



TEENS RALLY
for the Skatepark
see page 9



MONTAGUE POLICE
Adopt Use of Tasers
see page 16

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

Year 4
No.21

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The Montague Reporter

REPORTER@MONTAGUEMA.NET

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MARCH 2, 2006

Carlos Ovalle Deported to Guatemala

BY CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUÇANNO TURNERS FALLS - Carlos Ovalle, arrested here in late January on a 'fugitive alien' warrant was not considered by federal officials to be a 'coyote' - or trafficker in illegal immigrants - contrary to reports by local law enforcement officials and news media.

Paula Grenier, public affairs officer for the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement in the Boston field office, said that ICE did not pick up Ovalle on the far more serious charge of human smuggling.

"We acted simply because he was a fugitive alien," said Grenier, adding that she does not know where the rumor of his being a human smuggler got started. She would not comment

on how ICE learned that Ovalle was living in Turners Falls.

The simple facts, she said, are that on February 23rd, Ovalle was deported from the United States and is now back in Guatemala. For her, the case is closed.

For Latinos in Turners Falls, however, the case is far from closed. The arrest, in fact, sent shockwaves through the Hispanic community. One woman, who did not want to be identified, said she was now afraid to go out except on essential errands. "If they could take a man away from his wife and children, they can take me away from my husband and children. And who knows what happens to you afterward,"

see ARREST pg 10



BY DAVID DETMOLD MILLERS FALLS - "You win the prize," Turners Falls Airport manager Mike Sweeney told the crowd at the Millers Falls Library Tuesday night, February 28th, "for the largest turnout." But he didn't tell them what the prize would be.

The airport commission has been holding informational public hearings in each of the villages about their plans to repave and extend the runway at the airport, and other planned safety improvements. The \$7 million construction project proposed for the next two years at the municipally owned airport would be 97.5% funded by the Federal Aeronautics Administration (FAA)

and the Massachusetts Aeronautics Commission, leaving the town to pick up only \$175,000 of the price tag. For this, the town would get 1200 more feet of runway; an increased safety margin between runway and taxiway; new, energy saving lighting along the runway; and the ability to lease more hangar space along reconfigured ramps. Sweeney's presentation mirrored his previous talks in Montague Center and Turners Falls (see "Sweeney Defends Runway Extension," MR IV #18), stressing improved safety at the airport as the commission's primary concern in advancing the project, with the ability to increase the airport's revenue stream a close second. The airport has been

running at a deficit for years.

"We'd like to keep the airport running, keep it a small airport, and make ourselves self-sufficient, or more than self-sufficient," commission chair Brian Carroll told the audience.

The crowd of about 20 had tough questions for the commission, however, and Sweeney fielded them for an hour or more, until library closing time brought the evening's proceedings to a close.

Robert Sojka, of Millers Falls, said, "I question whether it is worth spending town money to continue a playground for people that can afford to buy planes and fly about. Very few if any industries in the industrial park or in the area use that airport or need that air-

Above: The Eclipse 500 jet, soon to roll off production lines, is an example of the lightweight jets that could someday take advantage of an extended runway at the Turners Falls Airport.

port. What is going to be the town's return for its investment?"

Sweeney said, "There is no question that a large part of the use of the airport is recreational, by people who have the ability to invest in their recreation." He compared the purchase price of an airplane to a motor boat or a recreational vehicle. He said Pioneer Aviation was the only private company that would be adversely affected if the airport expansion did not go through. But he said Mayhew Steel, for one, maintained a plane at the

see AIRPORT pg 11

El Miedo Invade a la Comunidad Latina Después de la Detención de Carlos Ovalle

BY CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUÇANNO TURNERS FALLS - A las 5 de la mañana, el día 23 de enero, 2006, agentes de Los Servicios de Inmigración y Aduanas (ICE), con la ayuda de la policía de Montague y del estado de Massachusetts, detuvieron a Carlos Ovalle, un inmigrante guatemalteco, quien en ese entonces residía en Turners Falls.

Según dijo el jefe de la policía, el señor Raymond Zukowski, la redada en el apartamento de Ovalle, ubicado en la calle fifth, no se realizó bajo la sospecha de ilegales en la zona. ICE se encargó de inspeccionar el lugar

debido a rumores que acusaban Ovalle como sospechoso de ser "coyote". El señor Zukowski también agregó que el mensaje que se quiere enviar esta dirigido a la personas que se encargan de ayudar a entrar ilegales al país, para que tengan claro que el ICE se encargará de la situación. Al mismo tiempo agregó que siente temor de arrestar en el operativo a aquellos que simplemente están de manera ilegal en el país.

Aparentemente la información recibida por el ICE llegó a ellos través de 3 sospechosos que fueron arrestados el pasado octubre en Turners

see DETENCION pg 10

Southworth to Consolidate Papermaking at Esleek, Close West Springfield Plant

BY DAVID DETMOLD TURNERS FALLS - Southworth Paper of Agawam completed the purchase of the town's last operating paper mill, Esleek Manufacturing Company, on Friday, February 24th. Company president David Southworth announced the company will merge papermaking operations in Turners Falls, and close the Southworth mill in West Springfield, after 167 years of papermaking there. As of Friday, all employees, hourly and salaried, at Esleek were laid off and offered the chance to take a physical exam, a drug test, and reapply for jobs with Southworth.

"Five to seven people

told us they were ready for a change," said Southworth. "Others applied, and were interviewed, and after reviewing their attendance record we did not rehire them. Some didn't pass the drug test. We were left seven positions short, we just determined that on Tuesday. We did not run on Monday, we started up the plant again at noon on Tuesday."

Southworth said he had posted the seven positions in West Springfield, giving the 30 Southworth employees laid off at his mill there a chance to apply for jobs in Turners Falls. Additionally, there are two open positions in converting at the Agawam plant where his company

is headquartered.

He said the total number of positions at the Turners mill will be reduced from around 80 before the sale, to around 60, with cuts in the maintenance crew, sales staff, office staff and administrative team making up the majority of the reduction.

Speaking of the decision to close the mill his family has operated in West Springfield since Edward and Wells Southworth founded it there in 1839, Southworth said, "My heart and my gut didn't want to do it. For fifteen years I've been watching all the other mills around Western Massachusetts close down. You can't just run

on emotion and history. You have to have a plan to move forward.

"I've known the Blankers for years. I watched their sales decline. In the fall I asked, is there an opportunity here? It looked like they might close down and blow away. I knew the deal could only work if we were willing to close down our mill," after acquiring theirs, Southworth said. "We just didn't have the combined capacity to keep two paper machines running.

"Their paper machine has some technical equipment ours didn't have: in line sighting, calender stacks at the end. We toted up the savings. Their mill

see PAPER pg 11

PET OF THE WEEK
A Quiet Girl



Fly

Fly is a two-year-old brindle and white greyhound in need of a good home. This little girl is very quiet and sort of blends into the background when you first see her, but once you spend some time with her she is the most loving and personable grey you could imagine. Fly will do best in a home with children over 14, other dogs and confident cats. For more information on adopting Fly, contact the Dakin Animal Shelter in Leverett at 548-9898 or via email at info@dakin-shelter.org.

CORNERED BEEF & CABBAGE SUPPER

Saturday, March 11th
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Fr. Casey Hall of St. Anne's Church on Sixth Street, Turners Falls

Menu: corned beef, cabbage and all the fixings, dessert, coffee, tea, milk.

Tickets: \$10 adults; \$5 children under 12.

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FAX (413) 863-3050
reporter@montaguema.net

Postmaster: Send address changes to
The Montague Reporter
24 3rd Street
Turners Falls, MA 01376

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LIBRARY NEWS

Creation of Quabbin Program

ERVING - How does the 1938 creation of the Quabbin Reservoir - part engineering feat and part human drama - continue to affect residents of the North Quabbin region? Come to the Erving Public Library on Tuesday, March 21st at 7 p.m. to find out. "Creation of Quabbin Reservoir" will be presented by historian and author J. R. Greene, whose lifelong research and writing about the Quabbin make him a well respected expert on the reservoir and its impact.

This program is free of charge, thanks to funding by a grant from the Erving Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

In April of 1938 four Massachusetts towns - Dana, Enfield, Greenwich and Prescott - legally ceased to exist. They were 'depopulated' and structures and trees

removed in advance of the flooding of the Swift River Valley to form the Quabbin Reservoir as a drinking water source for metropolitan Boston.

What did these towns look like and what remnants of them exist today? What were the politics behind the wholesale removal of people, homes, churches, even graves from 38 square miles of Massachusetts? Greene's program will help participants see the images and hear the stories of the people of the Swift River Valley.

Greene will also have copies of his books on sale, such as *More Strange Tales from Old Quabbin*, *Quabbin's Railroad: the Rabbit*, and *Historic Quabbin Hikes* for those who would like to learn even more about this focal point of our region and to plan spring and summer hikes in the area.

The Erving Public library is located



The village of Greenwich, MA after demolition - one of the four drowned towns to be discussed during the Creation of Quabbin Reservoir program by J. R. Greene at Erving Public Library on Tuesday, March 21st at 7 p.m.

ed on Route 63, just south of Route 2. Library hours are Mondays 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 5 to 8 p.m., Tuesdays 3 to 6 p.m., Wednesdays 1 to 4 p.m., and

Thursdays 5 to 8 p.m. For more information or to register for the program, call the Library at 413-423-3348.

Music and Movement in Millers

MILLERS FALLS- The weekly Music and Movement series with Tom Carroll and Laurie Davidson is happening at the Millers Falls Library on Thursday mornings at 10 a.m. during March - June. Young children of all ages and their

families or caregivers are invited to the free programs. Registration is not required. The program is co-sponsored by the Gill-Montague Council of the Family Network. For more information, please call 863-3214.

Pop-Up Book and Card Making

TURNERS FALLS- Children of all ages and their families are invited to make pop-up books and cards at the Carnegie Library, on Saturday, March 11th at 2 p.m. The program is part of the monthly Children's Art Series, run by Bev Whitbeck. Free; materials

provided. For more information, call 863-3214.

Film Series and Book Discussion

WENDELL - Back to the Land Film Series will present the second of three films focusing on land use and gardening, on March 16th, when *Ruth Stout's Garden*, a film about no-dig gardening, will show at 7 p.m. at the Wendell Senior Center. The free films are sponsored by the

Friends of the Wendell Free Library, co-sponsored by the Wendell Cultural Council.

The first discussions for the Wendell - New Salem Book Connect event, *On the Same Page*, will take place at the New Salem Senior Center on Sunday, February 19th at 3 p.m. and at

the Wendell Senior Center on Sunday, March 19th, at 3 p.m. People in both communities are reading the new Archer Mayor mystery, *St. Alban's Fire*. The author will be in New Salem for a discussion on March 23rd at 7 p.m. at the Bullard Farm Conference Center.

Yoga for Adults in Montague

The Montague parks and recreation department is offering Yoga for Adults, a program that has grown greatly in popularity in the last few years. Yoga is an ancient physical and spiritual practice originating in India. Yoga brings balance to the body, increases circulation, strength, and flexibility both

physically and mentally. All experience levels are welcome. Please wear flexible clothing, and bring a blanket or towel or yoga mat if you have one. We are offering two sessions. Fees vary per session. Program is available for adults (18 and over), and will be held at the Turners Falls High School

Fitness Studio; Wednesday evenings; 6 to 7 p.m.; Session 1: March 15th - May 3rd (8-week session); Session 2: May 10th - June 14th (6-week session); Registration Deadline for Session I: Friday, March 10th. Contact MPRD at 863-3216 to register or to receive more information.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES March 6th - March 10th

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

9:30 a.m. Tai Chi
Wednesday, 8th
10:15 a.m. Senior Aerobics
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, 9th
10 a.m. Coffee/conversation
1 p.m. Pitch
Friday, 10th
9:15 a.m. Tap and soft shoe dance, open to the community, reservations and fee apply
10:15 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11 a.m. PACE Aerobics

by 11:00 a.m. Transportation can be provided for meals, Thursday shopping, or medical necessity by calling Dana Moore at (978) 544-3898.

Monday, 6th
10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. PACE Aerobics
1 p.m. Canasta
Tuesday, 7th

ERVING Senior Center, 18 Pleasant St., Erving, is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. For information and reservations call Polly Kiely, Senior Center director at (413) 423-3308. Lunch daily at 11:30 a.m. with reservations a day in advance

Monday, 6th
9:30 a.m. Exercise
9:45 a.m. Library
12:30 p.m. Pitch
Tuesday, 7th
9 a.m. Aerobics
12:30 p.m. Oil Painting
Wednesday, 8th
9:30 a.m. Line Dancing
12 Noon Bingo
Thursday, 9th
9 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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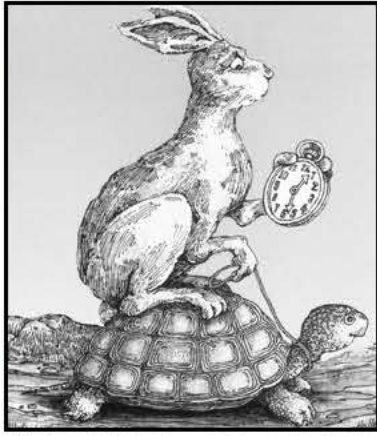
Rabbit Run Returns May 20th

BY DOUG TURNER

NEW SALEM - There's a movement afoot in New Salem to bring back the Rabbit Run, a 10K race and three-mile walk that had its inspired inaugural in 2003 as part of the town's 250th Anniversary program.

Those whose interest is piqued by the idea of a spring run, for prizes, through the pristine and protected lands of the Quabbin Reservoir may want to mark Saturday, May 20th, 10 a.m. on their calendars.

That's the day that race organizer Ta Mara Conde has chosen for the 3rd "almost



annual" Rabbit Run to take place.

The race proved very successful in 2003, and was repeated in 2004 with hopes of establishing a spring tradition,

though it wasn't quite the success of the year before. Lower turnout was attributed to scheduling a week later in the month.

As with the previous two races there will be a host of other activities that Conde is presently trying to engineer, such as the popular Birds of Prey Show, as well as wildlife tours and a craft fair.

The race begins on the New Salem common and enters the Quabbin lands at Gate 28, and takes a winding path along the western shore of the reservoir before making a climb back to the town's center, and the torturous Horsebreak Hill where runners exit at Gate 25.

There will be eight divisions comprising all age groups for both male and female participants. The race will be professionally timed by Accu-Spec.

The race committee is also seeking sponsors for the race.

Forms for the event are already available at the New Salem General Store. Entry fee is \$14 for pre-registering, \$20 the day of the race. T-shirts are guaranteed to those who pre-register for the race.

Information on the 3rd "Almost Annual" Rabbit Run can be found by contacting the Rabbit Run Committee at trconde@yahoo.com.

POSTCARDS FROM THE PAST



LIL FISKE - This postcard is a triple fold and was mailed from New York City in 1907. It advertises a company, International, makers of fine men's clothing. It was mailed to Mr. H. Sieler of Turners Falls,

whom I suspect worked for Allen Bros. This may have been a forerunner to McCarthy's on Avenue A. Does anyone remember the Allen Bros. store?

From the Montague Historical Society collection.

Karaoke at the Bellybowl



I Will Survive with Dave Roulston, Jerri Higgins, Zoe Weizenbaum, Heidi Von Weiss, Sita Lang, and mystery woman behind the microphone.



Anne Jemas and Sita singing *Sonny and Cher's I Got You Babe*.



Heidi and Sita singing *Build Me up Buttercup*.



Love Shack with Karen Stinchfield, Michelle Fournier-LeMay, Ann and Heidi

The Brick House and Jerri Higgins of Centerstage Karaoke sponsored a night of karaoke at the bellybowl on Saturday, February 25th. The house was packed and about 18 people mustered up the nerve to get up and sing. A camera was passed around for all to take pictures. Here are some of them.

Active Nonviolence: an Orientation and Training

A program in Active Nonviolence will be offered Sunday, March 5th from 1 - 5 p.m. at the Second Congregational Church in Greenfield. Traprock Peace Center's first executive director, Randy Kehler of Colrain, will be assisted in the presentation by the Center's current staff. Consideration of historic exam-

ples, discussion, and roleplays that invite creative responses to violence will be featured. This facility is wheelchair accessible. Reference materials, video resources, and refreshments will be available. Donations to Traprock, Keets Road, in Deerfield support this training. Please register in advance by phone, 413-773-7427.

Women in Jazz/Women in Song A Concert in Three Acts

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Verandah Porche
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Sasha Starr



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Molly Welch
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Eating Well with Diabetes

Did you know that people with diabetes can eat almost anything? Come learn how. Louise Amyot, Registered Dietitian and Licensed Nutritionist will speak. Held at Connecticut River Internists, 8 Burnham Street, Turners Falls. 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Pre-register at 413-774-7917

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24 3rd Street, Turners Falls, Mass. 01376

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August, 2002

Guatemala Holds Terror for Deportees

An article in yesterday's *Boston Globe* highlights the state of fear that exists for people in Guatemala, where extrajudicial killings are on the rise again after a brief halt in the bloodletting between government sanctioned death squads and the native people, mostly Mayans, in the countryside. This low scale civil conflict has claimed more than 200,000 lives in a country of between 10 and 14.5 million (estimates vary) since 1954, when a CIA-backed coup overthrew the democratically elected government of Jacobo Arbenz. During that time, at least a million people were forced out of their homes or into exile.

In 1950, Arbenz instituted a program of land reform in

Guatemala, including the nationalization of 500,000 acres of land owned by the United Fruit Company, based in Boston. John Foster Dulles, a United Fruit Company lawyer would become US Secretary of State in 1953, and his brother, Allen Dulles, director of the CIA. The next year, President Eisenhower authorized the CIA's \$2.7 million campaign of psychological warfare, covert action, and assassination leading to the overthrow of Arbenz.

The majority Mayans, with their traditional crops of corn and beans, have very different ideas of the necessary use of land than the plantation class, who grow bananas, coffee, and sugar for export. After peace accords were signed between the government and leftist guerrillas in 1995, plantation owners and wealthy landowners have continued to collude with the military to displace native people in an effort to use their land for export crops.

Now, according to an article originally reported by N. C. Aizenman in the *Washington Post* on February 27th, "the recent surge in armed abductions and murders by self-appointed anti-

crime squads throughout Guatemala is leaving a messy trail of blood and tears."

The article continues, "Almost every night, teams of gunmen storm into the nation's poorest neighborhoods to seize another man, woman, or teenager deemed guilty of wrongdoing. Almost every morning, another corpse turns up showing signs of torture or strangulation. Already this year, Guatemalan human rights monitors say, as many as 98 people in this nation of about 13 million are known to have been murdered by such groups, and 364 others have been killed by methods that suggest such groups could be responsible. Last year, nearly 3,000 slayings similar to these took place, and officials predict the total this year could exceed that."

Besides the sordid history of America's covert and overt intervention in lands whose governments do not appeal to our power elite, America also has a long history of providing sanctuary to

people from oppressed lands. But that history, symbolized by the torch of freedom held aloft by the Statue of Liberty is in danger of being snuffed out by the wave of anti-immigrant hysteria sweeping our nation.

Although America is now home to an estimated population of illegal immigrants totalling at least 11 million, efforts continue to arrest and deport them back to their countries of origin, regardless of the conditions that await them there. Plans to erect a fence along the Mexican - American border are being seriously considered, and bills limiting immigrants' access to health care and public higher education are advancing. We're still willing to let them do our stoop labor, as long as we don't have to educate them, house them, or care for their sick.

Americans should stop and remember their own immigrant roots before being so quick to deport hard working people to countries like Guatemala, where

torture and murder are still rampant 50 years after the CIA brought down the democratic government.



American Dead in Iraq as of 3/1/06

US FORCES	Casualties in Iraq
as of this date	2,295
Afghanistan	273
Wounded in Action	17,23
Sponsored by: Oak Ridge Detachment MARINE CORPS LEAGUE	

WOODY BROWN

It is with great sadness we note the passing of our friend Woody Brown, who died on Sunday, at home, proudly wearing his *Montague Reporter* t-shirt. Woody served as our first Chairman of the Board, finding in the newspaper one more outlet for his love of Montague.

Woody cared about the roots of things, whether the history

of our town, the origins of words, or the best medium for garden plants. In all he did, he helped our town to grow. We will miss him.

Of our newspaper, Woody said, "Reading the *Montague Reporter* is the best way to know and understand where we live." We will try to live up to that credo.

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WORD ON THE AVENUE

If you had friends visiting Turners Falls from out of town, where would you take them first?

COMPILED BY LISA DAVOL

Well, I am from out of town and I like the old houses and that there are not really big businesses, but mom and pop shops. It is a quaint place.

Barbie Ero
Plattsburgh, NY
Hallmark Student



I would bring them to the bellybowl for breakfast because it has good food and friendly people.

Chuck Lyman
Turners Falls

I would take them to see the armored mud balls by the river in Unity Park. Those geologic formations are extremely rare and so interesting to look at.

Carlyn Saltman
Turners Falls



I would bring them to the skate park if it ever reopens or to the Brick House Teen Center.

Nathen Lynde
Turners Falls

Probably Unity Park because it is so peaceful and beautiful.

Vera Urgina (no picture)
Greenfield

We'd go to the Great Falls Discovery Center. They really upgraded it and it is a classy place. I just wish it were open one more day!

Sandy Brown (no picture)
Gill

~In Memory of~
Lee Trousdale

WENDELL - Lee Trousdale, 55, of Wendell died of pancreatic cancer on February 22nd (2/22/06) at his home. Lee was a devoted family man, a dedicated public servant, and steward of the beautiful land and pond at one of the gateways of Wendell. He was born in Greenfield, MA, son of William and Beverly (MacAvoy)



Lee Trousdale

Trousdale, who in 1972 built a home and moved to Wendell. A skilled carpenter, Lee followed his parents in 1987 and built a home on the adjacent property, where he and his wife Ellen have raised their sons, Kevin and Peter.

Lee received Wendell's Citizen of the Year Award in 2005 for his over 15 years of service on the town's finance committee, often in the role of chair of that committee. As was written at the time of this award: "To this job Lee brings a penetrating analytical mind, able to see through the complexities of municipal finance to the real issues at stake. Able to maintain a steady calm in the face of the chaotic storm of competing demands, he offers trusted guidance to the community year in and year out." Wendell resident Anne Diemand writes, "Many of us remember Lee as the fellow with the computer at town meeting." In reflecting with her on his role, Lee observed recently, "I remember when spending \$500 for a computer used to set off lots of discussion; now we spend a quarter of a million dollars without thinking about it. People are used to much bigger numbers and it doesn't seem to faze them." Lee relished the job of working with the selectboard, the highway department, the Swift River school committee and other town departments to develop their annual budgets. He understood his work as one of mutual education and community building.

Dan Keller, who served with Lee on the finance committee for many years, commented, "He was indispensable in organizing the town's finances in a way that would enable Wendell to undertake a large scale building program in the town center, and he remained interested in those projects up until his final days. He was an avid supporter of the library; his kids loved the library, and he was able to help the library craft an annual budget that would support current programs and allow them to realize their dreams for the future."

Lee was also voted Manager of the Year by the umpires of his co-ed softball league at Amherst Leisure Services. Fellow player John Mattar writes, "Lee was the beloved manager and coach of his softball team for 15 straight seasons.

He was also the regular starting pitcher. Everyone on the team respected Lee and looked to him for guidance and leadership. His family was usually there during games, with Kevin and Peter cheering on their dad and the team. His positive, good-natured style was a key ingredient in the continuing success of the team, which won a number

of league championships in Amherst, including three consecutive championships. In making the award, the umpires noted Lee was the manager they most enjoyed working with, and that he 'best represents his team and the league through his on-field behavior and attitude.' A number of players were on the team for all 15 seasons Lee was 'coach', as players affectionately referred to him. Often players would cut vacations short and return home from Maine or the Cape for key games when they were needed. The loyalty of the players said a lot about Lee's leadership. Lee also hosted the annual team picnic where he served as grillmaster and host."

Lee was a graduate of the University of Massachusetts where he majored in History. While a student, he served as President of the University's Concert Committee and brought many performers to Amherst including Fleetwood Mac, Bruce Springsteen, and Janis Joplin.

At the time of his death Lee was employed at National Evaluation systems in Hadley managing payroll and accounts payable. He also traveled internationally for the company. Previously he had been employed by Main St. Records in Northampton and worked for many bands including the Eagles, the Who, and the Grateful Dead. It was during this time that he met and married his wife Ellen.

Lee faced his illness with great courage and never gave up hope, continuing to attend family events and public meetings late into his illness. Three weeks before his death he traveled with his family to Hawaii for a joyous and memorable family vacation. He is survived by his wife Ellen, his sons Kevin and Peter, and a brother Neal from Boston. His parents both pre-deceased him.

A memorial service will be held in March. Memorial contributions may be made to the Lee Trousdale Children's Education Fund at the Greenfield Savings Bank. Or to the Friends of the Wendell Free Library, Inc. P.O. Box 133, Wendell, MA. 01379 in support of the children's room at the new library.

Woodbridge Blanchard Brown

June 22, 1927 - February 26, 2006

MONTAGUE CITY - Woody Brown passed away on Sunday morning, February 26th, at home with his wife Leslie at his side.

He was born in 1927 in Newark, New Jersey to Dr. Lewis Woodbridge Brown and Hazel Virginia Brown. He attended Fryeburg Academy and was a graduate of Bowdoin College. While at college, Woody's entrepreneurial spirit was already beginning to bud. He and a college friend developed the first saltwater lobster tank for commercial transport and sale of live lobsters.



Woody Brown in one of his favorite photos, dressed for his role in ACT's 1971 production of *The Dark at the Top of the Stairs*.

Woody served in the Navy and was a veteran of World War II. In 1951, he moved to Greenfield to start working at WHAI radio station. He developed some of their regularly broadcast programs including a morning farm show, "Man with a Hoe." He also recounted memorable interviews with Eleanor Roosevelt, Barbara Hale, Senator Margaret Chase Smith, Patti Page, and Senator George Aiken.

In the 1950s and 60s, Woody pursued a career in public relations at UMass Extension Service, Hart College and his own business, Radio Design. He was self-employed for many years as the proprietor of Billings-Brown Sawmill and most recently as an antiquarian book dealer. In the 1980s, Woody was also the Elder Worker Specialist for the state's "Project Older Worker" Program.

Stemming from his years of producing farm radio shows, Woody developed from a city kid into a knowledgeable forester and gardener. His gardening endeavors included the cultivation of several acres of cucumbers for sale to local pickle factories and growing many varieties of Laurel from seed. He also completed the Master Gardener's Program and never ceased in his search for the perfect tasting tomato.

Woody's interest in forest conservation started with the pruning and care of his own wood lots on Chestnut Hill. He was able to realize a forestry management goal by transferring the Spaulding Brook watershed as conservation land to the state.

Woody unabashedly pursued his many intellectual, political, educational

and creative interests such as art restoration, book binding, voice over for educational media, song writing, acting and directing, stock research and trading, managing local political campaigns, and assisting at art and book auctions.

For nearly 20 years, Woody was an actor and director with the Stockade Players in Deerfield and later in Greenfield. He starred in "On the Waterfront",

"The Crucible", "A Street Car Named Desire", "The Rain Maker", and "Death of a Salesman". He also directed several plays including "The Lark" and "Angel Street".

Woody felt a great sense of civic responsibility and community involvement. He has been an active town meeting member since 1956. Over the years he was pleased to serve Montague on many committees including library, finance, industrial development and town reorganization, to name a few. A favorite soapbox item was the responsibility of everyone to exercise their right to vote.

Up until his death, he continued to study Latin, support the Montague community garden, and regularly attend town meetings. Woody also wrote a seasonal gardening column for the *Montague Reporter*, as well as serving as the first chairman of its board.

Woody loved and was proud of his entire family. He is survived by his wife of 30 years, Leslie Brown, and his five children: Jake, Cynthia, Gini, and Marti Brown of California and Sarah Brown of Bath, England; his daughter-in-law, Peri Pentz-Brown; his sons-in-laws Patrick Cadam, Dr. David Weiland, Chris Williams, and Nawal Khattri; his eight grandchildren: Forrest, Brendan, Dominic, Gabriel, Seth, Sophie, Charlie and Fergus; and his step-mother Agnes Brown and his three sisters: Susan Dell, Linda Smith and Lucy Wellington.

Following his wishes, a celebration of Woody's life will take place this summer at a date to be announced.

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EYE ON TOWN FINANCES

Preparing a Budget for Montague

BY JOHN HANOLD - The process of setting the annual budget for the many functions Montague undertakes is lengthy, starting around November and not ending until the annual town meeting in May - and sometimes not even then.

From a bird's-eye perspective, the process is this: before the December holidays the town administrator issues a planning letter to department heads - the police chief, superintendent of public works, etc. - asking them to prepare their budget needs for the fiscal year beginning the following July. This year's kick-off letter pointed out that fuel and electricity costs would undoubtedly rise, and asked departments to limit all other spending, except for contract-driven salary changes, to the same level as approved last year by town meeting.

The department heads draw on their experience for the current partial year (the six months from July to December, 2005) and their expectations for the year to come, and submit detailed forecasts of dollars, written descriptions of what they are responsible for, what they have accomplished recently, and what their plans are for change in the new fiscal year. Major departments review their

budget forecasts at weekly joint meetings of the town's selectboard and finance committee, from early January through March, at least, allowing department heads to tell their story to both of the groups responsible for presenting a recommendation to the annual town meeting in early May.

In the back of the evaluators' minds is a cold, unavoidable fact: there are more needs in Montague, whether required by law, good management, or civic definition, than there is money available. The effect of the famous Proposition 2-1/2 is that the funds raised by real estate taxes on current properties cannot grow by more than 2.5% from the prior year without a specific override vote from town meeting. The tax revenue from estimated new growth can be added to this, and the total tax levy figure can be approximated early in the budget cycle. However, this means the process begins with a warning in the minds of both department heads and evaluators: any budget request greater than 2.5%, no matter how worthy the purpose, puts pressure on other departments to accept a smaller increase, unless other resources can be uncovered.

There are two other notable



sources of revenue to help close the gap between Wants and Resources, but they are hard to predict and late to be settled. The larger of the two, state aid, is often not determined until early May and sometimes not until after town meeting day. The smaller of the two, local receipts (auto excise tax, inspection fees, dog licenses, etc.), is more predictable than state aid, and based less on legislative choices than on local conditions. Some towns, including Montague, may split the annual meeting agenda between money and non-money items if a delay of a week or two will result in a more accurate picture of the year to come.

At this point, I'd like to step back and offer my slant on the climate in which we budget for town services. Montague is a town with a wide spectrum of residents - older folks and school-age kids, long-time New Englanders and recent arrivals, high-income and

limited income, vigorous and delicate health - and this makes it an interesting place to live. It reflects the diversity of the country as a whole, but it is also an old town, with both the charm of historic buildings and family farms and the inconvenience of old roads and outgrown public facilities. Conversations in town about a combined social services center, a new public safety complex, a landfill, and acquisition of unused buildings are reminders of the ways we may cope with the town's developing needs.

Over the years the support of these needs has come from the state, whose revenue sources include income taxes and lottery proceeds; from users of services, through license and inspection fees or sewer use fees; and from property owners and occupants through real estate taxes. It is not realistic to appeal to Boston for more aid at the same time we demand lower income taxes, and aid from the Commonwealth is unpredictable, and subject to more variation than locally-raised funds. As an example, road and bridge funds and education aid can vary from year to year for reasons that do not reflect Franklin County needs. On the other hand, increasing the proportion of revenue that we obtain locally

depends on faster growth in property values - and real estate tax revenue -- or higher user fees.

On the local level, increases in user fees to enable services like parks and recreation, senior center or library programs can exclude residents from participation in programs that, by public policy, we want to make available to everyone. Finally, although periodic revaluation of property values tends to rebalance the tax load among owners, the application of Prop 2-1/2 serves to both limit the increase in the tax rate and limit our ability to continue the level of town services. An appeal to override Prop 2-1/2 cannot succeed without demonstrating that nothing we do can be eliminated or done less expensively. This makes the review of budget requests, even before the size of our revenue is known, an important step in the process.

The first look at where to trim budget requests just occurred last night, on March 1st. Stay tuned for news on where the town will go next.

John Hanold is a member of the finance committee. The views here are his own, and do not necessarily represent the views of anyone else on the finance committee, or in town government.

Early Days of Turners Falls Part V

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

The people of the village, including Montague City, had been 'doctored' so far by Dr.s Deane, Walker and Fiske of Greenfield, but in 1871 Dr. Erastus C. Coy came from Worthington, and for many years was the well beloved friend and family physi-

cian of many.

Our first lawyer was George L. Barton, son of Benjamin B. Barton of Riverside, a most estimable young man and a very promising member of the Franklin County bar; his death soon after moving into his new house on Prospect Street was a great loss to the whole community. He was succeeded by William S. Dana.

It may be of interest to the geologists, to know that after the Montague Paper Company had started, and was in need of additional water supply, John D. Farwell, who had been driving oil wells at Titusville, PA was called to Turners Falls by George E. Marshall to try for water under the bed of the river back of the mill. He drilled a six-inch well through the rock, 900 feet deep, but without results. The paper company then secured the right to take the water of Fall River, at Factory Hollow. A 24-inch pipe was laid

across and under the river, and that is the supply at the present time.

In this connection, it may be of a little interest to record how Lake Pleasant received its name. Heretofore, it had been known as Great Pond. One day in the fall of 1868, when we came to dinner at the Old Hotel, George W. Potter came in bringing with him a man whom he introduced as Charles H. Comee, Assistant Superintendent of the Vermont and Massachusetts Railroad. They sat down and had dinner with us. In due time, Mr. Potter said that he and Mr. Comee had been looking around for a place for the railroad company to develop as a picnic ground. They had been over looking at Great Pond, and had decided that was the place to develop. They had also decided to name it Pleasant Lake. The grounds were developed as picnic grounds and for many years it was very popular as a place for excursions and camp meetings.

The name however, when advertised, was changed to Lake Pleasant.

The lower suspension bridge [to Greenfield] was built in 1871 and finished in the spring of 1872. The upper suspension bridge [to Gill] was built in 1878, and it may be of interest to know that two colored men by the name of Dorsey from Northampton had charge of putting in the foundation and erecting the superstructure.

The Old Hotel was burned in 1874, being occupied at that time by Charles P. Bardwell and family.

The largest fire the place has experienced was the burning of the Keith Mill, in November, 1877.

The New Haven and Northampton Railroad was built into Turners Falls in 1881, and for a short time we had a through train with parlor car attachment, from Turners Falls direct to New York City.

Continued next week

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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD MEETING

Town Meeting Approves Fund Transfers for Construction

BY DOUG TURNER

WENDELL - Voters at Thursday's special town meeting, February 23rd, gave unanimous approval to the transfer of funds to pay for costs associated with construction projects slated to begin this spring on new buildings and municipal water and septic systems around the town center.

All but one of the fund transfers came from the town's stabilization account. The transfers are designed to delay borrowing for the projects until the last possible date.

Voters approved the transfer of \$175,000 to the public drinking water supply account, the town office construction account at \$50,000, the library construction account at \$30,000, and the town septic system construction account at \$20,000.

A transfer of \$20,000 from the town office construction account for costs associated with the design and remodeling of the current library for use as a senior center, was also approved.

In an effort to cut costs associated with the town office building the senior center wing was eliminated from the plans.

The current library will serve as the future senior center, after the addition of a kitchenette and bathroom.

Selectboard member Dan Keller told voters the two building projects went out to bid on Wednesday, and there was reason to believe the bids will come in 'very close to or below the original estimates.'

The septic system will also go out to bid soon and bids for that project are also expected within the original budget.

However it turns out that the public water supply project estimate will exceed the figure originally budgeted.

At Wednesday's selectboard meeting, February 22nd, Keller said that Huntley Engineering had been hired as engineer for the water system, from drilling the well to building the distribution system.

The new estimate includes DEP requirements that were not foreseen.

Charles Smith of the Wendell conservation commission told those in attendance that the commission had given its approval to the plan, which includes the use of temporary "swamp mats" to reduce the impact of well drilling equip-

ment and vehicle access on wetlands at the town-owned site on Cooleyville Road.

The original estimate of \$100,000 for the water supply has been revised to \$150,000.

The transfers leave \$180,000 available in the stabilization fund, of which \$51,000 has been earmarked for capital improvements at the Swift River School, according to finance committee member Michael Idoine.

He said that the town has been advised that \$60,000 is an appropriate amount to be held in stabilization for a town of Wendell's size.

Editor's note: A headline in the February 16th issue of the Montague Reporter, which read "Special Town Meeting to Seek Additional Construction Funds; \$245,000 Sought for New Library, Town Office, Public Water Supply," may have caused readers to think these projects had gone over budget, or that the town was planning to raise revenue to afford the new construction. As the first paragraph of the story made clear, the \$245,000 was being requested in transfers from the stabilization fund.

Other than the public water supply, the new construction in the town center remains on track within the original budget estimates.

When town meeting approved the new building projects last year, the town had hoped state funds and grants could help defray more of the cost of construction. A recent

\$148,000 reduction in state Payments in Lieu of Taxes to Wendell hurt the chances of that happening, requiring further transfers from stabilization.

We apologize if the headline created any misapprehension about the cost of the town's construction projects.

Books and Brew

BY KATHLEEN SWAIM

WENDELL - The Deja Brew Café and Pub and the Friends of the Wendell Free Library are teaming up to support the new library construction fund in a project called Eat Out for the Library Month.

For the month of March, on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays, from 4-10 p.m., Deja Brew will be donating 10% of the receipts for food and drink to the Friends of the Wendell Library building fund. To participate one must bring a bookmark coupon, available at local libraries and bookstores, or pick up a coupon at the Pub, and present it to your server. Architect's plans are well

under way for Wendell to build a new library and new town offices beginning this spring. The projects should be completed by spring of 2007.

Deja Brew is located between the Wendell Country Store and the Wendell Post Office at 57-A Lockes Village Road, a half mile south of the Wendell town common. Telephone 978-544-2739.

This family-friendly, casual pub offers delicious fare including panini sandwiches, pizza, pasta specials, salads, and desserts, as well as a selection of wine and local and international beers on tap. Children of all ages are welcome.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Unwanted Subjects

Wednesday 2-22

11:20 a.m. Served warrant of apprehension at West Gill Road location.

7:15 p.m. Report of an unwanted subject at Main Road residence.

Thursday 2-23

2:45 p.m. Assisted with medical emergency on the Mount Hermon campus.

9:02 p.m. Assisted fire department with fire alarm at Mount Hermon campus.

Friday 2-24

3:20 p.m. Report of suspicious subject at French King Highway business. Subject checked, all appeared in order.

Saturday 2-25

1:15 a.m. Report of youths having party in fields off of River Road / Pisgah

Mountain. Unable to locate.

2:20 a.m. Assisted Erving Police with two arrests.

10:10 a.m. Report of vehicle accident in Factory Hollow on French King Highway, was over town line in Greenfield. Greenfield Police to handle.

2:42 p.m. Assisted with medical emergency on West Gill Road.

7:50 p.m. Report of vehicle off of roadway on Rt. 10 near Rt. 142, assisted same.

Sunday 2-26

12:30 a.m. Assisted Bernardston Police with an arrest.

1:50 a.m. Report of a snowmobile complaint in the area of Franklin Road. Unable to locate subjects.

5:15 p.m. As the result of a motor vehicle stop, [redacted]

[redacted] was charged with operating after license suspension and operating with tinted windows.

Monday 2-27

1:10p.m. Assisted checking a health watch alarm at a French King Highway residence, determined to be accidental.

4:40 p.m. Report of a 911 mis-dial from the Mount Hermon campus, all determined to be o.k.

Tuesday 2-28

9:45 a.m. Report of ongoing barking dog complaints in the Walnut Street area.

5:20 p.m. Assisted Erving Police with arrest of subject wanted from Florida on French King Highway.

Gill-Montague Regional School Committee Openings

Nomination papers are available for pick-up in the Gill-Montague regional superintendent's office for school committee positions. The Gill and Montague town elections will be held on May 15th. School committee completed nomination papers are due back in the superintendent's office no later

than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 24th.

There is one 3-year Gill school committee seat open.

There are two 3-year and one 2-year Montague school committee seats open.

For more information or questions, please contact Taffy Bassett-Fox at 863-9324.

Theatre of the Deaf to Perform at the Shea

On Monday March 13th, at 1 p.m., The Little Theatre of the Deaf will perform *Fingers Around the World* at the Shea Theater as part of the Performance for Young People Series. The play sees Alice in another Wonderland, where the audience will accompany her *South of the Border* to a fiesta full of history and culture. With old friends from the Lewis Carroll classic, Alice will learn about Cinco de

Mayo and folktales of America's fastest growing ethnic group. Not only will you see every word in American Sign Language (ASL) and hear it in spoken English but also receive a generous helping of Mexican Sign Language and spoken Spanish!

Reservations may be made by calling the Shea Theater Box Office at 863-2281. Performance appropriate for children in grades K-5.

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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Laurel Lane Gets Go-Ahead as Town Road

BY CYD SCOTT - Approximately 50 voters approved a referendum question at a special town meeting held on Monday, February 27th, to adopt Laurel Lane as a town road. Twenty-one of the voters at the special town meeting were residents of Laurel Lane; the article had been submitted by petition of the residents of the subdivision, which has approximately 20 homes and six undeveloped lots.

Margaret Sullivan, an abutter of Laurel Lane, spoke of improvements in drainage at the bottom of the hill, where a catch basin was recently reconstructed. "They did what they said they were going to do," Sullivan said. The article passed unanimously, and the town will now prepare for formally adopting the road at annual town meeting.

In other matters, the special town meeting approved \$500 for Memorial Day Services, \$6,664 to replace a roof on the Ervingside well house. The only articles that generated much debate were motions to purchase a 2006 Deere 544J Four Wheel Drive Loader for the highway department for

\$107,285, and a motion to purchase a John Deere LT Lawn Tractor for maintaining the Town's cemeteries for \$2,112.04. Highway superintendent Paul Prest said, "We can save \$7,000 dollars if we buy the tractors now. John Deere told us the price will change by the start of the new season."

These articles eventually passed, as well.

In other news

The Erving selectboard met with Gail Weiss, wife of Gary Weiss, the proprietor of the soon to be opened Smokin Hippo on Route 2, to pick up the liquor license for the new restaurant. Weiss plans to have the Smokin Hippo open by mid March.

The board also met with tax collector Judy Collins. Collins will be unable to complete her three year term as tax collector, because she is moving out of town as of June of this year. Her term expires in June of 2007. In the next few months, the town will hire an assistant collector, for Collins to train, and a temporary appointment will be made to fill out Collins' term once she no longer resides in town.

The board voted to increase insurance coverage for Erving's 21 volunteer firefighters up to the state mandated \$500,000 for death benefits. The unfounded state mandate will cost the town approximately \$3,000 a year,

administrative coordinator Tom Sharp said.

After purchasing a new pick-up truck for the highway department, the town has decided to advertise for sale a 1993 Ford f350 one-ton pick-up, for

\$5,000. Interested buyers may inquire: 422-2800 x 100.

Finally the board appointed town accountant Deb Mero as an alternate on the zoning board of appeals.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Fugitive Brought to Justice

Wednesday 2-22

11:10 a.m. Assisted Gill Police with warrant arrest on West Gill Road.

4:10 p.m. Assisted Northfield Police with hold up alarm at bank on Main Street. Found to be false alarm. Cancelled while in route.

Thursday 2-23

8:35 p.m. Report of a suspicious vehicle on Mountain Road. Vehicle was located. Subject was lost and was trying to get directions.

Friday 2-24

2:08 p.m. Report of four wheelers and dirt bike on East Prospect Street. Subjects advised of helmet laws. Vehicles parked.

Saturday 2-25

2:20 a.m. After a motor vehicle stop on Route 2, [redacted], was arrested and charged with being a minor in possession of alcohol, possession of a class D drug, and speeding. [redacted], was arrested and charged with being a minor in possession of alcohol and possession of a class D drug.

10:20 a.m. Report of a motor vehicle accident at the Union Street Route 2 intersection. Car into telephone pole. No injuries. Driver cited for marked lanes violation. Arsenault's removed vehicle.

10:00 p.m. Burglar alarm sounding at elementary school.

All secure. Alarm reset.

Monday 2-27

11:15 a.m. Officer observed malicious destruction and larceny of Hermit's Castle sign on Mountain Road. Subjects sawed off and removed sign.

Tuesday 2-28

5:15 a.m. After a motor vehicle stop, [redacted], was issued a criminal application for unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle. [redacted], a passenger in the vehicle was arrested on a fugitive from justice warrant from Orlando, Florida. [redacted] was held on \$75,000 bail and transported to Franklin County House of Correction.

NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Never too Early for Memorial Parade Plans

BY PATRICK RENNICK - Veterans Memorial trustee Art Gilmore came before the Montague selectboard on February 27th, to talk about plans for the upcoming Memorial Day parade. Trustees chair Michael Cenzano was unable to attend, due to illness. Gilmore applied for a permit to hold the parade from 10 a.m. to noon on May 29th. Several local organizations have already been confirmed for the event including: the American Legion, local Vietnam veterans, the Turners Falls High School band, the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.

"We want to make this a patriotic parade that involves the boys and the girls," said Gilmore. "We are also inviting all veterans in the area to attend the parade." The parade route will take participants from the 2nd Street Discovery Center through town to the Montague war memorial.

Gilmore also discussed the draft of a new form to be filled out by anyone who wishes to use the memorial grounds for any purpose, ranging from protests to candlelight vigils. The form will allow the veterans trustees to be aware of all activities conducted on the grounds. In addition applicants must fill out another form for the town.

"Under the First Amendment we can't deny the use of the grounds regarding issues of free speech," said town administrator Frank Abbondanzio.

Gilmore's next issue involved the neglect of flags in Millers

Falls. Following last year's Veterans Day celebration, the village flags were left up and became torn and tattered as a result.

"Some responsibility should be taken by the town," said Gilmore. An anonymous donor has replaced the flags' poles and brackets. Gilmore suggested dividing the responsibility for upkeep of each village's flags, with the Montague Center fire department taking care of Lake Pleasant and Montague Center, Turners Falls fire department taking care of Millers Falls, and the Montague highway department responsible for the flags from Montague City to Avenue A.

The memorial trustees have currently raised \$44,000 for a memorial renewal project, \$24,000 of which was donated anonymously. The trustees are currently waiting on an additional \$40,000 from the state.

"We're in line too," said selectboard member Patricia Pruitt.

"We need more anonymous donors," said selectboard member Pat Allen.

There is currently a seat open on the Montague veterans committee. Those interested in applying should contact the town clerk.

Joshua Goldman, president of U.S. operations for the Australis company at the Turners Falls industrial park, requested a tax break for the expansion the company is planning this spring and at the indoor fish factory.

"It's really quite amazing what we saw when we took the

tour," said Abbondanzio.

The \$2 million expansion will include a new 19,000 square foot building with capacity for seven new tanks promising 300 tons of additional production, and a connector building with a loading dock and shop. The expansion will also produce eight new jobs for the community over the course of a year, Goldman said.

The selectboard passed a motion for a tax increment finance agreement with a 15% break on the real estate portion of the new investment, which declines over a ten-year period, with a 15% average reduction.

Goldman first discovered the "barramundi" fish produced at the Turners fish farm after he was introduced to them by an Australian man in New York City. He began to research the fish, and was hired as a consultant to Australis to develop marketing for the fish to the U.S. market.

"Our hope is to make this fish the premier and healthful sustainable seafood product," said Goldman. The barramundi has uniquely evolved to feed on freshwater and marine food sources, giving it all the nutritional benefits of freshwater and saltwater fish with none of the downsides, he said. Barramundi is currently available locally at the Blue Heron Restaurant in Sunderland, Foster's Supermarket in Greenfield, Amherst Chinese, China Gourmet, and later this March at Big Y grocers.

Montague Police Chief Ray

Zukowski came forward with a request for eight new reserve officers: Michael Williams, Michael Kelly, Richard Logan, Benjamin Kovacevic, James Deery, Scott Bastarache, Todd Michon, and Scott Minckler were all appointed by the board.

The Montague Airport Commission approached the selectboard for questioning.

Starting the conversation, board member Pat Allen asked, "Do we want an airport? Why are we being rushed?"

"It seemed like we had time a couple years ago," said airport manager Mike Sweeney. "Now it is upon us."

"Why May?" asked Allen.

"We are on a July 1st funding cycle," said Sweeney. "In terms of cost for the project, the town will pay 2 1/2%, the state will pay 2 1/2%, and the other 95% will be covered by federal money."

"I was rabidly opposed to the [runway] extension when I joined the commission" said Mark Fairbrother. "I am now fully behind the project."

At village hearings, the airport commission has been positioning closing the airport as an alternative to expanding the runway. "Is there a third alternative?" asked Allen. "Could we accept renovation for a 20-year period, after which it would be closed?"

"I don't know for sure if this would be the case," said Sweeney. "But, it is unlikely that anyone would undertake a project destined to close in 20 years. Closing the airport still involves

buying the property back from the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) at fair market value. The floor value would be close to \$2.99 million," Sweeney said.

Abbondanzio sent out letters to all the landfill developers the town had formerly contacted regarding the recent landfill request for proposals. The letters requested feedback on changes the town should make prior to a second round of bidding.

"We have to explore this," said Ross. "Accepting garbage would not be an acceptable solution." But revenue from a landfill that accepts incinerator ash or contaminated soils, for example, would provide capital improvement money for the town for years. "We're talking about a lot of basic infrastructure to push the town forward here," Ross said.

The town has received a recycling grant of \$3600 dollars from the Department of Environmental Protection, which will go towards upgrading three town vehicles.

Michael Naughton has resigned from the cable committee. "I had asked Mike to help out for what I thought would be four months, and here we are a year and a half later," said Pruitt. "Mike was a great asset to the committee." Eileen Dowd of Turners Falls has recently been appointed to the cable advisory committee.

Teens Plan Benefit for Skate Park

BY KATHLEEN LITCHFIELD

TURNERS FALLS - United by a desire to skateboard and hang out in a safe environment, a group of teenagers wants to reopen the 2nd Street skatepark. They're planning a benefit concert for March 17th to raise funds for needed repairs to the park -- reminiscent of the concert that raised funds for the park's creation in 1997 - and are sharing their ideas with anyone willing to listen.

As members of the Youth Advisory Committee of the Brick House, at the Hot Spot Teen Center at 24 3rd Street, these teens say they miss the sense of community they felt at the skatepark.

"(When the park was open), kids knew each other. It was a mellow, safe environment, besides falling off ramps and stuff like that. I remember having a feeling of joy being around my peers in that environment," said Nick Picariello, a 16-year-old Turners Falls high school student.

"When the skate park closed, kids were scattered, not doing anything with their time that would be considered productive. At least at the skate park they were breaking a sweat," he said. "When (kids) didn't have a place to skate, they were skating on other people's property and getting into trouble. They had no place to go."

The skate park has been closed for three years now, after ramps began deteriorating and became unsafe to use. Two of its

plywood ramps are now badly in need of repair and the fence could use replacing, according to Jon Dobosz, director of the Montague parks and recreation department.

On February 16th, a representative from the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association (MIIA) visited the park to determine the feasibility of providing liability coverage should the park reopen. Dobosz is waiting to receive the insurance company's letter detailing what would have to be done in order for that to happen, including supervision, safety gear, adherence to posted rules and warnings, all of which have previously been difficult to enforce.

Meanwhile, Dobosz is obtaining at least two estimates on what the cost would be to replace the eight-foot chain link fence. He thinks it could be expensive. Dobosz hopes to organize a public meeting in the first week of April to gauge public interest in reopening the park.

Dobosz said he is uncertain how valuable the skatepark is to Montague youth. He looks forward to finding that out during the public meeting.

"I will do whatever is asked of me. I certainly don't want tax-



Youth Advisory Committee members gathered to discuss benefit concert plans. Left to right: Bridger Felton, Nate Greene, Jared Libby, Nick Picariello, Jeremy Latch and Rauri Mulligan.

payers' money being wasted. It will take some time to refurbish the facility. If there's an interest out there, we'll do what we can," he said.

While Turners artist Tim de Christopher holds the lease on the land the skatepark occupies, valued in 2006 at \$43,500, the town has paid both the real estate and fire district taxes on the property since the skate park opened in 1997, as dictated by a 10-year lease agreement.

Originally the money to pay the taxes was built into the parks and recreation department's budget, said Patty Dion, Montague tax collector. When town budgets were cut a few years ago, the burden of taxes was shifted to a "skatepark account," created to hold money raised through skatepark benefits and sales including those of Montague magnets, said Dion.

Last fall, when fiscal year '06 taxes came out, there wasn't enough money in that account to cover the tax bills, she explained.

to pay the \$1,010.07 in real estate taxes. Half of the payment of the fire district tax (totaling \$216.63) was paid and the second half will be paid by its due date of May 1st, said Dion. This will leave \$67 in the skate park account.

Youth Advisory Committee members were happy to learn the real estate taxes had been abated. They had planned to "petition town government to lower the taxes."

The teens are presently securing bands - including acoustic, rock 'n' roll and punk bands - to perform March 17th in the first in a series of skate park benefit concerts, said Jared Libby, Brick House youth program coordinator. Tickets will be \$5 per person at the door and proceeds will go towards repairing the ramps and replacing the fence, if the park is able to reopen.

The skatepark was created in 1997, following the death of local skateboarders Chris Gallagher and Winter Clark -

two boys who drowned in an unsupervised Connecticut River swimming hole - with \$2,000 in funds raised through a benefit memorial concert at the Shea Theater.

"The skatepark is kind of a major historical landmark in this town," said 19-year-old Nate Greene, who believes the park is a community resource. "It was built in memory and in honor of Chris and Winter and it's a major part of this town. People put a lot of sweat, heart and blood into it and I think it should be up and running again."

Fourteen-year-old Rauri Mulligan, a student at Great Falls Middle School, agrees. "It'll get kids out of trouble for street skating," he said, while his friend Nathen Lynde, 13, shook his head up and down vehemently when asked if the park should reopen.

Bridger Felton, 18, said he discovered mentorship from older youths when he visited the skatepark, and that not all the kids who hang out there skate. "Everyone remembers the feeling of knowing each other and forming friendships," he said.

Former teen center coordinator Jeremy Latch, who has been skateboarding for 20 years, said he once spent a night in an Albany jail for skateboarding in the street at a time when that city lacked a skate park. "We'd get jumped. We got into drugs. To have a space downtown (where kids can hang out) is not such a difficult thing to do and would help keep kids out of trouble," he said.

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ARREST
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She also noted that even documented immigrants live in fear. She recounted one rumor that if ICE picks you up they'll tear up your papers, or claim that you aren't really who you claim to be. Nobody seems to know the origin of the rumor - one person said he saw a story about it on Spanish-language television, another that she heard it from a friend whose friend, a legal immigrant, was arrested and deported. Regardless of the origin or its veracity, it has wide currency here.

Police officials have insisted, and local news media have reported, that federal agents believed Ovalle to be a smuggler, or coyote.

According to Montague Police Chief Raymond Zukowski, the raid on the Ovalle apartment, at 73½ Fifth St., "was not a broad round-up of suspected illegal aliens." Zukowski insisted that ICE acted only because they received information that the suspect was a 'coyote' - a trafficker in illegal immigrants.

"I guess they wanted to send a message that if someone is making a profit off of smuggling [people] into this country, ICE is going to crack down," said Zukowski. "But they are too overwhelmed to go after all of those who are just here illegally."

The tip-off was said to come from one of the three undocumented Mexican migrant workers arrested last October in Turners Falls for allegedly stealing a handbag from an elderly woman. Two of these men are still being held in the Franklin County House of Correction; the third suspect, released on bail, has apparently defaulted and there is currently an arrest warrant posted for his apprehension.

No one disputes that the 35-year-old Ovalle was here illegally. Indeed, Grenier confirmed that in 1998 a federal immigration judge ordered Ovalle deported from the U.S. as an illegal alien. But rather than leave the United States, Ovalle fled, eventually ending up in Turners Falls. Since that time, Ovalle had clearly lived with the knowledge that at any moment he could be arrested and deported.

The general panic that exists in the Latino community in Turners

palpable, even for those who are not Latino. Christopher Janke, owner of Suzee's Third Street Laundry, formerly a congregating spot for local Hispanics, remarked that since the Ovalle arrest the visible presence of Latinos on the downtown streets has nearly disappeared. They no longer hang out at the Laundromat, either. If they do come in, they leave as quickly as they possibly can, he said.

Although Chief Zukowski said he had not noticed any great change among Latinos toward the Montague police, those in the community expressed a heightened fear of sudden arrest. They know that the Montague police were involved in the pre-dawn raid; and while it's clear to some that the local police had not initiated the action against Ovalle, they expressed a much greater sense of distrust of Montague officers.

It isn't the first time that arrests in Turners Falls' Latino community have highlighted sharp disparities between the official report and convictions of the community itself.

Some said that they continue to believe that the three undocumented Mexican immigrants - Jose Barrios, Miguel Reynoso Chaves and Atanacio Morales Diaz - arrested last October for the alleged mugging of 67-year-old Phyllis George, were not, in fact, attempting to rob her. Instead, they say, the men were trying to assist her after she had fallen on L Street on her way home from a local bar. But because of the language barrier George was unable to discern this, they say.

If, as Zukowski claims, one of these men told the authorities about Ovalle, he did so only under duress, according to one source in the downtown community.

Meanwhile Mrs. Ovalle still lives in the small apartment trying to decide what her next move will be. Her six small children, according to sources downtown, are doing as well as can be expected under the circumstances of having their father suddenly disappear. The family's future, however, is uncertain. For now, apparently, they are staying put.



DETENCION
continued from pg 1

Falls. En mencionado incidente, tres trabajadores mexicanos indocumentados fueron arrestados por el supuesto robo de una cartera de mano a una mujer anciana. Dos de los hombres están aun siendo procesados en la casa correccional del condado de Franklin; el tercer sospechoso se huyó, y en la actualidad existe una orden de arresto en su contra.

No existe duda que Ovalle de 35 años de edad haya estado ilegalmente en el país. De hecho, Paula Grenier, quien es actualmente la oficial encargada de la oficina de asuntos públicos para la ICE en la sede de Boston, confirmo que en 1998 un juez federal de inmigración ordeno la deportación de Ovalle a su país de origen. Ovalle en lugar de aceptar la deportación y abandonar los Estados Unidos inmediatamente, desapareció y eventualmente se estableció en Turners Falls. Desde ese entonces, Ovalle tenía claro conocimiento que en cualquier momento podría ser arrestado y deportado. La oficial Grenier agrego que contrariamente a lo que el Jefe de la Policía, el señor Zukowski creyó y lo que fue reportado en los periódicos locales, la ICE no presento cargos en contra de Ovalle relacionándolo con la entrada de ilegales al país, una acusación que sería muy grave. "Actuamos de manera simple por que el era un alien fugitivo." Ella también aseguro no tener claro como el rumor de Ovalle ser un coyote se inicio y tampoco comento como la ICE se entero de la ubicación de la vivienda en la que Ovalle residía, en Turners Falls. Grenier también menciona que Ovalle fue deportado de los Estados Unidos el día 23 de febrero y actualmente se encuentra en Guatemala. Para ella el caso ha sido cerrado.

Sin embargo para los latinos de Turners Falls el caso esta lejos de cerrarse. El arresto ha despertado temores en la comunidad Hispana. Una mujer inmigrante quien pidió no ser identificada, dijo que siente miedo al salir inclusive y solo lo hace para cumplir simples diligencias. "Si ellos pueden alejar a un hombre de su esposo e hijos, ellos pueden alejarme a mi también de mi esposo y mis hijos. Y quien sabe que puede suceder contigo finalmente." Ella también afirmo que también aun los inmigrantes documentados sienten temor, pues existen supuestos rumores de que la ICE elige a un individuo, destruye sus documentos y aclama que el individuo no es quien dice ser. No se conoce el origen de este rumor - alguien afirma que vio

la historia en un canal de la televisión Hispana, otra afirma que lo escucho de un amigo quien tenia otro amigo que era un inmigrante legal, quien fue arrestado y deportado. Sin importar el origen y veracidad de estas historias, todos parecen creerlo.

El pánico general que existe en la comunidad de Turners Falls es palpable, aun entre aquellos que no son latinos. Christopher Janke, dueño de la lavandería Suzee's ubicada en la calle Third, antiguamente un espacio de reunión de los latinos en la zona, aseguro que desde el arresto de Ovalle, la presencia de latinos en las calles del centro ha desaparecido. Ya no se encuentran en la lavandería tampoco, y si vienen se van lo mas pronto posible. Aunque el jefe de la policía, el señor Zukowski dijo que no ha notado grandes cambios entre los latinos hacia la policía de Montague, en la comunidad se expresa miedo a un repentino arresto. Ellos tienen conocimiento de que la policía de Montague estuvo involucrada en el proceso anterior a la redada y aunque es claro que la policía local no inicio cargos contra Ovalle, ellos expresan mayor desconfianza frente a los oficiales de Montague.

Por otra parte, algunos creen que los tres mexicanos indocumentados - José Barrios, Miguel Reynoso Chávez y Atanasio Morales Diaz - arrestados el pasado octubre por el supuesto robo de una cartera a la señora Phyllis George de 67 años de edad, afirmaron nunca haber atentado contra la integridad de la mujer. De lo contrario, ellos afirman que su intención era asistir a la mujer, quien se había caído en la calle L e iba camino a su casa después de haber visitado un bar de la zona. Pero debido a barreras en la comunicación George no pudo entender su intención, agregaron ellos. El señor Zukowski pronuncio que fue uno de estos hombres quien informo a las autoridades sobre Ovalle. De acuerdo a otro informante en el centro de la comunidad, el hombre decidió dar parte de Ovalle porque se encontraba bajo presión. "Ellos lo hicieron decir todo o tal vez le ofrecieron un acuerdo, no se. No tengo claro si ellos cometieron o no cometieron el crimen."

Por el momento, la señora Ovalle todavía reside en su pequeño apartamento tratando de decidir sobre su próximo paso. Sus seis pequeños hijos, según fuentes del centro, están estables bajos los marcos de lo que se puede esperar sin la presencia de su padre. El futuro de la familia es una incertidumbre.

Mil gracias a Carolina Gomez y David Kramer para la traducción en español.



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AIRPORT

continued from pg 1

airport and used it frequently.

Sojka persisted. "There isn't a lot of revenue coming back to the town because we have an airport up on the Hill."

Sweeney replied, "We can't quantify it with any certainty. We can't tell you it represents some percentage of the town's economy. We have no means of measuring it." But he said the airport did bring people with disposable income into town.

Carla Kozik said, "The airport took property from my parents along West Mineral Road in the 50s. There was a settlement. From 80 acres we're down to 35. Is there anything on the agenda to take more land?"

"No," Sweeney replied. The town has recently acquired the Koch farm, land needed for the runway expansion, and the plan is to demolish the barn, and perhaps leave the Koch house standing. A small hill between the end of the runway and West Mineral Road would be leveled, as it presents an aviation hazard, Sweeney said.

Art Gilmore asked how the runway extension would impact West Mineral Road, and Sweeney said the telephone wires along the southern section of the road would have to be buried to insure the safety of planes using that end of the runway.

"That means aircraft will be coming in lower over Millers Falls Road?" asked Gilmore, who owns a house there.

"No, no," said Sweeney, who reconsidered and then replied, "Yes. They will be leaving the ground 1200 feet further"

southeast of the end of the present runway, so they will be closer to houses along that portion of Millers Falls Road on take-off. "But the noise profile study says it shouldn't have any impact at all on you, sir."

Gilmore asked where the town would get the money to support its share of the construction, and Sweeney responded, "I have some sympathy for the capital improvements committee. They have to balance all the needs of the community. The airport is one of them. It comes up very infrequently, once every forty-five years. Unfortunately, it's coming up now."

Gilmore said, "I was on town meeting in the 60s, and I remember a big furor then about the lights. Sam Couture wanted lights" along the runway. Then, Gilmore tried to pin Sweeney down about his frequently cited figures for what the FAA would require for repayment of grant funds (\$1,382,000) and fair market value for the land (212 acres at \$40,000, or about \$8.5 million) if the town were to close the airport down rather than opt for renovating the runway. Gilmore asked if the airport commission could arrange to have someone from the FAA present to answer questions about these sums at the annual town meeting in May. Sweeney said he did not think anyone from the FAA would appear in person to do that, but said he could put Gilmore in touch with an FAA spokesperson by phone.

Capital improvements committee member Mike Naughton thanked the commission for bringing their presentation to the villages. "You are making a real effort to get the word out. But the presentation is clearly a work in progress, slanted in favor of extending the runway, which your commission has considered the best way to go for years. The other options available have not been fully explored, by you or anybody else."

Naughton homed in on the \$40,000 per acre figure which Sweeney claimed would be the fair market value for industrial land at the airport. Sweeney said a local realtor had come up with that estimate, but Naughton said the town had never gotten more than \$25,000 per acre for land in the industrial park. "With all the endangered species and Native American archaeological sites at the airport, it's not clear what this land would be worth on the open market," Naughton said.

"I think the question of what the FAA would really fund has not been fully explored."

In a Q & A fact sheet supplied by the commission at the beginning of the meeting, a question about whether the FAA would fund a shorter runway is answered, by the commission, "The FAA has the power to waive some of their requirements, and it is possible the FAA would agree to waive some or all of the increase [in runway length] their specification mandates. The commission has not asked the FAA to consider waiving its safety requirements, because it can find no technical justification for rejecting the safety margins the specification provides."

At several hearings, Sweeney has told the audience a longer runway would allow a new category of airplane, jets weighing under 12,500 pounds, to use the airport. (The Turners Falls airport is a B-Class-2 airport where only planes weighing under 12,500 pounds are allowed to land. That classification will not change if the runway is expanded.) But Sweeney has consistently cited the fact that there are only 188 of these lightweight jets registered in the entire country, and only three in Massachusetts, in his estimate that lightweight jets will make up less than 1% of annual traffic at the airport, or about one jet every six days.

But Peter Conway of Greenfield said he had been exploring a website for a manufacturer of a new lightweight class of jets, the Eclipse 500, which is set to go into production this year, with over 2000 pre-ordered. "This is the wave of the future," said Conway. "This is what concerns me. You have not done a noise profile for these jets." Conway, who said he is not an opponent of the airport, and used to bike to Turners Falls in the 40s to watch planes take off from the grass runway, plans to retire to a home in Riverside in Gill, in the airport flight path.

Sweeney, who works as a representative of an English jet engine manufacturer in addition to his part time job as airport manager, acknowledged the new jets appear to be a hot commodity. "I'm certainly optimistic about these new jets." But he said the noise output from the jet engines would be less than aircraft that currently

use the airport. Brenda Silva asked what sort of environmental protection has been planned for endangered species at the airport, most of which, like the grasshopper sparrow and the frosted elfin butterfly, appear to be species that fly and might come into contact with aircraft. "How would you protect them?" The commission forecasts a 17% increase in airplane traffic at the airport between now and 2010.

Mark Fairbrother, chair of the conservation commission and a member of the airport commission, said the plan is to increase the amount of habitat available for endangered species at the airport. Sweeney said the endangered species do not tend to "hang out over the blacktop," but rather over the surrounding grassland.

Silva asked about perchlorate, a pollutant found in jet fuel, and what the commission planned to do to keep it out of town's groundwater. Sweeney said the commission has a careful storm water runoff plan.

Silva asked whether the state might be interested in purchasing the airport land to protect the endangered species and significant archaeological sites, should the town opt to close the airport. "Would that be a possibility?" she asked.

"I presume so, yes," answered Fairbrother.

The next village meeting on the airport expansion plan will take place at the Masonic Hall on Masonic Avenue in Montague City on Tuesday, March 28th, at 6:30 p.m.



PAPER

continued from pg 1

is in great shape. We hope to have it running five, six, seven days a week." Southworth said the paper machine at his West Springfield mill is 70 inches wide; the machine at Turners Falls is 115 inches wide. He said Esleek paper will still be finished and shipped out of Turners Falls, while Southworth paper will be finished and shipped out of Agawam.

Speaking of his decision to cut

back the sales force at Esleek from four positions to one and a half, Southworth said, "We're in a declining, mature market. Nothing is changing that."

Southworth said, "The Blanker family did a good job. A more prudent business person would have closed the plant a few years ago, but they wanted to keep papermaking jobs in Turners Falls."

The Blankers' decision to sell Esleek Manufacturing to Southworth Paper accomplished just that.

Baseball and Girls Softball Registration

Registration begins on Monday, March 6th for boys and girls in grades K through 6 for baseball and softball programs of the Montague parks and recreation department.

Montague Independent Baseball serves youths within three different skill-levels: rookie league, grade 1 and 2; farm league, grades 2 - 4; youth league, grades 5 and 6. Parents are needed to help

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towns in the Small Town League. Games are held in May and June. Fees for Montague Residents are \$35, non-residents: \$40. Fees include hat, shirt and pants. Parents are encouraged to help coach and umpire; no experience necessary, training provided. Registration is ongoing until Saturday, April 8th. For more information, call MPRD at 863-3216.

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Go Fly A Kite

BY FRAN HEMOND

MONTAGUE CENTER - March is the windy month, according to Mother Goose and memory.

"The March wind doth blow, and we shall have snow,

And what will poor robin do then?"

And perhaps you remember "He'll stay in the barn to keep himself warm

With his head tucked under his wing."

March sounded like a dreadful month to a small child until a smart kindergarten teacher had her little charges make kites. Mine was small and yellow, its fairly sturdy construction probably the result of help from Miss Onley, the very attractive young assistant. She would marry soon, and the class would see her off to the train.

The kite string was not long, but the kite could be caught up in the wind and start to the sky, if you ran along tugging it at first to get it going. You had to hold tight or the breeze threatened to take it away. Power!

Now, the wind had new meaning, and March had

become a month to anticipate. Here in our country there are many who have succumbed to the fascination of kites. But without the noise and speed of model airplanes, and dependent on the vagaries of weather, kites do not enjoy the publicity of their mechanically-powered counterparts.

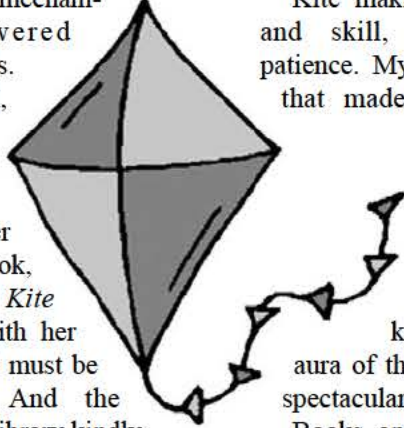
Last fall, a dear friend recommended her favorite book, *The Kite Runner*. With her approval, it must be excellent. And the Montague library kindly found it in the system and ordered it for me. Its author was brought up in Afghanistan, and now lives here on our West Coast. One of the tragedies to the lands in which the creative and intellectual have been persecuted is the loss to their country of their most able.

Many of us had a hazy view of this free country being destroyed by the Soviet threat

from the north and a militant religious party from within. The book transforms Kabul from a city on the map of Afghanistan into a vivid canvas of people and places. And kite running, a treasured custom and contest, is an integral part of the picture.

Kite making requires effort and skill, enthusiasm and patience. My little yellow kite that made March winds a challenge instead of a fear was of the standard four-sided design, narrower at the top. Dragon kites, carrying the aura of the Orient, are more spectacular creations.

Books on kite making give basic ideas and suggestions. The kite made with your own skill and experience may fly high and handsome in the windy sky; it may escape or go down, leaving just a vision. And just the memory is not bad. Or it may live to fly another day, modified by the experience of its trip to the heavens.



Grants Support Cultural Activities

BY LAUREL FACEY

WENDELL - Awards were made to the following recipients of Wendell Cultural Council grants, some of whom have already begun to share their skills and talents with the local community. The New Salem 1794 Meetinghouse, Inc. Quabbin Valley Pro Musica received \$150. Sharon Gensler of Wendell is presenting films, "Back to the Land: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow." Her series received \$205 in grant funds. Nina Keller of Wendell will soon begin writing workshops entitled, "Coping Creatively: Building Community in Troubled Times," backed by \$400 in Cultural Council support. Adrian Montagano, an artist, will be displaying the paintings of local elders; Elder Iconography received \$300.

Ruth O'Mara will be holding Family Clay Classes; she was awarded \$350. "Starry, Starry Night," a New Year's Eve undertaking of the Orange Revitalization Partnership, received \$50 from Wendell. The "North Quabbin Garlic and Arts Festival," an annual event sponsored by the Seeds of Solidarity Education Center, received sup-

port with a \$50 grant. Slate Roof: a Publishing Collective will receive \$100 for "Publishing Our Local Poets."

Swift River School, the local elementary school serving the students of Wendell and New Salem, was granted \$600 for "Celebrate Turkey," a program that celebrates diversity and focuses on one particular culture in a multidisciplinary way, culminating in an evening event open to the community. Swift River School also received a PASS grant of \$194 for tickets to the Shea Theater for the performance of "Dinosaurs."

Two programs co-sponsored by the Wendell Free Library, each to receive \$300, include a Campfire on the Common (or at Fiske Pond) with the well-loved storyteller Roger Tinknell and a program called "Wendell Wild Edible and Medicinal Plants" facilitated by Chris Marano, which will include a field trip to some of Wendell's great outdoors.

The Wendell Cultural Council is the local agency of the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Grants are awarded once a year. Submission deadlines are in mid-October. Applications are available on-line at www.mass-culture.org.

Cabin Fever?

Get out of the house and into a workshop through GCC's Office of Community Education



March Workshops

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- Get Organized
- Healing Your Family Tree
- Celtic Heels Irish Dance
- Mx: The Means to Achieve x
- Buying on Ebay
- Pastel Portraiture
- Social Dance (3 styles)
- Blacksmithing
- Time Management
- Digital Photography 2
- Selling on Ebay
- Tai Chi 2

Check out the current GCC course guide for new offerings and old favorites or view the course guide on-line at www.gcc.mass.edu



Office of Community Education
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The Gill Store
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Passport Day

The Turners Falls Post Office will offer a special passport day in the lobby Saturday, March 11th, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for U.S. citizens to apply for passports and to get passport photos. Avoid the lines, prepare for increased border security, bring original birth certificate and photo I.D.

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FINDING BALANCE: HEALTH TIPS FOR A HAPPY LIFE

Lift Your Eyes to Enhance Your Life

BY JENNY CHAPIN

MONTAGUE CITY - The next time you're out strolling around, in town doing errands, or perhaps walking up to Poets Seat Tower, notice where your gaze is set. Are your eyes trained on the ground in front of your feet, or are you looking up, checking out what's going on around you?

Our bodies typically are focused forward: working at the computer, driving, adjusting the TV volume, answering the phone, cooking, doing crafts, fixing things. Throughout the day, we look at what is right in front of and usually below our level gaze. When our movements are so limited, when our world fits into such a small box, not only do we lose our innate capacity to move with ease, our worldview diminishes as well. Raise your head and eyes - and

a whole new world opens up.

Try it, and see what happens in your own body. From standing or sitting, look down at the floor or to the ground about five feet in front of you. Notice how your upper body starts to follow the line of your vision. Your head comes forward, your shoulders round in, which contracts your lungs so it's harder to take in air, the organs in your belly get smooshed, and your neck and lower back lose their natural curves.

Stay like this for any length of time, and you may notice that you're not breathing very well, your shoulders and neck are tightening up to try to hold your head up, and your upper and lower back are starting to ache.

It takes a lot of effort to be hunched over, and it doesn't even feel good! So, please, try a



different way. Lift your head and look at something above the level of your eyes. Let your head balance on top of your neck. Take a nice breath in, and let your shoulders drop away from your ears. Draw your shoulder blades towards each other, and down your back. Imagine the bottom tips of your triangular shoulder blades moving forward along your diaphragm, lifting your heart and front ribs to the glorious wide open sky.

Now when you take a breath in, your lungs can fill with air. In addition, the muscles of your

shoulders, back, hips, and legs don't have to work so hard to keep you from toppling forward. It may feel strange at first, as your muscles get used to operating with less effort, but they'll prefer it, believe me.

Years ago, taking horseback riding lessons, the most important instruction I received while trotting around the ring was to sit tall in the saddle and aim my attention ahead of the horse, rather than at the space between her ears. The point was to communicate to the horse where I wanted her to take me (through subtle shifts in my body positioning), by setting my sights on my goal. I was amazed at how much easier and smoother the ride was once I lifted my eyes to look into my future.

To have a chance of getting where we want to go in life, we

need to look up, forward, and around us, because we can't get there if we don't have any idea what the path ahead looks like. We need to know what to walk around, when to lift our feet, when to diverge momentarily for the sake of the larger picture.

So raise your head, extend your spine, and breathe into your lungs everything that life has to offer, if we just lift our eyes to see it.

Jenny Chapin is a resident of Montague City, and a certified acupuncturist, Zero Balancer, and yoga teacher, practicing in Franklin County for seven years. If you have a topic of interest about holistic health, email to: jgchapin@crocker.com

THE HEALTHY GEEZER

Lowering Cholesterol

BY FRED CICETTI, LEONIA, NJ-Q. *Can eating oatmeal really lower your cholesterol or are the cereal companies selling us a story?*

The short answer is yes; oatmeal can lower your cholesterol. Now for the long answer.

There are two types of fiber, soluble and insoluble. Soluble fiber is acted upon by the normal bacteria in your intestines. Insoluble fiber is not digested by the body and promotes regularity and softens stools.

Wheat bran, whole grain products and vegetables are good sources of insoluble fiber.

Soluble fiber appears to reduce your body's absorption of cholesterol from the intestines. Oatmeal contains soluble fiber that reduces your low-density lipoprotein (LDL), the 'bad' cholesterol that can increase your risk of heart

attacks and strokes. This type of fiber is also found in such foods as kidney beans, brussels sprouts, apples, pears, barley and prunes.

The American Dietetic Association recommends a healthy diet include 25 to 35 grams of fiber a day, including both soluble and insoluble fiber. (Soluble fiber should make up 5 to 10 grams of your fiber intake.) However, Americans only consume about half that amount.

There are other foods that work against cholesterol.

Soy protein, found in such products as tofu, soy nuts, soy milk and soy burgers, can help lower blood levels of LDL cholesterol, particularly when it's substituted for animal protein. Ingesting 25 to 50 grams of soy protein a day lowers LDL cholesterol by 4 percent to 8 percent.

That's a lot of soy. People with the highest cholesterol levels seem to benefit the most from soy protein.

Women with breast cancer or who are at high risk of breast cancer should consult with their doctors before eating soy, because it is not clear how these plant estrogens might affect them.

Studies have shown that walnuts can significantly reduce cholesterol levels in the blood. Rich in polyunsaturated fatty acids, walnuts may also help keep blood vessels more healthy and elastic.

When walnuts represent 20 percent of the calories in a cholesterol-lowering diet, they reduce LDL cholesterol by 12 percent. Almonds appear to have a similar effect. All nuts are high in calories, so use them as replacements for high-calorie foods with high levels of saturated fats.

rated fats.

Omega-3 fatty acids in fish are noted for lowering triglycerides, another form of fat in your blood. They also benefit the heart in other ways. The highest levels of omega-3 fatty acids are in mackerel, lake trout, herring, sardines, albacore tuna and salmon. Other good sources of omega-3 fatty acids include flaxseed, walnuts, canola oil and soybean oil.

Some foods are fortified with plant substances called sterols or stanols, which are similar in structure to cholesterol; this helps them block the absorption of cholesterol in the intestines. Margarines and orange juice that have been fortified with plant sterols can help reduce LDL cholesterol by more than 10 percent.

The American Heart Association recommends foods fortified with plant sterols only



ILLUSTRATION JESSICA HARMON

for people with high levels of LDL cholesterol.

You may want to try eating more soluble fiber, soy protein, walnuts and fatty fish. The next step would be the addition of foods fortified with plant sterols. Eating a combination of these cholesterol-lowering foods increases the benefit.

Of course, if you're a geezer and you plan to make a change in your habits that could affect your health, it is recommended that you consult your doctor first.

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

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Endangerment to Children

Thursday 2-23
7:53 p.m. [redacted] was arrested and charged with indecent assault and battery on a person 14 or over, reckless endangerment to children, and assault to rape.

Friday 2-24
9:15 a.m. Report of a larceny at an L Street address. An American flag and pole were stolen from a porch. Report taken.

Saturday 2-25
12:45 a.m. [redacted] was arrested and charged malicious

destruction of property over \$250 and disorderly conduct.

1:06 p.m. Report of a chimney fire at a Union Street address. Montague Center Fire Department responded.

4:19 p.m. Caller reports while hiking on Mt. Tobey, power lines were observed on a tree. WMECO notified.

Tuesday 2-28
12:07 a.m. Request for a well-being check at a 4th Street address.

[redacted] was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct and three counts of reckless endangerment to children.

Wednesday 3-1
1:18 a.m. After a motor vehicle stop on Montague City Road near the golf course, [redacted] was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, a number plate violation, three counts of possession of a class B drug, and failure to wear a seatbelt.

[redacted] was arrested and charged with possession with intent to distribute cocaine, and possession of a class E drug.

New Plays Premiere at the Shea

TURNERS FALLS - The Shea Theater will premiere two new plays exploring themes of love, friendship, and destiny by award-winning playwrights at its second annual Festival of New Work on Saturday, March 18th, at 8:00 p.m.

The festival, begun last year by Shea Theater director Debra J'Anthony, taps a rich supply of local talent to make new and exciting work available to the public. Building on last year's successful performance, the Festival will pair work from local Pushcart Prize nominee Jessamyn Smyth's new company, Basilisk Productions, and the famous Boston's Playwright's Platform at

the converted 1920s movie house in the heart of Turners Falls.

Fallen Star, an EACT Excellence in Playwriting Award-winning one act by Jerry Bisantz, opens the evening. Producer Erik Sherman describes *Fallen Star* as a compelling ghost story about friendship, love, and growing up. This award winning one-act deftly blends flashbacks with unfolding tragedy, comedy, and traces of *It's a Wonderful Life*.

Jenny Haniver, the newest stage work by local author, teacher, and director Jessamyn Smyth, of Gill, will provide the second half of the evening's entertainment. A tragic love story about people trying to make the

right choices in difficult circumstances, Smyth said the play uses the metaphor of the Jenny Haniver to explore the nature - and consequences - of the choices people make. "A Jenny Haniver was a juvenile manta ray or skate pickled, bottled, and sold in medieval markets as a 'real basilisk' that could ward off evil and bring good luck, passion, and protection," said Smyth. The Second Annual Festival of New Work at the Shea starts at 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 18th. Reservations are recommended: please call the Shea Theater at (413) 863-2281.

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FRIDAY, MARCH 3RD
2nd Annual Hold 'em for Hospice Texas Hold 'em Poker Tournament held at St. Kazimierz Hall, 179 Avenue A, Turners Falls. 50% of the registration fee will be awarded in cash prizes and 50% will be donated to Hospice of Franklin County. 413-774-2400

Aquamarine gala opening to benefit the Franklin County Community Coalition for Teens at the Greenfield Garden Cinemas, 7 p.m. **Dress for the Red Carpet, this is a premiere!** The movie is rated PG and is directed by Elizabeth Allen who has local connections in the area. For more info visit www.aquamarinemovie.com. To watch the trailer visit www.movies.-aol.com. Advance adult tickets \$10, \$12 door, \$6 youth. Must be purchased from CCT - call 413-774-3167 x101. All movie proceeds generously donated to CCT by Greenfield Garden Cinemas! The People's Pint, China Gourmet, Herm's, Famous Bill's, and Mesa Verde will donate 10% of your March 3rd food bill to CCT if you bring your movie ticket or a flyer!

Contra Dance with Moving Violations at the Guiding Star Grange Hall, 401 Chapman St., Greenfield. 8:00 to 11:30 p.m. 413-549-1913.

Three Views, an exhibit/reception featuring paintings, sculpture and installation works of three local artists: O (u) BLI (e) TERATE: disiterations and fragments by Bernard Banville; The Inverse Order of Alienation, by Steve Random; and Trinity, by Christopher Willingham, will be held at Gallery 17, 8 Deerfield Ave., Shelburne Falls, from 6-10 p.m. The Iron Bridge Writers, led by Edite Cunnã, will perform short readings from recent works from 7 to 8 p.m. Refreshments will be served. No admission charge.

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY MARCH 3RD & 4TH
Pottery Seconds & More Sale sponsored by Artspace Community Arts Center, featuring potters, woodworkers, glassblowers and others. Greenfield High School, Lenox Ave., Greenfield. Friday 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. and Saturday 10:00 to 2:00 p.m. 413-772-6811.

SATURDAY, MARCH 4TH
An evening of music featuring over 17 performers will take

place at the Shea Theatre in Turners Falls. The concert, drawing talented musicians from around New England, features the **Women in Jazz Combo** with Patty Carpenter and her daughter, Melissa Shetler; Yasko Kubota, piano; Ellen Powell, bass; Claire Arenius, drums; and Scott Shetler, sax and clarinet. The concert will also feature new songs written and performed by Patty Carpenter and Verandah Porche. The Pioneer Valley Performing Arts High School Super Group, under the direction of Mitch Chakour will open the show.

Puppet Building on Saturdays in March, (4th, 11th, 18th, and 25th) 1 - 4 p.m. Join us as we make parade puppets and plan theatrics for the River Celebration in April. Mark Dannenhauer will lead us in creating large puppet versions of local habitats and animals. Tools, techniques, and materials provided. No previous experience necessary. Meet at Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main St., Athol. For more details visit www.millersriver.net, or call 978-248-9491.

Contra Dance with Wild Asparagus at the Guiding Star Grange Hall, 401 Chapman St., Greenfield. 8:00 to 11:30 p.m. 413-772-6840.

SUNDAY, MARCH 5TH
Hallmark Institute of Photography invites prospective students and their families to an **Open House** from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. Campus tour and student and faculty demonstrations. For further info contact Shelley Nicholson, enrollment services director, at (413) 863-2478.

Appalachian Mountain Club invites the public to an **Outdoor Expo** from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Come find out about recreational resources in our region. AMC has organized this event so that the public can find out about trails, boating, and recreational gear. Area businesses and non-profits will have displays and programs. Come to Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main St., Athol. Call Don Fly for more information 978-724-3318.

TUESDAY, MARCH 7TH
Teachers and Coaches Gathering held on the first Tuesday of each school year month, 5:30 p.m. We welcome teachers, and others who work in schools, to join us in **discus-**



Ben Shippee Band Last area show, don't miss it! Friday, March 10th The Shea Theater, Turners Falls

sions of community based studies. Please bring your project ideas, examples of past work, and food to share during this **pot-luck supper** meeting. Held in the West Room, Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main St., Athol. For more info, email us at: abnc@millersriver.net.

THURSDAY, MARCH 9TH
Open Mic at Rt. 63 Roadhouse with HAL BENOIT, no cover. Federal St., Millers Falls. For more info call (413) 659-3384 or visit rt63roadhouse.com.

FRIDAY, MARCH 10TH
Contra Dance with *David Kaynor & Greenfield Dance Band* at Guiding Star Grange Hall, 401 Chapman St., Greenfield. 8:00 p.m. to midnight. 413-367-9380.

Rt. 63 Roadhouse presents Art Steele Blues Band, Federal St., Millers Falls. For more info call (413) 659-3384 or visit rt63roadhouse.com.

The Shea Theater presents the last area show of New Hampshire's Ben Shippee Band. For more info email shea@valinet.com, or call 413-863-2281.

SATURDAY, MARCH 11TH
Great Falls Discovery Center invites you to *Fabulous Fakes*, 1-2 p.m. Join with Gini Traub as we create "rocks" using everyday foods, to learn what the words, igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary mean. This program is designed for school-age children, their families, and the child in all of us.

Puppet Building in Athol. Join us each Saturday in March as we make parade puppets and plan theatrics for the **River Celebration in April**. Mark Dannenhauer has more in store for us this year. Don't miss out! Meet at the Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main St., Athol. Details on the web at www.millersriver.net, or call 978-248-9491.

Com Beef & Cabbage Dinner cooked by parish leprechauns! Sponsored by Our Lady of Peace Church. Held in Father

Casey Hall, Avenue J, Turners Falls. Dinner and Pots o' gold raffles. 5:15 p.m. Tickets - 413.863-2585.

Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse presents *Craig Eastman* at the Wendell Town Hall. Show starts at 7:30 with Open Mic, main show around 8:00 p.m. Proceeds from the show benefit the Swift River School. For more info visit www.wendellfullmoon.org.

Contra Dance with *Tophill Music* at the Guiding Star Grange Hall, 401 Chapman St., Greenfield. 8:00 to 11:30 p.m. 413-773-1671.

Rt. 63 Roadhouse presents Turn It Loose, Federal St., Millers Falls. For more info call (413) 659-3384 or visit rt63roadhouse.com.

THURSDAY, MARCH 16TH
Back to the Land film series in Wendell features *Ruth Stout's Garden* (about no-dig gardening) Discussion after each film in the series. Free at the Senior Center, 7 p.m. in Wendell center. Next film April 20th, *The Close to Nature Garden* (about Fukuoka's One-Straw Revolution.)

FRIDAY, MARCH 17TH
HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!
Great Falls Discovery Center invites you to *St. Patrick's Day is for the Birds!*, from 10 to 11 a.m. or 11 a.m. to Noon. Come join Susan J. Russo and Gini Traub to learn through hands-on activities what St. Patrick's Day and birds have in common. Program geared towards 3 - 7 year olds, all are welcome. Parents please make sure your child is dressed to get a little messy!

ANSWERS TO LAST ISSUE'S CROSS-WORD PUZZLE
WONDERFUL NATURE

Across	Down
3. NILE	1. EVEREST
4. REEF	2. GIBRALTER
8. VICTORIA	5. FUJI
10. FUNDY	6. IRELAND
12. BRIDGE	7. BAOBAB
14. SAFFRON	9. WHIRLPOOL
17. AURORAS	10. FAULT
18. TITICACA	11. DEAD SEA
19. AYERS	13. KRAKATOA
20. PENGUIN	15. SWAMP
	16. SAHARA

NOW THRU APRIL 2ND
Inaugural Exhibition at The Hallmark Museum of Contemporary Photography: Photographs by New York-based portrait and fashion photographer **Barbara Bordnick**. The museum is located at 85 Avenue A, Turners Falls. Hours: Thursday to Sunday 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. (413) 863-0009.

HOT SPOT TEEN CENTER

- **MONDAYS** - Drop-in, 3-5,
- **TUES & WEDS** - Ongoing Music Project, 3 - 5
- **THURS** - Drop-in, 3 - 5, Movie Night, 6 - 8
- **FRI, MAR 10th**, Open mic at bellybowl, 6 - 7:30 followed by Appalachian Still
- **FRI, MAR 31st** - Open mic at bellybowl restaurant, 6 - 9

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

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

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FRIDAY NIGHT STEAMERS

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Showtimes for Fri, March 3rd - Thurs, Mar. 9th

- 1. CURIOUS GEORGE** G
MAT SAT, SUN, WED 12:00 2:00 4:00
- 1. CAPOTE** R
DAILY 6:30 9:30
- 2. EIGHT BELOW** PG
DAILY 6:30 9:30
MAT SAT, SUN, WED 12:30 3:30
- 3. DOOGAL** G
MAT SAT, SUN, WED 12:00 2:00 4:00
- 3. BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN** R
DAILY 6:30 9:30
- 4. DATE MOVIE** PG13
DAILY 6:45 9:15
MAT SAT, SUN, WED 12:15 3:15
- 5. THE PINK PANTHER** PG
DAILY 6:45 9:15
MAT SAT, SUN, WED 12:15 3:15
- 6. 16 BLOCKS** PG13 in DTS sound
DAILY 7:00 9:20
MAT SAT, SUN, WED 12:00 3:00
- 7. AQUAMARINE** PG in DTS sound
DAILY 7:00 9:20
MAT SAT, SUN, WED 12:00 3:00

Montague Police Deploy Tasers

BY PATRICK RENNICK - The first thing a suspect will see is the appearance of a laser sight on their body. Failure to comply will cause this small red dot to be followed by the violent sound of crackling electricity. Those foolish enough to ignore these initial warnings will experience a five second shock throughout their entire body brought on by twin steel probes delivering 50,000 volts of electricity. The "Taser" was developed for police use in 1998 and has since become an increasingly popular "non-lethal" alternative for officers nationwide.

The Montague police department has recently adopted these hand-held devices purchasing three X-26 models. Greenfield also recently acquired Tasers. In addition to firing two probes from a distance of up to 25 feet into a target, this model is also capable of a secondary function known as a "drive stun." This weaker option is administered at close range. To date, in Montague, the X-26 has been fully deployed once and the secondary drive stun has been used twice.

Detective Lee Laster of the Montague police has been trained in the use of Tasers and has personally administered the drive stun on a suspect.

"The gentleman I had to administer the Taser to was approximately 6'1"- 6'2" and 260 - 270 pounds," said Laster. "I'm 5' 6" and about 155 pounds. I gave verbal commands and he said, [expletive deleted]. I warned him with a spark and he continued to say, [expletive deleted]. He went straight to the ground, all six feet and 200 pounds of him just dropped."

Laster and officer Dan Miner are in charge of training the Montague police force to use this new addition to their roster of equipment. Training

involves a two-day, 16-hour course that includes a breakdown on the mechanics of the weapon, how to change the battery, how to deploy the weapon, how to change the air cartridge responsible for firing the probes, and how to carry the weapon. To become a trainer in the use of Tasers, officers are asked to attend an additional one-day state training session.

The final step of the Taser training involves the officers themselves taking a hit from the weapon. The Montague police force put together a video of their training session. The soundtrack accompanying the footage is White Zombie's "More Human Than Human." As each officer stands ready for the shock they are held up by other officers. The initial reaction of the men varies from groans to cries, but all end up in the same position face down on the mat.

"We've got some big guys on our force," said Laster. "And they all went right down."

Joshua Rubenstein, director of the Northeast Region of Amnesty International is concerned about the use of Tasers. "There have been a handful of cases where a coroner has confirmed a relationship to Tasers in the cause of death," said Rubenstein. "This may be related to heart problems or drug use."

Rubenstein cites a number

of incidents from an Amnesty International Study on the excessive use of Tasers from November, 2004.

"There was one man who was strapped to a gurney and asked for a urine sample. When he didn't give one to them, they used a Taser on him," Rubenstein claimed. "Tasers are not a toy! They should only be used as an alternative to a firearm."

Laster believes in officers taking hits during training for two reasons. The first is so that the officers will know how to react.

"There is a great likelihood that there will come a time when the officer gets hit," said Laster. "Especially when they are detaining a suspect." Laster also believes that taking the hit will build empathy in the officers. "They can relate to a person that is being shocked after the training. That makes them less apt to be spiteful and hold

the trigger down on a suspect."

Montague selectboard member Pat Allen volunteered to take a hit from a Taser after she was asked to visit the officers' training session.

"I thought that since the selectboard in Montague are police commissioners it would be a good experience," said Allen. "I can tell you it's not fun."

Laster took one direct hit and three drive stuns during his training.

"I was a Marine, I boxed, I wrestled, I would consider myself a man's man and I would never want to get hit with one of those again," he said. Laster hopes

to see the Taser eventually utilized in smaller surrounding communities such as Gill and Northfield. "If you've got a guy pulled over, he's acting belligerent with the intent to harm you, and your backup is 30-minutes late, a Taser could save your life."

In a phone interview, Amnesty International's Rubenstein said, "We are all for non-lethal alternatives. If there is a scenario where a suspect attacks an officer with a broken bottle, then I have no argument. But [using Tasers] on teenage truants and people who won't get out of a car? There has been an outrageous breakdown of supervision there."

Montague follows a policy set forth by all police departments to fill out a "use of force" report every time a Taser is deployed. The X-26 model is also equipped with serial numbered tags that are fired with each cartridge to help keep

track of when the weapons have been used.

Tasers have also benefited police departments by reducing the number of injuries sustained by police officers on duty. According to Laster the use of a Taser can prevent an officer from coming into direct contact with a suspect. Officers entangled with suspects are more likely to receive broken noses or broken bones, and other costly injuries.

"Every year millions of dollars are spent on workers' compensation for officers injured," said Laster. "Tasers have made it possible to cut down on this expense."

"There was an incident in Brattleboro where a man who had drawn a knife in a church was shot and killed by two police officers," said Montague police chief Ray Zukowski, referring to the shooting of Robert Woodward, in December 2001. "If those officers had Tasers there is a good chance he would not have been killed and those three families wouldn't have been ruined."

"Tasers have to be used carefully and with recognition that people can be injured when they are used," said Allen. "We are concerned with suspects under the influence of methamphetamines who can be particularly dangerous."

"I have seen all kinds of drug situations and I am more comfortable drawing my Taser than my service weapon," said Laster. "It is a less lethal alternative. If I draw my service weapon there is a much higher chance of the suspect being killed."

Amnesty International's position is different. "We want a moratorium on Tasers," said Rubenstein. "We do not feel that independent, comprehensive medical research on the health impact of being jolted with 50,000 volts has been done."



Detective Lee Laster of the Montague police department holds a Taser, one of several recently adopted by the department.

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