two sets of doors
 Sewer line repair
 Re-assessment of ADA improvement plan
 Light fixture replacement - subject to grant availability from WMECO
 Oil Tank - replacement

Intermediate -
 ADA compliant entrance - Investigate available grants
 ADA compliant bathroom
 Accessible parking space and walkways
 Asbestos removal - Floor tiles / Ceiling tile glue
 Electrical upgrade
 Computer Lab capability
 Phone system - more research to upgrade current system

Long-term -
 Kitchen - new information as to needs and capability available
 ADA compliant internal access to both floors
 Replacement of front steps
 Parking and Bus pull-off

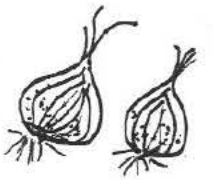
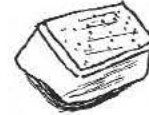
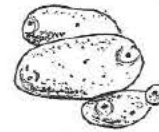
Dresser is heading up a committee to raise money to help meet the schools short term capital needs at the school. So far, they have held one fundraiser at the Montague Grange on Sunday night, February 25th where over \$700 was raised, including \$135 in profits from the sale of necklaces made by 1st grader Maya Pezzati. Also, the fundraiser netted \$6300 in pledges. People interested in assisting in this effort can contact Dresser by calling her at 367-9502 or by email at tallsuzyd@yahoo.com, or at her mailing address: 48 Taylor Hill Road.

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BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH

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Open Competitive Police Examination

Massachusetts Human Resources Division. Open Competitive Examination. Announcement Number: 8580. Police Officer Municipal Service and MBTA Examination date: May 19th, 2007 • Application deadline: April 2, 2007* • Examination fee: \$75 Apply on-line with Visa or Mastercard at: <https://www.csexam.hrd.state.ma.us/hrd/> * Please note: there will be an additional \$25 processing fee for applications received after this date. Applications will not be accepted after April 23rd, 2007. Women, minorities and Montague residents are encouraged to apply.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Criminal Citations Issued

Wednesday 2-21
 9:11 a.m. After a motor vehicle stop on Route 2, a criminal citation was issued to [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license. A licensed operator removed vehicle and subject from area.

Friday 2-23
 12:35 p.m. Mutual aid to Gill at West Gill and Main Road intersection. Three car, head-on motor vehicle accident. Assisted with traffic.

Sunday 2-25
 12:00 a.m. After a motor vehicle stop on Route 2 a summons was issued to [redacted] for possession of marijuana.

Monday 2-26
 9:54 p.m. After a motor vehicle stop on Route 2 a criminal citation was issued to [redacted] for unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

Tuesday 2-27
 10:00 a.m. Report of a loose dog at a Pleasant Street address. Caller states that it is an ongoing problem and requests that owner be advised of bylaw.

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TURNERS FALLS GIRLS SELL OVER 500 BOXES OF GIRL SCOUT COOKIES

BY KATHY LITCHFIELD
TURNERS FALLS - When asked what was most rewarding about selling over 500 boxes of Girl Scout cookies apiece, 11-year-olds Lauren Grimard and Nichole Voudren, turned to each other and grinned broadly. "Prizes!" exclaimed the two girls from Junior Troop #79 of Turners Falls. Grimard sold 559 boxes of cookies and Voudren sold 592 boxes.

They were two of five local girls who contributed to the sale of a total of 1,987 cases (each holding 12 boxes) of trefoils, tagalongs, samoas, thin mints, do-si-dos, little brownies, all abouts and cafe cookies.

Eight-year-old Melissa Hersey of Brownie Troop #21 of Turners Falls sold 506 boxes; 12-year-old Shannon Hersey of Cadette Troop #24 of Turners Falls sold 517 boxes; and Kaitlin Norwood of Junior Troop #567 of Bernardston, sold a whopping total of 649

boxes of cookies. The 1,987 cases towered upon wooden pallets inside Heat-fab Inc.'s shipping and receiving area yesterday, as enthusiastic parents loaded them into the backs of their cars for their proud daughters to deliver.

Girl Scout Volunteer Roland Packard of Greenfield was in charge of the cookie delivery. He has volunteered for the Girl Scouts for 23 years and when asked why, he said the answer is simple.

"It's the looks on the faces of brownies and juniors when they're doing something they couldn't do otherwise," said Packard, whose favorite Girl Scout cookie is the caramel delight, or samoas - exclaiming that he has devoured plenty with a tall glass of milk over the years.

The girls sold most of the cookies to their parents, relatives and teachers at Hillcrest

and Sheffield schools, with the added help of Voudren's aunt, who sold cookies to her nail business customers in Millers Falls.

"It's fun going around to people and asking if they want to buy some cookies," said a smiling Melissa Hersey.

With each box of cookies sold, the girls earn "cookie credits" that they can spend on cookie company incentives such as "tv dance mats," prizes which Grimard and Voudren were particularly excited about. Each girl selling over 500 boxes was also awarded with items including a Girl Scout patch, backpack, "techno jumprope" (it plays music while you hop about) and water bottles, according to Suzanne Smiley, chief executive officer of the Girl Scouts of Western Massachusetts.

Smiley, who fondly recalled being a Girl Scout in her own youth, has served the organization for 25 years, the first eight in Reno, NV and the last 17 and a half from her Gill home.

"This is one part of what's happening all over Western Massachusetts this week. We have over

20,000 cases being delivered this week," said Smiley, who is chair of the zoning board in Gill.

"The girls gain great business and entrepreneurial skills. Learning your product, the pricing, the details, safety, being prepared for the sale, talking to your customers and being able to present yourself in a confident way to speak about your product," she said. "These are really invaluable life lessons."

"Many of these girls don't realize the value of these skills until they're in the business world. They remember making their first cold call," she said.

The 1,987 boxes of Girl Scout cookies sold by the enterprising youths arrived at Heat-fab Inc. between 8 and 11 a.m. yesterday morning. Adult volunteers unloaded the cookies

into vehicles and the girls will deliver them to their customers this week.

The girls presented Heat-fab engineering manager Ray Purington with a certificate of appreciation and a box of "All Abouts" cookies, thanking the company for their support of the cookie drive.

Purington, whose favorite cookie is the rich chocolate-covered, peanut-butter filled tagalong, said Heat-fab is happy to volunteer their space for a good community cause.

"We have the facility and the space and it's the right thing to do for the community," he said.

Giggling all the way, the girls smiled for the cameras of two local reporters and said the experience felt like a big accomplishment that was "just a lot of fun."



Turners Falls Girl Scouts hold boxes of their favorite Girl Scout cookies in the shipping area of Heat-fab Inc. on Industrial Boulevard. Left to right: Melissa Hersey, Lauren Grimard, Nichole Voudren and Shannon Hersey, all of Turners Falls.



Four top-selling Girl Scouts present Ray Purington, Heat-fab Inc. engineering manager, with a box of All Abouts cookies and a certificate of appreciation, thanking the company for its support

ODOR

continued from pg 1

Trombley said levels of sulfides at 140 - 151 parts per million had been found in the samples taken from the manure tank waste stream, which he compared to an aquarium tank filter. Trombley said, "Fifty parts sulfide per million in sewage is defined as 'strong.'"

Even very weak levels of sulfide, which changes to hydrogen sulfide gas in the sewers, can be detected as a strong rotten egg smell, Trombley said.

Kostanski has taken the neighborhood's complaint to the Springfield office of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection,

whose spokesperson, Eva Tor, said, "We're closely monitoring the situation. We have been in touch with the town's water pollution control facility. We've given advice on how to mitigate the problem. From a regulatory standpoint, it's an unacceptable situation."

Goldman said this week Australis would be attempting to decrease the sulfide level in the waste stream by adjusting the pH level in the airtight manure holding tank. "We may have to try a few different things, but we are committed to taking care of the problem." He said he would work with Trombley to make sure the levels were appropriate. He said, "We will welcome the feedback

of the neighborhood to see whether the problem is fixed."

Local resident Kevin Murphy said he had called the board of health twice about the smell. "It's been ongoing for a while. It's been pretty bad, especially in the morning when it gets into my car. I haven't been able to smell it inside my house but it lingers around my back porch and in my back yard."

Brenda Janikas, another resident of Norman Circle, said "At first I didn't realize what was going on. I thought it was the sewer backing up."

Tammy and Butch Stevens on Millers Falls Road said the smell was so bad when their grandkids come over they can't

stand to be outside.

Health agent Gina McNeely said she became aware of the bad odor when called to a new homeowners residence at the corner of Millers Falls Road and Turnpike Road. The first time she came she could not detect the odor, but when she returned to the same house a week later, she tracked the smell to the sewer grate, and found it to be overpowering. "It was clearly coming from the sewer," she said.

Complaints also came in from office workers at Hassay Savage, Jonathan Edwards Academy, Lauralyn Brown Veterinary, and York Heating and Cooling, Kostanski said. But Greg Olchowski, attorney

for Hallmark Institute of Photography, said, "The smell has been off and on, and they're dealing with it. Australis are good neighbors."

Australis recently completed a \$2.5 million, 20,000 square foot addition to their facility, adding eight new jobs in the process. The fish farm grows an Australian specialty fish called Barramundi for the domestic market, and is currently shipping 1000 tons of the product annually, Goldman said. The manure produced by the fish is stored in the tight tank and distributed four times annually to farmers, for application to their fields in spring and autumn.



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Wendell Woman Overcomes Multiple Organ Transplants

BY MARA BRIGHT

WENDELL - Tina had lived with Type I diabetes long enough to know that at each stage of the disease, as her quality of life diminished, she had very little chance of getting it back. Unless. She had considered her options all along, jumped for the next intervention as she needed it. Now she was at another crossroads, looking at the possibility of two organ transplants.

Wendell resident Tina Horn was diagnosed as having diabetes at age thirteen, when she was on the verge of diabetic coma. She was already genetically predisposed, having lost her mother and grandmother to the disease. During the first month of eighth grade she spent a week in I.C.U. and another week on the pediatrics floor before being released with a meal plan and a daily insulin requirement.

Tina was the only one she knew with diabetes. "It would have been good to have had community," she said in retrospect. Instead, ashamed that she was different, she hid that she was diabetic. Other than giving herself one shot of insulin a day, she lived like a normal teen. Because her family doctor never had her test her own blood, she didn't know that her blood sugar was out-of-control.

It wasn't until she was in nursing school that she saw an endocrinologist who ordered a test to measure the amount of sugar in Tina's blood. Between 4.6 % and 5.7 % is within the normal range for the hemoglobin A1C test. Tina's blood measured 13.7 %. The doctor told her she was on the way to losing kidney function. A year later, after intervention, the results of the same test measured 7.6 %.

In 1994, as she struggled with the effects of low and high blood sugar swings that were occurring despite the three shots of mixed insulin she was giving herself each day, Tina switched

to an insulin pump. Choosing this intensive insulin therapy promised to better control her blood sugar dips and peaks. Working now as a nurse in I.C.U., she often skipped lunch. The insulin pump made her work life possible. Tina got used to loading the beeper-like device with insulin and changing the site on her abdomen every three days. She could shut the pump on and off to adjust the amount of insulin dispensed for active and inactive periods. The pump gave her the flexibility she needed.

Diabetes is insidious. Because the body and its systems are in constant change, it is impossible to gauge the perfect balance between high and low blood sugar. Tina said she was doing the best she could with the insulin pump. Still there were many things she was afraid of - long hikes, snorkeling, "anything too intense with exercise." Playing drums is her passion, and the fear of crashing from low blood sugar while on stage haunted her.

By 2003-2004, her kidneys were starting to fail. On June 23rd, 2004 Tina, now a nurse practitioner, was at work in the middle of a 25-patient day when her kidneys failed. She recalled the nausea, the horrible taste in her mouth. Her creatinine level, a measurement of kidney function, was in the danger zone. It was her last day of work for a year and a half.

The next day Tina was touring the dialysis unit where she would have to spend three to four hours a day, three times a week. She chose peritoneal dialysis, and would have to get used to two liters of dialysis fluid being pumped into her peritoneum, the space holding her internal organs, and "dwelling" there for one to two hours before being released. Tina's peritoneum would act as the filter to purify metabolic wastes. But before she committed herself to that, Tina had a gig play-

ing music in England. Her determination to go through with her plans meant she had to postpone dialysis until August, using natural medicine instead.

When she returned home, she had a constant bad taste in her mouth, her skin was gray and she was throwing up. Before she could begin peritoneal dialysis, she had to endure three rounds of hemodialysis, where a tube is inserted through the groin. Two weeks later, at night, she was hooked up to a machine called

At this point in her journey, Tina Horn goes forward without holding back, a remarkable example for everyone who knows her.

the cycler, which did peritoneal dialysis automatically and drained the fluids from Tina's body directly into the toilet.

Maintaining quality of life was definitely a challenge, though Tina made recordings of her music on CD and even managed to travel to North Carolina for a wedding. In the meantime, everyone who might be eligible was tested to be a kidney donor. Tina's sister Sue donated a kidney, and Tina underwent kidney transplant surgery in March 2005, eight months after she had begun dialysis. She wasn't finished, though. Post-surgery her ureter got disconnected from her bladder, and she urinated into her abdominal cavity for four days. Her body blew up with fluids, her weight rocketed from 134 pounds to 189 pounds and she contracted peritonitis. Rushed into surgery again, her ureter and bladder were reconnected. Over the next four days she urinated out 61 pounds of fluid. She came home weighing 128 pounds.

Given the reality that diabetes would destroy Tina's new kidney in half the time it had destroyed her original kidneys, Tina put herself on the list for a new pancreas. In just one year and five months, her name was first on a regional list for matches by blood type. On Sunday, July 9th, 2006 she got the go-ahead that a pancreas was waiting for her. Awash in a mix of excitement and skepticism, Tina arrived at UMass Medical in Worcester for tests, only to find out that her B cells had reacted with the organ. She was devastated. Over the next six weeks, Tina's body tested reactive to three more pancreases.

The call came at 5:30 a.m. on the morning of August 23rd, 2006. Again Tina went to UMass Medical for tests, convinced that nothing would happen. The pancreas is a membranous organ that doesn't like to be banged or nicked, let alone transplanted. But at 1:30 p.m., Tina's surgeon, Dr. Nicole Turgeon burst into Tina's room and said, "It's a go! And it's a really good organ."


Tina's donor was a twenty-two year old male. Later, in recovery, Tina would write his parents a letter expressing her gratitude and condolences. She would never find out any of their names unless they wished to write back.

Meanwhile, Tina prepared for surgery. A pancreas transplant involves both vascular and bowel surgery. Although the surgery itself went well, Tina again underwent complications. On day three she developed a hematoma, and her hematocrit dropped from 39 % to 18 %. She needed three units of blood, and she needed them fast. Still unstable from what she had already been through, she experienced excruciating pain and nausea. Her bowel had flipped over on itself. In surgery again, Nicole Turgeon removed the hematoma and repaired the bowel.

"Nicole was like having a sister or a best buddy operating on me," Tina said. "She was someone I could get giddy with - a blessing." Their complete confidence in each other went a long way toward Tina's return to health. Still enduring most likely drug-induced fevers and an accumulation of excess fluids, Tina came home with a tube to drain the fluids. On September 25th the tube came out, and by the first week of October she was beginning to feel human again. What was most amazing and hard to even take in was that she no longer had diabetes.

Tina continues to test her blood levels twice a day. She's on prednisone and immunosuppressive drugs, so has to be cautious about being around sick people, especially as she returns to work as a nurse practitioner. She says to suddenly no longer be diabetic feels surreal. "It sinks in when I do things I did before. When I gig out, I don't have to worry about going low. Diabetes used to be humiliating. When you go low, you can't function. So I'd over-treat and be high. Then I'd be playing drum with aching muscles."

Tina's positive attitude and enthusiasm for life pours out of her. Living in a body that now houses two pancreases and three kidneys speaks loudly of her courage. From her parents she received the conviction she could do anything she wanted. "You don't have to fit anybody's mold," they told her when she was growing up. Tina says that throughout her struggle with diabetes she never fell into the victim role. Intuitively, she thought it would all work. "I had to give up modesty. I learned to let go." Tina has tremendous respect for the resilience and fragility of the body. At this point in her journey she goes forward without holding back, a remarkable example for everyone who knows her.



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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Erving Plans for \$6 Million Upgrade to Wastewater Treatment Plant

BY KEVIN FOLEY - The town of Erving is making plans for an estimated \$6 million upgrade of the Erving wastewater treatment facility. Representatives of the town's engineering firm Tighe & Bond met with the selectboard on Thursday, February 22nd to present a plan for renovations to the facility. The upgrades will include new electrical wiring, replacement of outdated instruments and new pumps to increase circulation at the plant.

The replacement of outdated instruments is the largest cost of the project, according to Tighe & Bond's Peter Valinski. The outdated instruments include computer software that will cost \$75,000. "For a facility like this, you're going to have 8, 10 or 12 screens. A programmer is going to prepare all of that."

The plant will also take steps to prepare for anticipated water nitrification limits that will eventually be imposed by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). New pumps will be installed that will increase water circulation. The new pumps will not immediately remove nitrogen from the water. "Rather than decreasing nitrogen (the new pumps) would increase the amount of oxygen in the water, which provides some positive benefits," said Tom Sharp, town administrative assistant.

The new pumps will make it easier for the plant to integrate a complete de-nitrification system in the future. The DEP doesn't currently have a nitrogen limit and they are not expected to implement one within the next year.

Tighe & Bond presented a system to the selectboard that would reduce the amount of nitrogen coming out of the plant. The system would have cost \$1.5 million, but the selectboard turned down that proposal.

Some architectural problems will be addressed when the plant is renovated. The roof of

the plant is one of the problems to be addressed. "I don't think they have enough buckets to place under the holes in the roof," said Valinski. The roof of the facility is 15 years old, which is considered the outer limit of life expectancy for a flat roof, according to Andy Tessier, chairman of the selectboard.

The plant has major cracks in its concrete walls and tunnels, according to Mike Pierce, chief of operations at the wastewater plant. "I've got a brook flowing through the tunnel."

New chemical proof windows are to be installed at the plant. The facility already has chemical proof doors, which have a long life expectancy, according to Pierce. "The chemical proof doors down there are 15-years-old and they look brand new."

The plant will have new screens installed, which will decrease the amount of waste, and the size of the waste exiting the plant. The facility currently grinds their waste and sends it out with no screening process.

Odor control problems were also addressed in the plan, to help create a safe working environment for plant employees.

The town will pay for the designs up front, which will cost eight percent, or roughly \$480,000, of the total cost. A loan from the State Revolving Fund will likely cover the rest of the cost. The loan will have an interest of two percent over 20 years.

When the renovations are complete, Valinski expects the electrical costs at the facility to go up 50 - 100 percent. The plan included a \$42,000 increase for the plant's annual electric bills.

The designs for the facility will be completed in roughly 15 weeks, according to Valinski.

The price of the renovations most likely will not exceed the estimated costs. "There is no benefit to a town to come in with a low number," Valinski claimed.

Reconfiguration Back on the G-M School Committee Agenda

BY LISA MERKEL - The public portion of the February 27th school committee meeting was brief. And while it was for the most part low-key, it was not without some anticipatory charge. Refusing to allow the elementary school reconfiguration process to be "swept under the rug," committee member Richard Colton introduced three related agenda items for the committee to address at their next meeting. He stated his intent to clarify the committee's level of commitment to the K-5 or K-6 school configuration, to determine if the committee still held a consensus in favor of broad grade span schools. Or, Colton wanted to know, would the committee back out on their previous commitment to the broad grade span model.

Secondly, Colton intends to explore the committee's intent to move forward with the reconfiguration process of research, evaluation, and planning, with attention to the multiple factors involved, including but not confined only to capital costs at the elementary schools.

Lastly, Colton stated that he

sees a need to affirm that schools do matter, just as much as curriculums, programs, and teachers do, to parents of prospective students. After the meeting, Colton explained he meant that during school orientation, parents feel a strong impression from the physical building. And although they do want to meet the teachers, their first impression is largely influenced by the building, the curriculum, and the programs, he said.

Earlier in the meeting, Mike Langknecht revisited the committee's plan to evaluate all the capital needs of the elementary schools at Montague Center, Hillcrest, and Sheffield. He requested that the school committee collaborate with the town to consider the possible benefit of reusing any of these town buildings. "The capital budget is a town budget item," he exclaimed. He said that we need to create a fuller picture by getting input from the town regarding capital improvements and building use. After the meeting, Langknecht spoke of the suitability of reusing part of the Hillcrest building to house

the senior center and the parks and recreation department. Those departments are in need of more suitable accommodations, and Hillcrest, centrally located and wheelchair accessible, would be ideally suited to meet their needs, he said.

Also at the meeting, the committee accepted the resignation of Superintendent Sue Gee, effective June 30th, 2007. She may be released as early as June 4th, contingent upon the successful hiring of an interim superintendent. The personnel subcommittee will meet on March 5th at 6:30 p.m. to begin the process of searching for an interim superintendent to assume Gee's responsibilities at the end of her tenure, until June 30th, 2008.

The school committee is also seeking candidates for open seats on the committee, to run in the district elections in May. There are three seats open. The nominating papers are available at the superintendent's office, and must be returned before March 30th at 5 p.m. As Gee said, "This is an opportunity to participate in democracy."

ERVING continued from pg 1

\$1,935,667, about a 10 percent increase from last year's number. SPED costs make up \$131,090, 7.4 percent, of this year's increase. Those costs include \$57,440 for contracted services for a child who needs a one to one nurse and other students who will receive consultation from the May Institute, a company that offers home-based and school-based consultation services. SPED tuition, which will provide students with special programs, accounts for \$60,000 of the budget.

"(SPED costs are) something that's statewide," Wickman said. "Everybody's yelling the same thing, and the legislators are starting to listen."

However, selectboard chair Andy Tessier, at the board's February 26th meeting, brought up the school's SPED director as one of the staff positions that could be eliminated. Tessier questioned the productivity of the position. "I am questioning why we pay people and we don't see any return."

"I don't know of a school district that doesn't have a SPED

director, and sometimes more than one secretary for that position," Wickman said.

The school also hopes to replace teachers' laptops, supplied when the school was built. Members of the selectboard and finance committee did not approve of that plan.

"When we built the school, the only reason teachers got laptops was because we had extra money we had to spend on technology," said Tessier.

"I've heard the school committee say for the past five years, 'We've got to take care of the teachers, but you've got to take care of the town,'" said Stanley Gradowski, finance committee member. "You've got to look at this on realistic terms. I've looked at the MCAS scores and we're in the bottom 10 percent of the state."

Raising the price of preschool tuition was discussed as a way of raising more money to balance the budget. The tuition cost is currently at \$5 a day, with a sliding scale that makes it possible for some to pay \$4.50. At least five families whose children attend the preschool cannot pay the tuition fee, according to Charlene Galenski,

principal of Erving Elementary.

Education makes up 49 percent of the preliminary fiscal year '08 budget for the town of Erving. Although their budget hasn't been announced officially, the Franklin County Technical School is included in that percentage. The Tech School will hold a meeting on March 28th to announce their fiscal year '08 budget. Erving's share is expected to come in between \$225,000 and \$250,000.

The parks and recreation committee are expected to meet with the selectboard and the finance committee on Monday, March 5th to talk about reducing their budget. Town officials are considering zeroing out the parks and recreation budget entirely.

Jeff Dubay, member of the selectboard, supported that proposition, rather than cutting other parts of the budget. "In your own home, it's a no-brainer. Do we go on vacation or fix the furnace?"

Tessier mentioned the police department as another area that could withstand some cuts. "I've had conversations with the police chief about eliminating some shifts," he said.



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Milk Bottles Offer Stories of Past

BY EDWIN POTTER

MILLERS FALLS - During the first half of the 1900s several farmers in the town of Montague sold milk in bottles. In my collection of Franklin County milk bottles I have many of these embossed bottles. The Beaubien Farm was located on the South Ferry Road, bordering the Fields Farm, more recently operated by Walter Garbiel. They used two styles of bottles, one embossed Beaubien Bros., the other Nelson Beaubien. Their milk business operated during the 1930s and 1940s.

My pint milk bottle embossed F. L. Dessureault, Montague, Mass. was manufactured in 1925 and the farm was located on the Greenfield Road. Another more recent dairyman on the Greenfield Road was Adam Mirecki. His bottles can be found either embossed or pyro-glazed Adam Mirecki Spring Dale Farm, Montague, Mass. His milk route was in Turners Falls, Montague City, and East Greenfield. He even supplied milk to the Farren Hospital.

Recently, I was able to pur-

chase a pint cream bottle embossed John Olanyk, Montague, Mass. His farm was located on the Ferry Road. The bottle was manufactured by the Thatcher Glass Manufacturing Co. in 1924.

My J.R. Ball & Son, Montague, Mass. is a half-pint cream bottle. According to the 1906 street listing, the Julius R. Ball farm was located on the Meadow Road.

There were at least five milk dealers with Millers Falls, Mass. listed on their bottles. One of the oldest bottles in my collection is the half pint of L. O. Gunn, manufactured over a century ago. I have been told that he lived on the Ervingside of Millers Falls. The 1906 street list notes a Lyman O. Gunn as living on Center Street in Montague Center at the age of 72. Another milk bottle from the Ervingside is the quart bottle of C. K. Hewett, of Millers Falls, MA. Hewett lived on what is known as the Route Two bypass.

The J.S. Browning, Millers, Mass can be found with two different addresses: 27 or 32



The farm of the F. L. Dessureault family, on Greenfield Road, in the 1920s

Bridge Street. He was in the milk peddling business in the 1920s to 1947, and his bottles were all embossed.

The John Waidlich family operated the French King dairy from their farm on East Mineral Road in Millers Falls.

A small milk route was started with 13 quarts the first day of operation in 1937. Their business grew to 900 to 1000 quarts delivered daily, with the help of John's two sons, Joe and Henry. They even supplied the school with half pints of milk for lunch. They kept the milk operation going until 1967.

There were also milk dealers with Turners Falls as their address. One such dealer was L. Koch, Milk and Cream. From 1916 to 1927, Koch ran a grocery store at 136 L Street. Another long time milk dealer was William St. Germain, residing on the Montague City Road. His milk route was in Greenfield as well as Turners Falls, before 1910. His son Harry kept the Turners Falls route going until 1951. Harry St. Germain's bottling plant was located on the corner of 3rd and L Street, where

Cutlery Block parking is located now. Some of his milk bottles are pyro-glazed with red lettering.

Albert H. Berry's milk plant was located at 49 Birch Street in Greenfield, Mass. However, he had milk bottles embossed A. H. Berry, Turners Falls, Mass. for his Turners Falls route. The billhead I have from the G. Koch store shows bottles purchased from the Thatcher Glass Manufacturing Co. for pint bottles purchased with A. H. Berry, Turners Falls, at \$5.75 a gross.

The Socquets produced and sold milk in bottles for some 57 years, involving three generations. John and Augustine Socquet started the family operation on a farm in Montague City on the Turners Falls Road. George and Ernest, two sons, joined the operation at an early age, as their father died while they were still in their teens. The earliest bottle of theirs in my collection is embossed A Socquet & Sons, Hillside Farm, Turners Falls, Mass, and was manufactured in 1925. The Socquets also had a machinery dealership, and sold farm equipment.



The Beaubien Farm, where Joseph Beaubien's sons Nelson and Joseph operated a dairy on South Ferry Road in Montague Center. Pictured in this circa 1900 Howes Brothers' photograph are Eleanor (left) and Mrs. Beaubien.

MADDERN

continued from pg 1

In other news, the board voted to "replace with like kind" any mailbox taken down during the snowstorm of February 14th, if complaints were received that they had been knocked over accidentally by town plows. The board discussed whether some of the mailboxes in question may have simply been too weak to withstand the weight of the snow, but nevertheless agreed to take responsibility for replacing the damaged boxes.

Town treasurer Ronnie

LaChance told the board that the town would have to turn to long term borrowing to finance the 12-acres of land known as the Mariamante parcel, on the corner of West Gill and Main Road, if the town is unable to find a buyer for the land by October of this year, when the short term note comes due. If the town has to go to long term borrowing, state law requires that 5.6% of the debt be retired at the same time, along with additional interest. Roussel estimated that the town would have to retire \$13,720 of the \$245,000 debt for the Mariamante land, if it goes

to long term borrowing in November.

Roussel said no bidders had come forward in response to a recently advertised RFP and site visit of the land. The town acquired the prime commercial acreage two years ago to ward off a proposed housing development for the site, in hopes of attracting a developer for the land to create jobs and add to the tax base, without adversely affecting town services.

The board signed an extension for three more years, at no cost to the town, of an agreement with Northeast Generation

for use of the land underneath the old Red Bridge abutment on Riverview Drive. The town maintains a mural on one side of the abutment, picturing the suspension bridge that once carried traffic from that corner of town to Turners Falls.

Also, "fossilized mudballs" can be found in the stonework of the abutment, geologic formations unique to the site, which defy easy explanation. Visitors are welcome to inspect the mudballs, and to make use of the 10-foot walkway around the abutment assigned to the town for that purpose as part of the agree-

ment with the utility company.

The board signed a new contract with the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Agency for two years' additional coverage for liability, property and casualty insurance for the town. Because of the town's track record, MIAA has agreed to reduce premiums by 2½% a year for the next two years, a savings of about \$775 per annum, Roussel said.

The board appointed Jason Bassett as a part time police officer.

BROUHAHA

continued from pg 1

tures of 162 out of a maximum of 165 people we asked. People are unhappy with the way the airport has been managed."

Among the charges Gibson leveled was his claim that steeply rising rents at the airport had resulted in the loss of "an avionics technician, and a fully-licensed aircraft mechanic, leaving the field with one. If that mechanic is not there, we're out of luck. We've lost two instructors. We have to fly with an instructor every two years," to update licenses, according to FAA rules. "Twenty aircraft owners have left the field."

When his time came to speak, Sweeney disputed Gibson's charge about the loss of aircraft at the field. "We have lost a net of one plane in the last three years on our side of the field." He allowed the decline in aircraft may have been greater at Pioneer Aviation, a privately owned business adjoining the airport, that uses the airport's runway.

Reached by phone, Charles Bohonowicz, owner of Pioneer Aviation, said he had experienced a 50% decline in aircraft and a 60 to 70% decline in sales of aviation fuel at his business since 2003. "It's about to the point where it's not even worth maintaining a tank. I have fuel for the convenience of aviation, not for any profit I might make on it any more. There has been an awful decline in aircraft."

Bohonowicz, who has been in business on Industrial Boulevard since 1970, said there is a general decline in aviation nationwide, and did not want to pin his company's woes on any changes in policies or management at the municipal airport next door.

But Gibson pointed to statistics he said his pilots' committee had gathered in the last two weeks that he said showed a 50% increase in business at the Orange Airport in the last three years. Reached by phone, Orange airport manager Len Bedaw said business there "definitely is up," in recent years, despite national trends.

Gibson displayed statistics that showed commercial lease fees in Turners Falls had risen sharply during Sweeney's tenure, from around 20 cents a square foot for hangar space to the current \$3.52. For non-commercial aviation, lease fees at Turners Falls have tripled to 65 cents a square foot, according to the pilots group, which said the average square foot fee for area airports remains close to 20 cents a square foot.

Gibson said, "No other airport in the area imposes restrictive procedures and policies," similar to Turners Falls, where new regulations prohibit flight instructors from being on the field unless they also maintain an office and classroom space, staffed fulltime, with a minimum of two aircraft available, conditions which the pilots group call impractical for an airport the size of Turners Falls. Regulations like these do not contribute to airport safety, the group said, rather they make it more dangerous for pilots to use the Turners airport. By the same token, in bad weather, pilots who are not trained to fly by instrument can no longer call a safety pilot to come to the Turners Falls airport to pilot their plane. "We need to fly to another airport to pick up a safety pilot," Gibson said.

Pilots at the meeting also spoke of being pursued by Sweeney to their workplaces or harassed over minor violations of the new regulations the airport commission promulgated against keeping items in their hangars that could be construed as "non-aviation related" such as bicycles or articles of furniture.

Gibson warned, "If the one business that maintains a mechanic at the field closes, it will become impossible to keep the airport open. The town is at risk of a large post-expansion liability," and may be held responsible for repaying costs associated with the FAA-approved \$8 million runway expansion that Sweeney has championed.

Brian Carroll, chair of the Turners Falls airport commission responded, "The committee to save the Turners Falls airport's recommendation [to fire Sweeney] is misdirected. He [Sweeney] gathers information for us, which we deliberate on and vote upon. Everything we do is done per Massachusetts Aeronautics Commission (MAC) regulations, and compared to other airports. Mr. Sweeney is sent out to other airports and gathers information and brings it back to us."

Carroll continued, "In the 10 years during which I have served on the airport commission, I've repeatedly heard from the selectboard and the finance committee, 'We want the airport to be more self-sustaining.'" Referring to the pilots group, Carroll said, "Just because you build a hangar at the airport, you are not necessarily giving anything to the town. You need to pay. You've got to give back to the community."

Airport commissioner Mark Fairbrother said the avionics tech-

nician and fully licensed mechanic the pilots complained had been driven from the airport had in fact not paid their lease fees to the town for four years. "We did offer to negotiate a lower price than \$3.52. We were bluntly told what we could do with that."

Fairbrother said, "We tried to negotiate with the instructor at Pioneer Aviation to stay on our side of the field. That instructor decided to work with somebody else."

Commissioner Peter Golrick said the standard operating procedures which the pilots complained made the airport less safe to fly out of had been approved unanimously by the airport commission, and by the MAC and the FAA.

Golrick said Sweeney had been willing to allow "tables and chairs" in hangars as "aviation-

**"When you are enforcing rules, or instituting new rules, it's going to get people upset." - Brian Carroll
Airport Commission**

**"We have to remember, the airport commission is in charge, not us."
- Pat Allen
Selectboard Member**

related equipment," and had not subjected the hangars to once a month inspections, as the leases allow for.

The commissioners lauded Sweeney for bringing in an \$8 million runway expansion project to Turners Falls at no cost to the town. Selectboard member Pat Allen noted it would have normally cost the town \$200,000, or 2½ percent of the total runway expansion cost, to upgrade the airport runway.

But the pilots' committee said the airport should have commissioned a marketing study to see who would use the airport once the runway is expanded. "We are going to come to an economic dead zone," if current management practices continue at the airport, Gibson declared.

Golrick said, "As far as liability for the extended runway, we don't incur liability unless we close the airport."

Carroll said, "When you are enforcing rules, or instituting new rules, it's going to get people upset. People who were paying \$350 per year [for hangar space], then you raise those fees to make it somewhat equitable, it's going

to get people pissed off."

Sweeney, in prepared remarks, addressed the selectboard. "Thank you for taking the time to address the Committee to Save the Airport's concerns. Having read their petition, it seems to me there are two issues. One is airport policy, and one is how I have gone about implementing airport policies. If the core of the committee's concern is policy, which in reading their petition appears to be the case, then they are misguided in asking for me to be removed. I work for the airport commission, the airport commission doesn't work for me. The airport commission sets the policy, not me. Since the committee has asked you to remove me, then the only issue left to be determined is whether I have met the expectations of the airport commission in fulfilling my responsibilities of the job of airport manager.

"As everyone knows, over the past four years a significant effort has been made on the part of the airport commission on behalf of the town of Montague to restore the airport to effective control. Three years ago, the airport commission hired me to assist in this effort. As many of the policies put into place have required the users on the field to come into compliance with FAA and Mass Aeronautics and airport regulations, it is understandable that the users would chafe under the changes.

"As the individual charged with the implementation of the airport commission policies, it is natural to assume that I would be the focus of the users' discontent. Keeping this in mind, I believe there have been occasions where I have been required to be firm on behalf of the airport commission, but I believe I've always done so in a respectful way. Please keep in mind the many occasions that you and other members of the community have had a chance to observe my character. I believe these opportunities will confirm that I have taken a measured, conscientious, and careful approach in fulfilling my responsibilities to the airport commission and the town of Montague."

Sweeney did not dispute that a large proportion of hangar owners and airport users had signed the petition to remove him, but he disputed the committee's claim that "95%" of the pilots at the airport had signed. "There are 88 registered users of the airport," Sweeney said, "and only 25 of these members have signed the petition." For example, Sweeney said there were 17 members of the Turners Falls Flying Club, only one of whom had signed the

petition.

But the pilots from the committee seemed to take this as a challenge to gather more signatures, asking Sweeney to supply them with the names of the other registered users so they could ask them if they would like to sign.

Sweeney also noted that, "Several of the current tenants have fought to stay on the field, and they have codified that relationship for at least the next ten years. So we think there is some value they must have seen to commit themselves for that length of time."

To which Gibson responded, "The tenants of the airport should not have to fight to stay on the field. We need a pro-growth, user-friendly management at the airport."

Carroll said, "We're very sensitive to bad relations with the tenants. We keep trying to come up with something to improve them. We've asked them to come to meetings. We've pleaded with them. They don't come."

But pilot Josh Simpson, of Shelburne Falls, said, "For several years now, pilots and the piloting community have attended meetings with the commission. We go. We write letters. We've written letters to you [the selectboard] too. We get no response. There are consequences to this. We are trying to save this airport."


Pilot Peter Monroe, of Turners Falls, said he began flying at the Turners Airport in '99 and "fell in love with the airport. It had a quality and charm I can't explain." He spoke of grandparents bringing their grandkids to the Country Creemee to watch planes land. "In 2003, there would still be planes landing, but the airport was quieter, and sadder. Nobody comes to watch planes land now. There are no planes anymore. Northampton airport is booming. They have a fabulous attitude there; nobody is mad. It's like night and day."

Monroe said by the end of the year, he planned to no longer fly out of Turners, because the attitude was "too oppressive."

Selectboard member Allen told the pilots that they had to think of the other 8,600 residents of Montague, who were still paying \$25,000 a year, more or less, to support the municipal airport.

"I would have thought the group would have tried to solve their problems first with the airport commission," she said.

This remark caused wide protest in the audience. "We've tried hundreds of times!"

"We have to remember the airport commission is in charge, not us," Allen said. 

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EARTH TALK

The Back and Forth on Tidal Power

From the Editors of *E: the Environmental Magazine*



PHOTO COURTESY OF GETTY IMAGES

Tidal currents pack considerable wallop.

Dear EarthTalk: Alternative energy sources like wind power, hydrogen and biofuels are getting a lot of headlines these days, but what about efforts to generate electricity from the ocean's waves?

— Tina Cook, Naples, FL

As any board or body surfer will tell you, the ocean's tidal currents pack considerable wallop. So why wouldn't it make sense to harness all that formidable power, which is not too unlike that of the rivers that drive hydropower dams or the wind that drives wind turbines, to make energy?

The concept is simple, says John Lienhard, a University of Houston mechanical engineering professor. "Every day the moon's gravitational pull lifts countless tons of water up into, say, the East River or the Bay of Fundy. When that water flows back out to sea, its energy dissipates and, if we don't use it, it's simply

spent." According to Energy Quest, an educational website of the California Energy Commission, the sea can be harnessed for energy in three basic ways: using wave power, using tidal power, and using ocean water temperature variations in a process called "ocean thermal energy conversion" (OTEC).

In harnessing wave power, the back-and-forth or up-and-down movement of waves can be harnessed, for example, to force air in and out of a chamber to drive a piston or spin a turbine that can power a generator. Some systems

in operation now power small lighthouses and warning buoys. Harnessing tidal energy, on the other hand, involves trapping water at high tide and then harnesses its energy as it rushes out and drops in its change to low tide. This is similar to the way water makes hydroelectric dams work. Already some large installations in Canada and France generate enough electricity to power thousands of homes.

An OTEC system uses temperature differences between deep and surface waters to extract energy from the flow of

heat between the two. An experimental station in Hawaii hopes to develop the technology and someday produce large amounts of electricity on par with the cost of conventional power technologies.

Proponents say that ocean energy is preferable to wind because tides are constant and predictable and that water's natural density requires fewer turbines than are needed to produce the same amount of wind power. Given the difficulty and cost of building tidal arrays at sea and getting the energy back to land, however, ocean technologies are still young and mostly experimental. But as the industry matures, costs will drop and some analysts think the ocean could power nearly two percent of U.S. energy needs.

Several companies now work at the cutting edge of ocean power technology. Scotland's Ocean Power Delivery Ltd. has a wave system called Pelamis that it hopes to install in waters off of California's wave-battered central coast. And Seattle,

Washington's Aqua Energy has installations off the coasts of Oregon, Washington and British Columbia and is in talks with utilities about providing the Pacific Northwest with hundreds of megawatts of ocean energy within the next decade.

Tidal energy pioneers are also hard at work on the U.S. Atlantic coast. The New Hampshire Tidal Energy Company is developing tidal power in the Piscataqua River between New Hampshire and Maine. And a company called Verdant Power is providing Long Island City, New York with electricity through tidal river turbines and has begun installation of tidal power systems in New York City's East River.

Contacts: Ocean Power Delivery Ltd., www.oceanpd.com; Aqua Energy (Finavera Renewables), www.finavera.com/wave; Verdant Power, www.verdant-power.com.

Got an environmental question? Email: earthtalk@emagazine.com.

THE HEALTHY GEEZER

Grandkids on Crack

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - Q. I'm afraid that my grandson may be using cocaine. Is there any way I can tell for sure? And how dangerous is this drug?

This is a topic that is unusual for the *Healthy Geezer*. It's not about a senior health issue, but it does affect seniors. Many of us are grandparents who worry about the drug culture of our grandchildren. We also wonder if there's anything we can do to prevent kids from getting into a drug habit. Well, the first step we can take is to educate ourselves. That's what this column is about.

Cocaine, the strongest natural stimulant, is an addictive drug; you can be hooked with a single use. It causes a short-lived high that is immediately followed by depression, edginess, and a craving for more of the drug. Cocaine interferes with the way your brain creates feelings of pleasure, so you need more of the drug to feel normal.

Cocaine is extracted from the leaves of the coca plant. It is a drug that comes in the form of a

white powder that is snorted. It can be converted to a liquid form for injection. Crack is cocaine processed into a crystal form for smoking. Crack, also called "rock," looks like small chunks of soap.

Cocaine, in any form, is illegal. It is the most frequently mentioned illicit substance reported to the Drug Abuse Warning Network by hospital emergency departments throughout the nation.

Cocaine is lethal. It can cause strokes, heart attacks and respiratory failure. In addition, it can cause irregular heartbeat, depression, violent actions, and loss of sexual function.

According to the Office of National Drug Control Policy, the following are the signs that someone may be addicted to cocaine:

- Periods of severe depression
- Weight loss
- Decline in personal hygiene or appearance
- Constant runny nose
- Frequent upper respiratory infections



ILLUSTRATION: JESSICA HARMON

- Changes in sleep patterns
- Loss of interest in friends, family, and social activities
- Loss of interest in food, sex, or other pleasures
- Hearing voices when nobody has spoken, or feeling paranoid
- Expressing more anger, becoming more impatient or nervous

And here are some more I collected from other sources:

- Frequent need for money
- Intense euphoria
- Bloodshot eyes
- Dilated pupils

- Hyper-alertness
- Panic
- Seizures from high doses
- The presence of any unexplained white powder
- Small spoons, mirrors, razor blades and rolled paper money used for snorting
- Small bottles with screw-top lids and small plastic packets for storing
- Increase in body temperature, respiration and pulse
- Grinding of teeth
- Obsessive touching or picking at various objects and parts of the body
- Repetitive dismantling of mechanical objects

There are many slang terms for cocaine. Here are just some: big C, blanco, blow, blast, Bolivian, Charlie, coke, Colombian, girl, heaven, happy powder, Mama Coca, mojo, nose candy, Peruvian, pimp, she, sniff, snort, snow, toot, trails, white lady, stardust.

Cocaine was first used in the 19th century in surgery as an anesthetic and to reduce bleeding; it constricts blood vessels.

Safer drugs came along to replace it.

According to the 2005 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, about 33.7 million Americans over the age of 12 reported trying cocaine at least once. Among students surveyed, 3.7 percent of eighth graders, 5.2 percent of tenth graders, and 8 percent of twelfth graders reported using cocaine at least once.

Law enforcement sources indicate that one gram of cocaine powder usually sells for \$100 in most cities. Crack cocaine tends to be sold in 0.1 and 0.2 gram rocks that generally sell for about \$10.

In 1970, Congress classified cocaine as a Schedule II substance, which means it may lead to severe psychological or physical dependence.

For referral to treatment programs in your area, call the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Helpline and Treatment line at (800) 234-0420

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

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JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

FRIDAY, MARCH 2ND
Snowshoeing Under the Egg Moon. Explore how to best navigate at night, share inspiring quotes from literary lovers of the moon and stars, take a short "solo" walk by the moonlight and maybe even try hooting like an owl! At Northfield Mountain Yurt, Northfield Mountain Recreation Area, For ages 12 and older. 6:30-9 p.m. (800) 859-2960.

Blame it On Tina at Deja Brew, Wendell. 9 to 11 p.m. No cover.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, MARCH 2ND & 3RD
Pottery & More Seconds Sale Sponsored by Artspace Community Arts Center. Held at Greenfield High, 1 Lenox Avenue, Greenfield. Friday 6 to 9 p.m. & Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 772-6811 for information.

Mohawk 30th Annual All-School Musical- Thoroughly Modern Millie At Mohawk Trail Regional High School auditorium, Route 112, Buckland. 7 p.m. 625-8371.

SATURDAY, MARCH 3RD.
MarKamusik, a high-energy, multinational musical ensemble performs Latin music with Andean roots at The Full Moon Coffee House in Wendell, Proceeds benefit The Montague Reporter. 8 p.m. with open mic beginning at 7 p.m.

Benefit event for The Shea Theatre: *An evening with Roger Salloom*, 730 p.m. film documentary *So Glad You Made It-The Saga Of Roger Salloom, America's Best Unknown Songwriter*. Followed by a talk with filmmaker Chris Sautter. At 9:30 p.m.: live concert featuring Roger Salloom. Advance tickets \$10, \$12 at the door.

Opening reception for local artists on display at Green Trees Gallery in Northfield, 5-7 p.m. *Apex to Zenith*, a panoramic collection of over 35 regional artists on view thru March 25th Artists: include Dan Brown, Beverly Phelps, Nayana Glazier, Barbara Milot & Daniel Putnam. www.greentreesgallery.com

Indigo Moon Jazz at Deja Brew, Wendell. 9 to 11 p.m. No cover.

SUNDAY, MARCH 4TH
Vagina Monologues performed by a cast of GCC & Amherst College students, faculty & community activists at The Shea 2 p.m. Tickets: GCC Bookstore, World



Wendell Full Moon Coffee House. ~Music of the people with MarKamusik! High energy music and rhythms from all over Latin America.. Proceeds benefit the Montague Reporter! March 3rd, 7 p.m.

Eye Bookshop and the Montague Bookmill. \$4 for students/limited income and donation of \$10-\$20 for others. Info. 775 1141.

Hallmark Institute of Photography open house. Beginning at 12:30, 27 Industrial Boulevard, Turners Falls. Info. call 863-2478 or http://hallmark.edu

The Montague Bookmill Presents: The Dead of Winter Free Films for the Frozen: *The Ruling Class*, 7 p.m.

Classical Piano by Adam Bergeron at Deja Brew, Wendell. 7 to 9 p.m.

Henry The Juggler at The Greenfield Center School, 71 Montague City Rd., Greenfield. Refreshments to follow. 1 p.m., FREE. www.center-school.net or 773-1700 for information.

MONDAY, MARCH 5TH
Greenfield Community College Presents, Visiting Speaker & Multimedia Presentation: *Men, Masculinities, and Media* featuring Jackson Katz, Ed.M., Creator of "Tough Guise" at Noon, Stinchfield Lecture Hall. In this multimedia pres-

entation, Katz illustrates how mainstream media images -- from sports, television, Hollywood film, advertising, and music video -- help to promote violent masculinity as a cultural norm. This event is free and open to the public. For more information contact Lewis Bosler (413) 775-1276.

Live Jazz at Ristorante DiPaolo, Avenue A, 6 to 9 p.m. Information 863-4441.

TUESDAY, MARCH 6TH
Argentina: Hope In Hard Times- film showing at 7 p.m. in the Social Sciences Studio, Room 115, in G.C.C.'s East Building. Discussion & refreshments to follow, free. This film is part of a series on "Culture, Ecology, and Sustainability," sponsored by the Human Ecology Department at Greenfield Community College.

Community Center Forum: come give input about how you feel about a combined facility for the Senior Center, Park & Recreation Department, and Library. 7 p.m. at the Gill-Montague Senior Center, Fifth Street, Turners Falls.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7TH
Fiddle Tune swap at Deja Brew, Wendell, all welcome. 7 to 9 p.m.

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY, MARCH 7TH & 8TH
Auditions for the Hampshire Shakespeare Company: *King Lear* and *A Comedy of Errors*, 6 to 9 p.m. at Hartsbrook School, Bay Rd, Hadley. Prepare a one- to two-

minute monologue from a classical play, preferably Shakespeare. For audition appointments or info. call (413) 585-5769 or jhaneykidwell@yahoo.com. Actors must be 18 or older www.hampshireshakespeare.org.

THURSDAY, MARCH 8TH
Free Range -oldies, folk, classic rock at Deja Brew, Wendell, 7-9 p.m.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, MARCH 9TH & 10TH
Pothole Pictures *The Shawshank Redemption*. 7:30 p.m. in Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls. Music before the movie at 7 p.m. \$6 at the door.

SUNDAY, MARCH 11TH
The Montague Bookmill Presents: The Dead of Winter Free Films for the Frozen: *Lost in America*, Albert Brooks seeks himself and America in a 38-foot VWinnebago. Very funny and apt. 1985. Food & drink available at The Lady Killigrew. 7 p.m.

Richard Chase--original acoustic singer/songwriter at the Old Town House (adjacent to the 1794 Meetinghouse), New Salem, as part of the North Quabbin Center for the Performing Arts "Serendipity Series." Tickets online at www.1794meetinghouse.org or (978) 544 5200 or at the door. 4 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 17TH
Spring Gardening Symposium at Frontier Reg'l High School. www.wmassmastergardeners.org

Jamie Anderson, singer-songwriter-gets bored easily, will be performing at the Echo Lake Coffeehouse, Leverett, 7:30 pm,

THROUGH MARCH 18TH
Hallmark Museum of Contemporary Photography, Turners Falls. *Face to Face: Portraits from Fifty Years*, photographs by Douglas Kirkland.

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- NORBIT PG13 DAILY 7:00
- MATINEE FRI, SAT, SUN 12:00
- NOTES ON A SCANDAL R DAILY 9:30 MAT. FRI, SAT, SUN 3:00
- MUSIC & LYRICS PG13 DAILY 6:45 9:15
- MATINEE FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 3:15
- RENO 911: MIAMI R DAILY 6:45 9:15
- MATINEE FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 3:15
- LAST KING OF SCOTLAND R DAILY 6:30 9:00 DTS sound
- MATINEE FRI, SAT, SUN 12:30 3:30
- GHOST RIDER PG13 DTS sound DAILY 6:30 9:00
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SATURDAY, MARCH 3RD
FREE Ice Fishing Class. Join MASSWildlife's expert angler, Jim Lagacy, for an ice fishing class and field experience. He will cover equipment basics, techniques, fish identification, and angler ethics. Pre-registration required; space is limited. Please call to reserve 863-3221.

All ages are welcome. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
SATURDAY, MARCH 10TH
Accessible Birding. 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Join the Hampshire Bird Club on this excursion to investigate bird life at wheelchair accessible and lively birding locations in the Connecticut River Valley. Binoculars and scopes are available for use as well as other assistive technology such as portable folding chairs, large print field guides, monopods, and listening devices. To register or more info. call (413) 545-5758.
Happy 104th Birthday!

Join Refuge staff for a journey through the 104 years of the National Wildlife Refuge System. We will travel from 1903 when the System was created to today. Learn about why the System was established and about YOUR local Silvio O. Conte National Fish & Wildlife Refuge. All are welcome and cake will be served! 1 p.m.
TUESDAY, MARCH 13TH
Special Places in the Valley Lecture Series: 4 of 7. Virtual Visit to Mt. Toby. A slideshow presentation on the cultural history and habitat changes that have taken place, and about the special species that reside at Mt. Toby. We will also explore the multiple methods of land conservation practiced at Mt. Toby that currently protect this treasured place. Learn about the recreation opportunities and responsibilities. 6:30 p.m.
THURSDAY, MARCH 15TH
Greenfield Garden Club - All are welcome! Public monthly meeting at the Great Falls Discovery Center. A special tour of the exhibits will be conducted by local mural artist, Frank Gregory. Contact Linda Tyler for more information about the Garden Club at 774.3505. 7 to 9 p.m.

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Earliest Eagle Egg Ever!

BY DAVID DETMOLD

BARTON COVE - Eagle eyed eagle watcher Patricia Carlisle of Carlisle Avenue was the first to spot the latest development in the Barton Cove nest, late Wednesday afternoon, February 28th. "We have an egg!" exulted Carlisle, who keeps a telescope handy to more easily monitor developments atop the dead pine tree on Eagle Island, where bald eagle pairs have nested since 1989. She said she was watching the nest around 4:22 p.m. when she began to suspect the real Eagle Mom was sitting on a secret. "I know how she looks," said Carlisle. "She was switching her tail around." Carlisle put all thought of preparing her own supper aside, and sat glued to the avian family scene unfolding a few hundred yards from her kitchen window.

At that hour, both birds were in the nest, but soon the bird she assumed to be the male had

flown off and left his mate on the roost. "At 5:08 p.m. she moved a little, and I saw the egg for the first time!" Carlisle crowed.

It was the first warm and sunny day after a three-week cold snap.

When darkness fell, Carlisle calmed down enough to check her scrapbook to confirm what she had suspected. Call it another sign of global warming, but this was the earliest date of an eagle egg laying in the 17 years since the birds have returned to nest in Barton Cove. In recent years, the first egg in the nest appeared in "mid-March" in '97, on March 9th or 10th in '98, on March 11th in '00, on the 8th of March in '02, on the 4th of March in '05, and on the 5th of March in '06.

Considering how far up the eagles' nest is from the rocky shore, it's a good thing this isn't Leap Year.



In this live Eagle Cam shot, one of the birds, probably Carmine, sits on the first February egg on Wednesday afternoon. Plenty of room in this nest for more eggs, so stay tuned to Channel 17 MCTV!

A Slow Season on the Cove



FOLEY PHOTO

BY KEVIN FOLEY

RIVERSIDE - It's been a slow season for ice fishing on Barton Cove. First, ice on the river inlet usually comes in late November or early December. However, this year the river ice didn't make its appearance until late January, due to the unusually warm start to winter.

"It's a late season when you start January 21st," said Richard Mascavage, owner of Pipione's Sport Shop, on the Avenue in Turners Falls.

Richard Maslanka, an ice fisherman from North Amherst who works construction in the warmer months, was recently laid off. "I get laid off every year," he said. Maslanka usually arrives at the cove before 7:00 in the morning. He enjoys being on the ice because it gives

him a chance to escape from the stress of his life. "It's quiet; nobody bothers you."

"The fishing is slow, there's not that many. I've got a few perch," Maslanka said. "This time of the year it's usually slow."

Some fishermen have had success on the ice this year, according to Mascavage. "From what I heard from the guys, the fishing was good when it could still be classified as first ice. It slowed down after the first snow."

One Turners Falls resident and ice-fisherman, who would only identify himself as John, hasn't been happy with the fishing so far. Fishermen are allowed to take home five fish, 15 inches in length, per day. "We've only been getting one

or two a day."

John prepares all of the fish he catches by gutting and skinning them. First he cuts the fish down the middle then takes out all of the parts of the fish that he doesn't eat. He hangs the fish on a wire for five days after that. "Maybe then I soak the fish in beer," he said.

The weather forecast locally is predicting temperatures in the mid-40s through the weekend. The warm weather won't get Mascavage down though. "I'd just as soon the spring came."

John isn't dreading the end of the ice-fishing season either. "If the ice is going to melt, the summer will be soon. The fishing is better in the summer, because the water is clear."

Fishermen are born optimists.

MORE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD NEWS

On Monday, February 26th, the board approved a plan for wastewater treatment plant upgrades as part of Phase II of the \$5.7 million CSO improvements in Montague City. With building inspector David Jensen, electrical inspector Rich Kuklewicz, and TF fire chief Ray Godin on hand to advise the board, Water Pollution Control Facility supervisor Bob Trombley told the board that by moving the control panel for the

headworks screen to the plant's operating room, and sealing that room off from the rest of the plant, he could avoid the need to upgrade to a \$10,000 explosion proof control panel. The rest of the building will still experience some small risk from the build-up of explosive gasses, which may someday require isolating other parts of the building with airlock doors, to prevent electrical fires from occurring.

The board also granted an all alcohol beverage license to Rocket Science, LLC, Mark

Wisniewski manager, with partners Chris Janke, Emily Brewster, and Jaime Berger, new owners of the former Yesterday's bar at 78 3rd Street in Turners Falls, reopening in summer under the bar's old name, the Rendezvous. Wisniewski detailed plans to spend \$170,000 in renovations to the bar and building, including extensive soundproofing of walls and vestibules.

The board also reviewed a draft feasibility study for approaches to the Dry Hill Road cemetery.

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