



TWO EGGS IN THE NEST
at Barton Cove
As of Thursday, March 9th



GLORIOUS GREASE
see page 16

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

Year 4
No. 23
50¢

The Montague Reporter

REPORTER@MONTAGUEMA.NET

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MARCH 16, 2006

Erving Wrestles with Education Increases

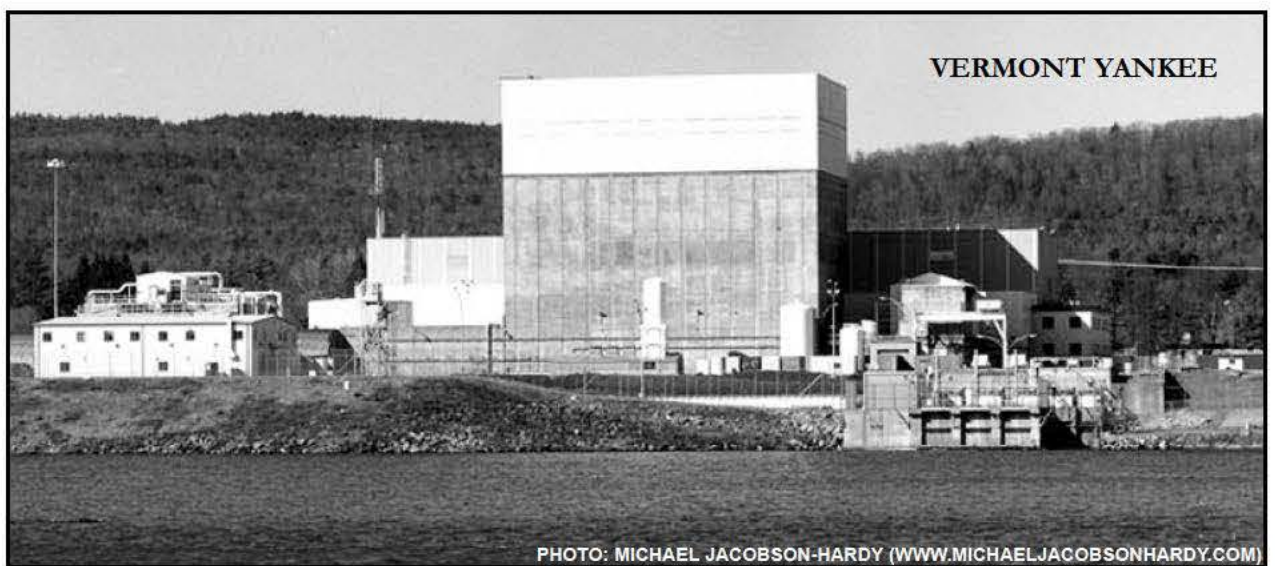
BY PATRICK RENNICK
The Erving select-board focused on the '07 school committee budget on Monday evening, March 13th. Board member Andy Tessier was absent due to a work related emergency. While awaiting the arrival of school committee members, chair Linda Downs-Bembury and board member Jeff Dubay discussed changes to the proposed school budget with town administrative coordinator Tom Sharp.

"We need to make the school committee realize this is all we've got," said Sharp. "If we make no impact tonight, we will basically have to find a place to cut \$10,000."
"We'll be digging a hole deeper and deeper that we can't get out of," said Dubay. The board expressed a growing concern over the many other costs the town will face in the coming year, including the expansion of sewer lines. By reducing the proposed budget for both elementary and secondary education, the

see ERVING pg 7

Entergy Officials Defend Vermont Yankee's Performance

150 ATTEND PUBLIC HEARING AT PVHS



VERMONT YANKEE

PHOTO: MICHAEL JACOBSON-HARDY (WWW.MICHAELJACOBSONHARDY.COM)

BY DAVID DETMOLD
NORTHFIELD - Tension cracked in the auditorium at Pioneer Valley Regional School on Monday night, March 13th, as a hundred and fifty local residents turned out to hear a presentation by operators of the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant and to pose questions to Entergy VY officials. The public hearing is the first held by Entergy VY in Massachusetts, where seven towns lie within the 33-year-old reactor's 10-mile emergency planning

zone (EPZ): Leyden and Bernardston (entirely within 10 miles of the reactor), Colrain, Greenfield, Gill, Northfield and Warwick (partially within the 10-mile EPZ). The hearing was arranged by Representative Denis Guyer (2nd Berkshire, including Bernardston, Colrain, Leyden, and Northfield); Representative Christopher Donelan (2nd Franklin, including Gill, Greenfield, and Warwick) was also present.

Entergy has sought and received permission to

boost power production at the aging boiling water reactor to 120% of its original design capacity. Last week, following unanticipated vibrations in one of the plant's steam lines as plant operators began the power uprate, Entergy told the Nuclear Regulatory Commission they will hold the power increase at 105% of design capacity, while data is analyzed.

Entergy has also petitioned the NRC to extend the reactor's operating see YANKEE pg 9



Chris Wanser, control room operator at Vermont Yankee, assured the crowd at Tuesday's public hearing that operations at the nuclear plant were handled by highly trained experts and overseen by NRC staff.

Open Hippo



PARZYCH PHOTO

Gary Weiss, owner of Smokin' Hippo

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH
ERVING - Gary Weiss, owner and chef of the Smokin' Hippo on Route 2, in the former Starlight Diner, got off

to a smokin' start on opening day Wednesday. "Last night we had a special opening for GCC trustees, faculty and

see HIPPO pg 3

Biodiesel for Wendell

BY KATHLEEN LITCHFIELD - The Wendell Country Store is now selling biodiesel.

If you own a diesel vehicle and you want to fuel up with biodiesel, you can simply stop by the country store, where owner Patti Scutari has display shelves stocked with refillable, yellow, five-gallon jugs of the non-toxic, biodegradable, B-100 fuel.

Until last Thursday, local biodiesel users had to travel to Fleming Shell in Brattleboro, VT or Alliance Energy in Holyoke to obtain the

vegetable-based biodiesel.

"It seemed like such a waste for people to have to drive such a long distance to get fuel, in order to save fuel. There are a few people in town that run cars on biodiesel, and I want to support those people, who are making that extra effort on behalf of the environment, by at least having it close by," said Scutari, who hopes to purchase a diesel for her next vehicle, so she can use the alternative fuel.

Any diesel engine can see FUEL pg 3

BY DAVID BRULE
TURNERS FALLS - If

you stand on Avenue A with your back to Norm Emond's storefront, where the AV House used to be, and the 5 and 10 cent store before that, you can see it. Look across the street and up to the peak of the building and you'll see "AOH. A.D. 1888" and that's where the shamrocks will be. That building, now named simply the Power Town Apartments, used to be known by everyone as the Hibernian Hall. Built by funds from the Ancient Order of Hibernians, it



DAVOL PHOTO

In 1888, the Ancient Order of Hibernians raised this Hall at the corner of Avenue A and 4th Street. (Note the shamrocks.)

served the community for close to one hundred years.

The AOH was, and is, a fraternal society founded in Ireland hundreds of

years ago. In this country, the AOH became a social- see VILLAGE pg 11

VILLAGE SKETCHBOOK

Shamrocks on Avenue A

PET OF THE WEEK

You Wanna?



Fauna

Fauna is a fun four-year-old female hound/shepherd mix in need of a good home. Fauna just loves life! Her hobbies include running, jumping and sniffing. She loves to snuggle too! Fauna should do best in a home with gentle kids over 16, confident cats who have lived with dogs before and other dogs if introduced properly. For more information on adopting Fauna contact the Dakin Animal Shelter in Leverett at 548-9898 or via email at info@dakinshelter.org.

LIBRARY NEWS

Preschool Story Hour at the Carnegie Library



HICKMAN PHOTO

BY LINDA HICKMAN
TURNERS FALLS - Griffin and Karin Shelton of Greenfield, and other families enjoyed the vegetable snacks at the Carnegie Library Preschool Story Hour program on Wednesday, March 8th. Each week the stories, activities and refreshments are

theme centered. Last week's theme was the letter 'V.' The story hour refreshments are sponsored by the Community Partnerships for Children. For more information about the popular story hour program with Bev Whitbeck, please call 863-3214.

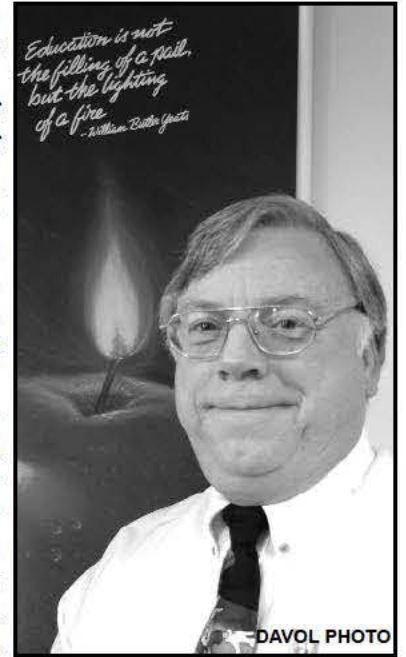
FACES & PLACES

BY RICHARD ANDERSON

TURNERS FALLS - Robert Morrill's going fishing. Soon. After three years of service as principal of Turners Falls High School and thirty-six years of dedicated work in the business of educating young minds and hearts, Mr. Morrill is exchanging his appointment calendar for a rod and reel.

Among the accomplishments that Mr. Morrill can look upon with pride are the huge building project completed under his watch, as well as his lead in changing the way students learn math: from an integrated curriculum to the traditional curricular divisions such as algebra, geometry, and calculus. He also added more staff for individual classes.

Mr. Morrill would like to be



Robert Morrill

remembered as a principal who cared about students and did as much as he could for them with limited resources.

SUGAR ON SNOW SUPPER

Montague Congregational Church Saturday, April 1st

Two sittings: 5 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.
Menu: Cornbeef Hash, Harvard beets, coleslaw, baked beans, homemade bread and donuts and pickles. Ripley Farms will provide the Sugar on Snow.
Tickets: \$9 adults \$4 children 12 and under
Reservations: 774-7256 or 367-2736
Walk-ins as space allows and take outs may be ordered by calling the reservation numbers

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Adopt a Planter Returns to Avenue A

BY SUZETTE SNOW COBB
TURNERS FALLS - On Wednesday, March 15th, the streetscape committee met to discuss the Adopt a Planter program for Avenue A. The committee brainstormed ideas for continuing litter clean up and maintenance of the planters in downtown. One goal of the coordinating committee is to provide guidance and support throughout the growing season for participants who have questions about what types of plants to grow. The committee also hopes to provide encouragement for participants to continue weeding and watering.

As in past years, the question of where to get water for the planters from was also brought up. Last year, Montague highway superintendent Tom Bergeron said, it was



Some of last year's Adopt A Planter volunteers gather around the planter in front of the Chinatown Restaurant on Avenue A.

the intention of the highway department to install water faucets in a few of the planters by accessing the water lines that were a part of the original sprinkler system, long since defunct. Bergeron said he hoped that faucets could be installed this season, instead.

Planning was also done for a spring clean-up on Saturday,

April 29th. The committee acknowledged that many citizens, businesses, organizations, and the town highway department all contributed to the success of last year's downtown beautifying effort.

There are still a few planters needing adoption. If you are interested in contributing either time or funds to beautify a planter, please contact Linda Hickman during open hours at the Carnegie Library at 863-3214.

If you would like to call storeowners to inform them about where their stray shopping carts are located, another way the committee suggested residents to help with beautification, call Food City, 863-9591; Family Dollar, 774-7019 or Brooks Pharmacy, 863-3107.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES March 20th - March 24th

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.

Monday, 20th
10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. PACE Aerobics
1 p.m. Canasta

Tuesday, 21st
9:30 a.m. Aerobics
Wednesday, 22nd
10:15 a.m. Senior Aerobics
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, 23rd
1 p.m. Pitch
Friday, 24th
10:15 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11 a.m. PACE Aerobics

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

Thursday shopping, or medical necessity by calling Dana Moore at (978) 544-3898.

Monday, 20th
9:30 a.m. Exercise
9:45 a.m. Library
12:30 p.m. Pitch
Tuesday, 21st
9 a.m. Aerobics
9:30 a.m. COA Meeting
12:30 p.m. Oil Painting
Wednesday, 22nd
9:30 a.m. Line Dancing
12 Noon Bingo
Thursday, 23rd
9 a.m. Aerobics
12:30 p.m. Shopping-Orange

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

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NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Selectboard Reviews Last Year's Accomplishments

BY DAVID DETMOLD - Preparing for their annual report to town meeting, the board reviewed the accomplishments of the previous twelve months on March 13th. At the top of the list was the renovation of town hall, with a new elevator, second story egress, wheelchair accessible improvements throughout, and beautiful Hallmark School color photographs of Montague scenes on the walls. Three quarters of the \$1.2 million cost of this project was paid by federal and state grants.

By passing \$2.3 million debt exclusion referendum, the voters

of Montague made the \$5.7 million combined sewer overflow remediation possible, a major infrastructure improvement that will eliminate nearly all of the untreated sewage the town is presently allowing to enter the Connecticut River at several locations during major storms.

Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio said the town has already secured \$3 million in low interest 2% loans from a state revolving loan fund, and has a good shot at landing an additional \$1.4 million for the sewer upgrades from the Rural Development Administration,

half in grants, half in low interest loans, "to bring the cost down for taxpayers and sewer users."

The \$1 million Mass Highway funded Millers Falls Streetscape Project is nearly complete, bringing wheelchair accessibility, new plantings, sidewalks, and streetlamps to that village center. "We hope this will stimulate private investment in Millers Falls," Abbondanzio said.

Design work is complete for wheelchair access improvements to the sidewalks and crosswalks along Avenue A, as well, where the town's "com-

mercial homesteading program" has met with success, turning over two buildings in tax title to private hands for \$1 each. In one, the Northeast Foundation for Children (NFC) is opening a seminar and workshop space; in the other, Denise DiPaolo is opening a beautifully renovated Italian restaurant next week, creating 20 jobs in the process. A total of \$850,000 in private investment has been poured into these two downtown buildings.

The town has received an award from Mass Historic for the adaptive reuse of the Colle Opera House, now fully tenant-

ed, with the opening of the Hallmark Museum of Photography on the 1st floor, and NFC in the upper floors. Abbondanzio called the Colle, "a major success" for the town.

The board also noted the long delayed implementation of the pay and classification study's recommended pay scale for town employees, as an accomplishment in 2005.

Transfer of the cable access contract to MCCI from GCTV, the survey of property near the Dry Hill Cemetery, and the feasibility study on the Strathmore building were also noted.

FUEL

continued from pg 1

run on biodiesel, including a car, truck or tractor. No conversions are necessary to run a vehicle on biodiesel, unlike what's needed to run a car on vegetable grease, Scutari said. Some homeowners also safely use biodiesel to fuel their oil furnace, she said. (For more information, visit www.biodiesel.org.)

At the Wendell Country Store, Scutari sells B-100 (100 percent) biodiesel, for \$3.59 a gallon. She makes very little profit on the sale.

"It's a community service, not a money maker for me," she said. "But it's a big savings for my customers."

Most diesel engines cannot run on 100 percent biodiesel in winter, as the fuel congeals at a higher temperature than conventional diesel fuel. Thus, most New Englanders mix their fuel at a rate of 20 percent biodiesel and 80 percent regular diesel during the cold months, she said.

Scutari researched the price of biodiesel and regular diesel at other locations to determine how much to charge for the biodiesel she sells. In Brattleboro, as of last week, the price of B-20 (20 percent biodiesel and 80 percent regular diesel) was \$2.89 per gallon and the present price of diesel fuel, in Turners Falls, was \$2.72 per gallon. The price of B-100 in Holyoke was \$3.60 per gallon. By charging \$3.59 for B-100, the cost to the customer of mixing



Patti Scutari is enthusiastic about selling B-100 biodiesel in Wendell

80% regular diesel from Turners to Scutari's B-100 rivals the Brattleboro B-20, and the cost of B-100 falls just a penny short of Holyoke's B-100, keeping her competitive, she said.

The biodiesel at the Wendell Country Store is wholesaled by Tom Leue of Homestead Inc. Environmental Engineers of Williamsburg. Leue, who formerly made biodiesel on a small scale in Ashfield, now purchases virgin soybean oil based biodiesel from farmers in Minnesota, packages it into yellow, five-gallon, safe storage jugs and sells it to local retailers.

This summer, the Northeast Biodiesel Company is expected to open in Greenfield, and will be manufacturing biodiesel from recycled grease at a rate of five million gallons per year, Leue

predicted.

Years ago, the Wendell Country Store sold gasoline, but in January of 1998, new Environmental Protection Agency regulations would have required Scutari to upgrade the Country Store's gas tanks at a cost of about \$25,000, she said. Since she was only making about \$800 a year on gasoline sales, she shut the pumps down. She does hold a fuel vendor's license, mandated by law in order to sell motor fuel, engine oil and other motor fuel products.

Over the weekend, Scutari sold four of the first six biodiesel jugs she purchased from Leue on Thursday. She thinks the new product will be successful at the Wendell Country Store.

HIPPO

continued from pg 1

staff," Weiss said. "The place was packed. I'm glad we had such a good turnout, because 5% of the proceeds went to a GCC scholarship fund."

While Weiss has two smokers - a small one that holds 200 pounds of meat and a large one that holds 750 pounds, and the specialty of the house is barbecued food, he also has a full menu of traditional dishes. For the smokers, he uses different mixtures of cherry, orange, hickory and apple wood. Each has a different flavor and requires different combinations for various foods. He has developed two unique sauces - one a

bit spicier than the other.

For 13 years, Weiss worked as a chef in GCC's cafeteria, and taught classes at the college as well. He taught both a cooking class, a barbeque class, and a certification class in restaurant sanitation.

A GCC hamburger is featured on the Smokin' Hippo menu. A GCC culinary arts student won an \$800 mountain bicycle for her award winning hamburger recipe.

The restaurant, which has a full bar, is now open for business, but Weiss plans a Grand Opening in about two weeks. He wants to make sure everything is working smoothly before going full tilt.



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Stroll Down the Avenue

Millions of public and private dollars have been poured into a few square blocks of bricks in downtown Turners Falls over the last few years. Take a look around the Avenue now, as spring brings its first blush to planters' bulbs and tree tips. Except for a few shopping carts here and there, eroding sand bars on the edges of the sidewalks, and the odd plastic bag impaled on a branch, the old main street doesn't look half bad.

The carefully tended grounds of the Great Falls Discovery Center greet people as they come off the bridge; the Crocker Bank, recovered from a devastating fire, its turret restored; the Moltenbrey, completely rehabilitated, filled with tenants pursuing their own rehabilitation. Across the street, the Shea is jammed with theater goers on the weekends; the Colle, restored top to bottom and filled with office workers, is home to a prestigious new photography museum; the renovated alleyway and Cutlery Block stretch out behind. Remodeled storefronts line the Avenue between 3rd and 4th, and a fine Italian restaurant is preparing to open its doors for the first time on

Monday, in the rehabbed shell of the old laundry. Other restaurants are being proposed along the Avenue, as well. Hopefully they will take their place next to the bookstore, taverns, and coffee shop in the months ahead. Nearby the bike store readies for spring, the laundramat doubles as a performance space during periodic art walks, and a homey cafe provides a respite for parents and children from the work-day world.

What's missing from this picture? Oh, we could think of a number of businesses we would like to see spring up along the main street and side blocks in the months and years to come. We're glad resources are being invested into starting a new business association; we need one. But the main thing missing is pedestrians crowding the brick sidewalks. Without them, the new shops and restaurants, and the old established retail stores beside them have a tough row to hoe.

There have been times in the not so distant past when folks may have had a reason to avoid the downtown. But those days are gone. It's time for everyone who remembers the 'good old days' in Turners Falls to help bring about their return.

Your tax dollars have been invested - wisely, we think - in rebuilding the downtown's buildings and infrastructure. Now it's time to invest your confidence as well. Businesspeople and professionals have taken the chance to open stores and offices with a variety of goods and services. Others sell art supplies, fine wine, sporting goods, or homemade Easter candy. Support them, and while you do, take a look around the old town. With a little luck, and some coppers in the till, it could be thriving again soon.

BORDEAUX WHINE

BY DENIS BORDEAUX



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Support Planning for New Police Station

MONTAGUE - As the chief of the Montague police department, I am asking for your support in moving the town forward with plans to construct a new police facility, or public safety complex with the Turners Falls fire department.

As citizens and residents, some of you who have utilized the services at the current station are well aware of the lack of space and privacy it affords. Our present quarters are outdated. Every available space is presently being used for storage of property, equipment and records. The department operates the best it can in our present location and

situation. At risk are the maintenance and security of many records, detainees and most importantly the staff.

We have the opportunity to correct these deficiencies and provide the town of Montague with the plans for a facility to safely and securely house the operations of our law enforcement department. Professional, accessible, and confidential service is the police department's goal. Help us bring this goal closer to reality by supporting the feasibility study for the new police station at next week's special town meeting, on Thursday March 23rd.

Those of you who may not be familiar with the complexities of operating a police agency and the regulations regarding its operation are invited to view the current facility and have your questions and concerns addressed. An open house is scheduled for Saturday, March 18th, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. If this date is not convenient, please call with any questions you may have, or private tours can be scheduled by calling me at 863-8911 x157.

Thank you for your support in this project.

- Raymond Zukowski
Montague Police Chief

In Praise of Nicknames

I enjoy each issue of the *Montague Reporter*, but what a special delight it was to see a photograph of my father, Harold Fugere, in the March 9th issue and to read about his nickname project.

It gave my father great pleasure to work on his nickname collection, begun in the spring of 1993, which eventually included more than 2,800 names like Hammerin' Hank, Queet, Gump, Moo, Mutz, Shadow, Cantor and Brush.

He mined old town reports and yearbooks to find the names, delved back in his memory and queried 'old timers' about their recollections of nicknames. Many of the nicknames were of unknown origin, but some had a story. 'Yabut' often said "ya,

but..." and 'Logger's' father was a logger. 'Chipin' used to be eager to go places with his friends and would suggest "we can always chip in." Knarf got his nickname by spelling his given name, Frank, backward.

My father theorized that people got nicknames because of some action or characteristic or some word they often used. Sometimes the names were passed on from another member of the family, or a nickname could have been the result of camaraderie, friendship or just plain fun. There were, however, some unflattering nicknames.

In a 1998 interview with Sister Kit Hinga, SSJ, one of the founders of the outstanding Montague Catholic Social Ministries, my father said that

calling people by their nicknames was an informal way of greeting people that indicated the camaraderie that existed in a small town. He lamented the changing times and the more mobile society in which people moved in and out of town, so that the sense of community was not as strong as when he was growing up in Turners Falls.

He would be pleased with the efforts to build community in town today, and he happily would be a part of them. It is a tribute to him that there is an effort to create a second phase of his nickname collection, and to those involved in that, I say thank you.

'Googe' would thank you too.

- Cori Fugere Urban
Millers Falls

American Dead in Iraq as of 3/15/06



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Early Days of Turners Falls ~ Part VII

From a speech given by Charles Hazelton to the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association, February 23rd, 1926. In 1867, Hazelton was hired to help engineer William P. Crocker lay out the power canal and streets of the village of Turners Falls.

The population of Turners Falls is very much mixed as to nationalities, and it is of a little interest to learn why this is so. The first pioneer settlers of the village were men from Maine, largely from the vicinity of Fairfield, on the Kennebec River, who came here to work on the dam, they being experienced lumber men and dam builders. Among these were the names of Emery, Richardson, Dunbar, Gerald, and Ricker. These men settled, built their homes and raised their families here.

The next settlers were the French, who came here as experienced

rock men, as all rock drilling was done by hand at that time, and the excavation of the canal was largely rock. They were headed by Peter McClure, who built the small house now standing on L Street, between 2nd and 3rd. Among these were the names of La Pointe, La Porte, Ducharme, Desautelles, Nadeau, Vivier, Derjje, Lapean and Moreau.

The next settlers were the Irish, who also came largely from the Troy and Greenfield Railroad and Hoosac Tunnel



PHOTO COURTESY OF KYLE SCOTT, MONTAGUE: LABOR & LEISURE
This 1904 photograph shows three hardworking men standing with machinery used to dig out the hard rock where the Power Canal is located. The work was difficult and dangerous.

work of Bernard Farren, coming as stone masons, bricklayers and laborers, and among these were the names of Thomas, Cunningham, Donovan, Powers, Costello, Murphy,

Burke, O'Leary, O'Neil, O'Connell, O'Brien, Sullivan, Shanahan, McAllister, and Welch.

At this time also came John C. Short, the expert bricklayer,

together with John W. Morrison, later the faithful police officer, and his son, S. R. Morrison.

The next were the Yankees, coming from Conway and Ashfield as carpenters at the time of the building of the cutlery works, and among these were George O. Peabody, Ora C. Hitchcock, Wm. R. Farnsworth and Chester O. Tyler.

The next were the Germans, who came over from Greenfield, on account of the moving of the cutlery works and the building of the pulp mill, buying lots and building homes, largely on Second Street. Among these were the names of Sauter, Jacobus, Yetter, Eppler, Milkey, March, Seiler, Haigis, Strehle, Schotz, and Luippold.

Next came the English, as expert paper makers, and among these were the Howards, Jacksons, Reaveleys, and Smiths.

Later, to quite an extent, Bohemians came in as cutlery workers, followed in due time by Lithuanians and Poles, the latter principally as farmers.

Notwithstanding, however, the fact that the population is of a mixed nature, it is a case of "In Union there is Strength," for the standard of the people as a whole as to ability, physically and morally, is high, and as citizens of the town and the country, their allegiance and loyalty to the United States is as firm and reliable as any could be. To judge by the progress made in the schools, by the second and third generations, as well as the record of honors and prizes won, it is possible that some who boast that their ancestors came over first class in the Mayflower may be matched if not overtaken by some whose parents and grandparents came over more recently in the steerage of a White Star Liner.

Continued next week.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Cocaine and Runaways

Thursday 3-9

8:40 p.m. Walk-in to station reported a runaway from a 4th Street address. A 14-year-old female juvenile was arrested and charged with being a runaway.

Friday 3-10

4:45 a.m. After a search warrant was executed at a 5th Street address, [redacted]

[redacted] was arrested and charged with possession of a class B drug, possession of a class D drug, possession of a class D drug with intent to distribute, possession of cocaine with intent to distribute, unlawful possession of fireworks, and possession of a hypodermic needle.

9:48 p.m. Report of a domestic disturbance at a High Street address. A 16-

year-old juvenile was arrested and charged with assault and battery with a dangerous weapon and malicious destruction of property under \$250.

11:58 p.m. Report of a domestic disturbance at a Montague City Road address. Male subject summoned.

Saturday 3-11

3:56 p.m. After a motor vehicle stop on Turnpike Road, [redacted] was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license and speeding.

9:38 p.m. Walk-in to station reported runaway from a Coolidge Avenue address. An 11-year-old male juvenile was arrested and charged

with being a runaway.

Sunday 3-12

4:03 a.m. Report of a domestic disturbance on G Street at 11th Street. [redacted]

[redacted] was arrested and charged with illegal possession of a class D drug, resisting arrested, and disorderly conduct.

11:37 p.m. After a motor vehicle stop in Yesterday's parking lot on 3rd Street, [redacted] was arrested and charged possession of a class D drug.

Monday 3-13

7:03 p.m. After a motor vehicle stop on 4th Street, [redacted] was arrested and charged with unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle

and failure to signal.

10:17 p.m. [redacted] was arrested on a straight warrant.

Tuesday 3-14

1:05 p.m. Report of a domestic disturbance at a Federal Street, Montague address. Found to be verbal only.

5:16 p.m. Report of a domestic disturbance in a car near the high school. People were hitting each other. Found to be playing around.

Wednesday 3-15

7:37 a.m. Report of a motor vehicle accident on Millers Falls Road. A car hit a telephone pole. Operator transported to hospital. Pole needs to be replaced.

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GUEST EDITORIAL

The National Animal Identification Program

BY BEN GROSSCUP

AMHERST - Many farmers are just learning about the proposed National Animal Identification System (NAIS) and what it will require. It was authorized under the Patriot Act and enables the USDA to require anyone who owns livestock (including poultry) to register the location of the farm on a GPS system, insert a radio-frequency chip in the animal so that its identity can be remotely monitored, and report off-farm movement of the animal to the USDA. According to the Department of Agriculture website, "The long-term goal of the NAIS is to provide animal health officials with the capability to identify all livestock and premises that have had direct contact with a disease of concern within 48 hours after discovery."

Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) officials are hosting a public informational meeting concerning poultry and the National Animal Identification System (NAIS), at the Palmer Community Library, 1455 North Main Street on Thursday, March 30th, from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

If you raise poultry or buy from a farmer who does, you might want to come to this meeting to ask questions and find out exactly what the

USDA and MDAR are saying about this proposed program. A key concern is that the NAIS will put undue restrictions on small farmers, increasing already tough economic pressures.

Ed Hageman, the poultry program coordinator for MDAR who will lead the meeting in Palmer on March 30th, said the NAIS will be at the top of the agenda and there will likely be a large turn-out because of it. Apparently, the USDA would like to make the NAIS mandatory by January, 2009. But the USDA is reportedly re-thinking the program because of all the controversy around it. When asked specifically about Massachusetts' plans to implement the NAIS, Hageman said, "There are currently no plans to require mandatory premises registration in Massachusetts."

However, an environmental reporter for *Grist Magazine*, Amanda Griscom Little, reports, "States are moving on their own to put the animal-tracking system in place. Minnesota and Wisconsin have approved measures that make stage one of the NAIS program mandatory . . . and Maine, North Carolina, Texas, Vermont, and Washington are considering similar legislation" (*Old Big Brother Had a Farm*

www.grist.org/news/muck/2006/03/10/griscomlittle/index.html).

Since the USDA's main justification for the need for NAIS is the threat of animal disease, understanding what is actually causing new outbreaks of Avian Influenza (AI) and other diseases is crucial. MDAR is currently recommending that farmers keep their poultry flocks segregated from wild birds to protect them from AI. But as Hageman put it in a recent phone conversation, with respect to understanding the spread of AI among different kinds of birds globally, "We are kind of shooting in the dark."

Small Flocks and Pastured Poultry Threatened

Tragically, governments all over the world, which have also been shooting in the dark, have been hitting a lot of small farmers. Governments in Southeast Asia, whose indoor factory farms have become especially pestilent cauldrons of AI in the last decade, have made regulations that outlaw the open pasture of poultry. Compliance for many poor peasant farmers is impossible. As they drop out of production, the market share of multinational factory farming companies like the Thailand-

based Charoen Pokphand Group (whose poultry production model is based on that of the U.S.-based, Tyson Foods) expands. (*The Flu that Made Agribusiness Stronger* www.focusweb.org/content/view/363/28/). Closer to home, the government of Quebec already requires farmers to keep poultry indoors, causing similar problems for small farmers (*All Cooped Up: Bird Flu Scare Prompts Quebec to Ban Free-range Bird Farming*; www.montrealmirror.com/2006/011906/news2.html).

The problem is that 'indoors' often means bigger and more industrialized operations with economically onerous infrastructure requirements. In such dense environments, viruses have much greater potential to mutate within the genetically monolithic flocks toward greater pathogenicity, posing greater threats of an outbreak. As Lynn Miller of *Small Farmer's Journal* put it recently: "We have reams of scientific data that tell us without exception that by far the highest incidence of any transmittable contagion happens in industrial farm applications. That's where animals are in cramped, unhealthy conditions, and vulnerable to widespread disease outbreak."

There are also serious questions over the claim that wild birds are the primary vector of the greatly-feared high-pathogenic avian influenza (viruses of the H5 and H7 varieties). In February, the reputable farmers' rights organization GRAIN issued a report entitled, *Fowl Play: the Poultry Industry's Central Role in the Bird Flu Crisis* (available at: www.grain.org/briefings/?id=194). Drawing on the scientific opinions of bird conservation organizations and many other researchers, the report argues that wild birds may be victims of AI much more than vectors of it.

The primary vectors of AI, the GRAIN report argues, are factory farms: "H5N1 is a

reality, and so are the concerns about a human pandemic. However, if we accept the wild-birds-and-backyard-flocks theory and ignore the role of the transnational poultry industry, we are throwing open the door to such a pandemic. The strategy to contain H5N1 by destroying the genetically diverse backyard flocks and developing even more intensive poultry operations will, perversely, increase the possibility - likelihood, some feel - of a human-transmissible version of lethal bird flu emerging from the large-scale factory farms, the heart of today's globalised chicken production and trade." (Also see *Poultry, Not Wild Birds, Most Often Carries Deadly Avian Flu to Africa* www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/02/15/AR2006021502324.html).

There are big questions we need to ask about how our government is treating the issue of AI and other pathogenic animal diseases. Will we turn to a system of greater surveillance, centralized control, and scale or will we support small and sustainable farmers?

NOFA/Mass has long stood for the necessity for organic livestock and poultry to be raised out of doors. We are troubled by the direction of current government thinking and worried that it will make small, outdoor poultry flocks even more difficult to raise. Not only is the NAIS giving the federal government broad new power to track animals on the farm and homestead, including potentially expensive requirements for the owners, it is part of a troubling international trend toward requiring that poultry be raised in an industrial agricultural system, worsening the danger of animal diseases and threats to human health.

Ben Grosscup is the NAIS field organizer for the Northeast Organic Farmer Association (NOFA) in Massachusetts.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

No Damage Sustained

Tuesday 3-07

9:55 p.m. Report of suspicious activity at Main Road business. All determined to be OK.

Wednesday 3-08

2:45 p.m. Report of speeding vehicles in the area of Ben Hale Road. Officer sent to observe traffic.

5:40 p.m. Received a report of subject(s) trespassing on private property off of West Gill Road.

10:45 p.m. Report of an alarm sounding near Main Road and French King Highway. Caller was unsure if it was a business or car alarm.

Unable to locate.

Thursday 3-09

10:45 p.m. Assisted Erving Police with an arrest on Route 2 near Old State Road.

Friday 3-10

5:55 p.m. Received report from a West Gill Road residence of annoying phone calls.

6:10 p.m. Report of a disabled vehicle at the Gill lights.

Saturday 3-11

2:01 p.m. Assisted Erving police attempting to serve a warrant. Party not located.

5:45 p.m. Assisted Bernardston police with

unwanted subjects on West Mountain Road.

Sunday 3-12

4:02 p.m. 911 misdial on Mount Hermon Campus; all OK

Monday 3-13

5:45 p.m. Requested to respond to assist Northfield Police, cancelled en route.

Tuesday 3-14

9:31 a.m. Vehicle backed into parked cruiser on French King Highway. No damage sustained to police cruiser, minor damage to other vehicle. Report taken

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EYE ON TOWN FINANCES

Budgeting for Salaries and Services

BY JOHN HANOLD

GREENFIELD-The moment of truth is approaching when Montague's selectboard and finance committees have to decide what spending levels to recommend for town departments at annual town meeting. The boards consider both the town's short term needs - over twelve months - and long term goals. Long term goals may require spending money now to provide equipment and buildings to support town services over many years.

Some spending requests clearly cover yearly operations, such as salaries for town hall employees. Putting a new roof on a town owned building, on the other hand, is an expenditure with longer-term value, and such requests are usually voted as a 'special article.' Other expenditures are not as easy to classify: a police cruiser costing

\$35,000 is a large purchase that will be used for several years, but if the police department needs to replace a cruiser every year, it looks more and more like an annual expense, not a special article.

So, why should we be concerned about the difference? A town might choose to submit a spending request to town meeting to allow public discussion of its importance. On the other hand, a department head's normal duties include deciding when to make equipment purchases, and another layer of oversight may delay necessary action. In recent years, the trend in Montague has been to fold large recurring purchases into the yearly budget and to let the department heads exercise their judgment within those totals.

One of the dilemmas of budgeting public services is setting pay structures competitive



enough to attract and retain good employees, yet not so high as to overspend public funds. At the 2005 annual town meeting, Montague took the firm step of finally implementing a pay and classification study conducted several years earlier that sought to compare Montague's public salaries to those of other area towns of similar size. The study proposed salary ranges appropriate for positions in all town departments, and set the upper and lower dollar limits for those ranges. The most difficult part of the process, and the reason

the town waited to implement the study's finding for several years, was finding the money needed to increase salaries and bring employees into their proper pay ranges.

Last year's decision had the result of directing scarce money to the salaries of current employees, rather than using it to hire more staff or pay for more special article equipment. The pay and classification study was the subject of debate during last year's budget cycle and at the 2005 annual town meeting. The effects of this decision will be felt for some time, as union contracts apply cost-of-living allowances (COLA) and step-increases to the new salary levels.

I supported the implementation then, and still believe the decision was wise, because motivated performance in industry or government is not

facilitated by substandard compensation. Roughly twenty town employees, due to experience, are beyond the middle step in their pay grade, and several will be at the top step by the end of the coming fiscal year. I expect retention of this staff will contribute to the town's success in meeting next year's demands for cost control in the face of limited resources. Retention also makes this experience available to citizen committees discussing consolidated public safety facilities (fire, police and dispatch) and consolidated social services (library, senior center, and recreation), and important town decisions like the landfill.

I believe the experience the staff brings will show up in both annual operating budgets and special article spending in the years to come.

ERVING continued from pg 1

selectboard proposed to reduce the school department's requested budget by an amount of \$108,853.

At 7:30 p.m., the school committee sat down with the board to discuss these figures. The first issue raised was the \$60,000 proposed as a cut to the secondary education contingency fund.

"If there is a cut in the contingency fund there will not be enough money to send [special needs] children to other schools," said Linda Driscoll Union 28 superintendent of schools. Driscoll suggested dipping into a Circuit Breaker fund of \$140,000.

"That money is the town's money," said Downs-Bembury.

"This has to be covered," said Driscoll. "We can't cut the secondary budget, because it goes towards tuition. The first day of school we had an unanticipated special needs student show up." Driscoll said at least \$20,000 would be required to cover this child.

Since last year, the amount requested for tuition for Erving's secondary education has increased by 27%.

"If we had a lot of money we wouldn't have to make this so tight," insisted Downs-Bembury. "The money just isn't there."

"I think a lot of people feel left out of the town government and budget right now," said finance committee member Stanley Gradowski. "If we take this to special town meeting, people will benefit. They will be more aware of what is going on."

Charles Paulin, business assistant to Superintendent Driscoll, suggested the town will shortly begin receiving reimbursement from the state for the completed elementary school. Paulin claimed that the town would receive \$557,000 back each year for 10 years.

"That is a bunch of smoke," replied Gradowski. "We're talking about a budget here. Let's go to the town and tell them about every cent we are spending here. Every other town is making cutbacks in education except Erving."

"We ain't got the check yet," agreed finance committee chair Erik Semb. "Don't count on the state to pay us anytime soon."

"Leverett got their first check last year, right on time," said Driscoll. "Right now everyone on the list is getting paid."

Sharp agreed to look into the Circuit Breaker fund to determine how much money there was and who was entitled to it.

The meeting moved on to the elementary budget. Driscoll assured the board that the committee had done everything in their power to keep the program level-funded. Summer pro-

grams have been cut down, but the fuel and utility bills for the elementary school have been especially high. Kindergarten classes are also up to about 25 students per class in Erving. The average number of students per class recommended by the state is 18 - 20.

"We're growing like crazy," said Ann Dee Sousa, principal of the elementary school.

"Someone will most likely get laid off," commented Driscoll. "We cannot renegotiate the recent salary increases with teachers, because they are under contract."

"We all love education and we know it is important," said

Semb. "But, we can only come up with so much money."

Jacque Boyden, assistant assessor and member of the planning board and recreation committee, recommended that parents be asked to contribute towards their children's education by buying basic supplies such as pencils and paper that schools are currently responsible for.

"We can't continue to do education in Erving the way we are when all the other towns can't do it anymore," said Boyden.

"We are spending about \$1 million more on education than the state suggests," added

Downs-Bembury.

"You cannot run these schools on foundation funding," said Driscoll. She made comparisons to the school districts of Leverett and Shutesbury that are also well above what the state recommends. "This town has been very generous," she said.

After almost two hours of solid debate, Sousa ended the discussion, addressing the board, "Clearly you've wrestled with numbers and spent hours and hours," she said. "We are all trying to squeeze the nickel here. I just want to say that this meeting has been very enlightening, and I am glad we could all discuss this."

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Hermit's Sign Stolen, Recovered

Wednesday 3-8

10:47 a.m. Arrested [redacted] on a warrant.

3:39 p.m. Assisted with two car accident on Route 2 bypass. Transported woman involved in accident to Lake Pleasant.

4:50 p.m. Report of an erratic operator on Route 2 east that may have caused an accident. Patrolled Route 2 to Orange town line. Nothing found.

Thursday 3-9

11:30 a.m. Recovered stolen Hermit's Castle sign at Laurel Lake.

10:33 p.m. Criminal citation to [redacted] for a number plate violation, speeding and minor in possession of alcohol. Criminal citation to passenger, [redacted]

for minor in possession of alcohol.

Friday 3-10

1:20 p.m. Report of an accident on Route 2 at French King Restaurant. No injuries. Both drivers cited.

4:30 p.m. Report of an unwanted vehicle at Stoneville Auto. Resident advised of options.

Saturday 3-11

12:50 a.m. Assisted Montague police with alarm sounding at Millers Falls Rod and Gun Club. Key holder on scene. Alarm reset.

11:50 p.m. Report of loud music in front of a West Main Street address. Gone on arrival.

Sunday 3-12

5:20 p.m. Report from B&M Railroad of subjects jumping on

train near the Box Car. Spoke with conductor, checked area, unable to locate.

Monday 3-13

9:30 a.m. Report of malicious destruction of property at a River Road address. Two vehicles had mirrors smashed off and dented. Report taken.

11:35 p.m. After a motor vehicle stop on Route 2 for defective equipment, [redacted] was arrested for operating after revocation of license.

Tuesday 3-14

7:30 a.m. Assisted Northfield Police searching for a hit and run vehicle. Unable to locate.

10:20 p.m. Assisted Gill Police with domestic dispute at a Chappell Drive address.

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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SEELCTBOARD

Selectboard Hears from Lake Grove Abutters

BY JOSH HEINEMANN

At the invitation of principal Sheila Hunter, the Wendell selectboard held its regular March 8th meeting at the Swift River School, giving board members a chance to see the school's new floor and other physical plant improvements. Robin Pierce and John Germaine met the board in a continuation of the hearing about Pierce's Class III auto salvage license, and then Mary Gilman, Dave and Marty Arsenault, Richard Mackey and Wanita Sears, abutters of the Lake Grove School at Maple Valley, a residential school for emotionally disturbed boys and young men ages 10 - 21, met the board to voice concerns about the school's plans for the Fiske property, immediately north of the school grounds as they are used now. The abutters had all attended planning board hearings, and wanted to bring their objections about Lake Grove's expansion to the selectboard.

Gilman, of Depot Road, opened that discussion by saying the Maple Valley School was small when she moved to town, but now it is a huge presence; her house and land are surrounded on three sides by Lake Grove-owned property, and she wondered how large the institution would grow.

Mackey, of Farley Road, gave the selectboard a copy of planning board minutes from their hearings on the site plan review for Lake Grove's planned therapeutic farm animal program, which calls for a barn to be constructed, along with outbuildings, a farm stand, and an adjoining skate park. Mackey said his experience with the school began with small incidents last year: stones thrown into his yard, a cat that died suspiciously, and trespassing by staff and students, but the trespassing has escalated since August. One evening a red SUV stopped in the road, and its occupants, who seemed to be parents returning students to the school, set off fireworks, large rockets that came down on his shed and his yard. Choruses of loud foul language have gone on for hours, Mackey said, and when he has complained to the Lake Grove administration, he was answered with a threat to call the police on him.

He continued that staff members continue to trespass regularly on his land, and may stop to ask him, "Did

you see a kid run through here?" When Mackey objected to their presence, he said a staff person told him, "We can do anything we want." He once heard on a staff person's two-way radio that the student being searched for on his property had in fact been located in the school infirmary, a sign to him that Lake Grove security is lax.

Lake Grove does not intend to enroll more students as a result of the expansion, but Mackey said the farm program would make good color pictures for attracting more students, and would give students a bigger campus, with more opportunity to go AWOL.

Gilman added that Lake Grove's plan called for eight dogs to be housed in the barn across from her house, without a staff person being housed with them, and she was worried about the noise from their barking. She suggested to the school administration that two or three dogs be kept in the house that is already on the property, where the school will have a caretaker around to quiet them and care for them.

Mackey said, "We have complained to the planning board, but I don't know to what effect."

Marty Arsenault said the school has already cleared trees for the proposed maintenance shed right up to their property line, before getting permits for construction; school employees have already been over the line. "They won't even discuss fences," she said. Once she looked up from working in her barn, and saw two staff members standing right behind her, one calling, "Hey, where are you?" to an unseen student.

Wanita Sears said that on July 11th of last year a boy from the school was at her front door and ready to walk into the house. Her husband stopped the boy, who then became belligerent. She said the assault on a female employee at the school later in the year was done by that same 19-year-old boy. She told the planning board that Lake Grove cannot handle the population they have now, within the perimeter they have now. Every agreement the school has made with neighbors has been broken, she claimed.

Dave Arsenault said selectboard members should look at the planning board minutes for more detail, and selectman Ted Lewis asked town coordinator Nancy Aldrich to

make a copy for each selectboard member.

Mackey said that when he called the state police in Athol, the lieutenant said he was overburdened already, and referred the call back to Wendell, and the total response time was 40 minutes. Sears said it was a two minute walk to her house from the school. Mackey asked that there be no expansion of the school without a serious security upgrade. He said that Lake Grove executive director Roland Paulauskas told him that a fence around the school was against the law, but Mackey said his inquiries of state agencies had not confirmed that.

Marty Arsenault said the Department of Education's three-year mid contract relicensing report showed concern over security at Lake Grove as well, and Sears added that there was not one area in that report in which the school conformed with expectations. She said not all staff members know the runaway policy. Arsenault continued that the school only has to report runaways if the student is from Massachusetts, but that only 30% of the students are from this state. They also are required to report all legal proceedings, but they failed to report on the litigation with the town about their septic system.

Gilman said she was concerned about the 20-acre plot behind her house, which if acquired by Lake Grove would leave her surrounded by the school on four sides. She said, "The value of my house is nothing."

Mackey said that all the abutters had asked for a waiver so as not to be held liable if school trespassers were injured, but their request was turned down by the school. He said he told Paulauskas to keep school people off his property, or be considered trespassing. Dave Arsenault asked who would be charged with trespass, the student, the employee, or the school. Arsenault conceded the school had left a buffer of shrubs between the maintenance shed clearing and the property line, but said the school had not done their part to be good neighbors. They were clearing trees at 6:00 a.m. on a Sunday morning recently.

Mackey said Lake Grove seem to be hiding behind their nonprofit status, and their status as a school. Selectboard member Christine Heard said Lake Grove is licensed

by the state as a school, so the town's regulatory control is minimal.

She summed up the issues raised by abutters: noise and foul language, security, a worry about how far the school would expand, and property devaluation. She said the selectboard members would discuss the planning board hearings. She added the Lake Grove administration is astute, and know how far they can go, and they are careful to go no further.

Lewis said he had good relations with the school, at least until four years ago, but now they seem to have a different attitude. He said, "Our hands are pretty tied, but we can address security." Dave Arsenault added, "especially for women." The students at Lake Grove have a history of being sexually abusive, and many are court ordered to the rural setting. Arsenault said Paulauskas plans to leave, possibly within a year.

Selectman Dan Keller said manpower at the school may be a point on which to start discussion, but the town has little recourse against the school beyond security concerns. He asked if the planning board discussed a fence, and Mackey answered that Paulauskas said the state would only allow a decorative fence.

Marty Arsenault said, "They claim only two AWOLs per year, which is a lie as you can tell."

Sears said there were a large number of AWOLs reported just before Paulauskas became executive director, and Mackey suggested the prior director was replaced for reporting that many. He said the school is purporting to instill a sense of responsibility in the students, but is not showing responsibility towards its neighbors.

Keller suggested that after the planning board had made a finding, the selectboard could meet again with the abutters. Gilman said the abutters had taken the same packet they had given to the selectboard to the state police, the *Hartford Courant*, and the district attorney's office. Last year, the *Courant* published articles on an ongoing investigation of Lake Grove facilities in Connecticut.

The hearing for a Class III license for John Germaine was continued for a month until the April 5th meeting. Germaine wants to

buy Robin Pierce's property, and continue Pierce's license, but he needs to sell his house in Boylston first.

Keller began the meeting by saying he had been told by someone in the Department of Environmental Protection that legally the town center water supply needs to be considered a Public Water Supply only as it supplies water to the library, not the town office, so the cost of that project, and its piping as far as the library might be 60% reimbursable.

Heard asked Aldrich to draft a letter thanking Ward Smith for donating \$1,300 of the \$1,600 bill for the work he has done on the Cooleyville Road site for the water supply, just passing on expenses.

Lewis said the highway department will cut trees that need to come down for the swamp mats that will allow access to the well site, saving some money.

Aldrich passed on a letter from the AIDS Action Committee of Boston asking for the town's cooperation in their Red Ribbon Ride on August 13th. About 200 bicycle riders will enter town on Locke Village road, turn right onto Morse Village Road, right onto New Salem Road and continue on to Route 202. Copies of the letter have already gone to Fire Chief Ricketts, and Police Chief Chase. In response, Heard asked that the organizers remove signs when the ride is over. Information on the ride is available at www.MassRedRibbonRide.org or 888 massride.

Trailers are in place for the temporary offices, but there are complications in bringing electricity to them. Lewis said if the trailers are in use for less than a year, then the service can be considered temporary, and the town is hoping to be in the new office building by January, but that date is not certain.

Keller said bids will be opened Friday, March 10th for removal of vinyl tile and glue mastic in the Senior Center. Six thousand dollars of the library construction budget was set aside for that. Construction is scheduled to start April 1st, but Monday, April 3rd is more likely. Volunteers to help load boxes and files into the temporary storage trailer, which is at the town office building now, and to bring things to the trailers will be needed, the weekend of March 25th or April 1st.

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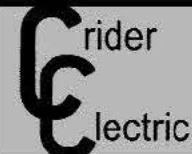
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YANKEE
continued from pg 1

license for 20 years beyond its original closing date of 2007. Entergy is also seeking regulatory approval from Vermont to store high level nuclear waste in concrete casks on the banks of the Connecticut River, as the seventh-story fuel pool for highly radioactive 'spent' fuel rods stored in the main reactor building, will soon reach capacity.

"We have asked Entergy to come down here and do a public hearing in Massachusetts," said Guyer. "We hope it will be the first of many other hearings, but we'll see how it goes," he added.

After promising to hold members of the public, more than fifty of whom had signed up to speak, to two minutes each, Guyer turned over the podium to Entergy, and their Power Point presentation on the benefits of nuclear power.

Brian Cosgrove, manager of government affairs for Entergy, spoke first. He explained, "The only thing different about Vermont Yankee from a coal, oil, or gas-fired generating plant is the reactor." He went on, "Vermont Yankee operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, producing baseload power." Every 18 months, the reactor shuts down for a 20- to 30-day refueling, during which a third of the fuel rods are removed, replaced and sent to temporary storage in the spent fuel pool. Vermont Yankee produces 510 megawatts of power, enough for 512,000 homes. Twenty-seven and half percent of VY power is shipped via National Grid to Massachusetts, where it powers the equivalent of 140,000 homes.

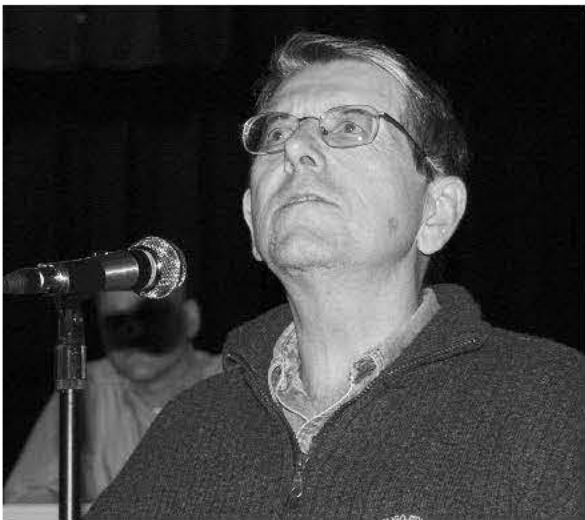
Entergy, a New Orleans-based corporation, also owns and operates nuclear reactors near Oswego, NY (Fitzpatrick), twin reactors at Indian Point in Buchanan, NY, 24 miles north of NYC, and Pilgrim, in Plymouth, Massachusetts.

Vermont Yankee employs 620 people. A quarter of the work force lives in Massachusetts, Cosgrove said. The reactor provides \$200 million a year in payroll, taxes, and services to the local economy.

Cosgrove spoke of an era of growing demand for electricity nationwide, but little new production, due to a prevalent 'not-in-my-backyard' syndrome stymieing

orders for new generation facilities. This has led nuclear utilities to advance power uprates and license extensions at existing plants, as a means of meeting the growing demand for electricity.

Cosgrove said Vermont Yankee displaces the need for fossil fuel plants that emit carbon dioxide, known to produce global warming, without producing acid rain or mer-



Bill McGee of Northfield said, "I think Vermont Yankee, since 1972, has a proven, documented track record of outstanding public service for us, and I'm proud to have you in the neighborhood."

cury, like coal burning plants do. Renewable sources of energy, like wind and hydro power, cannot produce power 24 hours a day, seven days a week, Cosgrove claimed.

He said the 150-ton concrete casks in which Entergy plans to store high level waste on the banks of New England's major river would be transportable by rail car to Yucca Mountain, Nevada, once the repository planned there to hold some of the nation's high level waste is opened, "in 2015 or 2020." Cosgrove admitted the proposed storage site below Yucca Mountain is still being studied, and "there is no date certain of when it will open."

Chris Wanser spoke next. Wanser has been the control room operator at Vermont Yankee for five years, and has worked at the plant for many years before that. He said control room operators work in teams of 12, each with two NRC licensed reactor operators, and two NRC licensed senior operators, along with chemistry and radiation specialists. The teams are all trained in firefighting, and maintain continuous firefighting capability, training on site and with surrounding fire departments. The operations crews work around the clock to "ensure the safe operation of the facility," Wanser said. Operators go through 15 months of training before assuming their posts, and senior operators go through an additional similar period of training to gain their licenses. Additionally, the crews regularly train on a plant-specific simulator at Entergy headquarters in Brattleboro, where they

"prepare for upcoming activities and also train for eventualities we hope we will never see: emergency operating procedures."

Wanser spoke of the plant's redundant safety features, which are meant to monitor the reactor continuously, and automatically shut the reactor down in the event of an unusual event or emergency.

As the crowd grew restless, John Dreyfuss, Entergy's director of engineering at Vermont Yankee, launched into a lengthy peroration about the quality of Entergy's paper trail, making sure "we are properly analyzed to operate the plant. We've had a number of big inspections to make sure that paper is in proper condition. Our design bases are maintained by a whole lot of paperwork, all internally consistent."

Dreyfuss spoke of the NRC's 2005 "independent" engineering assessment at Vermont Yankee, following Entergy's request for a 20% power uprate. "We have closed all items on that issue," said Dreyfuss, who added, "We have resident NRC inspectors on every shift."

He said there are "a whole lot of people dedicated to plant maintenance," at Vermont Yankee, and claimed the "plant technically is not 30 years old," because so many parts, including the main generator, motors, pumps, feed water heaters, and control systems have been upgraded and replaced over time.

As the clock ticked toward eight o'clock in a meeting intended to end by 9:00 o'clock sharp, Entergy engineers who planned to provide overviews on quality assurance, post 9/11 security issues, the license renewal project, and VY's "environmental stewardship program" yielded the rest of their time at the podium to allow the public a chance to be heard.

Representative Donelan asked the first question. "The large majority of calls to our office have to do with an independent safety assessment at the plant. If there is a call for an independent safety assessment, why haven't you done one? What is there to hide?"

Guyer, acting as moderator, allowed time for Entergy to answer this question, although all the other questions from the public were noted for the record, and fielded *en masse* at the end of the session.

Cosgrove insisted, "There was an independent safety assessment performed for Vermont Yankee at the request of the Vermont Public Service Board." He said the anti-nuclear New England Coalition had formally intervened at the Public Service Board hearings on the uprate, and recommended an independent engineering assessment of the plant. "That's basically what

the Public Service Board ordered and that's what the NRC did."

Ray Shadis, technical advisor for the New England Coalition, commenting after the meeting, said, "That's the worst kind of lying. In no way was this an independent engineering assessment. The VT PSB clearly defined that they wanted a diagnostic safety inspection, in which the plant receives a deep inspection across systems of the emergency core cooling system, main steam lines, and other major systems, from top to bottom, to make sure everything is in place and functioning as it was designed to do. Then, when an issue is defined, they will do a horizontal inspection, to determine why the anomaly exists, how long it has existed, was it result of bad inspections, and so forth. The PSB called for a diagnostic evaluation.

"The NRC did not agree to do such an inspection. They offered a pilot engineering inspection, the team selected and examined 45 components - not systems - and found eight of them at fault. Forty-five components may be less than 1% of the plant. Still, if they examine one percent of the plant and find eight components out of compliance, you might expect they would take a further look. There has been no follow up.

"No matter how you slice it, this was not an independent safety assessment." Shadis compared the 900 hours the NRC invested in the 2005 pilot engineering inspection at VY to the 24,000 hours that went into the independent safety assessment at Maine Yankee in Wiscasset, after a whistleblower at that plant alerted the NRC to falsified computer records the plant used during the permitting process for a 10% power uprate at that plant. Following the independent safety assessment, which featured outside contractors, engineers and inspectors from Maine, and NRC inspectors from outside the New York - New England region, working under a five member commission appointed by the governor of Maine, Maine Yankee was permanently shut down, Shadis said.

Dreyfuss said the NRC inspection at Vermont Yankee last year looked at "all key systems and components with the highest potential impact across all systems, as well as operator actions, to make sure components could perform their functions," under the conditions expected at 120% of original design

capacity. "We had nine people on our site over the course of many weeks. We've worked on all issues raised. They gave us a good honest shake."

Yet, within 48 hours of ramping up to 105% of design capacity on Saturday, February 25th, one of the main steam lines at the plant began shaking in unexpected ways. Those vibrations have left VY's plans to



Reilly Cohen of Bernardston said, "I like my little town. I like the people here. I hope you are right with all your positive talk."

increase power to 120% on extended hold, while the NRC examines data collected from the first weekend's experiment.


Garrett Connelly, of Bernardston, spoke next. "How much comes out of the top of your plant, year in, year out? Ten, twelve thousand curies a year? Having a wife who has suffered with breast cancer, I want to know, how many additional curies of radiation a year, including Strontium-90, which lodges in the bones of children, will come out of the vent stacks at your plant each year if you increase power an extra 20%? And do you add those possible cancer deaths to your risk calculations?"

Bill Kilpatrick, of Northfield, asked, "When is the last time we had any kind of an evacuation drill? Since it is not possible to get homeowners insurance for a nuclear accident, I want to know how many supervisory or non-supervisory staff live in the 10-mile radius of your plant. The mess we saw recently in Louisiana and Mississippi would pale in comparison to what would happen in the event of an accident at Vermont Yankee. The federal government will sell you flood insurance. You can't buy insurance for a nuclear accident from anyone."

Sharon Tracy, of Athol, called for evacuation plans and drills to be extended to at least 25 miles from the plant, an area that includes Athol, Amherst, Conway and Charlemont. "When the owners began the uprate, the plant began vibrating. We need to be prepared."

see YANKEE pg 10

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YANKEE
continued from pg 9

She urged people to call their legislators and demand joint exercises between towns, and expanded emergency plans.

Phil Allard, of South Deerfield, said, "The American people are smart enough to put their heads together and find a better way to make electricity. The heart of the matter is safety, and the danger from Vermont Yankee is growing. Now is the time we have to say 'No.'" He pointed to five nuclear plants in the New York - New England area already decommissioned due to safety concerns.

Roy Ramsdell, who has worked at the plant while living in Bernardston and Gill for the last 16 years, spoke of his pride in his community, his children, and his job. "I look at nuclear oversight. We will make sure things are done right. I live in the 10-mile zone, and so do my kids."

Bill McGee, of Northfield, former PR man for Yankee Rowe, (shut down for safety concerns in 1991 after 31 years of operation) said, "I think Vermont Yankee, since 1972, has a proven, documented track record of outstanding public service for us, and I'm proud to have you in the neighborhood."

David Radebaugh, of Northfield, asked, "If there was a nuclear containment accident and I could no longer use my property, my question is, 'Where do I go, and what do I do?'"

A plant worker from Bernardston, first name Bernard, said he was "very excited by the reinvigoration of nuclear power nationwide, and the plans to build new plants with new, safer designs." He said when the time came to extend Vermont Yankee's license by 20 years, "Be assured the analysis will be very rigorous."

Michael Hardy, of Florence, a photographer who recently took pictures of Vermont Yankee with Entergy's permission, said, "The entire place is very open to a terrorist attack. A plane could come in and crash that plant. In this day of terrorism, I wonder, what does that mean to us?"

He quoted plant spokesperson Rob Williams as comparing a plane crash at the reactor building to "a watermelon being thrown at a fire hydrant," an analogy that gave rise to some laughter in the audience.

A breach of containment accident at Vermont Yankee "would cause the evacuation of the entire region," said Hardy. "We have one highway that is backed up with only one lane closed. I can't comprehend how we could evacuate the good people of the entire region. What happens if we have an accident these brilliant minds - and they are brilliant minds - can't control?"

Reilly Cohen, who lives in Bernardston, followed up. "What would I have to do as a resident of Bernardston? I want to hear more than 'Listen to the radio and go to a local school.' I like my little town. I like the people here. I hope you are right with all your positive talk."

A woman from Conway said the huge risks outweigh the benefits of nuclear power. "I'm sure the team members of Chernobyl and Three Mile Island were very well trained. I'm sure their paperwork was in order."

Terry Caldwell denied an independent safety assessment was performed at Vermont Yankee. "It



Randy Kehler of Colrain asked, "Are you planning to respond to the overwhelming call in Vermont towns (for improved evacuation plans), and will you do the same for us, south of the border?"

was done by the NRC," she said. "I live 12 miles away. If I am sleeping when an accident occurs, if my radio is off, how will I be notified? This plant should be closed down now."

A man named Ben from Northfield took further issue with the claim that an independent safety study had been performed at VY. He said the NRC study was less than 5% of the scope of the study at Maine Yankee, a plant that had received higher annual scores from the NRC than Vermont Yankee, but was ordered closed after the independent study there was completed.

Randy Kehler of Colrain spoke of the overwhelming vote last week in five Vermont towns, including Brattleboro, calling for improved and expanded evacuation planning, paid for by Entergy. "Are you planning to respond to this overwhelming call, and will you do the same for us, south of the border?"

Judy Scheckel, a home health care provider from Shelburne, spoke of a rash of cases of chronic fatigue and cancer in her service area. "Every time you go to church, the ladies are talking about who is the next person to get cancer. I think there is an epidemic here of cancers and diseases resulting from damaged immune systems. Is anyone gathering the statistics of the poison we take into our food chain, now that the federal government is not testing milk [at downwind dairies] anymore?"

Susan Wiske, whose family operates a small campground in Bernardston, asked Entergy for help in protecting the public water

supply, and assisting her with evacuation planning in the event of an emergency.

Poppy Kelly of Northfield wanted improved evacuation sirens for towns in the EPZ. "The siren can not be heard in cold weather with the windows closed. We need to implement something that can reach each home."

Bob Dickerman, of Northfield, said he drives, "frequently up Route 142 at night. The place does look like a target, all lit up. What kinds of attacks have you anticipated and how are you dealing with that kind of threat?"

Annette Macking, of Bernardston, said the 500 households in her town were being exposed to "a huge risk. We would like the profits of Entergy to be taxed at a realistic rate equal to what it is going to cost in the event our community is transplanted and the land I've been paying for for 30 years is no longer inhabitable, along with the clean-up of the Connecticut River."

Claire Chang, of Gill, asked why Entergy, which anticipates making a profit of \$250 million in the first year of the uprate, could not find \$1 million to do an independent safety assessment. She said the high level waste storage planned for the banks of the Connecticut River, "in the event of a 500-year flood, will wash down straight past my house. How long will it take a radioactive plume to reach Northfield with a 10 m.p.h. wind? How many phone calls would it take for you to alert officials? We need to focus on renewables, and safe energy."

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Bruce Spencer, of New Salem, asked, "Why would anyone choose an old technology steam reactor for a 20% uprate?" He asked, "How can we trust the NRC, who let the Besse Davis plant come within half an inch of a breach of the six inch

core containment vessel in 2002, after plant workers had warned them of problems at the Ohio plant?"

James Robinson, a school nurse who lives in Northfield, wanted worst case mortality and morbidity statistics in the event of a breach of containment accident, or fuel pool accident, at Vermont Yankee.

Tina Clark, of Clean Water Action in Amherst, disputed Cosgrove's claim that nuclear power displaced carbon dioxide from fossil fuel plants. She said if the mining and enrichment of nuclear fuel were taken into account, nuclear power is neutral on global warming emissions. She said nationwide development of safe, reliable wind power could eliminate the need for all nuclear power plants, which presently receive a huge imbalance of federal subsidies in comparison to renewable energy.

Bob English, of Northfield, who has lived comfortably 'off the grid' for 20 years with photovoltaic electricity, wanted "a detailed description of what would happen to my home if most of the radioactivity at Vermont Yankee were released in a terrorist attack or a catastrophic accident."

Sally Shaw, of Gill, asked for people to help gather "deciduous baby teeth" from children who live in the counties around Vermont Yankee, to assist in the Radiation and Public Health Project study of Strontium-90 downwind of nuclear reactors. People willing to donate a child's outgrown tooth should contact Traprock Peace Center, at 773-7427.

Dana Levine, a Massachusetts state police officer for 18 years, said, "I've never been informed about how we are going to respond to an evacuation. My goal is to protect people. I'm at a loss."

After the public comments and questions, Cosgrove denied that Strontium-90 was emitted by Vermont Yankee. An Entergy official detailed post 9/11 improvements in plant security, such as more, better armed guards, increased fencing and barbed wire. The meeting broke up as a rare March thunderstorm lit up the farms and fields of Franklin County, and rain came down in torrents.



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workshop and a chance to win a compost bin. Spring is a time for cleaning, planning the garden, making our lawns healthier and looking at new ways to landscape. The workshops will highlight natural, nontoxic ways to keep our homes clean and explore safer, low-toxic ways to have healthier grass and gardens. We will also discuss natural ways to landscape and garden that help reduce pests and attract birds and beneficial insects. We are exposed to harmful chemicals in many ways—including the products we use to clean our homes or maintain our yards. Advertising for cleaners, detergents, polishes, pesticides, personal care, and other products tells us they are

fast, easy, and effective. But how safe are they? Only a small portion of the more than 80,000 chemicals registered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have been thoroughly tested for human health concerns. The "Spring Cleaning and Planting, Naturally!" workshops will provide hands-on tips about natural products and methods for a safer home, pest control, and healthy lawns and landscapes. Participants are encouraged to bring their questions and share their ideas. For more information, contact the District office at 772-2438. Hearing impaired individuals can contact the District through the Massachusetts Relay at 711 or for TTY/ASCC access dial 1-800-439-2370.

VILLAGE

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political organization made up of Irish immigrants and their descendants who joined together for social support, mutual advancement, and in some instances, mutual safety and protection.

At the time of the organization's growth in the Northeast, there was extreme prejudice and what would now be considered racial crimes perpetrated against the Irish. You have but to look to the cartoons of Thomas Nast, often credited with giving us the Republican elephant, the Democrat donkey, Uncle Sam and a jovial Santa Claus. He also gave us bigoted and inflammatory caricatures of the Irish, whom he despised, often depicted as apes. So, in this climate, belonging to a support group like the Hibernian Order was a necessity.

With thousands of Irish immigrants entering Massachusetts, fleeing 400 years of slavery and apartheid conditions in their own land, many of course reached Turners Falls to help dig the canals, build the railroads, and work the mills. The AOH arrived with them as well, and the Hibernian Hall came to play an important role in the community. At the turn of the century, dances, political gatherings, and basketball games

drew huge crowds there. Boxing matches, town meetings and other extravaganzas were also held at the Hibernian. The entrepreneur behind many events was the famous 'Banisher' Shea, who also founded and ran the Shea Theater.

There are legends around town as to how he got his nickname, but my theory is linguistic. Some say he banished something or someone from his sight, but I see a connection between 'Banisher' and 'Bainisteoir'—a Gaelic word meaning 'manager' (and it sounds like Shea was busy managing everything going on in town!) The words are pronounced identically, except that the Gaelic word slips in a flick of the tongue to add the letter t in the middle of the word... who knows? With Gaelic as the native language of most of the immigrant families at the end of the 1800s, this could quite possibly be the origin of the nickname.

During the 50s and 60s, many of us remember the Rag Shag parades on Halloween that ended at the Hibernian Hall with prizes distributed for various costumes. The High School scheduled basketball games there, adult leagues found a home there, Cub Scouts used it for meetings and yearly events. But the day-to-day role of the

Hibernian probably had the most profound effect of all on the community. For a lot of kids in Turners, it was a home away from home. It was a bright and warm place, a place you could go to get away from unpleasant stuff at home, burn off adolescent energy and tension, play basketball until you dropped, and take a warm shower afterward. And if you needed it, you could get support from the man who ran the place, John Skrypek. He was universally respected and admired by everyone who made the long climb up those stairs. He was always stern but smiling, giving no-nonsense advice, fatherly support and a good boot in the behind, if needed. I suppose he was something of a saint, was John Skrypek.

But those memories have faded. With the renewal and renovation that came with Silvio Conte's plan for downtown revitalization, the Hall lost its community role, the building was transformed. For a hundred years it provided a gathering place, a safe haven, and a stabilizing presence that could still be helpful in this community nowadays. All that's left are the two Shamrocks high up over the Avenue to remind us of the vibrant days of the old Hibernian.



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GIRLS' SOFTBALL Become part of Montague's proud softball tradition! • Rookie League - Girls in grades K - 2 • Senior League - Girls in grades 3 - 6	FAMILY PROGRAMS PETER COTTONTAIL'S EGGstravaganza Saturday, April 15 @ Unity Park. Over 3,000 eggs; face painting; egg decorating and Peter Cottontail will be present! Mark your calendars! Sponsored by Montague Elks, Hillside Plastics, New England Extrusion, Greenfield Savings Bank & Equi's Candy Store CRABAPPLE FESTIVAL 5K FUN RUN Sunday, April 30th For prices and more information, and/or, to receive a Spring Programs Brochure contact, Montague Parks & Recreation 56 First Street Unity Park Fieldhouse Turners Falls, MA 01376 863-3216.
PEPSI PITCH, HIT AND RUN Youths ages 7 - 14. To be held Saturday, April 22 at Unity Park	
SWIMMING LESSONS - SESSION III Ages 5 & Up Begins Saturday, April 8	
SUMMER PLAYGROUND REGISTRATION begins Monday, April 3 for Montague Residents only. Non-residents may register starting Monday, May 1.	

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the poetry page

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

- William Carlos Williams

Readers are invited to send poems to the Montague Reporter at 24 3rd Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376; or reporter-poems@montaguema.net

Poetry Page edited by
Christopher Sawyer-Laucanno
& Chris Janke
designed by Boysen Hodgson

Thanks to all who submitted poetry for this issue. We welcome new submissions every month.

laundry psalm

people pouring powder
in the laundromat

as if this psalm
is a guitar, hanging loose

from its string,
the words

that can be spoken
are not

the real words

--Christopher Janke
Turners Falls

City of Glass

For Pablo Neruda and Matilde Urrutia
La Chascona, Santiago de Chile

The poet's house was a city of glass:
cranberry glass, milk glass, carnival glass,
red and green goblets row after row,
black luster of wine in bottles,
ships in bottles, zoo of bottles,
rooster, horse, monkey, fish,
heartbeat of clocks tapping against crystal,
windows illuminated by the white Andes,
observatory of glass over Santiago.

When the poet died,
they brought his coffin to the city of glass.
There was no door: the door was a thousand daggers,
beyond the door an ancient world in ruins,
glass now arrowheads, axes, pottery shards, dust.
There were no windows: fingers of air
reached for glass like a missing lover's face.
There was no zoo: the bottles were half-moons
and quarter-moons, horse and monkey
eviscerated with every clock, with every lamp.
Footprints spun in a lunatic tango across the floor.

The poet's widow said, We will not sweep the glass.
His wake is here. Reporters, photographers,
intellectuals, ambassadors stepped across the glass
cracking like a frozen lake, and soldiers too,
who sacked the city of glass,
returned to speak for their general,
three days of official mourning
announced at the end of the third day.

In Chile, a river of glass bubbled, cooled,
hardened, and rose in sheets, only to crash and rise again.
One day, years later, the soldiers wheeled around
to find themselves in a city of glass.
Their rifles turned to carnival glass;
bullets dissolved, glittering, in their hands.
From the poet's zoo they heard monkeys cry;
from the poet's observatory they heard
poem after poem like a call to prayer.
The general's tongue burned with slivers
invisible to the eye. The general's tongue
was the color of cranberry glass.

--Martin Espada

DEAREST LEADER'S ANNUAL ADDRESS

Thank you, teeming hordes, faceless masses,
serfs, drudges, slaves, and all manner of human chattel,
and especially you, the little people.

This year's Glorious Campaign to Preserve Our Sovereignty
and Rout the Cancer of Foreign Turpitude
will be announced later at the hangings.

Our exalted warriors will be paid double
in an exciting new currency, the corwin,
a round stone equaling one hundred snowflakes.

My special gratitude to you, the great unwashed,
for your generous participation in this year's
bake sale and blood drive.

And yum yum, what you ladies can bake
with sticks and pebbles. I should tell you all
that your first born are leading adventurous lives

prospecting for our nation's mineral heritage.
What fun you will all have this year visiting
our newly capacious Catacombs of Justice

hand carved from solid schist
by your own dear children!
I haven't even told you yet about

This year's bone stacking competition!
Pyramids and palaces built by and of your parents
will be ornamented by and with this year's winners.

There's a special treat in store for you:
This year, to commemorate the anniversary
of my just and beneficent leadership, you may whistle!

Our national anthem, while you work, of course,
and what jobs await you! Pucker up, Great People!
We have the very grave of history to dig!

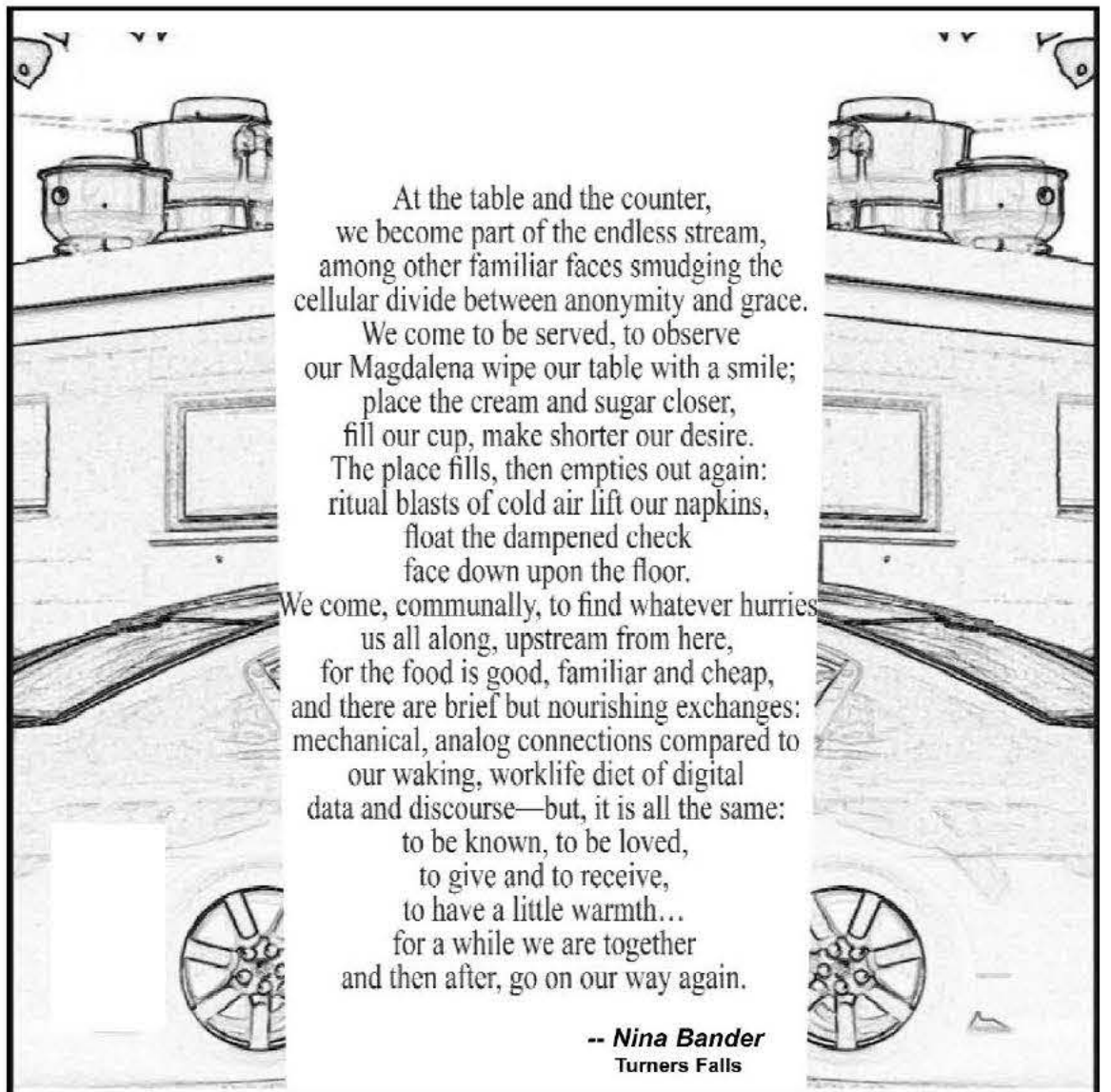
--Corwin Ericson
Wendell

Farewell

Bring the boat, Captain,
across the sea,
and feel the soft breeze
against your neck,
man the jib, Captain,
across the yellow sea,
and send your boat
toward shimmering waves.

Our captain - steady hand,
strong breeze
catching our spinnaker,
giving us lift,
our even course ahead -
be safe on the sea, sail to the sun,
and leave a smooth wake
for us to follow.

--R.J. DiDonato
Wendell



Turners Falls, where Nina Bander has lived since 1987, is often the subject of her work in art and poetry.

Raymond DiDonato resides in Wendell with his wife and children.

Christopher Janke lives in TFMA and has just revised a manuscript of psalms,

some of which were recently printed in *American Poetry Review* and *Field*. He owns Suzzee's Third St. Laundry in Turners, where single loads are still just \$1.25.

Corwin Ericson lives in Wendell, Massachusetts, and works as the managing editor of the *Massachusetts Review*. His work appears in *Harper's*, *the Believer*, *Best American Erotica*, *Slope*, and elsewhere.

Martin Espada's eighth poetry collection, called *The Republic of Poetry*, is forthcoming from WW Norton. His previous book, *Alabanza: New and Selected Poems, 1982-2002* (Norton, 2003), received a Paterson

Award for Sustained Literary Achievement and was named an American Library Association Notable Book. Espada teaches in the English Department at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

CONTRIBUTOR'S NOTES:

FINDING BALANCE: HEALTH TIPS FOR A HAPPY LIFE

'Night, 'Night, Sleep Tight



BY JENNY CHAPIN

MONTAGUE CITY - Do you ever feel like the night is interminable, and you wish the sun would hurry up and rise so you could quit pretending you were going to get any sleep? Not getting enough sleep is a common complaint these days. "Trouble sleeping" means you have a hard time falling asleep; that you fall asleep fine but wake in the night, unable to get back to sleep; or have disturbed, restless, or poor quality sleep.

For all the labor-saving devices at our disposal, we still work long hours. We also work hard, pushing ourselves to do more than we're comfortable with, wearing ourselves out. Most of us need more rest and relaxation than we ever get; even a cat-nap may feel too indulgent.

Electric lights have created a tendency to prolong day into night. Most of us carry our daytime mental activity into the world of sleep - for example, I dream about teaching yoga, forgetting where I've parked my car, and even about doing my taxes!

Factors that make deep restful sleep a struggle include information overload, stress, anxiety, lack of exercise, dehydration, poor diet, and the rarity of finding darkness away from artificial light. Other causes can be depression, anger, resentment, fear of the dark, or the pain, discomfort, or emotional distress associated with illness.

Pete Egoscue, anatomical physiologist in San Diego and author of the Pain Free books, writes that "motion energizes all of our system, while lack of motion drains them. In place of motion, we use artificial stimu-

lants - nicotine, caffeine, sugar, alcohol - to get up, to get mellow, to find motivation, to go to sleep." He's found that the worst chronic pain symptoms are accompanied by sleep deprivation - and that lack of sleep intensifies pain symptoms. Regular exercise has a positive effect on many aspects of your life.

Inadequate sleep gives rise to irritability, impatience, difficulty concentrating, lowered immunity, headaches, impaired ability to make sound decisions, lethargy, clumsiness, and a tendency to lose things (perspective, house keys, sense of humor).

Eating rich spicy foods, or going to bed with a full stomach, gears your digestive system up when you should be gearing down. Also problematic are alcohol, sugar, and caffeine products (coffee, chocolate,

aspirin, soft drinks, diet pills). Avoid violent movies or loud music at night, as they speed up your heart rate.

If you suffer from mental hyperactivity, bring the energy down from your head at the end of the day. Soak your feet in warm water and a few drops of lavender oil, or rub your feet with lotion - very soothing, especially if someone else works on your feet!

A good night's sleep renews us, and makes us feel fit to face the world. Our bodies need time to regenerate; our organs (including the brain!) and muscles need time doing virtually nothing, to balance all the time they are busy doing something.

Regular use of herbal teas such as chamomile, catnip, scullcap, hops, oatstraw, and valerian help calm, quiet, nourish, and strengthen the nervous system; the vitamin C in rose-

hips also soothes nerves.

When you go to bed, put on soothing music, and bring your attention to the rhythmic movement of the breath moving in and out. Release body tensions, and let your thoughts float past like clouds blowing through the sky.

Sometimes we need outside assistance to break out of lifestyle patterns that don't serve us. If you're stressed or depressed, in pain, ill, or use sleep aids or food to go to sleep, you might benefit by seeing a holistic health practitioner to help bring you back into restful balance.

Jenny Chapin is a resident of Montague City, and a certified acupuncturist, Zero Balancer, and yoga teacher, practicing in Franklin County for seven years. If you have a suggestion for a topic, please email Jenny: jgchapin@croc-ker.com

THE HEALTHY GEEZER

High Crimes and Glaucoma

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - Q. *I heard that marijuana helps glaucoma. I'd like to try it, but won't I get in trouble?*

Marijuana can help your glaucoma and it could definitely get you in trouble because it's illegal.

Marijuana refers to the parts of the Cannabis sativa plant, which has been used for medicinal purposes for more than 4,800 years. Doctors in ancient China, Greece and Persia used it as a pain reliever and for gastrointestinal disorders and insomnia.

Cannabis as a medicine was common throughout most of the world in the 1800s. It was used as the primary pain reliever until the invention of aspirin. The United States, in effect, made prescriptions for Cannabis illegal through the Marijuana Tax Act of 1937. The only

opponent to the legislation was the representative of the American Medical Association.

Marijuana contains at least 60 chemicals called cannabinoids. THC is the main component responsible for marijuana's mind-altering effect. Marinol (dronabinol), a prescription drug taken by oral capsule, is a man-made version of THC

One of THC's medical uses is for the treatment of nausea. It can improve mild to moderate nausea caused by cancer chemotherapy and help reduce nausea and weight loss in people with AIDS.

Older people, especially those with no marijuana experience, may not tolerate THC's mind-altering side effects as easily as young people.

Doctors generally prescribe several kinds of newer anti-nausea drugs with fewer side effects before resorting to

Marinol.

Glaucoma increases pressure in the eyeball, which can lead to vision loss. Smoking marijuana reduces pressure in the eyes. Your doctor can prescribe other medications to treat glaucoma, but these can lose their effectiveness over time. Researchers are working to develop medications containing cannabinoids that can be put directly on the eyes.

Researchers are trying to develop new medications based on cannabis to treat pain. THC may work as well in treating cancer pain as codeine. A recent study found that cannabinoids significantly reduced pain in people with multiple sclerosis, a disease of the nervous system.

Though some doctors and patients suggest marijuana has a legitimate use, the federal government disagrees. The law classifies marijuana as one of

the "most dangerous drugs that have no recognized medical use." The penalties for possession of marijuana can range from a small fine to a prison sentence.

Along with the legal implications of smoking marijuana are the health problems such as memory impairment, loss of coordination and the potential for withdrawal symptoms. And, inhaling marijuana smoke exposes you to substances that may cause cancer.

One study has indicated that the risk of heart attack more than quadruples in the first hour after smoking marijuana. The researchers suggest that a heart attack might be caused by marijuana's effects on blood pressure, heart rate and the capacity of blood to carry oxygen.

Most polls show that about three out of four people approve of medical marijuana. This has



ILLUSTRATION JESSICA HARMON

led to the introduction of bills in Congress which would eliminate federal controls in states which approve medical marijuana. None of these bills has been voted into law.

There is legislation on the books in 33 states and the District of Columbia allowing the medical use of marijuana. Most require that it be prescribed. This provision presents a problem because federal agencies control the power to prescribe.

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

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FRIDAY, MARCH 17TH

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!
Great Falls Discovery Center invites you to *St. Patrick's Day is for the Birds!*, from 10 to 11 a.m. or 11 a.m. to Noon. Come join Susan J. Russo and Gini Traub to learn through hands-on activities what St. Patrick's Day and birds have in common. Program geared towards 3 - 7 year olds, all are welcome. Parents please make sure your child is dressed to get a little messy!

Benefit concert for the Montague Skate Park at The Brick House Community Center, 24 3rd St., Turners Falls. 6 - 10 p.m. featuring an array of local talent including Moscow Mule, There Was Change, Under Falling Skies, The Unsung Cliche, and more. Admission \$5 at the door (though attendees are encouraged to give whatever they can for the skate park), be sure to get there early as the event will certainly sell out. The funds raised will go to repairs and maintenance needed to reopen the park. This is a substance free event.

Adam Ainslie Band CD Release Party live at the Rt. 63 Roadhouse. Happy St. Patricks Day, 9:30 p.m. Federal St., Millers Falls. For more info call (413) 659-3384.

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY MARCH 17TH & 18TH

Pothole Pictures presents a double feature, *Breathless* - A car thief kills a policeman and goes on the run with his American girlfriend. Followed by *Bound* - Jennifer Tilly and Geena Gershon star roles as neighbors involved in intrigue. (R) Performances at Memorial Hall Theater, 51 Bridge St., Shelburne Falls. Music before the movie at 7:00 p.m. (Friday - Doug Creighton & Dedo Norris, Saturday - Swing Caravan). Movie at 7:30 p.m. 413-625-2896

SATURDAY, MARCH 18TH

Shea Theater's Festival of New Work, 8 p.m. *Fallen Star*, a one act play by playwright Jerry Bjisantz followed by *Jenny Haniver* by playwright Jessamyn Smyth of Gill. Reservations recommended (413) 863-2281.

Turners Falls Sports Booster Club's 3rd Annual Fund Raiser Event at French King Entertainment Center featuring

dinner at 7 p.m. followed by Frank Santos, The R-rated Hypnotist and Comedian at 9 p.m., DJ Rod Herzig til midnight. Limited tickets available \$25/pp. Past shows have sold out! Reservations for groups of 8 or more only. Call sponsors for tickets; Upton-Massamont Realtors, (413) 665-3771 ext104; Don Mailloux, (413) 423-3810. Call the entertainment

TUESDAY, MARCH 21ST

The throat singing ensemble Alash will bring the unique music of the Inner Asian Republic of Tuva to the Shea Theater in Turners Falls, MA on March 21st at 7:30 PM and to the ROUNDHOUSE in Colrain on the 19th and 20th. Alash, which is touring the United States for the first time, has performed throughout Russia and Europe, adding new musical insights to the traditional "musical treasures" of Tuva. Throat singing, also called Xoomai, is an unusual use of the voice as an instrument, with some similarities to overtone singing. By manipulating their vocal chords, Xoomai singers can produce two distinct tones at the same time. In traditional Tuvan music, the singers often use their voices and instruments to create the sounds of their world - bird whistles, bubbling streams, cantering horses and howling wolves -- producing a musical portrait of the remote, forested taiga and windswept steppes.

FRIDAY, MARCH 24TH

Shea Theater's Young Stage Company presents *Light and Grimm*, adaptations of 3 fairy tales from the Brothers Grimm. All seats \$5. For tickets call the box office at (413) 863-2281.

Contra Dance with David Kaynor & Greenfield Dance Band at Guiding Star Grange Hall, 401 Chapman St., Greenfield. 8:00 p.m. - midnight. 413-367-9380.

SATURDAY, MARCH 25TH

Maple Sugar Supper including baked beans, ham, potato salad, green salad, brown bread, Johnson's Maple Syrup and fritters, rolls and butter and coffee. Served family style. Community Church of North Orange and Tully. Sittings at 5:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Call 978-575-0119 or 978-575-0402 for reservations.

Contra Dance with Tophill

Productions at Guiding Star Grange Hall, 401 Chapman St., Greenfield. 8:00 to 11:30 p.m. 413-773-1671.

SATURDAY, MARCH 25TH

Teen Writers Workshop - Christian McEwen, author, and Paul Wanta, animal tracker, combine their skills to provide a rich and fruitful day at the beautiful Farm School: reading, writing, tracking and talking. Christian will introduce Buson, the eighteenth century Japanese poet and painter, and guide participants in a series of hands-on exercises with special focus on the natural world. Students will also spend time tracking and exploring with Paul, and walking on their own in the surrounding early spring woods. There will be plenty of time for everyone to look at each other's work, and to read aloud if they wish to. Sponsored by In This Place. For ages 12 - 17. 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. \$50 includes lunch and supplies. Scholarships are available. To register, or to request a scholarship, please call (978) 544-2399 or email inthisplace@earthlink.net. For more info visit www.inthisplace.org

NOW THRU APRIL 2ND

Inaugural Exhibition at The Hallmark Museum of Contemporary Photography: Photographs by New York-based portrait and fashion photographer **Barbara Bordnick**. The museum is located at 85 Avenue A, Turners Falls. Hours: Thursday to Sunday 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. (413) 863-0009.

CALLS FOR TALENT

Hampshire Shakespeare auditions for Young Company - This summer, Hampshire Shakespeare will present *Much Ado About Nothing* on the mainstage, followed by the HSC Young Company version on July 28, 29 and 30. Auditions for the Young Company will be held April 8 and 9 from 1 - 4 p.m. at The Hartsbrook School, 193 Bay Road, Hadley. Young actors (teens) will be cast in smaller roles in the mainstage production and will then step into the principal roles for their own production. Additional young actors will join this company for one intensive week (July 24-28) of rehearsal culminating in a fully produced week-end of performances at the Hartsbrook School. Space is limited and restricted to actors between the ages of 10 and 17. Auditioners should memorize a short classical monologue or sonnet to perform (no more than one minute), preferably from Shakespeare. The cost for participation in the Young Company program is \$150. To schedule an audition appointment,

call 413-587-9398, or e-mail us at lucindakidder@hotmail.com. Further information about past Young Company performances may be found at www.hampshire-shakespeare.org.

The Northfield Arts Group is sponsoring its second annual outdoor Summer Arts Festival on Saturday, August 19th from 10-4 p.m. at the Green Trees Gallery in Northfield. The event will include artists, live music, food and art events for children. **Artists and artisans interested** call Leni Gaudet at 498-0283 or email gaudets@crocker.com for more information or application.

Benefit Concert for the Turners Falls Skate Park

Jared Libby
There Was Change
Moscow Mule
Under Falling Skies
Jeremy Latch
And More!

\$5 @ the door
Fri. March 17th @
The Brick House - 24 3rd St., TF
6:00-10:00 PM (This is a substance free event)
ALL PROCEEDS GO TO REPAIRING & IMPROVING THE SKATE PARK

center for other info at (413) 423-3047.

The Echo Lake Coffee House presents Jay Mankita in concert, 7:30 pm, at the Town Hall, 9 Montague Rd., Leverett. Admission is \$10/\$8 seniors. Refreshments for purchase. Jay Mankita is a masterful acoustic guitarist and singer/songwriter, whose styles range from blues, bluegrass, and ballads, through ragtime, swing, and samba, and from old standards to quirky originals. His songs guide us on an authentic journey through the human condition, with honesty and compassion, and a healthy dose of humorous insight.

Drunk Stuntmen at Rt. 63 Roadhouse 3rd Anniversary Party, Come to dance, 9:30 p.m. Federal St., Millers Falls. For more info call (413) 659-3384.

SUNDAY, MARCH 19TH

4th Annual Erving Firefighters Association Spaghetti Supper at Countree Living Restaurant, Route 2 in Erving (Millers Falls). 4:30 to 8:00 pm. Tickets at the door.

The Pioneer Valley Symphony & Chorus presents their 67th annual **CHORAL CONCERT**. This concert features works from Bartok to Barber: A Choral Celebration of

ANSWERS TO LAST ISSUE'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

GIMME SHELTER AMERICA

Across	29. WRIGHTIAN	8. A FRAME
3. GOTHIC	32. BUNGALOW	11. JACOBAN
6. COTTAGE	34. STICK	14. GERMAN
9. QUEEN ANNE	35. SOLAR	16. STONE ENDER
10. TUDOR	36. SALT BOX	17. MOBILE
12. TEPEE	37. GEORGIAN	19. JEFFERSONIAN
13. CRAFTSMAN	38. GARRISON	20. GEODESIC
15. PUEBLO		22. ADAM
18. CAPE COD	Down	25. LOG CABIN
21. ITALIANATE	1. QUONSET	27. PLANTATION
23. MONTEREY	2. DUTCH	29. WIGWAM
24. SOUTHERN	4. HOGAN	30. SHAKER
26. GREEK	5. SPLIT LEVEL	31. MISSION
28. LONGHOUSE	7. FEDERAL	33. FRENCH

Mabel Zobel
By
Sandra Facto

Want to talk about crows feet old girl, you have the whole flippin flock!

HOT SPOT TEEN CENTER

- MONDAYS - Drop-in, 3-5,
- TUES & WEDS - Ongoing Music Project, 3 - 5
- THURS - Drop-in, 3 - 5, Movie Night, 6 - 8
- FRI, MAR 31st - Open mic at bellybowl restaurant, 6 - 9

These programs are free (except some trips) and open to local teens.
Some require permission slips.
For more info: Jared at 863-9559.

Hot Spot Teen Center is in **The Brick House** Community Resource Center, 24 Third Street, Turners Falls, 01376.

Sunday at 7
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POTHOLE PICTURES

February 17th & 18th Double Feature

At 7:30 p.m. *Breathless* - French new-wave classic, this European take on the American gangster genre will leave you, literally, breathless. 1960, not rated.
At 9:30 p.m. *Bound* - Lesbian-noir film starring Jennifer Tilly and Gina Gershon that is stylish, suspenseful, scary and very sexy. 1996, rated R.
Music at 7: Fri - Doug Creighton & Bob Snope; Sat - String Caravan plays gypsy swing.

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- 1. THE SHAGGY DOG** PG
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- 2. SHE THE MAN** PG in DTS sound
DAILY 6:30 9:30
- 3. BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN**
DAILY 6:30 9:30 R
- 4. 16 BLOCKS** PG13
DAILY 6:45 9:15
- 5. THE HILLS HAVE EYES** R
DAILY 6:45 9:15
- 6. FAILURE TO LAUNCH**
DAILY 7:00 9:20 PG13 in DTS sound
- 7. V FOR VENDETTA**
DAILY 7:00 9:20 PG in DTS sound

MAT SAT, SUN, WED 12:00 3:00

Grease Comes to Life at Turners High

BY DAVID DETMOLD - The entire cast and crew, and brave new director Melissa Urey deserve the highest praise for their full-throttle, souped up production of *Grease*, a 50s rock and roll musical at the Turners Falls High School / Great Falls Middle School this past weekend. The singing, dancing and

Urey is to be given credit for tackling a musical with themes of gang violence and teen pregnancy in her first outing at Turners High, and yet, the production was covered in so much lipstick and, dare we say it? grease, and everyone on stage and in the audience was having so darn much fun that the dark

outs, the latter winning hearts throughout the hall with her rendition of "Freddie My Love." On the other hand, the rest of the Greasers (Ben Garber, Josh Matuscz and Ethan Kociela) were uniformly excellent, while Chelsea Isles as Jan and Katie Bailey as Frenchy started strong and just got better, with Bailey knocking 'em out in a soulful duet with a drop-dead Teen Angel (Kris York) on "I Was a Beauty School Drop-out."

real performance, right down to the gum snapping bravado in the face of her girlfriends' betrayal and possible pregnancy. Rizzo's tough, but she's got a code: "I don't steal, and I don't lie, but I can feel and I can cry.... But to cry in front of you, that's the worse thing I could do."



Katie Bailey (Frenchy) harmonizes with Kris York (Teen Angel)



Andy Stewart (Danny) and Trish Richotte (Sandy) lit up the stage in *Grease*. (Colin York, aka Sonny, center)

The evening was filled with spot-on cameos, including the comic sidekicks Lacey and Darcey, (Lara Ames and Lauryn Zellman) fetching sophomores wishing they were seniors, Aaron Cappucci as Johnny Casino, who appears like a young Elvis to help Dick Clark, er, Vince Fontaine (Nick Imbinbo) pull off an American Bandstand-style dance contest, where Aimee Shattuck wows 'em as blond bombshell Cha Cha Digregorio. And dig those crazy contest rules: all couples must be boy - girl, and no vulgar movements! How square can you get?

Tela was wonderful, and the main love interest, Sandy Dumbrowski (Trish Richotte), has to go some to outshine her. But she proved she had the voice and the talent to go the distance, and she brought down the house with show stoppers like, "It's Raining on Prom Night," sung in perfect split-screen harmony with Radio Singer Autumn Longo, and "Look at Me, I'm Sandra Dee." Too bad she had to take on such a tough veneer to make it through the razzing at Rydell

(Speaking of unfortunate breaks, stage tradition calls for wishing actors a broken leg on opening night, so not to jinx them, but Stewart outdid tradition on Friday when his grandmother fell and broke her arm at dinner. She insisted the rest of the family go to the theater while she recovered at Franklin Medical, because, "the show must go on!") But some actors make their own luck, and Stewart is one of them. There was no scene he could not steal if he put his mind to it, but he worked smoothly with his Greaser crew, and played effortlessly off all the females who threw themselves his way before the curtain fell.

acting was infectious, high-octane, black leather and pink-stockinged fun, and the crowd ate it up. Of course, the crowd was reliving their childhood, when the young actors and actresses on stage were not yet gleams in their parents' eyes, when names like Sandra Dee and Doris Day meant something, and songs like Teen Angel were still fresh on the charts.

subtext of the drama almost slipped right by. Like *Carousel* and *West Side Story*, *Grease* is a boy meets girl drama, with mayhem bubbling in the wings. Yet *Grease* is at once lighter in tone and more subversive than either of those musicals, a combination that brought its originators - Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey - worldwide acclaim.

Skating through the scenes at the Hamburger Palace was a young lady we hope to see more of in future productions, Valerie Shumilova: she nailed her bit part to a tee. Other outstanding supporting performances were turned in by the gloriously nerdy Jason Grimard as Eugene and Abbey Daniel-Green as the scheming Patti.



Pink Ladies Chelsea Isles, Nicole Siano and Lauren Tela

The action - and there is lots of it - takes place at Ryder High in Chicago in September, 1959, and the kids are into smokin' cigarettes, stuffing their bras with Kleenex, dressing in gang colors, stealing hubcaps and challenging their rivals with sticks and lead pipes. So in some sense, not that much has changed.

On Friday, the entire cast was marvelous, as individuals and as an ensemble. The main cliques were made up of the leather-clad Greasers and their female counterparts, the Pink Ladies. It's hard to single out any of these for particular praise, because they traveled the stage in packs, but Colin York as Sonny and Nicole Siano as Marty were early stand-

High and win the boy. But he was worth it. That Andy Stewart was born to play a part like Danny Zuko. He's got the charisma and stage presence of a young Marlon Brando, and girls you better hide your hearts cause he's gonna break 'em.


This was among the best high school productions we've seen in years. Thanks to all who worked behind the scenes to pull it off, to Golf Cart Services of Greenfield for 'Greased Lightning' and particularly to Urey for her inspired directing and choreography, and for having the gumption to bring this racy fare to Turners Falls.

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