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

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MARCH 23, 2006

Elks Plan New Lodge on Millers Falls Road BANQUET HALL, LOUNGE WOULD SEAT 600

BY DAVID DETMOLD
 MILLERS FALLS -

The Montague Elks have unveiled ambitious plans to build a new 20,000 square foot lodge on the corner of East Mineral and Millers Falls Road in Millers Falls, at the site of a former auto race track. Past Exalted Ruler Jason Clark presented conceptual plans to the Montague Zoning Board of Appeals on Wednesday, March 22nd, saying he hoped the proposed one story structure would be "the largest and most beautiful banquet hall in the area."

With ZBA chair Ernie Brown recusing himself from deliberations, along with fellow Elk member Dennis Booska, Clark asked the ZBA to expedite the proposal by granting a special permit for the Elks to use the land, which is zoned agricultural - forestry, for their new lodge, without completing a site plan review or environmental impact study at the outset. Use of the land by a non-profit club or lodge would constitute a special permit use, according to building inspector David Jensen. The Elks have signed a purchase and sale agreement with the landowner,

Maurice Emond (and the estate of Marcel Emond) for the 10.293 acre parcel for \$235,000. Clark said a special permit for the building from the ZBA was a requirement for the purchase to be completed.

But the ZBA, under the acting chairmanship of John Burek, asked for a detailed site plan first.

Asked how the Elks planned to handle sewage at the site, Lodge member John Rittall said they intended to install a private sewer and a privately owned and maintained pump station to pump sewage up to the nearest sewer in Millers Falls Road, at the intersection of Winthrop Street.

Jensen noted that the club was seeking to pave approximately 85,000 square feet for the parking lot, which Clark said would accommodate parking for more than 300 cars.

"I think they are proposing more pavement than they need," said Jensen, who added that if engineering studies were to prove the plan for tying into town sewers unfeasible, the size of the parking lot and the maximum capacity of the facility for a single event would require a great deal of

extra cost to handle drainage and septic onsite.

Planning board chair Doug Dziadzio said, "With a project of this size and scope, it is appropriate to demand of the applicant what the affects would be."

Another part of the proposal was for an outdoor pavilion that could seat up to 300 guests. Neighbors, including Kevin and Jessica Higgins and Betty Waidlich spoke of concerns about noise, traffic, litter, and "whooping and hollering" after events.

But Clark said the Elks had been a well-known and well-reputed charitable organization in town for decades. "In 31 years downtown, we have only had the police called to our doors once. We have a good membership."

Outside the meeting room, Brown said the lodge on Elks Avenue is too small and antiquated to handle functions for the club's 800 members.

The ZBA continued the hearing until April 26th, to allow the Elks time to prepare a site plan, including a traffic study, drainage plans, water source, lighting, noise control, and other items.

Heat-fab Wins Award for Workforce Development

KATHLEEN LITCHFIELD MONTAGUE - Harold Green, the third employee hired at Heat-fab, the company his parents founded in 1978 while he was still a student at Boston University, is now the manufacturer's president and chief executive officer. Green employs the same work ethic today that Lloyd and Millie Green founded the family business on 28 years ago - treating their employees like family, while manufacturing high-quality chimneys and vents for



Harold Green

high-efficiency boilers and water heaters.

For their investments in employee training and development, Heat-fab is

one of three local companies being recognized this week as "Workforce Development Leaders of 2006" by the Franklin Hampshire Regional Employment Board (REB). Heat-fab, along with McCusker's Market of Shelburne Falls and Chartpak of Leeds, will be honored at the Franklin County Chamber Breakfast on Friday, March 24th.

The Workforce Development Leadership Award was established in 2002 by the REB, the

see HEATFAB pg 3

Al Ross Runs Again

BY PHILIPPE DEGUISE MONTAGUE - "I'm interested to know what goes on in the neighborhoods," said Allen Ross, when asked why he spends so much time traveling through and observing the goings-on in Montague's five villages. "I like being connected to the place I live," the current chair of the Montague select-board said, explaining why he is running for another three-year term on the board. At this point, no other candidate has come forward to take out papers for the seat, or announced interest in competing for the post in

the upcoming Democratic town caucus.

First elected in 2003, Ross has served as chair of the board for the past year, overseeing deliberations on such issues as the local cable access contract, development of the landfill, extension of the airport runway and perennial issues like the Powers Block building and Dry Hill Road cemetery in Millers Falls.

"There is quite a bit of



Al Ross

work. Some issues are endless. They bring you into areas for which you are not trained. You use your judgment. If you see ROSS pg 11

THEATER REVIEW

The Unicorn in the Closet

DAVID DETMOLD GILL - All the world's a stage, and all the kindergartners through sixth graders at the Gill Elementary School merely players. But what a wonderful world it could be if more parents had the opportunity to see what magic their children can perform, with a little glitter and face paint, a few stage-managed miracles by Mary Reeder, and John Van Eps' supporting melodies on a battered upright piano keeping the youngsters more or less in tune.

Even before the house lights dimmed, while unicorns and fairies wandered the halls with menacing G-men in mirrored shades, and a dragon waited in the wings, one look was enough to let you know you were in a Court Dorsey fantasy world, not far removed and somewhat to the left of the one we willingly (or not) call home. But disbelief is gratefully suspended as



DETMOLD PHOTO

Dragon lady Katehyn Phillips is surrounded by Secret Service agents in the Gill Elementary School play,

The Wizard of Galafree.

soon as the veteran director's young actors leaped onto the risers in the darkened gym and began to weave their spell.

With that, we were transported to the Land of Galafree, where a

Wizard lies frozen by the Forces of Evil. To free him, four young travelers agree to take part in a heroic quest - not too dissimilar from the one undertaken by some British lads and

see PLAY pg 12

PET OF THE WEEK**Wouldn't Trade Her****Sox**

Sox is a 1 1/2 year old gray and white domestic short hair in need of a good home. Sox is a softie, friendly and approachable, but also quite independent. She is the kind of cat who will cuddle on her terms only and likes the outdoors.

She's a great mouser too! For more information on adopting Sox contact the Dakin Animal Shelter in Leverett at 548-9898 or via email at info@dakinshelter.org.

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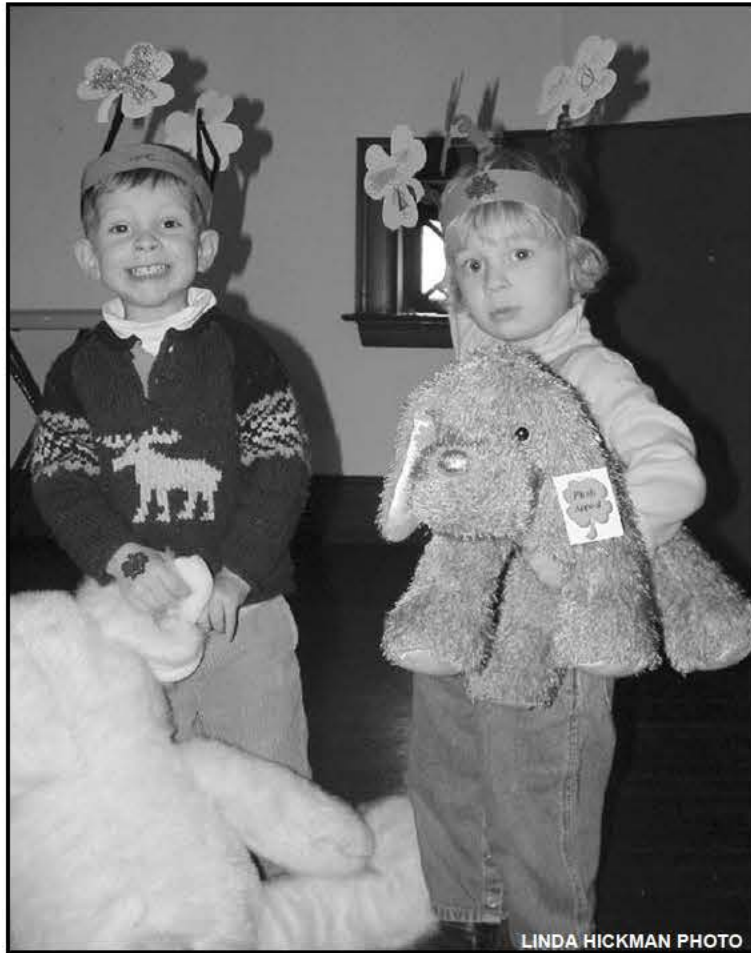
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CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS**Preschool Story Hour Celebrates St. Patrick's Day**

LINDA HICKMAN PHOTO

BY LINDA HICKMAN

TURNERS FALLS- Forester and Isaac Harmon of Turners Falls and twenty other children made shamrock crowns during the St. Patrick's Day theme preschool story hour on Wednesday, March 15th.

The story hour, run by Bev Whitbeck, meets every Wednesday at 10:15 a.m. at the Carnegie Library.

MOOSE MONTH

March is the Month of the Moose at the Carnegie Library in Turners Falls. This annual event celebrates moose in the wild and in children's literature. A Moose Month Celebration will be held on Saturday, March 25th, at 2 p.m. Children's Librarian Linda Hickman will share moose facts, photographs, and stories with children of all ages and their families.

Participants will make moose puppets. Refreshments will be served. The program is free and no registration is required.

The public is invited to visit the library's resident moose, "Macky," anytime during regular library hours. "Macky" is a very large mounted moose head with a four-foot wide rack of antlers on permanent display in the children's room. Moose books, facts and photographs are also on display in the children's room through the end of March. The moose head and photographs may be viewed when the Carnegie Library is open, Monday - Wednesday, 1 p.m. - 8 p.m., Thursday 1 p.m. - 5 p.m., Friday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Saturday 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

For more information, contact the Carnegie Library, 201 Ave. A, Turners Falls, 413-863-3214.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES March 27th - March 31st

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

Monday, 27th

10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. PACE Aerobics
1 p.m. Canasta

Tuesday, 28th

9:30 a.m. Aerobics
Wednesday, 29th
10:15 a.m. Senior Aerobics
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, 30th
1 p.m. Pitch
Friday, 31st
10:15 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11 a.m. PACE Aerobics

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

FACES & PLACES

The community garden, a neighborhood jewel on the corner of 4th and L in Turners, will see a spring clean up and gathering of prospective gardeners on Saturday, April 15th, (rain date the 16th). Bring hand tools and gloves.



SARAH SWANSON PHOTO

Health and Wellness Workshop for Teens

TURNERS FALLS - On Monday, April 3rd, a Health and Wellness Workshop will be hosted by Ms. Vickie Healy, School Nurse and Mrs. Debbie Loomer, Wellness II Teacher. They will be working together with GCC nursing students and Wellness II students to provide the health/wellness workshop.

The goal of this program is to enhance the health curriculum for 9th and 10th graders and to provide a service learning experience for GCC nursing students and Wellness II students.

Topics include: nutrition; sexual behaviors; and dating relationships. The workshop will be held during blocks 1 and 2. Students in grade 9 will attend block 1 (7:45 - 9:15 a.m.). Students in grade 10 will attend block 2 (9:20 - 10:50 a.m.).

If you have any questions or concerns please call Ms. Healy at 863-9352.

Free Women's Movement Group with Free Childcare

Natural Rhythms: nurturing connection with the rhythms of our bodies, nature, and healing through exercises in guided movement, relaxation, and supportive sharing. April 5th - May 10th, Wednesdays: 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. held in the Great Hall at the Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls. All levels of experience welcome. Facilitated by Seal LaMadeleine and Charlene Barnett. Sponsored by

GFDC and the Women's Resource Center. For disability access, this will be a fragrance free group (info will be provided). Space is wheelchair accessible. Registration required & suggested before April 1st. Call 978-544-7073.

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Boston Comics Left 'em Laughing at the Shea

BY CHRISTOPHER HOLMES
TURNERS FALLS - It's not every week... or every month... that our area is blessed with a talented comedy performance. Sure there's the occasional Elks Club or St. Kaziemerz show. But when was the last time professional Boston comedians like Dave Rattigan, Amy Tee, Joe Wong, and Tim McIntire hit town? Well, sure, they might have got lost trying to find I-91, but we were glad to see them anyway. And I'm sure they were pleased to see more than 200 people turn out to hear them at the Shea Theater on Saturday, March 11th.

The host, Dave Rattigan, walked onto the stage and informed the crowd, before the taping by XM radio began, to get out and buy some refreshments in the foyer to benefit the Sports Boosters Club of Turners Falls High School. More of the crowd might have taken him up on the offer if he hadn't mentioned the "wonderful array of snacks probably left over from



Amy Tee



Joe Wong



Dave Rattigan



Rev. Tim McIntire

the last basketball game."

The comedians regaled the crowd with personal humor, and the closer, McIntire, threw in some great physical comedy and riffs on outrageous news stories.

MC Rattigan has been compared to Ray Romano, and has opened for the likes of Nick DiPaolo, the Beach Boys, and Steven Wright, to name just a few. He has also performed in Ireland, and Australia. So Turners Falls must have felt like coming home, only with more bricks. Rattigan has hosted the Boston Comedy Festival twice and can be heard on XM satel-

lite radio's comedy channels. He described himself as starting late at comedy as a 47-year-old father and still being forced to dress in a metrosexual outfit chosen by his wife. He went on to discuss the differences in religious practices performed at family dinner tables, New England drivers, and the sexism of the aerobics outfit Curves. "We men need to get out there and protest!"

Imagining what a commercial for marijuana will look like once its legalized, Rattigan envisioned a guy with a football looking at a tire hanging from a tree. At first he thinks he'll toss

the football through the hole in the tire, but after a few seconds, he can't remember why he was holding the football anyway, and then he just puts it down and walks away. You had to have been there.

Amy Tee was highlighted last year as a rising star by the *Boston Globe*. Which probably explained why she was chosen to accompany Rattigan to Turners Falls. She captivated the Shea crowd with a no-holds barred confidence relating her experiences as a lesbian. Her theory was that she became a lesbian after observing her father's role in her parents' mar-

riage. Her mother would go to work while her dad went out for coffee and then came home and watched TV. Her mom would come home and take care of the children, then cook dinner and clean, while her dad watched TV. She grew up and said, "I've got to find myself a good woman!"

Throwing a curve at Rattigan, she discussed the achievement of losing a great amount of weight and ultimately becoming an aerobics instructor. At the gym she worked at, she had to go around wiping the powdered sugar off the machines. She recalled all the different diets people she knew had tried, before declaring she had found the ultimate diet, the best kept secret of all - less calories and more exercise - and it worked!

A finalist at Boston's Comedy Festival, Joe Wong, originally from China, brought another unusual take on life to the Shea, along with a very

see COMEDY pg 12

HEATFAB

continued from pg 1

community board that oversees public workforce development for 50 communities in the upper Pioneer Valley. Companies are selected for being known as "a great place to work," for investing in employee training and development, or for "being active and visible in community affairs which impact their employees' lives," notes REB chair Donna Jeanloz. A subcommittee of the REB reviewed 20 nominations from fellow business members, employees, One Stop Career Center staff and community members before deciding on the three firms to be honored this year.

The annual awards were created by the REB to demonstrate to the community what it means to "develop" a workforce.

"You can't just wait for great people to come to your door," notes REB director Patricia Crosby, of Gill. "You have to give them reasons to come and

to stay. These include good wages and benefits, but they also include personal attention to employee training and growth. The best workers, with the best work ethic, are ones who feel they have something of value to offer to a company that is recognized and appreciated."

Heat-fab, founded in Greenfield, eventually moving to Montague in 1997, is a leading supplier of venting products, serving customers all over North America from its single location in the Turners Falls Industrial Park. The company has grown from three to 116 employees over the past 28 years and generates over \$12 million annually in sales, according to Harold Green. In 2005, the company invested over \$100,000 in training for its employees, focused on establishing a Continuous Quality Improvement System. Heat-fab successfully applied to the Massachusetts Workforce Training Fund to bring in another

\$222,661 to support advanced technical training for its workforce, to take place in 2006 and 2007. Part of that funding will support workplace education classes via the Center for New Americans, to provide training for the 20 percent of Heat-fab workers for whom English is a second language. This ESL training will give foreign speakers more opportunities for career advancement by improving their spoken and written English language skills.

Green said the only way Heat-fab can continue to achieve its goals as a company is "to build on the strengths of our skilled workforce, enabling each person to become more versatile and capable in an ever-changing work environment."

The company provides competitive wages and excellent benefits (including health club memberships and smoking cessation programs) and has been an active contributor to an array of community initiatives over the years including "Warm the

Children," arts events, and public radio and television underwriting.

With customers hailing from throughout North America and 116 employees, Green said running the company is both daunting and rewarding.

"We have some employees who've been here 20 years. The people who are here are very good. They have a good work ethic. I look back at it, and where we've come from... it's

just an amazing thing. To think there's 100 and something people that rely directly on me for getting through their day. Plus all our customers," he said. "We emphasize taking care of people, making them better people, as well as better employees. We give as good medical benefits as we can afford, and we treat people fairly, accommodating them wherever we can."



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Editor

David Detmold

Assistant Editor

Kathleen Litchfield

Editorial Assistants

Nina Bander
Hugh Corr

Circulation

Jean Hebben
Julia Bowden Smith
Philippe Deguise

Layout & Design

Lisa Davol
Boysen Hodgson
Kätren Hoyden
Karen Wilkinson
Suzette Snow Cobb

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Lisa Davol
Joe Parzych
Ariel Jones
et al

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Michael Muller
Michael Farnick

The War Drags On

Three years into a war of choice that has cost this country 250 billion dollars, and the lives of at least 2,315 American soldiers, President Bush is standing tall amid the shambles. On Tuesday, at an impromptu press conference designed to shore up support among a public that is fast deserting his cry of "Stay the Course!" George W. floated the idea that the time for bringing American troops home "will be decided by future presidents and future governments of Iraq."

We wonder just how many future governments of Iraq he is looking forward to, since the first one he has spent so much blood and money to establish seems to be resisting his best efforts. And does he really imagine his wavering allies in Congress will stay the course if it leads America deeper into factional strife and Sunni - Shiite slaughter? Three more years is a long time for a lame duck president to hang tough, when his signature foreign policy achievement is a cesspool of extrajudicial killing, car bombings, kidnapping and tribal pogroms. That is about what Bush has to show for his first three years of war. What more can we expect from his next?

Sunday's *New York Times* details the barbarous treatment of Iraqi prisoners at the hands of elite American special forces, operating out of a windowless torture chamber at the Baghdad airport through the summer 2004, months after the photos of abused prisoners at Abu Ghraib first splashed across the globe. Now that special unit, manned by nearly 1,000 troops at a given time, (no poorly trained reservists, these) has removed to a location 45 miles north of Baghdad, in Balad, where it continues interrogations far from the

eye of international observers.

Time Magazine this week broke a story about Marines exacting vengeance on civilians in Haditha, after a roadside bomb attack. "According to eyewitnesses and local officials interviewed over the past 10 weeks, the civilians who died in Haditha on Nov. 19th were killed not by a roadside bomb but by the Marines themselves, who went on a rampage in the village after the attack, killing 15 unarmed Iraqis in their homes, including seven women and three children," the magazine reports.

Before the brutality of war reduces the conquered and the conquerors to the same atavistic level, the America people should call a halt to the Texan's dream of strategic control of the world's second largest proven oil reserves. We are encouraged by the recent vote of five town meetings in Vermont, calling for the impeachment of George W. Bush for leading us to war on false pretenses, otherwise known as lies. Citizens of small towns and big cities across the country need to take the lead in reclaiming our democratic ideals of "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" along with "a decent respect for the opinions of mankind."

Even here in Montague, people may be inclined to debate such an article on the town meeting floor, or they might have been, if the town fathers in their wisdom hadn't closed the warrant for the May annual town meeting way back in February. By doing so, they limit one of the bedrock foundations of our democratic system, the right to petition the Government for a redress of grievances. The Iraq war is a grievance crying for redress.



This war is getting about as old as I am!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

VY Uprate a 'Done Deal'

Thank you for the article, *Act Now to Prevent Cancer: Stop the Uprate at Vermont Yankee*, by Hattie Nestle (IV #19).

I grew up in Montague and now spend summers with my kids in beautiful western Massachusetts. I have found it disturbing to read about this 20 percent 'uprating' of Vermont

Yankee in the local papers. The articles I've read come across as if this uprate is a 'done deal,' as if the NRC and representatives in government both in Massachusetts and Vermont have decided to go ahead with the uprate prior to any input from the public.

So my thanks to the *Reporter*

for keeping this important issue in front of us and to Ms. Nestle for informing us and providing us with addresses of where to write to voice our opposition. My letters are in the mail! -

Gini Brown
Berkeley, CA

GUEST EDITORIAL

Seek a Waiver on Runway

BY JOE JANIKAS

TURNERS FALLS - Yes, indeed, as the author of a recent guest editorial suggests, (*Behind the Opposition to Airport Improvements: Montague Reporter, IV #22*) some of the concern over a lengthened runway does not have to do with money. It has to do with the credibility of its proponents and their 'take it or leave it' attitude. It has to do with the effective loss, in perpetuity, of the land to be used for the runway extension, the aesthetics associated with a new 4200'-long mass of blacktop, and some increased air traffic associated with a longer runway.

For years, attendees at Airport Commission (AC) meetings have been told that the extended runway shown on various plans was "not a done deal." The commission clearly knew there was concern about the proposal in the community. They continually assured the public there would be opportunity to accept or reject the proposal. In fact, during at least one

of these meetings, the engineering consultants for the AC were present and did not dispute these assertions. A rational individual would assume there must be truth to what was being told to the public, since the engineers, who tend to be well-versed on the grant process, said nothing to disagree with the commission's stance on runway extension.

Now, at a recent AC public hearing on the proposed project, the public was told a mistake had been made and an extended runway was necessary if funding for the project was to be obtained. The airport manager repeatedly declined to send a letter to the FAA asking for the possibility of obtaining a waiver to avoid extending the runway. The AC was silent when the manager was repeatedly asked if he could do this. One must assume they were in tacit agreement.

This disturbs me. Why didn't someone just agree to write the letter, even if they felt the request for a waiver would not succeed? What would have

been the harm? Was it arrogance, or perhaps the possibility of a result the commission didn't want to hear? We're seeing enough of this in Washington, DC; we don't need these strong

see WAIVER pg 7

American Dead in Iraq as of 3/22/06



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GUEST EDITORIAL

Woody Brown Left His Mark

BY ROB SKELTON

MONTAGUE CENTER

Woody Brown was an interesting and engaging character who came from out of town to stake a claim in Montague, bridging generations and constituencies and leaving a profound impact, especially in land preservation. He was the son of a New Jersey doctor, educated at Fryeburg and Bowdoin in Maine, who had a career in radio and public relations before arriving in the Valley.

He was co-owner of the Billings-Brown boxshop at the bottom of North Leverett Road, and he and his (first) Vermont Yankee wife Beverly raised five kids in a house on Chestnut Hill, which Woody renovated. He drove a funky Land Rover, smoked Old Gold cigarettes, and loved Knickerbocker beer in bottles.

Woody was the first person from 'straight' Montague to extend a hand and recognition to the freaky folks occupying the commune on what was the Washburn Ripley farm and is now a Zen center.

Sam Lovejoy of Montague Center, who lived at the Montague Farm in those days, told how the old farmhouse was heated by coal, which had run out by mid-December of the commune's first winter. Woody Brown got wind of this, and on a business trip to a Vermont tool-handle manufactory, returned to the commune with his Land Rover chock full of hickory chunks to heat the place.

Woody was gregarious and affable and he used these qualities to convince the laconic Billings brothers to go into partnership with him. Along with the shop and the stickyard under the train bridge on Gunn Road, the Billingses owned vast woodlots up and down North Leverett Road and Spaulding Brook,



The former Billings-Brown boxshop on North Leverett Road is now the home of Architectural Components, a reproduction and custom window manufacturer. Much of the land beyond was preserved by Woody Brown.

Chestnut Hill, Wendell, and Sunderland, along with the dam at Lake Wyola.

Woody got paid in land. The Billings brothers made boxes, and Woody made pine benches and advertised them in the *New York Times* magazine. They gave Woody a hard time for paying \$4000 for an ad, but they eased up when the orders tumbled in. Woody could market.

Dennis Lombardi of North Leverett worked for Woody at the shop, along with Hymie Williams. Williams was in his seventies and had spent a lifetime working in water-powered mills up and down the Sawmill River. They'd mill white pine to four-inch thickness, leave the live bark edges and add rustic legs. As lunch approached each day, Woody would start to get excited. Lombardi and Williams sat outside with their bag lunches; Woody went to the store for a six-pack of Piel's, a favorite menu item.

The Billings brothers were getting older. One wanted to sell out to Woody Brown and the other didn't. They both wanted

the Lake Wyola Association to buy the dam at the Lake. When the Association hemmed and hawed, the Billings brothers opened the sluiceway and the deal was quickly consummated, according to Gary Billings (no relation).

When the intransigent brother died first, Woody took out a mortgage and bought the holdings - upwards of 1800 acres. He 'horse-traded' with other landed interests like Walter Jones and Ed Farrick, consolidating his ownership in the Sawmill watershed, including Stoddard Hill (the uphill side of North Leverett Road).

He sold building lots for cash flow. He hated to do it, according to Lovejoy. He made them large - ten acres for a four-acre minimum. He sold to buyers who'd agree not to subdivide, but some did anyway.

He enlisted the hippies at the Montague Farm to help him roll logs out of the woods and onto his truck. Twenty kids with cant hooks followed him up a steep incline on Chestnut Hill Road to a building lot he'd logged and

sold. "Everybody quiet!" Woody ordered as the unruly crowd silenced, and the only sound was the echo of chomping pine weevils in the logs at their feet.

Woody owned 303 acres in the Spaulding Brook watershed, nearly a square mile of pristine land, including the field where Doc Spaulding had his home in the late 1800s. Woody often drove his Land Rover up the brook, past the Montague Farm, and over the five stone bridges to get to the secluded pasture.

When Lovejoy went to trial for sabotaging a weather tower for a twin nuclear reactor planned on the Montague Plains, Woody spoke as a character witness. When the FBI raided the Montague Farm looking for members of the Weather Underground, and arrested two men for illegal possession of drugs (later found to be birth control), Woody agreed to post bail.

Woody came early to environmental consciousness, according to Lovejoy. He didn't believe in landfills, and he opposed them when they were proposed. He was a town meet-

ing member and served on the finance committee. He took positions strongly but with a sense of humor. He usually produced a memorable quip. When a petition for new sidewalks in the Patch came before town meeting, Woody urged approval. "Building new sidewalks is like stacking wood," he said. "When you complete the project, you know you've really accomplished something."

Woody gave Lovejoy the time needed to put together the deal that eventually protected 303 acres up and

down Spaulding Brook. When a logger strip-cleared 20 acres atop Stoddard Hill against Woody's wishes while he was on vacation, Woody was incensed and monitored the guy's every movement thereafter. Later another deal brokered by Lovejoy would preserve most of Stoddard Hill from Route 63 to Spaulding Brook Road. Included was 150 acres with unclear title that took two years to demystify.

Woody was an early user of computers and had one in his office at the box shop to track inventory and sales. Later he put them to good use as a dealer in used books and antique ephemera, in a building he renovated in Montague City, now a beauty salon. After he completed the renovation, he found out the spot was zoned industrial. He decided to stock industrial books. He especially loved books about arctic exploration.

Woody Brown died February 26th, with his wife Leslie by his side. This sketch was written from conversations in the North Leverett area.

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GUEST EDITORIAL

Time to Bury the Landfill Project

BY CAROL FLANDREAU
TURNERS FALLS - I am very angry about the Montague selectboard's approach to the landfill issue. It is apparent to me the board desperately wants the landfill project to go ahead. They called a special meeting inviting landfill developers to come and give reasons why they didn't bid on the project, and to ask what about the Landfill RFP was too onerous to make bidding attractive. Based on that input, the board plans to "tweak" the RFP and put it out for bid again.

Here are the problems I have with this approach:

First of all, "tweaking" or changing the Request for Proposals (RFP) violates the approval that town meeting gave last year for the existing RFP. The selectboard cannot alter in any way the existing RFP without getting a new approval from town meeting. The original landfill committee

spent innumerable hours and the town spent \$20,000 in engineering fees creating the RFP with intentionally high standards. How dare the selectboard suggest the document that was so carefully and expensively created by citizens of this town could be "tweaked" to accommodate the financial goals of potential developers!

Second, if the RFP is not changed, and is resubmitted for bids as is, what logical reason is there for any of the companies who didn't bid the first time to bid now? Those companies clearly felt that the cost/benefit ratio was too high for them to submit a proposal. Opening another bidding and review process with the same RFP seems like a waste of town money and energy.

Third, the selectboard has ignored or at least minimized one of the main obstacles the landfill review committee

pointed out in their report. That is, the problem of truck routes. According to those familiar with the RFP committee's process, the town has identified only one preferred access route for the 20 - 30 heavy trucks per day that would come and go from the landfill, and that route would be right down Avenue A. At the meeting with waste management companies on March 10th, town administrator Frank Abbondanzio said it would be the landfill developer's responsibility to address the minimization of truck route impact. That is clearly impossible because the routes have already been limited to one, and that one may be further hampered by bridge construction.

Last, and most important, the selectboard still has not asked the citizens of this town if they want a landfill of any type to be developed in Montague. The assumption by

the selectboard seems to be that our town must develop the Turnpike Road site as a landfill in order to bring in revenue, even if it means lowering our environmental and ethical standards. One of the reasons given is that the site is permitted for a landfill and that it is not suitable for industrial development. Perhaps that is true, but what about non-industrial uses for the site such as solar or wind energy creation, (uses by the way that have been proposed for post-closure of the landfill site). Why not use the site to create sustainable, profitable energy now instead of waiting 20 to 30 years while thousands of tons of contaminated waste are buried in our town?

I do not want any more money or time to be spent on studying the feasibility of a landfill in Turners Falls. I believe that through our RFP we have responded thoroughly

to the proposal to create a landfill at our permitted site. As selectboard chair Allen Ross pointed out at the beginning of this study, it was the waste management companies and not the town that expressed interest in developing a landfill in Turners Falls. In response, we created an RFP that set the standards we felt were minimum requirements for us to consider such a project. The landfill development bidders either failed to meet them or chose not to bid. I accept the lack of qualified bids as evidence that a landfill is not desirable in our town. I would like to put the issue to rest and move on to finding more environmentally friendly ways of bringing revenue to Montague. I know there are many residents of Montague who feel the same way, and I am angry that the selectboard is choosing to ignore us.

Early Days of Turners Falls ~ Part VIII

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

To Mr. B. N. Farren, more than anyone else locally, credit is due for the early material, development of the village, and who at the time of construction of the Troy and Greenfield Railroad was the most popular man in Western Massachusetts. In many ways he was a remarkable man and had a great many friends. He

made a specialty of being good to the poor, but also he was a strict disciplinarian and at times a hard master. It was my privilege, before beginning to keep house for myself, to have been a member of his family for nearly seven years, and I very well know that the building of the hospital in Montague City, to a great extent, is an expression of his appreciation of the friendly treatment received by him from the people of Franklin County during those early years.

He was born in Elizabethtown, PA, of Irish parentage. His father, in a moderate way, was a contractor for canal work in that state,

and the son, early in life, took up that line of work, giving especial attention to tunnel work on the Pennsylvania Railroad, between Altoona and Pittsburgh, and it was on account of his high reputation for ability as a tunnel man that Col. Crocker had him come to Massachusetts to assist in the building of the Hoosac Tunnel.

He was generally known and spoken of as 'Barney Farren.' Very few knew what his first name was.

There is a man living in Greenfield today by the name of B. F. Waite. He was the son of Henry Waite, who was the son of David Waite, who formerly lived on the Waite farm

at Cheapside. During the construction of the Troy and Greenfield Railroad, Henry Waite worked for Mr. Farren as a foreman. One morning when Mr. Farren was going over the work, and came to Mr. Waite's pit, Mr. Waite said to him, "We had a little boy born at our house last night."

Mr. Farren said, "I congratulate you. What are you going to name him?"

Mr. Waite said, "He is already named, and we have named him for you, 'Barney Farren Waite'."

Mr. Farren said, "My name is not 'Barney,' it is Bernard."

Mr. Waite then said, "We will change the name of the

baby tonight."

I have always felt that William P. Crocker, the civil engineer, has never been given due credit for the ability shown in the matter of laying out the place, preparing plans for the future, and in solving the general engineering problems connected with that work; and I am very glad to have this opportunity of paying this tribute of deserved merit to his memory. He was a man of marked personal peculiarities, but he had an able mind and time has shown he made very few mistakes in those plans.

Continued next week

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WAIVER continued from pg 4

arm tactics in Turners Falls.

The commission has advised the public at recent hearings that it would cost millions of dollars to close the airport, what with land repurchase, repayment of improvements, and so forth. Well, if that's the case, I think the town should tread lightly before it commits the land for runway extension for that purpose. Once that land is paved for airport use, it's effectively gone for any other tax generating purpose.

The AC has not demonstrated that a runway extension is necessary.

They keep referring to FAA guidelines. Yet an FAA representative was quoted recently as saying the current runway at the Turners Falls Airport is "safe." By the AC's own admission the extension would only generate minimal traffic from the type of plane requiring the longer runway. Again, why the need?

Is there some hidden agenda?

The aesthetics of adding 1200' of pavement do not appeal to me.

Frankly, I can't think of one airport I've seen that appeals to the eye. I wonder if the AC is proposing more of the same unmaintained, stalag-type fencing along the proposed extension as is in place at the existing airport. No, it isn't all about money.

The "self-sustaining" revenue arguments used by the AC as a way to promote the airport's worth aren't convincing.

Capital costs haven't been included in the figures presented. Without capital costs factored in, the projected goal of becoming self-sustaining is a moot issue. In fact, the airport will never be fully self-sustaining. The figures presented by the AC are conjecture at best.

The Orange Airport has a 5,000' runway. Does anyone believe that with the longer runway in Orange, and its more than double daily use, the Orange economy, enhanced by a larger airport, is stronger than the Turners Falls economy?

I suggest a runway extension waiver should be requested by the airport commission. The commission asked for a reason to use to give to the FAA for the waiver. How about: "We made a mistake. We repeatedly told our fellow citizens that an extended runway could be deleted from our runway improvement plan if that was what the town wanted. We never bothered to check with FAA on the veracity of this statement. Neither did our engineers. We believe that there may be enough opposition in the community regarding the runway extension to jeopardize the remainder of the project as written. If an outright waiver to the extension won't be given, would the FAA consider airport improvement funding for a new submission that would incorporate reconstruction of the existing runway and taxiways. It is our understanding that runway and taxiway rehabilitation is eligible for airport improvement funding."

There, that's not too difficult, is it?

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Phantom Meat Wagon

Wednesday 3-15

11:00 a.m. Report of subject selling meat from a white truck on River Street. Unable to locate.

3:10 p.m. Officer observed illegally killed wild turkey on Mountain Road near Northfield town line. Beard and meat removed from bird. Environmental Police notified.

Thursday 3-16

10:30 a.m. Report of suspicious vehicle on Forest Street. Found to be state worker doing paper work.

Friday 3-17

3:25 p.m. Assisted with motor vehicle stop on Route 2 in front of Riverside Radiator. Arrested driver, [redacted] and passenger [redacted] on warrants.

8:25 p.m. After a motor vehicle stop on Dorsey Road, [redacted]

was arrested and charged with possession of an open container of alcohol in a motor vehicle and being a minor in possession of alcohol. [redacted] was arrested and charged with possession of an open container of alcohol in a motor vehicle, being a minor in possession of alcohol, and possession of a class D drug. [redacted] was arrested and charged with possession of an open container of alcohol in a motor vehicle and being a minor in possession of alcohol.

Saturday 3-18

1:42 p.m. After a motor vehicle stop on Route 2, a criminal citation was issued to [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle without

insurance and operating a motor vehicle after revocation of registration.

Sunday 3-19

5:14 p.m. Report of an ATV accident in the area of Mountain Road. One male patient unconscious. Assisted Erving Fire and Orange ambulance. Subject transported to Athol Hospital. Accident under investigation.

Monday 3-20

11:45 a.m. While on patrol, officer observed tree on telephone wires at Northfield town line on Mountain Road. Verizon notified.

Tuesday 3-21

6:20 p.m. Picked up stray dog on Old State Road. Unable to locate owners. Dog brought to kennel.

THE WENDELL POLICE LOG

Out of Bounds at Lake Grove

Sunday 3-12

2:45 a.m. ne car roll over accident on Wendell Depot Road. No injuries.

Saturday 3-12

7:38 p.m. Report of 2 AWOL students from Lake Grove Maple Valley School. Located 8 minutes later in one of the school buildings.

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NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Selectboard Signs Off on 166 Avenue A ITALIAN RESTAURANT OPENS IN FORMER TAX TITLE PROPERTY

BY DAVID DETMOLD

TURNERS FALLS - The Montague selectboard signed off on a certificate of completion and released the rights to the building at 166 Avenue A, the former Power Town Creemee, now home of Ristorante DiPaolo, on Monday, March 20th. "They have substantially completed the project," said selectboard member Pat Allen. "It is a wonderful interior. The food is excellent." Restaurant owner Denise DiPaolo was not present to witness the formalities at the selectboard meeting, as her new restaurant was opening for business for the first time that same evening.

Board chair Allen Ross explained the principle of the town's commercial homesteading program, by which DiPaolo purchased the dilapidated structure from the town for \$1, in exchange for a promise to invest substantial private funds in renovations, and to put the property back on the tax rolls. The town had acquired the building from the former owner for back taxes.

Ross said DiPaolo had invested \$285,000 into the renovation of 166 Avenue A, and "created a very valuable addi-

tion to the downtown" in the process. Allen noted 14 jobs were created in the process. Town planner Robin Sherman said DiPaolo's project had been chosen by a review committee from a pool of applicants interested in the building, and had been held to renovation guidelines consistent with the downtown historic district.

Referring to DiPaolo's promises to reinvest, renovate, and create jobs in the downtown, selectboard member Patricia Pruitt said, "She has done all that and more. It is a lovely place." The board wished the new restaurateur success in her endeavor, as they signed off on the paperwork releasing the property.

In other business, the board signed a letter to Jane Wallis-Gumbel, director of the state Department of Housing and Community Development, detailing numerous infrastructure improvement projects ongoing in the downtown Turners Falls, including planning for the reuse of the Cumberland Farms building, the redesign of Peskeomskut Park, including a new bandshell, upgrades to sewer lines and CSO (combined sewer overflow) abatements, the

Strathmore Mill feasibility study, the RiverCulture arts and economic development grant, and others. The letter will boost the town's prospects of receiving funding in the current cycle of Community Development Block Grant funding, the town planner said.

Sherman told the board the hiring committee overseeing implementation of the RiverCulture grant had selected the design and marketing consultants Blair Winans, of Winans Creative Design in Greenfield, and Rachel Wilsey, from among the finalists to handle design and marketing for the RiverCulture project, at a cost of \$19,500. Sherman said the town was working to close the \$12,500 gap in local matching funds for the \$42,500 Adams grant for the arts and economic development project, with a \$7,500 application to the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts. She said the town is still seeking corporate sponsors for the remaining matching funds for the arts grant. "We've still got a little fundraising to do."

Water pollution control facility superintendent Bob Trombley came before the board to discuss the problem of

inflow and infiltration (I & I) in the town's sewer system. He defined I & I as "water that does not belong in the system" coming from leaks, stormwater runoff, roof leaders, sump pumps illegally connected to the sewers, and the like. I & I accounts for roughly 45% percent of the flow entering the treatment plant in Turners Falls (450,000 gallons out of 1 million gallons a day) and 55% of the flow from the Montague-side of Millers Falls to the treatment plant in Erving (45,000 out of 81,000 gallons a day). The resulting bill to the taxpayers of Montague each year for treating the extra flow is \$140,000, Trombley estimated.

"Throughout the Northeast, I & I runs at a level of 40% to 50%," said Trombley, "so we are right in the ballpark." He called I & I a "squirrely" problem, which his department intends to combat with help from the DPW and the building inspector, by locating illegal connections, identifying roof leaders heading to the sewers, smoke testing the lines, or possibly using a camera to inspect the lines from within to identify leaks. He mentioned an underground stream in Millers Falls

that may be responsible for some of the I & I in that village, where an entirely new sewer system installed in 1994 has had only minimal effect on reducing unmetered flow.

Trombley estimated 55 buildings in downtown Turners Falls have flat roofs and roof leaders heading into the sewers, but board chair Ross asked what the alternative would be for these building owners. Trombley admitted there might not be good alternatives, since storm runoff leading to sidewalks and roadways in winter can create hazards.

He said smoke testing the lines would cost the town \$25,000, a decision that would ultimately be up to the selectboard, but "the bottom line is to try to save the town some money."

On that note, Trombley came back with a much better estimate for roof repair at the water pollution control facility, initially estimated at \$50,000. When the board balked at that amount, he sought other bids, and returned with an estimate on Monday from a professional roof repair firm out of Worcester for around \$5,000 instead, which would represent a considerable savings.

NOTES FROM THE GILL-MONTAGUE REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Reading Recovery at G-M Schools

BY PATRICK RENNICK - On Tuesday evening, March 15th, Sarita Belmont, director of the Reading First programs for the Gill-Montague Schools, came before the school committee to deliver some positive news about progress reading students have made at the Hillcrest and Sheffield elementary schools. She was joined by reading recovery teacher Carol Holubecki and reading coordinator Sarah Sayko. Massachusetts is the only state to have received funding for the federal Reading First program for the last two years in a row.

"We had a child come into the program with turbulent emotional trouble," said Holubecki. "He didn't perform well with the other kids and scored very low on the

Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) test. The program helped him greatly. He now loves to go to reading group, and he also reads in his spare time."

Sayko outlined a three-scale model of intervention employed by the program. As reading coordinator she goes through the data for each struggling child and works closely with their teachers. The statewide program receives a \$2,000,000 grant each year for training teachers.

"The children in second grade right now will be the students who will meet or not meet the benchmark of 100% efficiency for the MCAS," said Superintendent Sue Gee.

Lauren Tela of the student advisory committee brought

positive reviews of the recent production of Grease put on at the Turners Falls High School.

"We all became really close and had a lot of fun together," said Tela about the three sold-out performances. Tela shed her Betty Rizzo, tough-girl persona, at least while she addressed the school committee.

"The total production of parents, teachers, and students singing, dancing, and acting was superb," said Gee.

The committee discussed the recent resignation of Turners Falls High School principal Robert Morrill. The suggested course of action is to combine the middle and high school principals into one position. The new position would oversee grades 7 - 12. There was also discussion of chang-

ing the dean of students position at the high school to a new post of vice principal of secondary education. These personnel changes would ideally free up some money to hire a curriculum coordinator.

Gee drafted a timeline for the hiring of a new principal. Applications are due on March 30th. An interview committee representative of faculty from the middle and high school will be formed. This committee will conduct two interviews. Following the final interview the appointed principal will start on July 1st.

"It does sound a bit unreasonable," said committee member Ted Castro-Santos. "Do we really need to bring the candidates in front of all those people?"

"It is actually quite com-


mon," said Gee. "I have often gone for interviews and walked into rooms that were full of people."

The Great Falls Middle School was recently cited as "underperforming" for math, as a result of MCAS scores over the last two years. The citation was made by Massachusetts Commissioner of Education David Driscoll. The Gill - Montague Schools will receive a \$25,000 grant to aid in improving the math curricula at all grade levels in district schools.

"We feel that the actions taken in the last year will improve MCAS scores," said Gee. "We have increased math across the curriculum."

Erving school committee representative William Bembury has resigned.


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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD MEETING

Landowner Liability on Public Trails Discussed

BY CYD SCOTT - The fatal crash of a man on an all terrain vehicle prompted local residents to address the Erving selectboard on Monday night, March 20th about liability concerns on public trails crossing private land. Frank Savage, a local landowner and resident of Mountain Road, stressed concern about the public access to the land leading up to and around the Hermit's Castle, off the Metacomet and Monadnock Trail. Part of the M&M Trail and the side trail to the Hermit's Castle pass through Savage's land.

The crash on Sunday, March 19th, which claimed the life of Stephen Hicks, 39, on an access road to the Northfield Mountain, caused fresh concern about the issue of landowners' liability in the event of trail accidents.

Savage was very concerned

about the incident. According to him, "the M&M Trail carries insurance for hikers," but the side trail to the Hermits Castle, a town attraction advertised by a sign on Route 2, does not.

Savage asked, "If someone falls down, will my landowner's insurance cover it? I don't want to find out after someone breaks a leg. I don't want them to come after me. As far as who owns the land, the tax maps say I do. And on top of that, no one ever asked if they could use my land; they come right through my land to get there."

Andy Tessier said, "The town will look into the insurance matter and have an answer soon, or we'll take down the signs. As a matter of fact, the sign on Route 2 is misleading. I thought it was a restaurant in Northfield or something."

Savage replied, "I get com-

plaints from people who come here to see some castle and get a hike instead."

Board member Linda Downs-Bembury said, "It's a hard trail to hike and there's nothing to see along the way, but once you get to the lookout it's great."

Savage said, "I'm not against anyone walking through, but we need to know who is responsible."

The board held two public hearings on Monday night. One dealt with the placement of a utility pole near the intersection of River Street and Gunn Street. The pole is being moved to clear the way for cranes to approach the bridge from Ervingside to Millers Falls. Bridge work is scheduled to begin any day now, according to police chief Christopher Blair.

Work has already begun on the Route 2 bridge near Veterans

Park, in Ervingside. In preparation for this major reconstruction, Mass Highway received permission to clear trees and brush for an access road to the site. They promised to replant at the end of construction.

The other hearing was held for a name change for Laurel Lane. Residents of the private way have agreed on a new name: Ridge Road. Voters will be asked to approve whether to accept the road as a public road at annual town meeting.

The town received \$84,000 in grant money to be used for the Erving police to conduct more traffic surveillance, under the federal "Click it or ticket" program. The money will increase the amount of hours the police spend on traffic duty.

The public is invited to attend public interviews with three final-

ists for the position of superintendent of schools for Union 28, replacing Linda Driscoll, who is retiring at the end of the school year. Those interviews will take place at the Erving Elementary School on Thursday, the 30th of March, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Finalists for the position of principal of the Erving Elementary School will be interviewed on Wednesday, April 5th, at 6:30 p.m. The public is invited to that session as well.

And finally the town received the gift of a black and white drawing from local artist Julie Fullam. The scene depicted is of the section of Route 2 near the Erving Paper Mill.

Town administrative assistant Tom Sharp said he would like to get in touch with Julie Fullam, so he can thank her on behalf of the town.

NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD MEETING

Noise Bylaw, New Fire Truck Needed

BY DAVID DETMOLD - Following numerous complaints about noisy 4-wheelers operating without mufflers in an area off West Gill, the selectboard has asked police chief David Hastings to work with them to come up with a model noise bylaw to present to this year's annual town meeting.

Town clerk Lynda Hodsdon-Mayo gathered sample noise bylaws from other Massachusetts town, which the board gave Hastings to review. But Hastings said Gill should look for the simplest noise ordinance to adopt, and regardless, "the enforcement will still be somewhat arbitrary," particularly if the source of the complaint is not there by the time police arrive.

Town administrative assistant Deb Roussel said she had gotten numerous complaints about noise problems in town during her tenure.

Board member Ann Banash said, "We have to put some sort of noise bylaw before town meeting."

Taking the opportunity to talk with the board about the police department budget, Hastings said he had only \$1900 left in his expense account to get through the next 3½ months. "We spend an average of \$692 a month on fuel alone," not to mention phone bills, postage,

and so forth. Hastings said he would request more for his expense account next year, but would need a transfer of funds to get through the rest of fiscal '06. The board agreed to put the transfer request on a special town meeting warrant, directly ahead of the annual town meeting in May.

Fire chief Gene Beaubien and assistant fire chief Stuart Elliot came before the board to discuss the schedule their department is facing for replacing Engine #3. The 1,200 gallon pumper tanker was purchased in 1978 and begins to wear out after 30 years, Beaubien said.

"Engine #3 is up for replacement fairly shortly," said Beaubien. He outlined a process by which the town of Gill and its volunteer fire department might qualify to receive a replacement combination pumper and ladder truck, called a Quint, from a Department of Homeland Security grant. The town's match for a new fire truck under the grant program would be 5%, which could amount to \$25,000 to \$30,000, Beaubien estimated.

"We tried for a pumper two years ago," under the same program, Beaubien said, but they were turned down. "Now, we're thinking about the new buildings up at Northfield Mount Hermon. They're building them

bigger and bigger."

Selectboard chair Phil Maddern said after recent meetings between the Gill board and NMH, which has recently consolidated its campus in Gill and closed the Northfield campus, "It is certainly on [the private school's] radar that we need a new fire truck."

If neither the federal government nor the NMH school can be persuaded to spring for a new fire engine, "We need to prepare to put it on next year's annual town meeting," Beaubien said.

Maddern replied, "I would rather see us go to a small 4-wheel drive pumper, so we could get around to some of these places by the river more easily."

Developable Lots?

Tony Mathews, chair of the conservation commission, asked the board for guidance on how his commission should handle inquiries about lots formerly designated undevelopable, now that the board of assessors has decided to recategorize all such lots with adequate frontage and acreage as developable, regardless of wetlands conditions.

The action by the assessors affected approximately 15 to 20 landowners in town, according to assessor Gary Stevens, and the onus is now on the landown-

er to prove why their lots should be assessed as undevelopable.

Assessor Gary Stevens explained to the board at a recent meeting that simply because a lot has failed a perc test in the past did not mean that a lot could not be engineered to pass a perc test in the future, and for other lots assessed as 'undevelopable,' the assessors had no records indicating why the otherwise conforming lots could not be built on.

Mathews said an inquiry from former assessor Gary Stevens about an area of land he owns to the west of the back entrance of Northfield Mount Hermon school, affected by the recent change in assessed value, had reached the conservation commission via the office of the county building inspector, James Hawkins.

Hawkins referred Stevens' inquiry about the status of the nine acres in question to the conservation commission for a wetlands determination, and Mathews came to inquire of the board if this is a matter the conservation should involve themselves in.

"There seems to be some willingness on our part to take on this new role," regarding the disputed valuation of certain lots in town, Mathews said. "But you don't want people to say, some years from now, I've

been paying building lot taxes on this lot and now the conservation commission is saying my lot is not buildable."

The selectboard said that in matters regarding wetlands determination, it was proper for the conservation commission to perform site visits and determine whether wetlands would preclude development.

The selectboard noted there had not been a large outcry from landowners affected by the recent change in valuation.

Mathews provided a draft of a letter the conservation commission was preparing to send to Hawkins regarding Stevens' property. It read, in part, "a large portion of the land is wetlands; and... in its present condition and with current zoning and board of health regulations, there is no place to put a septic system to serve a house or business under current Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act regulations." But the letter continued, "Because some of the wetland conditions on this piece of land are caused by beavers, there is a possibility that there will be changes in the extent of wetlands in the future. Even if that were to happen, we felt there was only a possibility of one developable building lot," rather than the four developable included in the assessors new valuation of the land.

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BY JARED LIBBY

TURNERS FALLS - The benefit concert for the Montague Skate Park at the Brick House Friday, March 17th, was a smashing success. By 7:30 p.m. the room was filled to capacity of 95 people. As a few people left, they gave up their spots to those who were waiting to come in. A total of 109 teens and adults came through during the evening's eight sets of acoustic and electric music.

The concert raised \$651 for the skate park, exceeding everyone's expectations. The goal had been to raise \$500, between two concerts. The message was clear: the town of Montague - especially the teen population - values the skate park and wants to see it reopen. Among those in attendance were Montague select-board member Pat Allen, Brick House director Nancy Emond, an on-duty police officer, and numerous members of the

Skate Park Concert Jam



Teenagers rally to save the Montague Skate Park during the benefit concert at the Brick House on Friday, March 17th. The concert raised \$651 for the Skate Park, exceeding expectations.

Brick House Youth Advisory Committee led by Nate Greene.

This event took place not only to raise funds for skate park repairs, but also to inform those in attendance of the pub-

lic meeting regarding the future of the skate park - slated for April 5th at the Discovery Center. Through the evening the message went out: as important as it was to attend the concert and raise money

for skate park repairs, attending the meeting to demonstrate solid support for reopening the park was even more important. Even with the uncertainty surrounding the skate park's future, the benefit concert was

a necessary step. If the park is deemed fit to reopen (pending repairs) renovations can begin immediately following the public meeting.

This was the largest event the Brick House has held on premises. The event was free of incidents and, though it could be heard from the intersection of 3rd Street and Avenue A, no noise complaints were placed, to the relief of concert goers and Brick House staff. Allowing teens a safe and substance free place to play and listen to music (no matter how loud) can deter them from getting involved in much riskier behaviors. The support of events like this makes a great difference to many of the town's youth.

Jared Libby is the youth activities coordinator for the Brick House.

THE OCCASIONAL DINER

Smokin' Hippo: Good Food and Plenty of It

BY IVAN USSACH

ERVING - I came hungry to the Smokin' Hippo, the recently opened family restaurant and barbecue on Route 2 in Erving, on the site of the former Starlite Diner. Let me get the main news out of the way up front: the food was very good and there was plenty of it.

The house specialty is slow-cooked barbecue, and I came with that in mind. When I ordered the barbecued brisket of beef (\$13.95) at the top of the menu, described as "the best of true barbecue," the waitress suggested instead a half-rack of 'classic' pork ribs (\$13.95) - and I took her on. The Smokin' Hippo offers seven different BBC beers on tap and I ordered the River Ale, which I'd never had.

There was one couple eating quietly in the pleasantly

adorned restaurant when I arrived around 5 p.m. Paintings of hippopotamuses (or is it hippopotami?) large and small, relaxed and in motion, cover the walls, interspersed with attractive nature and wildlife photos. And get this. Every table has a different set of hippopotamus salt and pepper shakers. Sitting near the wood-grained bar and facing more or less south, I enjoyed the view of Erving's hills through the large vertical windows. A neatly tucked fireplace sent off a dance of sparks. The joint was well lit.

The beer arrived and the first sip was a delight - rich and full-bodied, with a unique taste. Then the soup arrived. I'd ordered the soup of the day (comes with the dinner), vegetable beef with chipotle. The chipotle made

itself gently known, imparting a dash of excitement to the chunks of meat and vegetables swimming amid rice and orzo.

Before the waitress even put down the main dish I could see I was in for some heavy lifting. The pile of ribs was balanced by a heap of roasted potatoes, with a cup of the hot sauce on the side. Cooked carrots rounded things out nicely. "Would you like some bread with that?" she asked. I declined, though I should have been more curious.

Now, here's the thing. The ribs come, well, naked. You either dip them in the sauce, pour the sauce over them, or mix them in your mouth. I did all of the above, with no complaints. The sauce had a tomato-ey base, with a sweetness that reminded me of honey and a trace of what

I thought might be citrus; no doubt there were plenty of other spices in the mix. At first the hot sauce didn't seem that noticeable, but about halfway through I found the temperature rising.

The restaurant had been filling steadily. A Dire Straights song played in the background, and I found myself experiencing a vague sense of searching for something and not knowing quite what it was. It finally occurred to me that this rib-eating experience was good, but not finger-licking good. Maybe serious rib fans will know what I mean. There's something about digging into ribs smothered, or at least covered, in a tasty sauce, that adds a thrill. Dipping my ribs just wasn't the same.

I thought more about it. It's kind of like, the meat and

sauce are one - or should be. This hot sauce was tasty, but not powerful enough to transform the ribs into something that made my taste buds explode.

Dessert, cheesecake with a delicious caramel topping, went down well chased by a cup of Deans Beans coffee. All in all, a pleasant and satisfying experience.

Besides barbecue, the Smokin' Hippo menu features a full range of dishes, including steaks, seafood, poultry, and vegetarian. Smoked salmon is \$13.95 and smoked and stuffed Portobello mushrooms are \$14.95. Lunch and dinner is served Tuesday through Saturday, with lunch available on Sunday. Find them on the web at tsh@thesmokinhippo.com or call 413-423-3220. I'll be back for the brisket.

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ROSS
continued from pg 1

have high standards, it can make you feel vulnerable," he said.

Ross points to the ongoing possibility of developing the landfill as an example of a weighty issue the board is currently wrestling with. The project has required a steep learning curve on his part pertaining to environmental questions, the town's finances, trucks traveling through neighborhoods and plain old politics.

"We clearly need the money, but need to maintain a way of life as well," he said. Ross said his experience has illustrated the challenge of balancing the two, in particular when considering an issue on which some people do not keep an open mind.

One particular aspect of this issue is the number of dump trucks potentially carrying waste to the landfill. Some residents

have opposed developing the site for a landfill due to the traffic, noise, and the potential for damage to town roads caused by heavy vehicles. "This is too simplified," said Ross. "How about money for our schools to buy math textbooks or to provide art programs?" The balance, he said, is between a good landfill with some downsides, and projects that benefit the town, like a swimming pool. "How do you generate revenue?" he asked. "My role is to help people make smart choices," he added.

One issue, which will be voted on by a special town meeting on March 23rd, is the airport extension. Members will have to decide whether to allocate the town's share of \$175,000 towards that project, which will involve extending the runway from the current 3,200 feet to 4,500 feet, and improving the general infrastructure of the facility. Ross said

he has had to learn a lot about the airport, although he is not a pilot. To educate himself on the subject, he has visited the facility, spoken with members of the airport commission, called state and federal officials and reviewed scores of documents. "I don't think it will hurt the town. I lean in favor," he said.

Ross is concerned about town finances, but believes the sum of \$175,000 is not a "budget killer." He said the airport improvements can be financed over several years and is a good investment toward a project that otherwise could cost more in the future. He is reassured by the support for the project given by Mark Fairbrother, an airport commissioner who is also the chair of the conservation commission. Fairbrother has assured the community that fragile habitats will not be harmed by the project, an important issue for Ross, who is an ardent outdoor enthusiast.

But, he said, "I'm not the expert."

Ross says he is particularly impressed by the hard work and dedication of town officials. "We've hired good people in the highway and police departments." However he admits there are some enforcement issues which are being addressed very slowly. "We can do better with things like unregistered vehicles," he said. "For me, to know the details of a town employee's work and schedule and to criticize is a challenge," he explained.

If elected, Ross's priority is the sound economic development of the town. To that end he believes that certain properties like the Railroad Salvage building, the Rod Shop property and the Indeck facility need to be either torn down or somehow enhanced to improve both the town's tax base and physical image. He also stressed the importance of a "top-notch" school system to make the

town more inviting. Ross feels confident that the selectboard and the school committee have developed a good working relationship and will continue to work together towards that goal.

In addition, he is supportive of both the downtown Turners Falls arts revival and the preservation of open space as key to the well being of the town. He believes it is necessary to strike a balance between economic development and the maintenance of those aspects that make Montague a unique place, like the historic buildings, farmland, open space and access to the river.

"Being a selectboard member with a full-time job is not realistic. It would be nice if there were more interest in the position, however. It would have to be made more pleasant, more respectful," he concluded.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Restraining Order Violations

Tuesday 3-14

10:01 p.m. Responded to verbal dispute on Chappell Drive, legal advice given.

Wednesday 3-15

12:58 a.m. 911 misdial at French King Highway residence.

2:09 a.m. Arrested [redacted]

Charged with violation of a restraining order.

11:45 a.m. Legal advice given to resident of French King Highway, regarding obtaining a restraining order.

10:05 p.m. Assisted disabled vehicle on French King Highway, near Barton Cove.

Thursday 3-16

4:30 p.m. Report of illegal fire on Main Road. Fire Department advised.

Friday 3-17

1:00 p.m. Annoying telephone complaint taken from resident off of French King Highway.

3:23 p.m. Arrested [redacted]

[redacted] on outstanding

warrants. Arrested on French King Hwy.

3:51 p.m. Arrested [redacted]

[redacted] on outstanding warrant from New Hampshire. Arrested on French King Hwy.

4:02 p.m. Walk in report at station of annoying phone call complaint. Officers busy with arrests; will take complaint later.

Saturday 3-18

9:15 a.m. Report taken regarding threats made on French King Highway.

Sunday 3-19

3:25 p.m. Assisted Erving Police with motor vehicle stop in Gill on French King Highway near Chase Road. Criminal complaint issued by Erving police department.

Monday 3-20

8:55 a.m. Well being check requested for Main Road resident, all o.k.

9:20 a.m. Officer requested to Vassar Way for a property line dispute.

3:30 p.m. Assisted Erving Police

at 26 French King Hwy in Gill. Arrested [redacted]

[redacted] for violation of a restraining order.

Tuesday 3-21

10:23 a.m. Responded to a two vehicle crash on French King Hwy. with injury. Under investigation.

10:40 a.m. Criminal summons issued to [redacted]

Charged with negligent operation of a motor vehicle, speed greater than reasonable and marked lanes violation.

12:34 p.m. Officer requested to a Main Road business for a dispute between a customer and the business. Legal advice given to parties involved.

3:05 p.m. Responded to assist Bernardston police at Gill Road and Turners Falls Road, with a motor vehicle stop.

6:53 p.m. Car vs. dog accident on West Gill Road, responded with animal control officer. Dog deceased.

7:25 p.m. Report taken from resident of Myrtle Street advising of a possible identity theft violation.

Gala Tier-Givers Honored

BY JOYCE PHILLIPS

GILL-MONTAGUE - Last year the Gill-Montague Education Fund accepted the challenge to enrich the lives of their students by raising funds that would provide programs and resources with educational opportunities. The GMEF, in partnership with Nick Waynelovich of Ja'Duke Productions, sponsored a special, family-oriented variety show. The Gala was a magical, musical event.

Previously, the GMEF had brought forth an idea that would blossom into a gift not only for the enrichment of students, but also for the donor - 'tier-giving.' It is a wonderful way to make a lasting "Tribute Gift." When you, and your son or daughter reach a key milestone, celebrate a success or complete the school year, making a donation to honor/memory a teacher, staff member or volunteer who has made a significant contribution to your educational experience or that of your son or daughter, is a life long accolade.

In acknowledgment of the 2005 GALA tier-givers, a "classic" hand-rubbed walnut-tone

finish plaque has been placed outside the Turners Falls High School Theater, engraved with donors' names. The board will continue the 'recognition plaques' for each Gala. For more information, visit the Gill Montague Regional School District website at www.gmrtd.org and download the "Tier-Giving Pledge Card."

So far, with the monies raised from the Gala, Tier-giving and advertising; more than \$17,800 has been awarded in mini-grants and special projects. The second annual Gala, "A Concert with Elisabeth von Trapp" will be held on Saturday, April 29th at 7:30 p.m. Elisabeth, the granddaughter of Maria von Trapp of "Sound of Music" fame, will also perform with the Elementary Chorus and Great Falls Middle School/Turners Falls High School Singers.

Tickets cost: \$20 - \$15 - \$10 and are available at these locations - Equi's Store, Scotty's Convenience Store, World Eye Bookshop, Webs of Northampton, all Gill-Montague Elementary Schools or by calling Turners Falls High School at 863-9341.

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PLAY
continued from pg 1

lasses in a big-screen adaptation of a certain C. S. Lewis fantasy last year, but hey, this is America, so expect some twists. Like Secret Service men watching them, and reporting their every move on cell phones. And sideshow barkers egging on the adventurers to try every carny ride in town.

The four stalwarts are played by sixth graders Christopher Gordon, Jane Booth, Chad Galipault, and Nala Vaughn, and they do a deft job of delineating their individual characters and working together to

(Will) lived up to his character's name by taking a can-do approach to Gordon's more skeptical portrayal of Jason. But Gordon was a real standout - amid the fantastic goings on - for keeping a coolly cynical eye on the proceedings, and looking out for number one.

The show begins with a posse of menacing G-men overseeing events at a carnival. The gypsies and carnival attractions are frozen in position, going through their rounds, until the four travelers happen upon a magic medallion that frees the unicorns from their servitude on the merry-go-round. In this scene, Cooper Hemphill turns in



DETMOLD PHOTOS

Some of the cutest unicorns this side of Galafree

solve the mystery of the Wizard's fate. Vaughn said her character, (Gwen) was meant to be the youngest of the foursome, and she often hesitated when the going got rough. "I relied on Colleen," she confided after the show.

For her part, Booth (Colleen) displayed a maturity beyond her sixth grade years, projecting confidence and optimism amid the darkest pitfalls of their journey. But she noted Vaughn's pluck in overcoming her doubts

an outstanding performance as the merry-go-round operator, urging the travelers to "Come and Get a Ride!" The first grade carnival kids provide a rollicking troupe of sideshow stars.

Whisked away to Galafree, Malik Odeh was marvelous as the King of the Unicorns, managing to keep his dignity while uttering some very corny lines. The kindergarten unicorns who come visiting were unbearably cute. Before the travelers leave the unicorn court, his Queen, Raleigh Yates, gives a tender rendition of 'a song to overcome despair': "Don't be depressed, Don't be too sad, With the wonderful things in this world, You should all be glad!" Well, move over Oprah Winfrey.

Before the four youths depart to save the Wizard and free Galafree from the grip of terror that has frozen its mirthful denizens, the King



Left to right, Christopher Gordon, Jane Booth, Nala Vaughn and Chad Galipault, the adventurous foursome

to help the travelers reach their goal. "She took more chances than I did," Booth admitted.

For the boys' part, Galipault

Unicorn gives some sage advice that would make Dorothy feel right at home: "Go that way," he tells them. "And stay together.



King of the Unicorns (Malik Odeh) greets one of his courtiers

But I doubt you'll be home by dinner."

Right you are. Soon the travelers get lost in a growling forest, a forest that grows larger with the addition of some very spooky third and fourth graders, dressed as wicked Ents, or something like them. When they sing, "I'll freeze you into trees; You'll die in Galafree!" you get chills. What if they mean it?

After they narrowly escape this snare, the foursome



I think that I shall never see, a fourth grader as spooky as this tree (Grace Reeder)

encounter some smart-alecky elves, Courtney Brown and Jackie Lafleur, who start to sass them. "Beware the path! Beware the storm!" they cry.

Great! Just as we were starting to get over our fear of nature, VanEps makes a gentle rain fall on piano, and the wanderers, seeking shelter from the storm, run smack into a dragon. And what a great dragon she is! Played convincingly by Katelyn Phillips, she is really a unicorn in thrall of an evil spell, but you wouldn't know it.

For a young lady under an

evil spell, Phillips has a very beautiful voice, as she sings, "Black magic is holding me here... Please take me away from this horrible place; Please make it disappear." A lot of people reading the morning papers at home could easily relate.

She resists the effort to free her, however, until Booth persuades her that life will be more fun (and less lonely) as a unicorn again. After the show, Phillips said when she played the role of the dragon she felt, "Old and Wise... and Greedy." But she realized, after meeting the travelers, "I didn't want to stay there. It wasn't right to be greedy."

After a number of alarming twists and turns, highlighted by the eerie cries of a passel of Martians, who begin moaning by ones and twos, and soon fill the entire hall with the lamentations of second graders, the travelers prove their mettle and are borne on the backs of a beautiful bird, Aria Roberts, to the lonely perch where the wizard sits. Actually, the lonely perch is a seat high up on the back wall of the auditorium, where the wizard, Ben Lawton-Curtis, admitted he was a bit bored during the proceedings on stage, and spent the first four and half scenes trying to remember his lines.

But he had them by heart when the spotlight found him, and the four travelers released him from his frozen spell, and he joined them at last in the front of the hall. In the meantime, free minutes expired, the cell-phone wielding Secret Service men had collapsed in a pool of their own wickedness, and emerged visibly lighter to join the rest of the cast in a rousing chorus of Kool & the Gang's "Celebrate Good Times (Come On!)"

Wait a minute! It turns out the G-men were really unicorns all along. Could this work on the Washington gang?

Bravo to another bravura production from Court Dorsey and Company. And parents, next time your children tell you there's a unicorn in the wardrobe, do yourself a favor. Believe them.

COMEDY

continued from pg 3
strong accent. Instead of the traditional ice breaker, "Can you hear me?" he started out by asking, "Can you understand what I am saying?" Wong discussed many experiences of being a foreigner in America. He recalled the Jehovahs Witnesses coming to his door in Texas and asking if he had found Christ. "No," he replied. He waited a few more seconds before asking, "Have you lost him?" This is an old joke, but it sounded funnier than usual coming from a Chinese guy.

Wong told how Wayne Hung of American Idol has destroyed his karaoke nights and how he embraces Chinese stereotypes, because he can get jobs such as high paying ones in the computer field he is not normally qualified for. Still, with the cost of living in Boston, he doesn't have enough money to buy presents for his friends, except cheap ones "made in China." Actually, he tells his friends, "I made them."

Tim McIntire is a well-known name in the Boston area. He has been featured in the *Boston Magazine* "Best of Boston" and appeared on Comedy Central, and the Comcast channel and has performed in top clubs in the U.S. and Canada. The *Boston Globe* says, "He is on the verge of stardom." McIntire is a master of physical comedy, as shown with his take on how a man got bitten by a snake seven times after trying to bite its head off. "You'd think after - oh let's pull a number out of a hat - the FIRST time you got bit, you would not try again." He went on to demonstrate a moron wrestling a snake and getting bitten over and over and still trying to bite the snake's head off. He also discussed how traumatic it was seeing his first son born, yet he wouldn't take back the experience for anyone.

The night at the Shea was a total success and the performers enjoyed the Powertown reception so much they have already booked plans to return in the fall. This time on purpose. Like all veteran stand-up comics, they left 'em laughing and wanting more.

Christopher Holmes is a struggling comic and hopes to do an Open Mic in Boston someday, if his scooter will ever make it there.



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THE HEALTHY GEEZER

The Leading Cause of Hospitalization

and how to prevent it

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ-Q. *What is the leading cause of hospitalization of older people? Is it heart attacks or strokes?*

The number one reason people over age 65 go into the hospital is congestive heart failure (CHF), or simply heart failure. If you have CHF, your heart can't pump enough blood. This condition develops over time.

Heart failure is most common in older people, and is more common in African-Americans. Men have a higher rate of heart failure than women. But, because women usually live longer, the condition affects more women in their 70s and 80s.

In normal hearts, veins bring oxygen-poor blood from the body to the right side of the heart. It is then pumped through the pulmonary artery to the

lungs, picking up oxygen. From there, the blood returns to the left side of the heart. Then it is pumped through a large artery called the aorta that distributes blood throughout the body.

Heart failure is caused by other diseases or conditions that damage the heart muscle. It is often caused by coronary artery disease, including heart attacks. Diabetes and high blood pressure also contribute to heart failure.

Coronary artery disease is the leading cause of death in men and women.

It happens when the arteries that supply blood to the heart become hardened and narrowed. People who have had a heart attack are at high risk to develop heart failure.

There are a number of things that you can do to reduce risk of coronary artery disease and heart failure. For starters, you



ILLUSTRATION: JESSICA HARMON

should keep the following levels down: body weight, cholesterol, blood pressure, sugar, alcohol and salt. Exercise regularly. And, if you smoke, quit.

The most common symptoms of heart failure include shortness of breath, fatigue, and swelling, which usually occurs in the ankles, feet and legs. Swelling is caused by fluid

buildup in the body and can lead to weight gain, frequent urination and a cough.

Because the symptoms are common for other conditions, your doctor will determine if you have heart failure by doing a detailed medical history, an examination, and several tests.

Tests that are given to determine heart failure include an electrocardiogram (EKG), a chest X-ray, and a blood test for BNP, a hormone that increases in heart failure.

Tests that can identify the cause of heart failure include: anechocardiogram that uses sound waves; a Holter monitor, which is a small box that is worn for 24 hours to provide a continuous recording of heart rhythm during normal activity; an exercise stress test that reads your EKG and blood pressure before, during, or after exercise

to see how your heart responds.

There is no cure for heart failure, but it can be controlled.

People with CHF are usually put on a low-salt diet to prevent fluid build-up. Their doctors may also tell them to lose weight, quit smoking, and reduce alcohol intake.

Medications that are used include: diuretics, "water pills" to reduce fluid; ACE inhibitors to lower blood pressure and reduce heart stress; beta-blockers to slow your heart rate and lower blood pressure; Digoxin to help the heart beat stronger.

People with severe heart failure may also be given a mechanical heart pump. A heart transplant is an option when all other treatments fail to control symptoms.

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

FINDING BALANCE: HEALTH TIPS FOR A HAPPY LIFE

The Language of Pain

BY JENNY CHAPIN

MONTAGUE CITY -Western medicine is an amazing thing, particularly for cases of acute trauma and life-saving procedures. People afford doctors a rank similar to that of gods, and really, it is quite astounding, the skill that many doctors attain. I once had the opportunity to witness open-heart surgery - a miracle, indeed, to stop someone's heart, perform its actions external to the body, put another heart in the chest, and bring the person to life again after suspended animation.

However, there are times when doctors don't know how to help their patients. Part of the predicament is that specialization within the medical field doesn't take into account the holistic factor. The reality is, everything is connected, not only our body systems with each other (digestive, respirato-

ry, immune, etc.), but also our bodies with our minds (or thoughts) and emotions.

Doctors tell patients there's nothing to do about their pain and to get used to living with it for the rest of their lives. Most people are so bewildered by how their bodies work that they look to experts, hope for a magic bullet, and don't know what else to do if the bullet doesn't work. One place we can turn to is inside our own selves.

Our bodies communicate with us via sensations and emotions. When we ignore, deny, or simply don't understand the subtler messages, the communication gets louder, less polite, more insistent, in its attempts to get our attention. Pain is a language unto itself, and it is up to us to decipher its messages.

In my work, I have found that our bodies are often quite willing to tell us what's going



on, if we ask sincerely. There are usually clear correlations between the "main complaint" and what we need to do to heal it.

"Sam" came to me for help with his knee pain. After many years on the job in cold weather and painful positions, his doctor was recommending knee replacement surgery. A month into our work, with little change, I asked Sam to close his eyes, take a few quieting breaths, and ask his knee what it wanted. (Suspend disbelief, and keep reading...) The immediate response? "I want you to rest" - not surprising, from a body that had worked hard for decades.

Thing was, it was hard for Sam to "do nothing"; he eventually opted for the surgery in order to give himself permission to rest.

"Elaine" has an irregular heartbeat and palpitations. She also feels a sense of deep heart "ache", and is beginning to connect the two: the issues with her physical heart mirror the emotional issues. Surgery helped regulate the heartbeat, but didn't fix the ache, bringing it to the forefront of her awareness of what else in her life needs attention.

The basic message of discomfort and pain is that we have gotten off track with our lives, out of touch with our hearts, out of alignment structurally, emotionally, spiritually. Ask your body - it knows, and it'll tell you if you're receptive and listen closely... and then you have only to possess the courage to follow the prompting. The

magic, the healing power, is inside you; it is you. It may need the prompting of someone helping you, to bring it out, but everything you need to heal is already present.

The poet Rumi said, "We are pain and what cures pain." Come to your pain with compassion and non-judgment; let it teach you, let it guide you back to yourself. The pain may not entirely go away, but chances are good you'll remember or find who you are underneath it, whole and exquisite.

Jenny Chapin is a resident of Montague City, and a certified acupuncturist, Zero Balancer, and yoga teacher, practicing in Franklin County for seven years.

If you have a suggestion for a topic, please email Jenny: jgchapin@croc-ker.com


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PLOW FRAU & Bow Wow: Sita Lang, (413) 834-7569. **Hauling your used goods** to people and places in need, and not necessarily to the landfill. Free Estimates.

Help Wanted

The Town of Erving is accepting applications for a **Part-Time Seasonal Worker** to help maintain the town's cemetery. This involves cutting grass using town equipment. Approximately 10 to 15 hours per week, depending on the weather. Position to start in May 2006 and work through the grass-cutting season. Pay is in the \$9 to \$10 range. Send letter of interest to the Board of Selectmen, Town of Erving, 12 East Main Street, Erving, MA 01344. EOE. Please mark all envelopes as CONFIDENTIAL. Respond by 3:00 pm. on 4/14/06. Questions? Call Town Hall at 422-2800, Ext. 100.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Under the Influence

Thursday 3-16
7:22 a.m. Report of a larceny at a Turner Street, Lake Pleasant address. A 4-wheeler was stolen. Under investigation.

Saturday 3-18
12:10 a.m. After a motor vehicle stop on 10th Street, [redacted], was arrested and charged with operating a motor

vehicle under the influence of liquor (2nd offence) and possession of an open container of alcohol in a motor vehicle.

Sunday 3-19
1:15 a.m. [redacted], was arrested on a straight warrant.

1:41 a.m. After a motor vehicle stop near the Book Mill, [redacted]

[redacted], was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle under the influence of liquor and a marked lanes violation.

12:22 p.m. Report of an animal complaint at a West Chestnut Hill address. A dog was found. Dog was reunited with its family.

Monday 3-20
7:57 a.m. Report of a larceny from Subway on Avenue A. Report taken.

3:15 p.m. Walk in to station reported an assault at TFHS earlier in the day. Mother was advised of options.

Tuesday 3-21
12:59 p.m. Report of a larceny at an Avenue A address. Someone stole soda from Subway. Under investigation.

11:19 p.m. Report of a disturbance at an L Street address. Subject put in protective custody.

Public Meeting RE: Skatepark

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 138, General Laws, as amended, the inhabitants of the Town of Montague are hereby notified that Montague Parks & Recreation Department will be sponsoring a meeting regarding the Montague Skatepark.

The meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 5th at 7:00pm in the Great Hall of the Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls. Public participation is welcomed.

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March 27, 7-9.30 p.m Deja Brew Pub
Lockes Village Rd. Wendell

Montague Parks & Recreation **SPRING PROGRAMS 2006**
56 First St., Turners Falls, MA 01376 / Phone: (413) 863-3216

YOUTH PROGRAMS	ADULT PROGRAMS
<p>YOUTH BASEBALL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tee-Ball - Ages 4 - 6 • Rookie League - Grades 1 & 2 (1st graders must have played at least one season of t-ball to be eligible) • Farm Travel Team - Grades 2 - 4 (Players in 2nd grade must be 8 years old as of Sept. 1 of 2005) • Youth Travel Team - Grades 5 - 7 	<p>LOW IMPACT STEP AEROBICS</p> <p>Starts April 11; 8-week program</p> <p>YOGA</p> <p>Starts April 5; 10-week program</p> <p>ART/PAINTING CLASSES</p> <p>Call for information!</p>
<p>GIRLS' SOFTBALL</p> <p>Become part of Montague's proud softball tradition!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rookie League - Girls in grades K - 2 • Senior League - Girls in grades 3 - 6. 	<p>FAMILY PROGRAMS</p> <p>PETER COTTONTAIL'S EGGstravaganza</p> <p>Saturday, April 15 @ Unity Park. Over 3,000 eggs: face painting; egg decorating and Peter Cottontail will be present! Mark your calendars!</p> <p>Sponsored by Montague Elks, Hillside Plastics, New England Extrusion, Greenfield Savings Bank & Equi's Candy Store</p>
<p>PEPSI PITCH, HIT AND RUN</p> <p>Youths ages 7 - 14. To be held Saturday, April 22 at Unity Park</p>	<p>CRABAPPLE FESTIVAL 5K FUN RUN</p> <p>Sunday, April 30th</p> <p>For prices and more information, and/or, to receive a Spring Programs Brochure contact, Montague Parks & Recreation 56 First Street Unity Park Fieldhouse Turners Falls, MA 01376 863-3216.</p>
<p>SWIMMING LESSONS - SESSION III</p> <p>Ages 5 & Up Begins Saturday, April 8</p>	
<p>SUMMER PLAYGROUND REGISTRATION</p> <p>begins Monday, April 3 for Montague Residents only. Non-residents may register starting Monday, May 1.</p>	

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THURSDAY, MARCH 23RD

“Spring Cleaning and Healthy Yards Naturally!” is the title of a program at the **Great Falls Discovery Center** from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Time to give your home a spring cleaning? Planning a garden? Do you need healthier grass or new landscaping? Learn how to keep your home clean without toxic cleaners. Try a safe and healthy approach to greener lawns, gardens, and landscapes. Come learn about natural products and methods for a safer home and healthy lawns and landscapes. Lots of hands-on tips will be provided. A compost bin will be given away. For more information contact Athena at the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District, 772-2438 or info@franklincounty-wastedistrict.org.

FRIDAY, MARCH 24TH

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

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 25TH

Join Gini Traub, Regional EE Coordinator for the Mass DCR, for hands-on activities for school-age children, their families and the child in all of us during *Before There Were Stores* at the Great Falls Discovery Center from 1 to 2 p.m. We will use natural materials that met some everyday needs of early settlers. Make twine and rope. Sip birch-twig tea. What makes slippery elm slippery, and how is that useful? We will discover the answer! For more information, call GFDC at 863-3221.

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

Contra Dance with Tophill Productions at Guiding Star Grange Hall, 401 Chapman St., Greenfield. 8:00 to 11:30 p.m.

413-773-1671.

Teen Writers Workshop -

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

Psychic Fair - The National Spiritual Alliance will sponsor a Psychic Fair from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Thompson Temple across from the Post Office in Lake Pleasant. Divination methods include astrology, I-Ching, hand reading, vibration connection, and tarot cards. Consultation is with a medium of choice.

SUNDAY, MARCH 26

BUILDING SENSIBLY with Jeremy Toal and Scott Nielsen. Look beyond the huge house built with materials from across the globe. A home with a reasonable footprint, energy efficient design, and local materials may be in your future. Join us for a presentation and discussion with Jeremy Toal, the founder of Turtle Island Design, and Scott Nielsen, a craftsman with practical restoration experience. This talk is co-sponsored by the Pioneer Valley Post Carbon Council and Woolman Hill. 3 pm in the meetinghouse at Woolman Hill, the top of Keets Rd. in Deerfield, MA. Free. For information, call (413) 648-9158. For directions, go to www.woolmanhill.org.

MONDAY, MARCH 27TH

The next meeting of the **Millers River Watershed Team** is scheduled for Monday, March 27th at 6 p.m. at the Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main Street, Athol. The fea-

tured presenter will be Kathleen Fitzgerald, executive director of the Northeast Wilderness Trust, who will discuss the Trust’s efforts to protect 1,400 acres of the Wapack Wilderness, located in southern New Hampshire and within the headwaters of the Millers River Watershed. For more information call 978-248-9491 or email council@millersriver.net.

TUESDAY, MARCH 28TH

“Uncommon Loons” is the title of a program at the Great Falls Discovery Center at 1 p.m. Rose Maconi, Mass Aquatic Conservation Society, will introduce us to the Quabbin Loon population and discuss their populations state-wide. A \$5 donation is appreciated. Please pre-register by calling 413-323-7221 x 493. This is part of the VEEC Lecture Series. This program is held at the Quabbin Visitor Center in Belchertown.

SUNDAY, APRIL 2ND

Animal Tracking at the Wendell State Forest with Paul Wanta, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free. Sponsors: Friends of the Wendell Free Library and the Wendell Cultural Council. Blessed with an abundance of both predator and prey, Wendell State Forest is The perfect place to learn to recognize physical evidence of the wild animals we share the woods with. Join Paul Wanta as we explore and search for tracks and sign of the animals who roam our local area. This will be a moderate walk, sometimes off trail. Children are welcome if accompanied by an adult. To register please call Paul Wanta at 978.544.2399 or sign up at the Wendell Free Library.

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.

SATURDAY, APRIL 8TH

At 9 a.m., a Vernal Pool Trip will begin at the Millers River Environmental Center at 100 Main Street in Athol. Join Lynn Harper for this look at the wonders of our local vernal pools. Meet at the Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main St., Athol. For more information, call 978-248-9491.

The River Rat

Race/Festival will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Come to the Millers River Environmental Center Open House and Show. Watch the parade and participate by carrying one of the parade puppet characters created in our Puppet Building Workshops. Volunteers needed. Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main St., Athol. For more information, or to volunteer, call 978-248-9491.

SATURDAY, APRIL 8TH & SUNDAY, APRIL 9TH

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

minute), preferably from Shakespeare. The cost for participation in the Young Company program is \$150. To schedule an audition appointment, call 413-587-9398, or e-mail us at lucindakidder@hotmail.com. Further information about past Young Company performances may be found at www.hampshireshakespeare.org.

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

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- **THURS** - Drop-in, 3 - 5, Movie Night, 6 - 8
- **FRI, MAR 31st** - Open mic at bellybowl restaurant, 6 - 9

These programs are free (except some trips) and open to local teens.

Some require permission slips.

For more info: Jared at 863-9559.

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- 3. SHE'S THE MAN** PG13
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- MAT SAT, SUN, WED 12:00 3:00
- 4. FAILURE TO LAUNCH** PG13
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- 5. THE HILLS HAVE EYES** R
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- MAT SAT, SUN, WED 12:15 3:15
- 6. INSIDE MAN** R in DTS sound
DAILY 6:30 9:30
- MAT SAT, SUN, WED 12:30 3:30
- 7. V FOR VENDETTA**
DAILY 6:30 9:30 R in DTS sound
- MAT SAT, SUN, WED 12:30 3:30

Fabulous Maurice at the Shady Glen

BY LISA DAVOL

TURNERS FALLS The luck of the Irish brought the Fabulous Maurice to the Shady Glen on Friday, March 17th to serenade diners at the ever popular eatery, with classic tunes like *School Days*, *When Irish Eyes are Smiling* and *Danny Boy*. It's not everyday you can get two eggs over easy with an accordion on the side.

Everyone at the Shady Glen is on a first name basis including the owners, two brothers of Greek origin who prefer to be called Louie and Tommy.

Some special guests get superlatives added to their names, such as the Fabulous Maurice. Louie walked into the dining area and announced that before he walked in, Maurice was the best looking guy in the room. Friendly teasing ensued. One customer from Turners who comes in twice a day, named simply Bob, could not contain himself and began singing along to *School Days* when Maurice struck up the request on his accordion.

Irish ballads are a side dish for the Fabulous Maurice. Normally he specializes in polkas and tunes from the 40s and 50s, and he's more apt to be ordering galumpkies than corn beef and cabbage. But when in Rome...

Maurice has several CDs to his name, with another coming out shortly. The Colrain resident says he has been driving down to eat at the Glen every day for 30 years. He has taken to the new owners as if they were old buddies, and relishes his favorite turkey noodle soup, which keeps his cholesterol down.

One day Tommy and Louie were joking about Maurice coming in to play sometime. Maurice thought about it and realized he needed to practice anyway, so he put on his best suit and green St. Patrick's Day tie and began the serenade. As if the normal Glen atmosphere weren't jolly enough, the music put a larger smile on everyone's face. The food kept time with the tempo, and seemed to arrive more quickly.

Maurice, who also plays the trumpet, violin, guitar and bass, says music cheers everyone up. He plays in hospitals and nursing homes, country clubs, for weddings and parties. He agreed to teach Louie how to play the violin, and to come in to play Thanksgiving Day. Easter is also a possibility, if the restaurant is open. He loves playing and acknowledged, "There are no 'No's' in my vocabulary."



DAVOL PHOTO

Shady Glen co-owner "Tommy" Matheos, with the Fabulous Maurice on St. Patricks Day

Ristorante DiPaolo Opens



DAVOL PHOTOS



Chef Hilton Dottin

BY LISA DAVOL

TURNERS FALLS Ristorante DiPaolo officially bloomed on Avenue A in Turners Falls on the first day of spring, Monday, March 20th. The posh upscale Italian restaurant opened its doors and menu to a packed house. The Friday before the opening, the restaurant and its major funder, Greenfield Co-operative Bank, held a private reception to celebrate the



Owner Denise DiPaolo

completion of construction of the restaurant at 166 Avenue A. Guests were given tours and a sneak preview of a few of chef Hilton Dottin's delicacies including an antipasto plate, crab stuffed mushroom caps, grilled shrimp with a mango dipping sauce, bruschetta, and pasta with fennel sausage and meatballs. Platters of decadent confections were complemented by the creamiest cappucino outside of Italy.

The restaurant's hours are 5 - 9 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, 5 - 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Closed Tuesday. Reservations recommended. 413-863-4441.

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