

DEJA BREW PUB

Approved / Page 6



HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!

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

Year 3 No. 22

50¢

The Montague Reporter

REPORTER@MONTAGUEMA.NET

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MARCH 17, 2005

Selectboard Discussion of Cable Access RFP Marked by Charges of Bias

BY PHILIPPE DEGUISE
MONTAGUE - What began with a whimper set off quite a bang as the Cable Advisory Committee made its recommendations to the selectboard on Monday, March 14th. While those in attendance displayed restraint, the passion and feelings of mistrust around the issue of choosing the town's local cable access provider were once again laid bare by the end of the meeting.

The discussion began with clerk of the selectboard Patricia Pruitt reading into the record a letter from the Cable Advisory Committee (CAC), outlining the committee's recommendations after eight months of deliberation on the July, 2004 charge from the selectboard to develop criteria for choosing a local cable access provider. In a 4-1 vote, the committee urged

the selectboard to initiate a Request for Proposals (RFP) "to solicit proposals from potential providers to gain a contract to operate the local cable access station in Montague." (See sidebar, page 10.) The majority of the committee felt strongly "there have been few guidelines for choosing, evaluating, and/or overseeing providers in the past, and that an RFP is the ideal and fairest way to ensure that Montague truly finds the best possible provider." In conclusion, the CAC offered its help to the selectboard, but made it clear the final decision on designating a local provider rests in the board's hands.

Selectboard member Allen Ross was the first to speak. First, he said, the committee had been charged with developing a set of criteria to evaluate the current provider,

Greenfield Community Television (GCTV), not to develop a process aimed at replacing the provider. "I have questions about the fairness of the (RFP) document," he said, adding he felt it was "slanted towards a particular objective." Ross spoke as well of his concerns that the committee had not been representative of the community and that he had received feedback that the committee was biased. Ross referred to a member of the CAC who resigned early in the RFP deliberations, Sophia Libby of Millers Falls.

"I have a problem with you slamming their motivations," rejoined board member Pruitt, whose husband, Chris Sawyer-Laucanno serves on the CAC. "They are not responsible for who served on the committee

see CABLE pg. 10



Babies feet- Amanda Fleming

Hallmark Student Show to Benefit Tsunami Relief

BY DAVID DETMOLD
TURNERS FALLS - Change is a constant in nature, but when change comes suddenly, cataclysmically, as it did on the morning of December 26th, 2004, when a magnitude 9.0 earthquake struck off the coast of Sumatra and triggered a tsunami

that claimed more than 270,000 human lives, it can have effects a world away. The devastation set off shock waves of sympathy and an outpouring of support in every corner of the globe, even here in Turners Falls, where elementary school students have held coin

drives, rock bands have organized benefit concerts, and average citizens have sent their prayers and dollars to the stricken lands rimming the Indian Ocean to relieve the suffering of the survivors and help them to rebuild their lives. Now, play-

see TSUNAMI pg. 11

ERVING SELECTBOARD SEAT UP FOR GRABS

Town clerk Richard Newton informs us the time for turning in nomination papers for the Erving annual town election has passed with no candidates emerging to run for the three-year seat being vacated by Burt Dubay. \

If someone has interest in running for the open three-year term on the selectboard, they will need to get people to write in their name on the ballot. There is no minimum required number of votes needed to win a write-in campaign; a candidate simply must have one more vote than anyone else. Sometimes a write-in candidate will decide to run a "sticker campaign," which means they will print up stickers of the proper size for the ballot with their name on them and hand them out to people so they won't even have to write the candidate's name in on election day. However, it is not permissible to hand out stickers, or cam-

see ERVING pg 8

Food Drive in Memory of Richard Holbrook Jr.

BY KATHLEEN LITCHFIELD
NORTHFIELD - Remembering Richard L. Holbrook Jr. simply for his generosity does not do justice to the man affectionately remembered for his distinctive laugh and his broad smile.

"He was just a special person to a lot of people, especially to me," said Bill Barnes, owner of the Northfield Food Mart on Main Street, where Holbrook worked for almost 50 years.

In memory of Holbrook, who died tragically when hit by an automobile on March 31st of last year as he crossed Main Street in Northfield to attend an ecumenical peace service at St. Patrick's Church, his family and friends are collecting food donations for the Franklin Area Survival Center Food Pantry throughout the month of March. Holbrook's photograph can now be found on donation boxes located at the Northfield Food Mart, the



LITCHFIELD PHOTO

Friends and family of Richard "Dick" Holbrook Jr. stand in front of the food donation box at Northfield Food Mart. Left to right, they are: Bill Barnes, owner of Northfield Food Mart, Richard's wife Marian Holbrook, his daughter, Becky Frost, and Melissa Dufresne, friend and Food Mart employee.

Trinitarian Congregational Church, UCC in Northfield, the Notch Restaurant in Northfield, the French King Bowling Alley in Erving and

at Food City in Turners Falls. There couldn't be a more fitting

see HOLBROOK pg 9

PET OF THE WEEK

On Your Mark



Markie

Markie is a four-year-old male retired racing greyhound in need of a good home. Markie is settling in with us, and he is an outgoing, life-of-the-party type of guy. He loves to give you kisses - on the face if you let him! What a character; gregarious and friendly to everyone. He would prefer to be the only pet in your life, but medium or large dogs may be ok. He will be a good match for families with kids over six years of age. To learn more about adopting Markie, please contact the Dakin Animal Shelter in Leverett at 548-9898 or via email at info@dakinshelter.org.

Carnegie Library News

St. Patrick's Day Party

BY LINDA HICKMAN
TURNERS FALLS - Maeve Beck of Turners Falls, (pictured below, left) made a shamrock crown at the Preschool Story Hour St. Patrick's Day Party at the Carnegie Library on Wednesday, March 16th.

Children enjoyed green apples and honeydew melon, celery with cream cheese, shamrock cookies and green juice.

The story hour with Bev

meets every Wednesday morning at 10:15 a.m.

For more information, please call 863-3214.

Pictured below, right:

Yurka of Turners Falls and other children from the Kids Place After School Program celebrated St. Patrick's Day a day early at the Carnegie Library. They made shamrock wands and other crafts.



PHOTOS BY LINDA HICKMAN

FACES & PLACES



JULIA BOWDEN-SMITH PHOTO

Jordan, Ben, and Dominic

Senior Symposia Program to Host Michael True on Nonviolence

The Senior Symposia program at Greenfield Community College will host author and scholar Michael True on Tuesday, March 22nd, 2 - 4 p.m. for a symposium entitled "The American Tradition of Nonviolence, 17th Century to the Present." This symposium, in the form of a slide presentation with commentary, surveys movements for social change in the U.S., including abolitionists, feminists, workers, draft resisters, and Catholic work-

ers, from the early Quaker settlements to contemporary organizations such as School of Americas Watch and Voices in the Wilderness. Major figures include Thomas Paine, William Lloyd Garrison, Abigail Kelley Foster, Eugene Victor Debs, Dorothy Day, and Martin Luther King. Michael True is the author and editor of ten books, including *An Energy Field More Intense than War: the Nonviolent Tradition and American Literature* and *Daniel*

Berrigan: Poetry Drama Prose. His essays have been published widely, and he has taught at Assumption College, Columbia University, Duke, Nanjing University. He has also been a Fulbright lecturer in India, and has recently returned from Cambodia. This symposium will be held at GCC's Downtown Center, 270 Main Street, Greenfield.

To register, please call (413) 775-1681 and leave a message, or stop by the Office of Community Education, 270

Main Street, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Walk-in registration is available for this symposium. The cost is \$10 for current Senior Symposia members and \$15 for non-members. Becoming a member (\$25 annual fee) allows for member discounts on all symposia for two full semesters. To request a brochure for the Spring 2005 semester, please leave your mailing address by calling (413) 775-1681 and leaving a message.

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Subscription Rates:
 \$20 for 6 months

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES March 21st - March 25th

MONTAGUE Senior Center, 62 Fifth St., Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. Advanced registration at many of our activities is necessary. We need to know how many people will be joining so we can be prepared. A suggested donation of \$1 per exercise class is appreciated. Meal reservations need to be made a day in advance by 11 a.m. Messages can be left on the machine when the center is closed. Mealsite Manager is Chris Richer. The center offers a hot noon meal weekdays to any senior. Transportation to the center can be provided. Trip coordinator is Jean Chase. Make trip reservations by calling 772-6356. Payment and menu choice is due three weeks prior to trip. All Hawthorne trips leave from the parking lot on First Street across from the Police Station.

Monday, 21st
 9:45 a.m. Senior Aerobics

11 a.m. PACE Aerobics
 1 p.m. Crafts

Tuesday, 22nd
 9:30 a.m. Tai Chi
 1 p.m. Painting Class with Louise Minks. Registration \$10 for Gill and Montague residents. All others \$15.

Wednesday, 23rd
 9:30 a.m. Sugar and Cholesterol screening
 10:15 a.m. Aerobics
 10:30 a.m. Blood Pressure screening
 12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday, 24th
 1 p.m. Pitch

Friday, 25th
 9:45 a.m. Aerobics
 11 a.m. PACE Aerobics

PROTECT YOUR NEST EGG
 Gill - Montague Triad presents Chris Cloutier, "Protecting Your Nest Egg" on Thursday, March 31st at the Turners Falls High School cafeteria. Roast Pork Dinner, 5 p.m.: \$4 per person (includes \$1 50/50 raffle). Tickets are available at the Gill - Montague senior center, the Gill police department and the

Montague police department.

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

Monday, 21st
 9:30 a.m. Exercise
 9:45 a.m. Library
 12:30 p.m. Pitch

Tuesday, 22nd
 9 a.m. Aerobics
 12:30 p.m. Oil Painting

Wednesday, 23rd
 10 a.m. Line Dancing
 12:00 p.m. Bingo

Thursday, 24th
 9:00 a.m. Aerobics

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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New England Coalition to Question NRC at VY Assessment

On Thursday, March 17th, the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission will conduct its annual assessment meeting of Vermont Yankee at the Governor Hunt House just outside the main gate of the nuclear plant in Vernon. After presentations by both NRC staff and plant owner Entergy Nuclear, public comments will be taken.

Raymond Shadis, staff technical advisor to the New England Coalition (which has been opposing Entergy's plans to boost reactor power), will pose questions for the NRC regarding plant safety. In a March 14th letter to Clifford Anderson, Branch Chief of Region One of the US NRC, Shadis pointed to numerous long-standing problems at the 33-year old reactor, and demanded clear answers be pro-

vided at Thursday's meeting.

Problems cited by Shadis included:

a) cable separation issues (where faulty wiring routing can lead to electronic interference, false instrument readings, and even unintended and uncontrolled operation of reactor components);

b) failure of earlier identified problems to be addressed or followed up on by the NRC;

c) refusal by the NRC to regard as systematic and chronic the many problems Entergy has encountered with its emergency notification systems;

d) apparent failure of the NRC to regard as a chronic problem Entergy's continued failures to implement an effective "corrective actions program" to address safety and maintenance issues identified

by the NRC inspectors over the years;

e) apparent failure of the NRC to follow up on vulnerability of the Vermont Yankee reactor to wind-driven missiles;

f) apparent failure by the NRC to determine the cause of tripping and shut-off of recirculation pump motors inside the Vermont Yankee reactor during the transformer fire incident last spring.

Peter Alexander, NEC's executive director, said, "This meeting will give our staff and members of the public, who seem to have longer memories than the DC regulators, a chance to remind NRC of some long-standing and nagging problems at Vermont Yankee, as well as new ones, like the recent high radiation readings, that seem to crop up almost weekly."

Elks Get a Jump on the Leprechauns



Dennis and Orilla Brunelle and Kevin Hastings, were in attendance

TURNERS FALLS - The Montague Elks held a St. Patrick's Day dinner on Sunday, March 13th at the Elks Lodge, 1 Elks Avenue in Turners. A traditional corned beef meal was prepared by John Grace and his kitchen staff. Just under 100 people attended. DJ Slade played Irish music throughout the meal.

TRACKING PROGRAM

Saturday, April 3rd

Come see what others cannot!

Expert tracker Alan Emond will offer a beginning tracker program on Montague drainage land.

Come investigate a diverse habitat for tracks, scat, nest and dens, in a relaxed, often humorous manner.

There will be a wide variety of wildlife to study, and to encourage self-confidence and future independence, participants will be instructed on entering and exiting the woods safely. April 3rd, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Call (413)624-5115.

The Shea Theatre presents the 1st Annual Playwright's Festival of New Works

an evening of four one-acts from award winning local talent

Saturday, April 2nd 8 p.m.

Boston's Playwright's Platform:

~ THE BITTER END, by Richard Pacheco ~

~ BLOOM,

by Kelly DuMar ~

~ SUMMER'S GONE,

by Jerry Bisantz ~

and Western Massachusetts' own Jessamyn Smyth:

~ THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING WILD ~

Tickets are 8\$ general admission, 6\$ for seniors and students. For reservations, please call The Shea Theatre at (413) 863.2281. 71 Avenue A, Turner's Falls

The first meeting of the Friends of the Montague Reporter

will take place at The Brickhouse Community Center

Tuesday, March 22nd

at 7 p.m. in the accessible Hot Spot Teen Center room, first floor. Don't wait till then, call Phil at 367-9267 or David at 863-8666 and get involved.

An Invitation to Artisans


Submissions sought for Great Falls Art Fest on the grounds of the Discovery Center in Turners Falls from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Saturday, April 30th. Artist submission deadline is April 4th. Glass, fiber art, wood, ceramics, photography, sculpture and other media are all welcome. Contact the Brick House for an application at (413) 863-9576 or info@thebrickhouseinc.org.

SUGAR ON SNOW SUPPER

The Montague Congregational Church will hold their 64th Annual Sugar on Snow Supper on Saturday, April 2nd. There will be two sittings: 5 and 6 p.m. Menu is served family style and includes corned beef hash, Havard beets, baked beans, coleslaw, homemade bread and donuts, dill pickles. Ripley Farms will provide the sugar and snow. \$9.00 Adults \$4.00 children under 12. Reservations should be made by calling (413)-367-2736.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

The Friends of Gill will sponsor a pancake breakfast on Saturday, March 19th, in the Gill Congregational Church from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. The menu will also include this season's maple syrup, sausages, orange juice, and a beverage. All you can eat! Tickets: \$6.00 for adults, \$5.00 for seniors, and \$3.00 for children ten and under. The proceeds will be used to support community activities and projects



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24 3rd Street, Turners Falls, Mass. 01376

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"The Voice of the Villages"

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August, 2002

End the War

Two years ago, in defiance of world opinion and the protest of millions of American citizens, the Bush administration took this nation to war in Iraq. The pretext for this act of aggression was the unfounded claim that Saddam Hussein, the dictator of Iraq, had weapons of mass destruction in his possession and was preparing to use them against his neighbors, or to put them into the hands of terrorists to use against the United States or its regional allies. Based on cooked intelligence, these charges have since been thoroughly debunked. After long search by international agencies and the U.S. armed forces, no such weapons have been found.

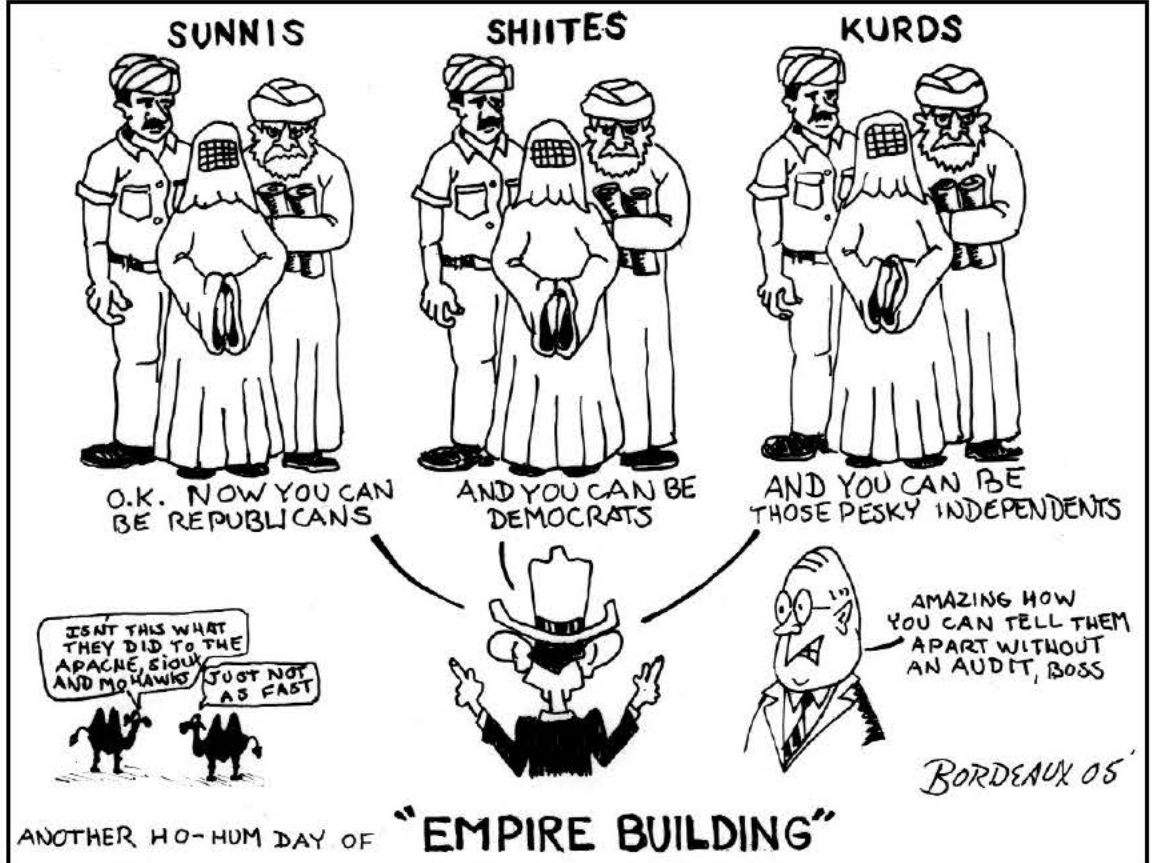
After the fact, the pretext for the U.S. invasion has shifted. We went to war, we now find, to bring democracy to a land suffering from decades of brutal repression under Saddam Hussein, the man we once supported as our proxy against fundamentalist Iran. Geopolitics change, but proven oil reserves remain the same. Until someone claims them and begins pumping them dry.

In the ten months since Central Franklin District Director of Veterans Services Leo Parent Jr., with the help of the Oak Ridge Detachment of the Marine Corps League, first put up the flag memorial on Avenue A - one American flag for each American killed in action in Iraq - the number of those somber red, white and blue markers has nearly doubled, from 784 to 1514. The number of American wounded has grown to 11,220, many of them horribly wounded but surviving due to great advances in immediate care in the field since Vietnam.

In addition to these costs in human lives, the United States has poured at least \$150 billion into the invasion of Iraq, and Congress will soon decide on the Bush administration's request for an additional \$82 billion to pay for the ongoing war. The lost potential and unmet human needs, domestically and globally, represented by these staggering sums, are incalculable.

The people of Iraq have suffered from decades of brutal oppression, compounded by a merciless decade-long international boycott of material goods following the first Gulf War. Their casualties in the current conflict are uncounted, and continue to mount.

Neither our own security, nor the security of the Iraqi people has been noticeably enhanced by our war of choice. Global peacekeeping efforts and cooperation have been set back. The war, started on false pretenses, carried on in despite of domestic and international opposition, drags on, bringing us all down the path to barbarism. Everyone who values the bond of humanity that unites every mother's child on this planet should call out now for an end to the invasion of Iraq, the return of the troops, and a new Spring of international cooperation in the pursuit of peace.



CARTOON DENIS BORDEAUX

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Cable Access Goals

As a member of the Montague Cable Advisory Committee, I strongly believe we need two things: to have an open and fair process by which to choose a local access (PEG) provider, and to have a diligent and ongoing effort to ensure that the chosen provider provides

our cable subscribers with the best value for their dollar. In recent years, in my opinion, Montague has had neither.

I hope that the debate over whether an RFP process is the best option for our town at this time does not cause any of us to lose our focus on achieving

those goals. I further hope that whatever decision our select-board makes moves us towards those ends.

Sincerely,

- Mike Naughton
Millers Falls

GUEST EDITORIAL

Stacking Wood a Source of Seasonal Pleasure

BY LESLIE BROWN
MONTAGUE CITY - Maybe it's because I'm only a New Englander by adoption, an outlander from Vermont by way of Chicago, a wannabe. Whatever the reason, I love working with wood. I love stacking the piles of delivered cordwood, watching the multi-cord heap become ordered. Each season when my year's allotment tumbles from the dump truck into a rumbling, higgledy-piggledy heap at the edge of the road, I'm in awe and dismay about the work ahead. Slowly but steadily I haul cartloads uphill to build stacks which shelter against the walls of the house, selecting flat end pieces to pinion the pile, two on two cross-wise to support the center row from end to end.

Early on when we first lived in this house, the railroad line

that ran along the east side of the property still carried trains on the spur to the paper mill, running twice a day. Once, that first winter, my longest woodpile, after enduring for months, swayback like an old horse, collapsed altogether, falling to the train's echoing rumble. In those days the dishes in the house rattled too and the glasses in the cupboard sang. Now my piles stand more reliably, if less poetically.

Once the piles are stacked against the house, they are hauled again, thrown down the bulkhead and stacked once more in the cellar on the sturdy, wheeled carts my husband brought home after the sale of

the sawmill. He laughs at this pick up and move and drop and re-stack business of mine. For him this process resembles the insanity of my process with

see **WOOD** pg 5



American Dead in Iraq as of 3/16/05



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March by *Susie Maddern*

First a howling blizzard woke us
Then the rain came down to soak us
And before the eye can focus
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GUEST EDITORIAL

Bias in Public Access Debate

BY SAM GILFORD

MONTAGUE - I do not speak for GCTV or its board, staff, or management. Nor do I speak for the cable advisory committee. This is strictly my own opinion. I voice these feelings as a concerned Montague resident since 1974.

I am writing an answer to the editorial that appeared in a previous issue of this newspaper on the subject of the "new" process and possible request for proposals (RFP) for a public access provider for our town.

I believe an RFP in this situation is not the solution. One side on this issue will never really be satisfied until they get what they want. It is also not really appropriate in this case due to the nonprofit status of the organizations interested in the assignment. Nobody whatsoever is stopping MCCI from pursuing grants. Furthermore, running "such a successful business as" the *Montague Reporter* newspaper still does not qualify this group to be assigned the public access providership. I remember a couple years ago this very paper was turning a whopping four dollars a month profit. Have they paid back their 2500 dollar debt loaned to them by MCCI yet? "Community pride can't be denied," but nobody is stopping this entire town from contributing productions, videos, and volunteerism, making use of the facilities of Crocker Studios, and taking advantage of the ability to be appointed to the GCTV board or

becoming members of GCTV. A few people have chosen to boycott the facilities over in Greenfield and here in Turners. That is entirely their choice. If there is a lack of community volunteers or folks making videos that is a different situation.

I for one do not oppose a process that is fair in choosing a future access provider. The question is does our town really need to? I am not alone in the feeling that there was quite a bit of vagueness as to what exactly the selectboard wanted or where they were going to go back in July when this "flared up" again. I do hope that Pat Allen is going to be fair in how she chairs any future forums on this issue. I find a clear bias on this board whenever the meeting gets "packed" with "MCCI people" and their board members. They have a tendency to dominate the discussion, since there are so many of them. I really wish all those interested people out there had an equal opportunity to hear more from the other side. The public presentations have been very unbalanced, in my experience. Just because the same ten people show up, then the meetings are televised, it appears they are in the majority. I don't think this is a balanced exercise of our democratic process.



The selectboard has always had the right to change the designated assignee of public access providership at any time they so choose. I ask you again, if this group MCCI was so deserving and qualified as they keep claiming, then why hasn't our selectboard given it back to them? It's obvious there is now a two to one slant towards MCCI on the board, just as everyone said there was towards GCTV in the last board of Sam Lovejoy and Ed Voudren.

My opinion has always been that the inception and creation of this very newspaper three or four years ago was as a mouthpiece for the much downtrodden MCCI group that was terribly robbed of a fair chance to continue to be our provider on Channel 15. As far as other issues and community events, stories and interests, this paper is a great gift. But I am very sorry to say it is very clear to me

that on the issues surrounding this public access debate over the years it still is entirely slanted, very biased to the point of being a propaganda machine on behalf of its original backer, MCCI. This is something to think about when reading all the articles and the recent editorial on public access.

A little history here. I consider myself the one who initially started this debate. I wrote to the selectboard in 2000, and made them aware of what I said was going on at MCTV, and forwarded pages of legitimate complaints to them. I then collected 100 signatures of Montague citizens in order to ask the board to consider an RFP. They did not choose to go about it in that way. Sam Lovejoy was assigned by the other members of the board to be a liaison in this situation. He began by asking for various documents from MCCI, and outlining changes he wished to see that board make. Lovejoy asked the station's new administration for several months for these plans and papers. I remember MCCI came to a meeting to present their budget proposals with the words "\$39,000-ish" on one line item.

I had no choice but to go over to GCTV, as many of the approximately 50-plus other producers from Montague did as well. I am happy to report several successful productions

and regular airings. I have continued to work and grow at GCTV ever since, without any of the problems MCCI continually say I have caused. There is something to say about a TV station that runs itself professionally with set rules and policies, not by a whim of personal prejudice and ego, as well as petty politics. GCTV provides a station and board that is and remains open to all!

MCCI provided a loan of \$2,000 toward startup costs of the Montague Reporter in the fall of 2002. The board considered the creation of a town newspaper that also served the needs of surrounding communities historically part of MCTV's service area a project in keeping with their original charter, which provides for activities of a cultural and educational nature in addition to cable television programming. MCCI has continued to produce videos, which are regularly aired on Channel 15. The Montague Reporter has steadily contributed to MCCI's overhead and expenses since its inception, and, in the absence of other revenues, is now providing the large majority of MCCI's operating costs. Bookkeeping, financial information, and year-end reports for MCCI and the Montague Reporter are available for public inspection. -ed.

WOOD

continued from pg 4

laundry: the dirty clothes amassed upstairs are carried down two flights to the washing machine in the cellar. Depending on the season, the clean clothes are hung on racks near the wood stove to dry or carried up a flight to dry outside on the clothesline. Either way, once dry, everything is folded and carried once again to the second floor to be hung in the closet or folded in a drawer. My husband thinks this is the height of make-work, but the stove wood process is the same. That's why New Englanders say that cordwood warms you twice. Once when you cut or stack it and again when you burn it. Come fall and winter, although I have a membership that allows me to workout indoors, my favorite workout is outside, moving wood. I like exercise that is productive. You can see the pile diminish and the stack grow; that works out the day's aggravations and gratifies as well.

I have a love - hate relationship with our stove. We have a small, handsomely decorated Vermont Castings. In our effort to choose the most economical model, however, we did not pay sufficient attention to design and function. Instead, we allowed ourselves to be swayed by size and cost. This benign looking critter turned out to have no front draft, except through the floor of the stove. Further, it does not draw properly unless we prop the rear draft open to the maximum at all times. No overnigher, this. It requires attention, like a pet, every two to three hours. It demands a fire that is started delicately with small bits of kindling and small starter pieces with plenty of breathing room until it gets going. Once established, it runs steadily with an agreeable warmth that tempers the floors and effuses an even heat over the entire house, with a steady cheer. Unlike the oil burner, which blasts great waves of heat enthusiastically and then drops to the chill factor until the thermostat kicks in again.

The scent of a wood fire on a cool, chilly or downright cold night is one of my greatest pleasures. I love walking or sitting in the dusky twilight, catching the first star and breathing the sweetness of burning maple. Burning wood warms not only my body; it warms my soul.



Historic Deerfield Winter Lectures

Mother of Gardens:
The Journey of Chinese Plants to Western Gardens

Sunday, March 20th
featuring Maida Goodwin of Smith College. White Church Community Center, Old Deerfield. 2:00 p.m. (413) 774-5581.

THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE INVASION OF IRAQ

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Vigils are being held in communities around the country to say NO to war and YES to human needs.

1st Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 26 - 10:00am
Peskeomskut Park, Avenue A, Turners Falls

Children ages 4 to 12 are invited to take part in what will be a great community tradition for years to come. Kids will have the challenge of finding well over 2,000 candy and toy-filled eggs that will be placed throughout the park.

Event Co-Sponsors
The Montague Elks & Greenfield Savings Bank

NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Deja Brew Approved All Over Again

BY JOSH HEINEMANN - At the Wendell selectboard meeting on Wednesday, March 9th, selectboard member Christine Heard made a motion to approve a special permit for the proposed Deja Brew pub. That motion passed unanimously. Wendell Country Store owners Vic and Pat Scutari were there to accept the special permit; citizens now have 20 days in which to appeal the selectboard's decision. Pat Scutari asked to whom someone could appeal, if they chose to do so. Selectboard chair Ted Lewis doubted appeals would go to the board; member Dan Keller suggested, "probably the courts."

Pat Scutari said they had not met with the highway commission as planned on Tuesday March 8th, because of the snowstorm, but said they had agreed to work together. Highway commissioner Harry Williston walked into the meeting and confirmed that; he arranged another meeting with the Scutaris for Tuesday, March 22nd.

The board had previously conditionally approved the Scutaris application for a special permit for the pub on October 6th, until a local resident questioned whether the town had properly applied its bylaws in doing so

Plain Road Sand Pit
Mark Stuart has a sand and gravel operation on Plain Road, with board permission given on the condition he apply for a business license by December 31st, 2004. Also the planning board wants a site plan and an estimate of the final shape the sand mine will take. So far, Stuart has met neither condition. Heard brought up the number of cars on Stuart's property. Questioned about how long Stuart had been excavating sand, Lewis responded, "until he was shut down by snow." After some discussion the selectboard came to a decision to have the town coordinator draft a letter to Stuart, inviting him to the next board meeting to address these issues.

Jenn Richards, a representative from the Mahar High School Student Council, requested donations to the after prom all night alcohol free party, which will be held at the Athol YMCA. Without a town meeting vote, the selectboard cannot give money, but donations in kind are possible.

A prior town meeting vote had authorized moving the veterans memorial from in front of the library to the north common, by the gazebo. This change to the memorial location was not accomplished in 2004, because the summer was so wet the heavy machin-

ery would have left a mess. Two more stones are at the Athol Granite works ready for plaques. A suggestion was made to put all three at the new library site, or at the new town office site, but the board decided not to try to change the town meeting decision. They hope to get the memorials moved this summer. The memorials in front of the library are being damaged by road salt and grit, and would be better off further back from the road, by the gazebo. Also, the flagpole will be moved because the flag is too close to a tree, and in the wind both the flag and the tree get damaged.

The conservation commission had consulted town counsel about a request by a landowner for frequent, unscheduled low impact access over town land to a back lot between Montague Road and West Street. The eight-page written response cost \$879.50. Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich asked if the selectboard automatically pays the bill when a town board consults counsel without prior selectboard approval. The town counsel account is empty.

RFQ for Town Offices

Aldrich told the board that consultant John Ryan had added a town seal and a scoring system to the Request for

Qualification (RFQ) for architects for the proposed new town office building. Ryan raised two points for the board, or the building committee to consider: the committee made no mention of a vault for town records, and if the town gets grant money for a senior center as part of the office building then those facilities can be used for nothing but a senior center for seven years. The current senior center is 15 years old, and other uses have gradually been incorporated into that space. One library plan has put the senior center into the proposed new library, but the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) will not pay for that as part of any grant they may give to the town. Aldrich suggested the possibility that the addition of town money would allow other town uses of the senior center.

Twelve firms have already shown interest in the RFQ and there is an architects' briefing at 10:00 a.m. on March 17th.

The only proposed town building that requires a legal public water supply (determined by the number of people using the building per day over the course of a year) will be the new library. Aldrich said the cost of that would be \$30,000 to \$50,000. Lewis asked if the town could use the well now on the common

including a filtration system, but Keller said, "No, a public water supply must be 150 feet from anything."

Given that requirement, the task of siting the town office building, the town well, and the center septic system all on the Meltzer property becomes more difficult.

Greener Watts

Peggy McCloud of the Center for Environmental Technology (CET) has told Aldrich that over 30 Wendell households have signed up for the Greener Watts program, well over the 3% required for the town to get the \$50 per participant bonus. Wendell and Shutesbury are first and second among towns eligible for a \$5,000 CET grant. Residents have until March 31st to apply for Greener Watts, and help the town towards that grant.

Town accountant Nancy Riebschlaeger met the selectboard to continue trying to clarify the proper procedure for paying town bills. She has been late with some accounts, but says she will be able to catch up now that she is putting no more than 40 hours a week into her work in Orange, and some personal difficulties have been resolved.

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Again the Hawk

BY BEV BLANCHETTE
GREENFIELD - One day last week my husband, looking out the back door, thinking of the long winter, suddenly called to me, "Bev, bring the camera, quick!" There on the railing of my deck was a broad-winged hawk, pulling out the feathers of a song sparrow he had

snatched from our feeder. The wind blew his plumage, and his head darted about looking for predators; all the while he kept pulling out those feathers. How very cold out there.

Every year I'm lucky enough to see hawks up close. I always thought about the long winter that



To view a moving image of the hawk eating the sparrow, visit:
www.MontagueMA.net/page.cfm?p=1&c=15

keeps on going and how the magic of the hawk always comes to me with a promise of spring. Maybe it's because I'm Abnaki, but I see it as

a sign. Everything is unfolding as it should, and soon warmer breezes will carry me into another season.

For me, this special creature is my brother. To be around nature so pure and so alive tells me to be content, inside with my

warm fire. Soon, spring is here; it is finally here. We made it again through another long winter.

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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Town Meeting Approves Entire Warrant

BY IVAN USSACH

ERVING - The selectboard convened a special town meeting on Monday, March 14th at 7:30 p.m. to address 11 warrants, totaling about \$445,000 in expenditures from the town's free cash account. Rich Peabody served as moderator. The nearly two dozen town residents present voted to approve all the

requests unanimously, most requiring little or no discussion. The free cash account was left with about \$275,000 remaining.

The largest warrant item was the last, which transferred \$200,000 from free cash to the town's stabilization fund, bringing it to \$2.4 million. Before the vote Bill Bembury asked the board why the transfer was

being recommended now, rather than waiting till the regular town meeting. Board chair Andy Tessier replied that such transfers are done several times a year, and there was "no reason we could see to wait; there's nothing coming up soon that the town can't handle."

Tessier had described the stabilization fund as the "rainy day account," saving money for the town's future use, such as expensive building repairs, vehicle purchases, and so forth. "Town expenses are going up," he said, "and revenues are always a little lower." Tessier also reminded the audience that the currently available free cash "is a one-time revenue; it won't exist next year." The decision to transfer funds represents the first deposit into the stabilization Fund in FY '05.

Other large warrant items included putting \$100,000 into the account "for the continuing closure costs of the Maple Avenue landfill" in the village of Farley. The small landfill was sealed long ago, but Tessier explained that "some material is exposed." The state will determine whether the landfill must be completely sealed according to 1980 or 2005 standards. In September, 2003 the town had approved \$20,000 to complete the first part of the evaluation process. Tessier told the audi-

ence the funds will pay for about \$40,000 worth of new testing required by the state, and \$60,000 towards the actual closing and related engineering costs at the landfill.

Voters also approved adding \$55,500 to the Fire Station #2 roof design and construction account, "established to replace the leaky roof;" and allocated \$55,256 for the highway department "to purchase a Ford F-550 truck." Highway department supervisor Paul Prest explained the existing truck "is 12-years old, has had a good life, and is just about worn out. I brought the truck with me," Prest said, getting a few chuckles, "for anyone who wants to check it out. I thought I might need help getting it up the hill."

As co-chair of the Memorial Day Planning Committee, Bembury made a presentation on the Civil War monument and parade extravaganza to be held the weekend before Memorial Day, for which the town voted to appropriate \$5,000 to add to \$15,000 appropriated at an earlier town meeting. Bembury handed out a project budget, and noted several donations by local groups and businesses to help cover parade costs. "It's gonna be huge!" he said, with "over five hundred people" marching. Committed marching groups include the Quaboag

Highlanders, Sudbury Ancient Fyfe & Drum, Pittsfield Highlanders, Worcester Fire Honor Guard & Drum, and many others. Plans include bussing people in from throughout the region, at a cost of up to \$2,000.

The special town meeting concluded at 8:15 p.m.

In other business, the selectboard voted to raise the dental and life insurance co-pay for retired town employees to 21 percent, a one percent raise for both.

MONTAGUE PARKS & RECREATION SPRING PROGRAMS

Youth Baseball

Tee-Ball - Ages 4 - 6

Rookie League - Grades 1 & 2 (1st graders must have played at least one season of t-ball to be eligible.)

Farm Travel Team - Grades 2 - 4 (Players in 2nd grade must be 8 years old as of Sept. 1 of 2004)

Youth Travel Team - Grades 5 - 7 (Players in 7th grade must be 13 years old after Sept. 1st of 2004)

Girls Softball - Girls in grades 3 - 6. Registration has started, become part of Montague's proud softball tradition!

Announcing a New Program ...

Girls Rookie Softball for girls K - 2. Saturdays, April 30 - June 11. Montague Residents = \$20, Non-residents = \$25 (Fees include hat and t-shirt). Contact MPRD for more details

Pepsi Pitch, Hit & Run - Youths ages 7 - 14. To be held Saturday, April 16

Tae Kwon Do for Youth -

Ages 7 & Up. Saturday mornings April and May.

Swimming Lessons -

Session III. Ages 5 & Up

Low-Impact Step Aerobics for Adults - classes held in April & May.

1st Annual Easter Egg Hunt -

(Children ages 4 - 12) Saturday, March 26 @ 10:00am, Peskeomskut Park. Co-sponsors: Montague Elks and Greenfield Saving Bank.

Open Swim has returned!

Contact MPRD for a schedule now! Summer Playground Program

Registration begins Monday, April 4 for Montague Residents only. Non-residents may register starting Monday, May 2.

Spring is on its way - register for some of these great programs now!

For more information, or to receive a Spring Programs Brochure contact:

Montague Parks & Recreation @ 863-3216.

MPRD - 56 First Street - Unity Park Fieldhouse - Turners Falls, MA 01376

MARCH FULL MOON

The first full moon after the Spring Equinox will be a celebration of renewal, rebirth, and

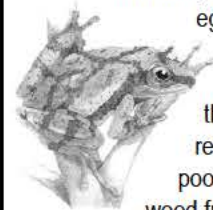
eggs. A search for the quacking in the woods will reveal vernal pools and their wood frog denizens.

Poetry, snacks and a little candlelight will round out the evening woods ramble.

FRIDAY, MARCH 25TH

Northfield Mountain Recreation Area, Route 63, Northfield. 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. For ages 10 and older.

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ERVING

continued from pg 1

paign in any fashion, within 150 feet of the entrance to the polling place on election day, according to Massachusetts law.

The annual elections for the town of Erving will be held on May 2nd. The polls will be open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Polls are located at the Erving town hall, 12 East Main Street. The annual town meeting will be held on May 4th, time to be determined.

The following offices will be on the ballot:

Selectman:

Assessor: Beth Palmquist, incumbent

Treasurer: Margaret Sullivan, incumbent

Library Trustee: Marcia Bernard, incumbent

Moderator: Richard Peabody

School Committee: Lauren Bertrand, incumbent

School Committee: Julie Wonkka, incumbent

Tree Warden: William Lemieux, incumbent

Constable: Arthur Kaczanski, incumbent

Constable: Richard Newton, incumbent

Planning Board: Joann Taylor, incumbent

Planning Board: Jacquelyn Boyden, incumbent

Recreation Commission: Jacquelyn Boyden, incumbent

Recreation Commission: William Bembury

Board of Health: Debra Mathey, incumbent and Gail Dubreuil (our only race)

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JOE GRAVELINE

HOLBROOK
continued from pg 1

tribute to a man who for years took advantage of sales at the Northfield Food Mart to purchase cases of non-perishable food items and deliver them - always anonymously - to the Trinitarian Congregational Church, UCC, in Northfield, where he was a parishioner.

"He would take it as his personal mission to find good deals on cereals, soup, tuna and peanut butter - the four staple

"I've been part of his family, well forever. I love that picture," he said referring to a photo from the wedding. "I was dressed to the nines," Barnes said.

"You had your little towhead, and red hair," smiled Marian Holbrook. A recent morning found the two longtime friends reminiscing in the sunny front window of the store, where a large cardboard box adorned with Dick's photograph stands waiting donations of non-perishable food in his memory.

any more pay. And he still came in. He just loved to be here and be around the people that worked here."

Melissa "Missy" Dufresne is one of those people. Almost every day, she enjoyed lunch with Holbrook, sitting in the back of the store. He liked baked ham sandwiches, she said.

"One slice of ham, one slice of tomato, not too thick," she smiled. "We have a lot of stories."

Lloyd Parrill, minister of the Trinitarian Congregational Church, UCC, in Northfield, shared his memories of Holbrook.

"Dick was a quiet, humble, self-effacing giant of a man in terms of his generosity. He was always very generous, but nobody knew about it. He did it all anonymously," recalled Parrill, who remembered when he first discovered the cases of food stacked neatly next to the grocery carriage he had placed out as a church mission.

"I asked parishioners to donate a can of food, and pretty soon we started seeing five or six cases of food by that grocery cart," he said. "He was very generous in many ways, in giving to the church, to educational institutions and to people that he cared for."

Erik Semb, manager of the French King Bowling Alley, remembered Holbrook simply as "Mr. Wonderful."

"That's what we called him in here," said Semb, who would see Holbrook every Tuesday night for the mixed bowling league he was a longtime member of.

"You couldn't ask for a better guy. He would come in here, always pleasant, always lending a helping hand. He loved being with people," said Semb. "I always called him the millionaire of Northfield. He played the lottery and it seemed he'd always win five dollars or ten dollars. I used to call him the richest man in Northfield. He just gave so much. He was the richest guy, in his heart."

Holbrook's friends and family members hope that community residents will help pay tribute to the man they recall with so much love by following his lead in helping those in need.

"He sought to help his community and fellow man in very tangible ways. Having worked throughout his life to overcome physical, social and financial

obstacles, Dick chose to use his difficulties and life experience as a motivation to help those less fortunate than himself," wrote Frost on the text accompanying her father's photograph on the cardboard food donation boxes. "Knowing that the Survival Center helps those in need in Franklin County was especially pleasing to him."

Items most helpful to the Franklin Area Survival Center Food Pantry include boxed

cereal, canned fruits, tuna, peanut butter, jams and jellies and canned soups.

"This is the best way to remember him," said Parrill. "He wasn't flashy by any means. He just had a heart of gold and a wonderful smile."

"We're hoping that we can really help the pantry, this month especially, and carry on something that was very near and dear to his heart," said Frost.

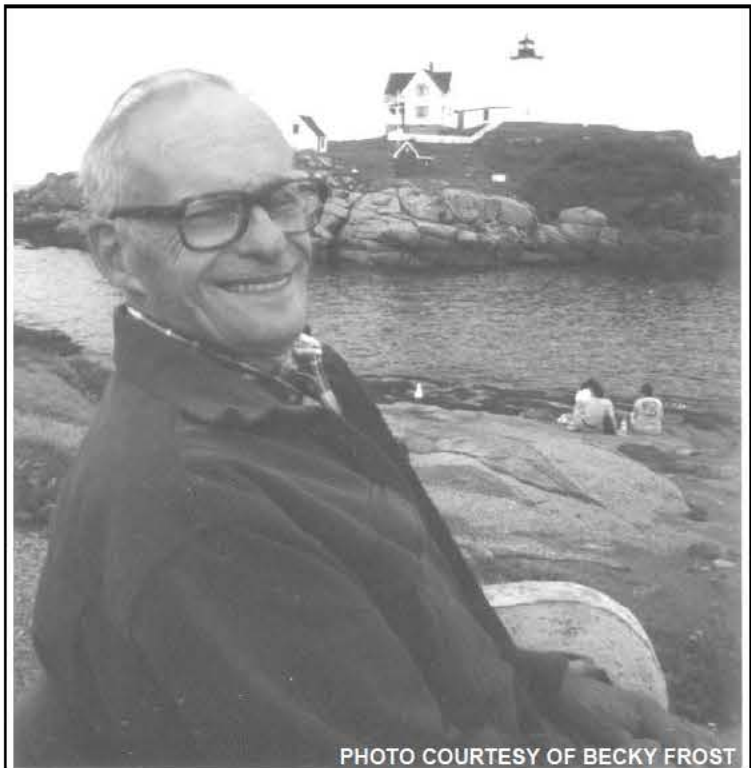


PHOTO COURTESY OF BECKY FROST

This photograph of Richard L. Holbrook Jr., known as "Dick" to his many friends, is displayed on the food donation boxes that will benefit the Franklin Area Survival Center Food Pantry. The photo was taken at Nubble Light in Cape Neddick, Maine, where Holbrook and his wife Marian would vacation in the summer.

items," recalled Holbrook's daughter, Becky Frost of Northfield. "When I'd be grocery shopping with him, he'd be buying those up and asking me to take them to the church or directly to the Survival Center."

Holbrook, who grew up in Keene, N.H., had the grocery business "in his blood," said Frost. As a teenager, he worked in his father's wholesale grocery warehouse in Keene before moving to Massachusetts and working at IGA stores in Barre, Greenfield and then Northfield.

In fact, Holbrook met his wife Marian one day while stocking shelves at the Northfield Food Mart, in 1956. The couple was married a year later and settled in Northfield.

Barnes, whose father and uncle founded the IGA grocery store on Northfield's Main Street in August of 1949, was seven years old at Holbrook's wedding.

"I guess he felt he was able to do it and he wanted to help people who couldn't at the time," said Marian of her husband's community-mindedness.

After leaving Barnes' formal employ to take a job on the night shift at the Erving Paper Mill, Holbrook would return to the Northfield Food Mart by day to volunteer, and help out around the store however he could. "You'd catch him with a feather brush, making sure everything was clean and neat, or see him stocking shelves," said Frost, "kibitzing and checking out the deals."

Holbrook retired from the mill in 1987, and volunteered at the grocery store just about every day until his death.

"I don't remember a time when he didn't work here," said Barnes. "I remember when he retired he told me what to pay him and he came up a few years later and said that he didn't want

Always a Need at the Franklin Area Survival Center

TURNERS FALLS - Last year, the Franklin Area Survival Center served 3,700 households, 9,422 individuals and additional "walk-ins" with food, bakery and dairy items.

A total of 54,700 pounds of that food was donated by individuals, churches, scouts and other organizations, often through community food drives, anonymous gifts and memorials to departed loved ones, such as the one organized by the family and friends of Richard L. Holbrook Jr., according to Paul Richards, service coordinator of the 4th Street center.

"We are always grateful for all donations and we send letters of thanks to people who do donate," said Richards.

"We need several thousands of pounds of food monthly and we may even be talking, probably 1,000 pounds a day that might go out. It's amazing what we go through. We get more than 2,000 pounds of food a week from the Food Bank of Western Mass. And that's the USDA plus anything salvaged that we get from them as well as other free items that they might have available. Just yesterday I brought back over 2,100 pounds from the Food Bank and the van was really creaking," he said.

The Franklin Area Survival Center Food Pantry, staffed by an average of 35 volunteers each month (who logged 9,500 hours of service in 2004), will accept food donations any day of the week between 10 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., said Richards. Household items as well as food and clothing are available at the 4th Street site.

People in need can receive a three-day supply of donated food from the center five times a year. If they are eligible, they can also receive USDA donations (canned goods, frozen meats, anything surplus coming from the Food Bank) every 30 days, a ration usually consisting of four items plus one can per person, said Richards.

"The government looks at it by annual gross income of \$17,224 per person. For each additional individual in a family for instance, you add \$5,883. The average - anyone who makes less than \$1,435 a month per person - is eligible for donated food," he explained.

The store at the Survival Center, which houses household goods, children's toys, some furniture, clothing and shoes, is open for anyone who wishes to purchase these items. People in need can also visit a social service agency such as ServiceNet or the Salvation Army to obtain vouchers for free garments, Richards said.

"The need is tremendous. We have lean times when we're just wondering where the next load is coming from, and God seems to provide for us. In some ways, somebody feels the need to do something and next thing we know, we've got a truckload of food coming down, just spontaneously," said Richards.

For more information, call the Franklin Area Survival Center at 863-9549.

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CABLE

continued from pg 1

not responsible for who served on the committee or who left." Pruitt made it clear she believes the RFP process is appropriate and fair.

"Has our legal counsel looked at the RFP?" asked board chair Pat Allen "It would have been better to have had the document years ago," she added. Allen is the only member of the board to have served at the time the decision was made to assign GCTV the right to serve as Montague's local cable access provider in 2001. Allen said she felt the last three or four years had resulted in a lot of wasted time spent addressing the past of the cable issue.

"It was not a waste of time if the development of a process was the outcome," replied Pruitt. It was generally agreed that it would be a good idea to work on the set of criteria and the RFP submitted by the CAC and to seek agreement on the document's wording. "Then we can decide what to do," said Allen. "If the wording is not what the board wants, work on it," put in CAC chair John Reynolds.

While he agreed that the criteria developed by the committee were fair, Sam Gilford, a member of the CAC, opposed the development of the RFP. "That was never our job to do that. I don't think it's the way to go," he said. "I'd like to see proof of other towns using the RFP process," he added. Gilford has stated his concern that no entity will accept the responsibility of serving as Montague's local cable access provider and invest in the community if it feels the selectboard can withdraw the agreement at any time. While he acknowledged everyone on the committee brought bias to the table, Guilford said he felt "tremendous bias on the board."

Mike Naughton, member of the CAC, agreed that the selectboard's charge to the CAC in July of 2004 had not been entirely clear, but said the committee had done the best they could to follow it. "The best course was to use

our own best judgment," he said. "I am concerned by the charge that our committee was biased," he added. "We all brought our biases to the table, but our committee tried not to be biased," he said. "We are offering ourselves as a way to do things right which the selectboard hasn't had time to do up to now," he said.

Roy Rosenblatt, CAC member, reminded the selectboard of what is at stake. He urged that whoever provides local cable access for the town be evaluated as a business. "The town is essentially purchasing services for seventy to eighty thousand dollars a year, and the town has the responsibility to the townspeople who pay (for these services) to engage in a fair process. To bypass the process for a town this size is not appropriate," he said.

Before Allen moved to the next agenda items, she asked Ross if he was opposed to an RFP. Ross replied he was not opposed to it, but that he was concerned about potential legal issues. "I'm sorry I cast doubts, but there are things about this document that aren't right," he said. For his part, Gilford asked to see what evidence there was that GCTV had in any way violated its agreement with the town. This has also been an issue for Ross, who has stated he has not seen any evidence of poor performance on GCTV's part.

But Allen returned to the question of process. "Some of us didn't think it was a real contract back at the time," she said.

Rosenblatt invited Ross to a meeting of the CAC to address his concerns.

The selectboard is seeking legal counsel on the proposed RFP, and will return to the topic "in the next week or two," Allen said.

In other business, Robin Sherman, town planner, came before the board and announced that the Strathmore advisory committee had picked Feingold, Alexander & Associates from among five firms bidding on an RFP to act as the town's consultant on the Strathmore Mill project. They will now work with the town, under

contract for \$40,000, to develop a feasibility study of the site. Sherman asked the board to vote to authorize her to look into possible funding for a feasibility study of the Indeck cogeneration plant, to determine the possibility of utilizing renewable energy in connection with the potential redevelopment of the adjoining Strathmore mill complex.

"This would provide information to potential developers, and assist the town in attracting developers." Sherman underscored the fact that the town would not pay for any of this work.

Sherman also spoke to the board about the possibility of having a day to recognize civic participation in Montague by having an annual award. The selectboard felt this was an overdue idea and approved it unanimously.

Building inspector David Jensen reported on an audit of his department. Issues were identified in regard to the method of tracking receipts. Jensen spoke of a \$10,000 discrepancy in the books, but explained that the bulk of it had quickly been cleared up, resulting from a check being processed in between fiscal years. However, there remains a \$979 sum, according to Jensen a surplus whose source or sources has not been identified. He complained that the software program his office uses is not efficient and requires too much data entry for the 750 permits issued in town each year.

Before going into executive session, the selectboard approved the expenditure of \$120 to Mike Langknecht of Hot Sap Woodworking for a frame to house documents from the Reconciliation Day event with the Narragansett tribe last year. The selectboard recognized Langknecht was only charging for materials, and appreciated his thoughtfulness. When volunteer appreciation day comes, he deserves a nomination.

Water pollution control facility superintendent Robert Trombley asked the board to delay the date for the CSO abatement public hearing originally scheduled for March 21st until, tentatively, April 18th.



Regarding an RFP for Local Cable Access

Dear Members of the Selectboard:

This letter is to inform you of the recent activities of the Cable Advisory Committee regarding the charge to the Committee from the Selectboard of July 6th, 2004. Specifically, the Committee was asked to investigate mechanisms for evaluation of local access cable. Over the past eight months the Committee has met on eleven occasions to discuss this matter.

We first began by doing extensive research on how other towns manage, evaluate and oversee their local providers. We evaluated Mission Statements of over a dozen local cable providers; examined contracts between towns and providers; and researched services offered by providers in towns of comparable size to Montague. We also investigated how other towns have assigned local access.

Our investigations revealed a number of interesting facts. Most notably we discovered that in many of the towns we examined the overseeing entity has stressed the importance of involving local citizens in producing programming. Indeed, many of the contracts between towns and their providers stipulate that community and school outreach is an essential role of the provider. The provider's accountability for programming, equipment purchases, personnel costs and studio operation is also precisely stipulated and monitored in the contracts between the towns and their providers. Finally, and quite importantly, we discovered that in a number of towns the local access assignment has been made through a competitive bidding process following the issuance of a Request for Proposals (RFP). We also learned that a sound RFP, along with an accompanying comprehensive contract, ensures that the Selectboard has an excellent mechanism for evaluating on an ongoing basis the services of the designated provider.

As a result of our research into local access in other towns, and with the knowledge that a common practice for awarding an assignment is through com-

petitive bidding, the Committee unanimously agreed to produce a set of criteria for evaluating public access issues. After numerous drafts, these criteria were presented at a lively public hearing.

Following this hearing, a majority of the Committee (4 to 1 vote) agreed that given the ambiguous history of the present local access assignment to GCTV, the best action for Montague was that the Selectboard issue an RFP. The purpose of this RFP would be to solicit proposals from potential providers to gain a contract to operate the local access cable station in Montague. We strongly feel that there have been few guidelines for choosing, evaluating and/or overseeing providers in the past, and that an RFP is the ideal and fairest way to ensure that Montague truly find the best possible provider to serve our community. While we are aware that the law is vague on whether an RFP, in accordance with MGL Chapter 30B, is required, a majority (4 to 1) felt that this was the best approach for the Selectboard to take.

With this in mind, we have developed an RFP that we ask the Selectboard to issue in a timely fashion. The attached RFP document, we feel, thoroughly designates both what is required in terms of qualifications from potential providers, as well as what we feel should be precise operating standards on the part of the designated provider. We have also included in this RFP objective evaluative mechanisms for "scoring" each potential provider.

As a Committee, we are willing to facilitate the public presentations by potential providers. We could, if the Selectboard, so asks, also make a recommendation, in accordance with the objective evaluation guidelines, as to which potential provider we believe would best serve the cable subscribers and community of Montague. We strongly feel, however, that the final decision should rest with the Selectboard.

Sincerely,

John Reynolds, Chair
Cable Advisory Committee

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TSUNAMI

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ing their own part in this cycle of loss and renewal, the students and faculty of the Hallmark Institute of Photography are putting together a print exhibit for tsunami relief, timed to coincide with the Arts and Bloom festival in downtown Turners Falls on Saturday, April 30th and Sunday, May 1st. Over 175 images of Hallmark students' work will be on sale, some in 16 x 20 inch frames, others available as unframed 11 x 14 prints. Each image may be purchased multiple times, each print will be signed by the photographer, and the entire proceeds of the sale will be donated to AmeriCares, a nonprofit disaster relief and humanitarian aid organization. AmeriCares has a reputation for maximizing monetary contributions with in-kind donations from the private sector of medicine, food, and material aid, and delivering relief to affected countries, with minimal over-

Contemporary Photography, soon to occupy the first floor of the renovated Colle Opera House, the landmark building on the corner of 3rd and Avenue A in Turners Falls. Rebirth and renewal will be the theme of the exhibit, which will be the first opportunity for Hallmark students' work to be viewed and purchased by the community at large.

Creative ideas have their genesis in a variety of settings. The thought of holding a benefit sale of student prints came to Katherine Kerkman - who arrived in Turners Falls from Lake Villa, IL to enroll in the intensive one-year photography program at Hallmark last fall - as she was washing the dishes and doing the laundry in her apartment. "When I do menial tasks, my brain just goes through snippets of conversations," said Kerkman, who had been working as a photographer for a modeling studio in Chicago before coming to Hallmark. Kerkman said she recalled a question one

the class, and said, 'We don't have any money.' But I had given images to family members for Christmas, and somehow the idea just clicked," of organizing a student show to benefit tsunami relief.

Kerkman dried her hands and went to speak with members of the faculty about her idea, and wound up sitting in the office of Hallmark president George Rossa III. She pitched a modest proposal, an out-of-studio display of student work, "maybe a coffeeshop." But Rossa took the concept further. He said this would be a great idea for an initial opening event for Hallmark's downtown photography museum, and offered to donate all the matting and framing for the larger prints. Hallmark will also cover all costs associated with mounting the exhibition, and is planning to reach out to area businesses and the community at large for in-kind contributions to ensure all proceeds from the sale of prints will go directly to AmeriCares for tsunami relief.



"Woman's Back" by Tiffany Wayne



"Sunflower" by Sarah Haskell

head. The tsunami relief print sale will be the groundbreaking event for the Hallmark Museum of

of her professors, Alan Thornton, asked her class. "Alan asked if we had all given money for tsunami relief. We looked around

public of the opportunity the student exhibit will offer to purchase prints in support of tsunami relief, and a committee to

arrange food, music and decoration for the interior of the museum for the exhibit. Plans are in the works for jazz, classical, and world music bands to perform during the show.

One of the students who responded to Kerkman's call was Matt Crooks, who comes to Turners from Annapolis, MD, who signed up to manage the print committee. "I've gathered images for the show, viewed and edited," and helped select 182 examples of students' work, while engaging "in the process of deciding which ones would be sold on their own without frames and which would be framed and matted and hung." In the midst of their extremely busy course schedule, Crooks and the other student committee members meet weekly to plan and develop the event. Since many of the images relate to spring, in keeping with the theme of rebirth and renewal, many students have drawn on personal photo archives to come up with appro-

priate images to contribute.

One who did so was Dave Lewinski, from Detroit, MI, who selected a photograph he had taken of the Whitcomb Conservatory limned by sunbeams in the Frederick Law Olmstead-designed Belle Isle Park. Tiger begonias are blooming in the foreground. "Rays of sunlight are a universal sign of creative power," Lewinski said.


Lewinski talked about his native city in terms that fit well into the theme of the student exhibit. "Detroit has the most abandoned structures in the world, more than any war zone." After white flight left the core city divested of capital, 87 percent black, and crumbling, the city has embarked on a program of demolishing abandoned buildings by the hundreds, leaving empty lots scattered throughout the neighborhoods. As a photographer, Lewinski found himself occasionally framing a scene in


see TSUNAMI pg 12


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Talk on Archaeology of Mariamante Land

Compiled from staff reports

GILL - Dr. Mitchell Mulholland, head of the Archaeological Services Department at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, will give a talk on the archaeological significance of the town-owned acreage on the corner of West Gill and Main Road (the so-called Mariamante land) on Thursday, March 24th, 6:30 p.m., at the town hall. Mulholland's specialties include Southern New England prehistory, archaeological research administration, and environmental archaeology. The Mariamante land lies within the Riverside Archaeological District, which Mulholland has researched. He will share his knowledge of the district and

the Mariamante parcel, and will be prepared to answer relevant questions.

The Mariamante land was the location of a curious exhumation of Native American burial remains and artifacts in the 19th century. George Sheldon, in his *History of Deerfield*, has the story:

"On an elevated sandy plain, at the head of a beautiful valley opening north from the falls at Peskeompskut, a burial place was disturbed by workmen repairing the highway in 1881. The spot was on the farm of T.M. Stoughton, and the ground was at once examined by Mr. Stoughton and his son William, mainly in a search for relics. They found twelve graves, about two feet below the sur-

face. The bodies had been extended and radiated from a center, head outwards, the feet resting on a circle five or six feet in diameter."

The Stoughton land later came under the ownership of the Conway family, and the site is referred to as the Conway site. Shelley Hight, archaeologist at U.S. Fish and Wildlife in Hadley, said, "No one has systematically surveyed up there. One excavator operator felt he had seen evidence of a buried prehistoric hearth. That report does support the idea that somewhere along that terrace there may have been an archaeological site, but we don't know."

Hight said a cautious approach to developing land likely to contain sensitive

archaeological material is to first dig a series of small test pits in a site survey. She called the entire Riverside District, "a big, complicated important site, (where) a lot of collecting and older archaeology was done. It's got a lot of time depth, with (evidence of) lots of different activities. Now we need to be careful how we use it up."

Hight concluded, "It's great that the town of Gill bought this land and is thinking carefully how to use it."

Mulholland's talk will be given in conjunction with a meeting of the ad-hoc committee of local residents working to guide the town of Gill's decision making on the future development of the Mariamante land. The general public is welcome to attend.

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later to catch better light, only to find on his return the image he had planned to capture had been demolished. "Now, I'll go out and take a picture right away. I always think people will follow what I've seen, and it won't be there next week."

Lewinski said Detroit is rebuilding now, with new sports arenas, artist lofts, and a gradual rebirth of middle class neighborhoods. He finds his temporary locale, Montague, a comparatively tame environment. "Everything closes early. In Detroit, everything is open until 2 a.m. There are 24-hour stores everywhere. In Turners, to walk around at 6 o'clock and nothing is open...." Crooks and Kerkman nod in agreement at his unfinished thought.

"Detroit has a lot of buildings that don't exist anymore," said Lewinski, referencing the inherent anachronism of his chosen profession. Here in Montague, "It's great to see a church from the late 1700s, early 1800s." Nearby college towns provide some relief from culture shock, as well as a pool of interesting subjects for portrait photography.

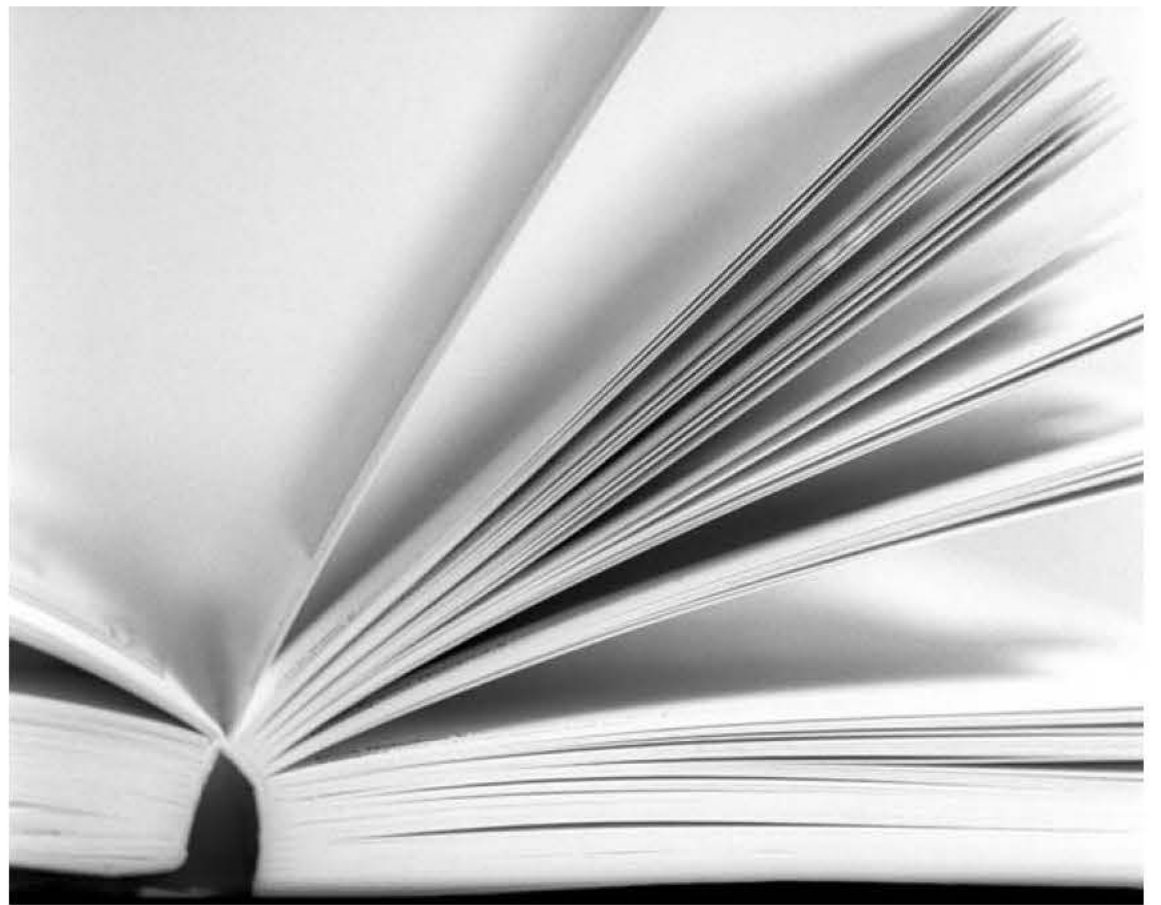
Crooks said he had come to Hallmark hoping to pursue a career in sports photography. "But now I've fallen in love with portraiture. It doesn't really matter, as long as I'm taking pho-

grown to something amazing," she said.

Hallmark takes pride in preparing its students to work in the professional world of commercial photography. Crooks

weekend as the tsunami benefit, Thornton said.

It seems oddly fitting for the Colle Opera House, the erstwhile home of the Renaissance Community and long a symbol



"Open Book" by Brielle Dixon

graphs. I like how you can convey emotions and feelings through your images, how you can work with the light and the technical end of it to make every image that much more compelling."

Kerkman said, "When I was young, my aunt gave me my first camera. I remember being really excited about the first images I took, but they were never quite what I had hoped they would be. There was an ongoing quest for my vision." At Hallmark, Kerkman said, "I've had more successes."

If the planning stage of the student print exhibit offers any indication, Kerkman is about to see one more success in her quest, with the able assistance of her student colleagues and the support of the faculty and administration at Hallmark. "It's really

said the work the students are doing to "Identify images and prepare them for mass printing, the selling and the billing will give us a better grasp of the business end of things as well."

With the recent surge in enrollment at Hallmark, and the anticipated formal opening of Hallmark's photography museum in early 2006, the student print exhibit will give the town of Montague a chance to directly interact with a dynamic group of young people who populate our town nine months of the year, bringing their creative talent to bear on local subjects. Hallmark students and staff have recently assisted with developing the images on Montague's website (www.Montague.net); images they have donated to the town for that purpose will be on display in town hall the same

of downtown decay, to be used for an exhibition of images of rebirth and renewal in support of survivors of one of the great natural disasters of our times. Lewinski, thinking back to the satellite images of coastlines changed and islands swept away by the deluge in the Indian Ocean, sums up the act of taking photographs in a few simple words. Like buildings he once took pictures of in Detroit, buildings gone now, whole coastlines in Southeast Asia along with their inhabitants are gone as well. "I've wanted to take pictures to look back on what happened, on what was there. Which is what photography is all about anyway. It is trying to stop time."

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Success Catching Up to the Patriots

BY LEE CARIGNAN

TURNERS FALLS - The Patriots have made New England proud winning three of the last four Super Bowls. They have become a modern-day NFL dynasty. The success of the last four years could be starting to catch up with the Pats, however. When you look at some of the other Super Bowl teams of recent years it's amazing what the Patriots have accomplished. Five years ago the Baltimore Ravens beat the NY Giants in Super Bowl 35. Since that game, the Ravens have been a .500 team, and the NY Giants have gone downhill, finishing in last place in 2004. In Super Bowl 37, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers beat the Raiders. Neither team even made the play-offs the following year. The Buccaneers and the Raiders both finished with losing records last year. Even the two teams the Patriots beat in Super Bowl 36 and 38 had losing seasons the next year.

Free agency and the salary cap have

made the NFL into a league in which all teams are competitive. There is a lot of parity among the teams and it makes it hard for teams to be consistent. The NFL salary cap hurts the successful teams, once their good players become free agents. The weaker teams can start plucking away the better teams' talent. Most good teams at some point run out of money under the cap to sign all their best players. We saw this last week when the Patriots had to cut Ty Law, Troy Brown and Roman Phifer just to get under the salary cap. They also lost wide receiver David Patten to the Redskins and offensive lineman Joe Andruzzi to the Browns.

The draft also contributes to the parity in the NFL. Every year the worst



teams have the top picks in the draft. This once again leaves the Patriots with the last pick in each round of this April's college draft, giving every other team a better chance of acquiring the best college talent. This also makes it harder for the Patriots to replace some of the players they have lost in free agency.

The Patriots will also have the challenge going into next year without the offensive and defensive coordinators they won three Super Bowls with. Offensive coordinator Charlie Weis took over the head coaching job at his alma mater, Notre Dame. He has been a great play caller and helped Tom Brady develop into the best quarterback in the league. The Patriots will also be without

defensive coordinator Romeo Crennel, who signed as head coach of the Cleveland Browns. He did a great job running Belichick's defense, and will be sorely missed. The Patriots were pretty lucky to keep their coaching staff together through three Super Bowl victories. That success was bound to break up their staff as teams start looking for replacements for head coaching vacancies.

The Patriots will be attempting to win three Super Bowls in a row next season. This has never been done before. But the road to Super Bowl victory should get tougher this season. Bill Belichick, who some are already calling the greatest coach ever, will have more challenges ahead. Belichick and personnel man Scott Pioli will have to do an excellent job to keep the Patriots on top. At some point the inevitable plunge to mediocrity will occur. Let's hope it's a few years and a couple more Super Bowl championships away.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Loud Talk and Juvenile Problems

Thursday 3-10

4:16 p.m. Report of an unattended death at a Grove Street address. Investigated.

8:13 p.m. Walk-in to station reported check fraud. Under investigation.

Friday 3-11

12:03 a.m. Report of an unwanted person at a Third Street address. [redacted] was arrested and charged with domestic assault and battery and possession of a class D drug.

1:35 p.m. Report of an attempted breaking and entering at a Millers Falls Road address. Someone had tampered with a lock. Report taken.

11:11 p.m. Report of a domestic disturbance at an E. Main Street, Millers Falls address. Found to be a neighbor talking loudly on the phone.

Saturday 3-12

9:31 a.m. Traffic hazard reported on Turners Falls Road. Cars improperly parked. Gone on arrival of officer.

11:09 a.m. Loose dog reported in yard at a Montague Street address. Referred to animal control officer.

2:07 p.m. Report of an assault at a Turnpike Road address. Problem with juveniles. Parties advised of their options.

4:53 p.m. Report of a domestic disturbance at a Central Street address. [redacted] was arrested and charged with domestic assault and battery.

5:44 p.m. [redacted]

[redacted] was arrested on a straight warrant.

Sunday 3-13

5:11 a.m. Report of a larceny at a Turners Falls Road address. A tow truck operator said he towed a vehicle but was not paid for his service. Under investigation.

10:49 a.m. Report of vandalism at the high school. A fence was damaged by a snowmobile. Subject called to take care of it.

3:49 p.m. Report of a fight in progress at the shelter on Farren Ave. Found to be verbal only.

Tuesday 3-14

12:00 p.m. Equipment left behind after a medical emergency at a K Street address was brought into station.

9:05 p.m. Report of a domestic disturbance at an Avenue A address. Found to be verbal only.

Wednesday 3-16

6:43 a.m. Yellow and black bike found on the walking path to TFHS. Brought to station.

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Help Wanted

Montague Parks & Recreation Department
Lifeguards & Swimming Instructors

The Montague Parks & Recreation Department is accepting applications for certified Lifeguards for the public Open Swim sessions held at the Turners Falls High School indoor pool. These positions involve morning, afternoon, evening and weekend hours for winter/spring season. Positions require appropriate certifications, which must be current and valid throughout the employment period. Applications are available at the Montague Parks and Recreation Department, 56 First Street, Turners Falls, MA. For more information, you may call us at 863-3216. The Town of Montague is an EOE and does not discriminate against disabilities.
Deadline: Closed when filled.

CONSULTING: Helping youth investigate business ideas. The Brick House seeks consultants to help youth investigate business possibilities in arts-related skills. Call (413)863-9576 to receive the full request for proposals (RFP).

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'Finding Treasures at the Gill Store Skeleton 33" tall on Metal base (Smithsonian) \$175.00, Newspaper Bundling Box (Plowhearth) \$45.00, Pair of Porcelain Dolls 10.5" (American Family 1986) \$50.00, Aluminum Roof Snow Rakes, B.O. 863-9006 after 12:00 noon

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HOME COOKING

Here is a recipe Mitzi Koscinski of Turners Falls sent in recently. We encourage other readers to mail favorite recipes, with any introductory remarks you may wish to include, to Montague Reporter, 24 Third Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376, or via email to: reporter@montaguema.net.

Mitzi Koscinski's

BABCI'S EASTER CHEESE CAKE

Step One

Ingredients:
1 9-oz can crushed pineapple
1 lg. jar maraschino cherries
1 cup sugar
4 level tsp. cornstarch
Place all ingredients in pan and cook five minutes or until thick. Cool!

Step Two

Ingredients:
1/4 lb. butter
1 egg
1 tsp. baking powder
3 tbsp. sugar
3 tbsp. water
1-1/2 cups flour
Cream butter and sugar together. Add dry ingredients and egg with water. Mix well.

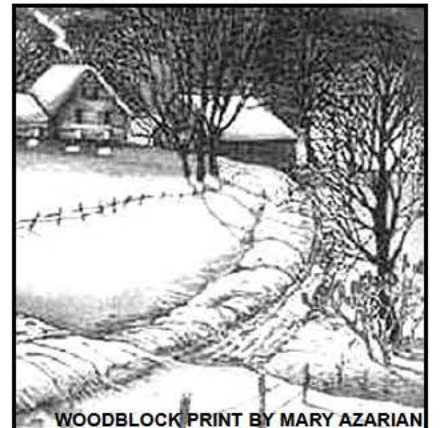
Spread in slightly buttered 13x9-inch pan to cover bottom and sides.

Place pineapple and cherry mixture on top. Be sure it's cooled first.

Step Three

Ingredients:
1 small container of small curd cottage cheese
1/2 lb. cream cheese
5 tbsp. sugar
1/2 tsp. vanilla
2 cups milk
2 eggs
3 tbsp. flour
1 tsp. lemon juice
Blend cream cheese, sugar, flour and one egg. (Add them in that order,

one at a time.) Add vanilla, lemon juice, cottage cheese and milk. Mix well. Slowly pour over pineapple/cherry mixture and lightly sprinkle with cinnamon and nutmeg. Bake for one hour at 325 degrees. Enjoy!



WOODBLOCK PRINT BY MARY AZARIAN

Mark your Calendars for the Gill-Montague Gala

BY JOYCE PHILLIPS

TURNERS FALLS - On Saturday, April 9th, at 8 p.m. the Turners Falls High School theater will host the first Gill-Montague GALA. The event is being co-sponsored by the Greenfield Savings Bank and the Montague Elks #2521. This family-oriented GALA, presented by the Gill-Montague Educational Fund board of directors in partnership with Nick Waynelovich, of Ja'Duke Productions,

promises to be an evening of entertaining performances. There will be variety of music including the Shea Swing Orchestra, students from the elementary and secondary schools, several local artists including David Weidenfeld, John Waynelovich, and *Haven't Got a Clue*.

We hope you will mark your calendars and plan to be with us to enjoy this event to enrich the quality of education for the youth of Gill,

Montague, and Erving.

The price of admission is \$10.00. Tickets are available at Equi's, Scotty's, the World Eye Bookstore, any of the Gill-Montague Elementary Schools or by calling the Turners Falls High School at 863-9341.

The Gill-Montague Education Fund is a non-profit organization established for the purpose of raising funds for student's enrichment through the academic, arts, and athletic programs.

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CALENDAR

JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY MARCH 18TH & 19TH

This week's film at MEDIA ARTS CAFE is *Casablanca*. One of the most memorable of all film experiences, *Casablanca* is a true Hollywood legend. All the elements of the production - story, cast, photography, direction, and music - are woven expertly together to create a motion picture monument. \$10 general admission \$8 Seniors/Students. Ticket price includes a complimentary beverage. 7:30 p.m., in the Green Trees Gallery, 105 Main St., Northfield. (413) 498-2100.

SATURDAY, MARCH 19TH

Swedish fiddle and New England accordion join forces at Montague Grange at 7 p.m. Swedish fiddler and singer Alicia Björnsdotter Abrams and Vermont accordionist Jeremiah McLane have joined forces to create an exciting new duo that plays traditional music from France, Scandinavia and North America. In Swedish polskas, drinking and love songs and French Canadian reels and Breton dances, the fiddle, the voice and the accordion find a new common language. Tickets for the Montague Grange event will be \$12 at the door, 34 Main Street in Montague Center. For directions, see the Franklin County multi-Grange website at www.ma-pomona19.org.

The Country Players are putting on a variety show as a fund raiser at 7 p.m. called:

A Night on Broadway
A high energy show featuring local artists performing selections from popular Broadway Musicals at Montague's First Congregational Church, 148 L St., Turners Falls. \$8 general admission, \$6 seniors/children (under 5 free.) For more info contact Rowena Rantanen 665-0439.

Herb Symposium III

Presented by the Lavender & Herb Growers of the Pioneer Valley. A day-long event featuring workshops, herbal marketplace, spectacular herbal luncheon, and keynote speaker Larry Sombke (landscape consultant and lecturer known as the "Natural Gardener.") Frontier Regional School, 113 North Main St., South Deerfield. 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Ladies of St. Anne Bake & Book Sale & Multi Raffle, in Fr. Casey Hall, St. Anne's Church, Turners Falls. 9:00 a.m. to Noon. Followed by a church supper - Roast Pork Dinner at 5:15 p.m. Reservations: (413)

863-2585.

Coffee & Soul: Patty Larkin with special guests Bassett, Bartone and Clegg Acoustic guitar wizardry and widely respected musical troubadour. Performance at All Souls Unitarian-Universalist Church, 399 Main St., Greenfield. 7:30 p.m. (413) 773-5018.

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY MARCH 19TH & 20TH

Mohawk Trail Regional High School presents its 28th annual All-School Musical, *Seussical the Musical*. in a special performance at the Shea Theater, 71 Ave. A, Turners Falls on March 19th at 8 p.m., March 20th at 2 p.m. Adults - \$10.00, Under 18 & Over 62 - \$8.00, ticket price includes a beverage. Reservations (413) 863-2281.

SUNDAY, MARCH 20TH

Palm Sunday

Bach, Cantata 182

The Choir of the First Congregational Church of Ashfield (Massachusetts) will sing the great opening chorus of J.S. Bach's Cantata 182: "Himmelskönig, sei willkommen" at the regular 10:00 a.m. church service. The twenty-voice choir will be joined by a chamber orchestra of strings, flute, and organ, and will sing the cantata movement in the original German. In addition, an introit by Praetorius as well as another short Bach piece are also planned by the Choir. J.S. Bach (1685-1750) wrote his church cantatas for use during actual church services, and wrote cantatas for every Sunday and holiday of the Lutheran church year. The text of each cantata was appropriate to the Sunday or holiday; Cantata 182 was written specifically as a Palm Sunday cantata. Today Bach's cantatas, typically pieces for chorus and soloists with small orchestra, are mainly performed as concert pieces, but there are still churches throughout the world, including in the United States, which present a Bach cantata every week as part of the Sunday service. Other musical components of the Palm Sunday service will include the congregational singing of traditional Palm Sunday hymns with the choir and instrumentalists as well as the organ postlude played by Amy Crawford, organist at the Ashfield Cong. Church. Margery Heins, choir director at the church, will conduct the ensembles. Pastor Kate Stevens will lead the service and preach. Child care is available. The church is accessible. A coffee

hour follows the service. Everyone is welcome!

SATURDAY, MARCH 26TH

Psychic Fair

sponsored by the National Spiritual Alliance from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Thompson Temple, across from the Post Office in Lake Pleasant. Readers use different techniques to obtain information for those who consult them, including astrology, I-Ching, hand reading, psychometry, spiritual counseling, and tarot cards. Consultation is with a medium of choice. "Spirit and Spa," an anecdotal and pictorial history of the "glory days" of Lake Pleasant as a Spiritualist resort, is available via the TNSA internet website, <http://www.thenationalspiritualallianceinc.org> and also from the Lake Pleasant Village Association at the Post Office, Carroll's Super Market in Millers Falls, and the Book Mill in Montague Center.

The Gypsy Wranglers

will perform live at Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse on Saturday, March 26th. A special blend of Acoustic Swing Music drawn from the traditions of Gypsy Jazz, Cowboy Swing, French Musette, New Orleans Jazz and Big Band. Proceeds to benefit Temenos. Visit the Wendell Full Moon Coffee House on the web at www.wendellfullmoon.org for directions and all kinds of other offerings.

The Gathering Place at First Parish of Northfield, Unitarian offers card and board games, mah-jong lessons, open mike for musicians and writers, coffee & light fare on the last Saturday of every month from 7 to 10 p.m. 72 Main Street, for more info call (413) 498-5957.

SUNDAY, MARCH 27TH

Got Kids? Family Dance at the Montague Grange: child-friendly contradancing at 4:00 p.m. - dance caller Diane Sanabria. The Montague Grange continues this wonderful family series, now in its fourth year. The series goes through April and features family-style contra dancing, paced for little feet (no age restriction) or adult beginners, in a beautiful, restored historic building, across from the Town Commons in picturesque Montague Center. Each dance is on the last Sunday of the month, from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m., priced a sliding \$5-\$10, and includes a light snack.

ONGOING EVENTS

Now through April 1st Robert Farber Photography exhibit at PureLight Gallery in Turners Falls. Robert has published nine coffee table books, the first, *By The Sea*, was brought into Doubleday pub-



Gypsy Wranglers
at Wendell Fullmoon Coffee House
Saturday March 26th

lishing by Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis. His latest books are *American Mood* and the revised soft cover publication *Natural Beauty Farber Nudes*. For more information on Robert, please visit his web site, www.robertfarber.com. PureLight Gallery, 37 Third St., Turners Falls. For more info or directions call (508) 885-6048, visit www.purelightgallery.com, or email jan@purelightgallery.com. Gallery Hours: Fri. 4-6 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-12 p.m. or by appointment.

UPCOMING EVENTS

A Medicine Drum Building Work-shop is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, April 2nd at Thompson Temple of The National Spiritual Alliance in Lake Pleasant. According to coordinator David Pinkham of Greenfield, the workshop will be conducted by Jane King of New London, N.H., and participants will each build a 15-inch shaman drum. King is of Mic Mac, Wampanoag, and European ancestry. "Creating sacred space and using ceremony, your personal energy and intention will be instilled into your drum, creating a healing tool, a beautiful instrument, and a piece of art," King said. **Preregistration is required by March 21st.** To register, contact Pinkham at (413) 774-3942.

Hot Spot Teen Center

Monday - Ongoing Digital Arts Project, 3 to 5 p.m.
Tues & Wed - Ongoing Music Project, 3 to 5 p.m.
Thursday - Technology Drop-in hours, 3 to 5 p.m.
Friday, March 18th - Field trip to the Groove Cafe Open Mic in North Adams, 4:30 to 9 p.m.
Friday, March 25th - Open Mic, 6 to 9 p.m.

These programs are free (except some skate trips) and open to local teens. Some require permission slips. For more info about any of these events or programs please call **Jared** at **863-9559**.
Hot Spot Teen Center in The Brick House Community Center, 24 Third St, Turners Falls

Sunday at 7 All films free donations accepted

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Sunday March 20:
Amandla: a revolution in four part harmony (2003) South Africa's music and its liberating role; inspirational & toe tapping.

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1. ICE PRINCESS	G
DAILY 6:00 9:00	
MATINEE SAT, SUN, & WED 12:00 3:00	
2. ROBOTS	PG in DTS sound
DAILY 6:45 9:00	
MATINEE SAT, SUN, & WED 12:00 2:15 4:30	
3. THE PACIFIER	PG
DAILY 6:00 9:00	
MATINEE SAT, SUN, & WED 12:00 3:00	
4. BE COOL	PG13
DAILY 6:15 9:15	
MATINEE SAT, SUN, & WED 12:15 3:15	
5. HITCH	PG13
DAILY 6:15 9:15	
MATINEE SAT, SUN, & WED 12:15 3:15	
CINEMA 6 AND 7 NOW HAVE NEW SEATS	
6. THE RING 2	PG13 in DTS sound
DAILY 6:30 9:30	
MATINEE SAT, SUN, & WED 12:30 3:30	
7. MILLION DOLLAR BABY	PG13 in DTS sound
DAILY 6:30 9:30	
MATINEE SAT, SUN, & WED 12:30 3:30	

Mabel Zobel
By
Sandra Facto

Drama Queen, no my dear girl. I'm just crazy and I have the documentation to prove it.

Off The Beaten Track

Spring Bulbs in Full Bloom at Smith College

BY FLORE

Who would believe by looking at a wrinkled, oddly dried-up bulb, that it would hold in its folds this glorious genetic memory?

Punctually at this time of the year, the miracle is seen by thousands of visitors awaiting the opening of Smith College greenhouses. It means also, spring being around the corner, her astounding task of spells will follow.

If it is your first visit there, take time to notice their graceful Victorian structures. For a wel-

coming note, the blue heron's sculpture, still caught in a lacy apron of strangling ice, will try to fluff its still wings, so you won't fail to notice the graceful silhouette! What you are about to see, inside of the greenhouses, is the work of busy horticulture students who were, last fall, de-potting all the bulbs. To prepare them for blossoming requires a great deal of patience. The bulbs are then put in cool storage, and brought back, mid-winter, in the appropriate environment for each species. The faerie moment is



PHOTO BY FLORE

reached when nature, not the least of the workers, orchestrates her tuning of colors, at the right chosen moment. Voila! Don't miss this extraordinary Spring Bulb Show. The last day is March 20th. Hours are: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, March 18th, the show will be open late, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. After the closing of the exhibit there will be a bulb sale, for members only, on March 26th, for the public, on March 27th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Proceeds will go to the Limbe Botanic Garden of

Cameroon in Africa. At home, you can put the bulbs to hibernate in a dry cool place like a cellar in the winter. After the proper care is given during dormancy, they will bloom again in your garden, just as they flourished here. What about building a communal greenhouse in Turners Falls? At the community garden perhaps? Fascinating lectures are also given year around, at the Smith Botanic Garden. Call for details: (413) 585-2740.

West Along the River

The Woodcock Cries

BY DAVID BRULE

MILLERS FALLS - The first of March arrived with a fleecy all-day snow. The Farmer's Almanac calls this St. David's Day; if this were Wales we'd be celebrating in pubs by the singing sea. But here it's a good day for a ski along the river. The woods empty of sound, hushed by the falling snow.

This landscape could draw Claude Monet outdoors one more time to turn out a variation on the "Road to Honfleur Under Snow"- a grey leaden sky with all contours softened. Skiing in slow motion down the path, quiet water slipping by,

black and white birds on the river. Glide and stop. Carefully lift one ski then another to the side, tiptoe forward - to avoid the first snow striders taking priority on the trail - hardy, leggy insects making their slow early spring way across the whiteness, going who knows where? This snowy morning there are a number of them all going in the same direction, determined and slow. Could they be the first signs of spring coming?

Growing up on the banks of the Connecticut, in a house above the Narrows, winter meant the river frozen solid from the town to the French King, the sound of its icy booming at night sometimes reaching right into the house.

Spring was on the way by March 17th, when the current eroded the ice at Red Rocks,

with the first mergansers trying their luck in those depths. Or many a spring came with the first robins by March 10th, or the grackles calling from the ancient pines of the Shady Rest. But up here, living on the Millers on abandoned pastureland gone to woods, a different sign ushers in spring.

The song sparrow can tune his pipes at the edge of the gar-

den, the robin and cardinal can tell us to "cheer up!" from the top of the willow tree, but just a single syllable at dusk in the empty woods confirms that winter's grip is loosening. Not very musical, just a nasal "peent!" tells you the first woodcock is back, ready to strut and show off for his choice female modestly hidden in the birches, waiting to be impressed. That one syllable call is followed by silence. Then, high up in the air, a faint twittering, (no other word for it) makes its way to the ear as the proud male reaches the height of forty or fifty feet and begins his spiraling descent to land back where he started, only to begin strutting again, preparing to repeat his performance.

Years ago, Abe hunted these little game birds down below the house in the pasture in the fall of the year, but now for two generations they have safe haven here along the river, where elsewhere they've been driven to smaller and smaller

Years ago, Abe hunted these little game birds down below the house in the pasture in the fall of the year, but now for two generations they have safe haven here along the river, where elsewhere they've been driven to smaller and smaller

margins.

One day last spring, Dawn from next door brought me one of these birds, which must have succumbed to the strong desire to move north ahead of his time. All of his fires out, his body fit into the cup of my hand. His long bill, carefully designed for probing the earth, gave him a rather eccentric wall-eyed look. His plumage was the color of autumn leaves.

Such a long journey to undertake to have it end here, betrayed by our capricious New England March.

Yet, this month, looking out over the snowy woods and the frozen frog pond at dusk, we find ourselves impatiently awaiting the cocky little life-affirming call that will soon reach us, signaling a new beginning out there beyond the garden.



"Road to Honfleur Under Snow" by Claude Monet

den, the robin and cardinal can tell us to "cheer up!" from the top of the willow tree, but just a single syllable at dusk in the empty woods confirms that winter's grip is loosening. Not very musical, just a nasal "peent!" tells you the first woodcock is back, ready to strut and show off for his choice female modestly hidden in the birches, waiting to be impressed. That one syllable call is followed by silence. Then, high up in the air, a faint twittering, (no other word for it) makes its way to the ear as the proud male reaches the height of forty or fifty feet and begins his spiraling descent to land back where he started, only to begin strutting again, preparing to repeat his performance.

Moving north in early spring, the woodcock takes his chances. Needing soft ground and worms

The Gifted Apostle of Form: Augustus Saint-Gaudens (1848-1902)

BY FLORE

To take full advantage of your visit to the Smith College Spring Bulb Show, take time to stroll on campus. The pond, partly frozen, gives the college an eerie floating look.

Missing are the fin-de-siecle ice skaters and the horse drawn carriages, waiting to trot around.

If you have followed the work of Augustus Saint-Gaudens you are in for wonder and many spectacular surprises!

The new building, where it is shown, is the work of gifted visionary contemporary architect John Polshek.

He has managed to blend the modern among traditional structures. "Un tour de force"! Each level of the museum has been adapted to let maximum light in and set off the shows on display to their best advantage. Polshek has designed the walls in soft grayish overtones, to allow the sculptures to shine at their best.

The show, curated by the Smith College Museum of Art, is the largest exhibition of the sculptor ever shown in America. It is organized by The Trust for Museum Exhibition in cooperation with the Saint-Gaudens Natural Historic site.

This includes seventy objects loaned from private collectors and museums and nine major projects, reduc-

tions cast in bronze of the Shaw Memorial in Boston, Chicago's Abraham Lincoln, the Adams Memorial in D.C., and the fragile Diana for the weathervane of Madison Square Gardens.

He worked in the form of



PHOTO BY JEFFREY NINTZEL

bas-relief too. You will notice and admire one of Robert Louis Stevenson. He was able to adjust his mastery of form to the need of the smallest object up to the largest commissions. You'll marvel at the cameos he carved too, the gold coins rendered with infinite precision.

Note the show will close on March 20th. The visiting hours are Tuesday - Friday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sunday noon - 4 p.m.

If you have visited his gardens, house and studio, in Cornish, New Hampshire, you have several leaps ahead of enjoyments. Needless to say: a must to see!