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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MARCH 8, 2007

New Bakery Opens in Turners Falls

KATHY LITCHFIELD
TURNERS FALLS - Sometimes two heads -- or bakers in this case -- are better than one. Such seems to be the case for the two Pattys of "Patty Cake Patty Cake," a new bakery that opened its doors yesterday at 104 4th Street.

Patricia McClelland of Montague, former owner of Blue Skies, the bakery and cafe that operated in the same location four years ago, and Patrice Young, of Turners Falls, agreed to join forces last summer to offer a wide array of delectable cakes, pies, whoopee pies, muffins, scones, cupcakes, coffee cakes, wedding cakes, fine desserts and much more - all homemade from scratch with loving care - at 95 Main Street in Northfield.

Now, just three months after opening there, they are spending their days closer to home, beating batter and whipping frostings into a flurry in the space most recently occupied by the bellybowl restaurant.

Homemade wedding

cakes are McClelland's and Young's specialty. Decorating cakes is a skill Young perfected following several years in the bakeries of Big Y Supermarkets in Northampton and Greenfield; while McClelland graduated from the Cambridge Culinary School in Boston in 1998 and ran the former Blue Skies for four years out of her home and then at 104 4th Street for another year and a half.

Patty Cake Patty Cake's custom-decorated occasion cakes will serve anywhere from eight to 100 people in varying shapes and sizes as well as a variety of flavors including chocolate, vanilla, white chocolate, marble, yellow butter, spice, carrot and lemon. Frosting flavors are similarly diverse: vanilla, chocolate, white chocolate, cream cheese, mocha and lemon; and the fillings include cream cheese, raspberry, lemon, mocha, Bavarian and strawberry. Specialty occasion cakes include a chocolate fudge ganache,

a turtle cheesecake and chocolate, banana and coconut cr me pies. They also feature "sweet traditional buttercream" frosting made with butter, powdered sugar, vanilla

PATTY CAKE pg 16

Can Montague Afford Curbside Recycling?

BY KEVIN FOLEY & DAVID DETMOLD - The finance committee held a hearing on the costs and benefits of continuing the town's curbside recycling program on Wednesday, March 7th.

DPW superintendent Tom Bergeron explained the program costs the town at least \$47,000 a year, not counting labor for the two truck drivers who pick up recyclables for residents and businesses three days a week. That figure takes into account the approximately \$20,000 the town gets back from Materials Recycling Facility in Springfield for bringing their marketable recyclables there.

Bergeron said the program's cost escalates due to ongoing maintenance to the recycling trucks' brakes, every three to six months, which totals at least \$10,000 a year. He said the town has to purchase a new recycling truck every seven years, and the new ones will have to meet California emission standards, adding \$10,000 to their price tag. The best price he could find recently for a new recycling truck was \$148,000.

Selectboard member Pat Allen asked Bergeron to estimate the labor costs to his department for driving the recycling routes.

Bergeron said \$40,000 - \$45,000 would be a fair estimate of that cost, but said his department was presently short-staffed, and if the recycling program were cut he would re-deploy those workers, rather than cut their positions.

Franklin County Solid Waste Management District director Jan Ameen said Montague and Greenfield were the only two towns in the county that still provide curbside recycling pick-up for their residents. Gill, Erving and Sunderland contract with a private company to provide curbside recycling services. The smaller towns maintain transfer stations for residents to drop off their recyclables.

Montague maintains a transfer station as well, in back of Judd Wire off Turnpike Road, open Wednesdays and Saturdays, where residents and businesses can bring bulky items and recyclables. If curbside pickup were discontinued, Bergeron said he would be able to afford

see **RECYCLE** pg 14



Ben Garber plays Seymour in *Little Shop of Horrors*. Pictured right, the insatiable Audrey.

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VILLAGE CO-OP TO CONSIDER LEASING DELI AND BAKERY

BY DAVID DETMOLD
MOORE'S CORNER -

The Leverett Village Coop is locally renowned as the one stop shop for natural foods, tobacco, beer, wine, tofu, granola, and the best baked goods for miles around. On Saturday, March 10th, the provenance of those baked goods, a 400-square-foot kitchen with a quadruple gas oven, is up for discussion by the member owners of the cooperative to see whether the deli-bakery will continue to be run in-house as a coop

see **COOP** pg 15

Stories from the Trail:

ADAPTIVE WINTER RECREATION TRANSFORMS LIVES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

MARCY MARCHELLO

WENDELL - Many people in Franklin County are familiar with Wendell State Forest as a locally popular place to gain access to trails and hike or ski or snowmobile for miles. Few people, however, are aware of the ongoing use of this relatively remote forest to serve people with disabilities in adaptive winter recreation activities. As a program coordinator for universally accessible recreation in Massachusetts state forests and parks, I recently spent the day at Wendell State Forest during a winter program. It was a day I will never forget, full of stories that beg to be shared.

My first outing of the day



PHOTO MARCY MARCHELLO

began with Ginny. She needed a companion for cross country skiing. Usually when I come to programs it is to monitor management or logistical aspects. Today,

though, I had made it known that I was interested in checking out the Pine Tree Trail, a new trail popular with program participants

see **TRAIL** pg 10

RIVER ROAD TRESPASSING PROMPTS SELECTBOARD POWWOW

BY DAVID DETMOLD

GILL - Peter Melnick and Donald Patterson, who along with their partner Jay Savage farm 150 acres at the intersection of River Road and Pisgah Mountain Road, are fed up with uninvited varmints wreaking havoc with their potato, pepper, cucumber and corn fields. On Monday, March 5th they came to the selectboard for help. It's not raccoons they are talking about invading their fields, leaving tracks

see **GILL** pg 14

PET OF THE WEEK

A Star is Born



Madonna

Madonna is a six-year-old female short hair cat in need of a good home. This pearly grey beauty purrs before you even get the word "Hello" out. She seems like a really happy cat. Apparently Madonna will get really devoted to one person, and that's the only species she's fond of, the others you can forget about. Madonna is playful and curious but she can also be a bit shy and a tad independent. Her former home had too many pets so she's looking for one where she can be star. For more info on adopting Madonna, please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at 413-548-9898.

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CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS

Book Making Workshop

BY LINDA HICKMAN
TURNERS FALLS - On Saturday, March 10th, children can come and make their own book with Bev Whitbeck at the Carnegie Library. The program is designed for children in grades 3-6. Supplies and refreshments will be provided. For more information, call 413-863-3214, during library hours.

Montague Town Meeting Openings

There are many open seats available for Montague Town Meeting up for grabs in the May 21st annual town election. Seats available, as of March 6th, are as follows:

Precinct Two: (Millers Falls and Lake Pleasant): Four 3-year seats open; One 1-year seat open.

Precinct Three: (the Hill, east): Two 3-year seats open; One 2-year seat open; One 1-year seat open.

Precinct Four: (the Hill, west): One 1-year seat open.

Precinct Five: (downtown Turners): One 3-year seat open; Two 1-year seats open.

Precinct Six: (Montague City and the Patch): Five 3-

year seats open; One 2-year seat open.

Nomination papers for town meeting seats can be obtained from the town clerk's office. Only ten signatures from registered voters in your precinct are needed to qualify for the ballot to run for open seats or to contest incumbents' seats. The deadline to obtain papers is March 30th by 5:00 p.m. All nomination papers must be returned to the town clerk's office on April 2nd by 5:00 p.m. For more information please call the office at 863-3200, extension 203. Town clerk office hours are Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m to 4:30 p.m.

Leverett's Industrial Past Made Visible

BY DAWN WARD
LEVERETT - The Leverett Historical Society presents more of Leverett's industrial past made visible with Dave Field of Leverett, on March 22nd at 7:30 p.m. The public is

invited to the new Leverett Field Museum in Leverett Center.

When the town library moved to its newly built space, many artifacts that were once discreetly housed in parts of the

FACES & PLACES

Swans on the Canal

by Shayna Langknecht, an aspiring photographer who is a junior at Turners Falls High School.

PHOTO SHAYNA LANGKNECHT

Montague Community Band Seeks Rehearsal Space

BY ELLEN KEECH - The Montague Community Band has lost our donated rehearsal and storage space in Father O'Casey Hall at St. Anne's Church, which we have been using for many years. The hall closed January 31st, and we had to move our equipment to temporary locations.

We are gearing up for a big season, a dedication concert for the new bandstand and the newly renovated Peskeomskut

Park, at a date to be determined. We need to find a rehearsal space soon. We need at least 1600 square feet, up to 2500, for rehearsal and storage, which would be ideal. We would love to be somewhere in downtown Turners Falls, near the park, but could go elsewhere if need be. Contact me at elkeech@hotmail.com if you have any leads.

If you have any questions or need any more information, please let me know.

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Cheesemaking with Cliff Hatch at Upinngill Farm

GILL - On Saturday, March 24th from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., learn how to take raw milk and create a hard British cheddar cheese. This hands-on workshop will demonstrate the process from raw milk to the final pressing: ripening,

renneting, stirring the curds and the cheddaring process and pressing. We will discuss how different cheeses are made. You are invited to bring two gallons of your own animals' milk to make additional cheeses. Cliff Hatch has been

making cheese for over 25 years. To register or for more information, go to www.nofamass.org and click on "Practical Skills Workshops," or contact Tom at seedpotato@yahoo.com or (781) 894-4358.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES March 12th - March 16th

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, 12th

9-11 a.m. Foot Screening
10:00 a.m. Aerobics
11:00 a.m. Easy Aerobics
1:00 p.m. Canasta

Tuesday, 13th

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

1:00 p.m. "Spring Painting" at the Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls. Registration \$10 for Gill and

Montague residents others \$15. Louise Minks and David Sund will be instructing this class. This painting class is in acrylic painting for all levels of expertise.

Wednesday, 14th

9-11 a.m. Foot Screening
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11:15 a.m. Mealsite Meeting
12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday, 15th

1:00 p.m. Pitch
5:00 p.m. Gill-Montague-Erving Triad "Safety Begins at Home" with Mo Grossberger. Corned beef and cabbage dinner; St. Kaz Hall Turners Falls. \$5 (\$1 50/50 raffle). Tickets available at Montague and Erving police departments.

Friday, 16th

10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11 a.m. Easy Aerobics
1:00 p.m. St. Patrick's Day Party. Wear your green! Music, food, fun. Ron Quinlin is back to play music for dancing.

ERVING Senior Center, 18 Pleasant St., Erving, is open Monday through

Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. For information and reservations call Polly Kiely, Senior Center director at 413 423-3308. Lunch daily at 11:30 a.m. with reservations a day in advance by 11:00 a.m. Transportation can be provided for meals, Thursday shopping, or medical necessity by calling Dana Moore at 978 544-3898.

Monday, 12th

9:30 a.m. Exercise
9:45 a.m. Library
12 Noon Pitch

Tuesday, 13th

9 a.m. Aerobics
12:30 p.m. Painting

Wednesday, 14th

9:30 a.m. Line Dancing
12 Noon Bingo

Thursday, 15th

9 a.m. Aerobics
12:30 p.m. Shopping

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

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Work Continues to Prepare Skate Park

BY JARED LIBBY

TURNERS FALLS - Under mounds of snow sits the Montague Skate Park. The snow didn't stop a crew of community members from spending the afternoon of February 24th in 20 degree weather attending to some necessary repairs. In fact, it was the second time during the month of February that a group has spent the afternoon working away at the list of tasks that must be completed before the

skate park can safely reopen.

Under the tutelage of Jeff Aho, director of the Brick House, volunteers spent the afternoon replacing damaged sheets of plywood and adding cross-bracing to the largest ramps to provide extra strength and stability. With the goal of having the park reopened for the summer of 2007, this crew of dedicated volunteers has worked to cross tasks off the list, one by one. With the new fence

installed at the beginning of the year, and the dangerously damaged ramps removed, the light at the end of the tunnel is growing brighter. The short list of tasks to complete now consists of replacing a few more sheets of plywood, installing some metal edging, removing debris, and receiving final safety approval from the town. The most difficult work has already been completed.

This year will offer a chance

for those who want to see the skate park thrive to step up and take care of it. Since there is currently no entity to directly oversee the maintenance of the park, it is up to those who value the park to pitch in to keep it clean and safe, so it may stay open for years to come. There is a need for interested community members to form a town committee to oversee the park's operation and upkeep.

Volunteer workdays will con-

tinue until the park is reopened, and beyond. The next scheduled date is Saturday, March 24th, from noon to 4:00 p.m. Call the Brick House teen center phone number (413-863-9559) for more information on how you can help. Feel free to show up with a hammer or drill - or just another set of hands - to make a huge difference in our town. Finally, a huge thank you to Nate, Athecia, Bethany, Nick, Kyle, Matt, and Jeff!

Brick House Moviemakers Festival Reminder

TURNERS FALLS - A reminder to all emerging youth videographers: the Brick House Community Resource Center is holding its second Young Moviemakers Festival on the first Saturday in May, 2007. The Brick House once again invites any youth or youth team less than 21 years of age by May 5th to submit their work! Youth can have their work compared to their peers and judged by a panel of experts. Submissions can be from anywhere in the region.

Prizes will be given to recognize the quality and effort of the submissions. Included are free tickets generously donated by the Greenfield Garden Cinemas and the Latchis Theatre in Brattleboro.

Entries are due by April 2nd, 2007. The videos of all finalists will be shown the afternoon of May 5th, 2007 at the Brick House, beginning at 2 p.m. All submitted videos need to be less

than 15 minutes long. Additional information about this festival can be found at the Brick House web site: www.thebrickhouseinc.org

As with the first fest in the early fall of 2006, there is a wide open category to cover submissions on any subject. The Brick House is also interested this time in videos best portraying the people (real or imagined), the history or the natural environment of the Connecticut River or any of its tributaries.

This emphasis on the Connecticut River is part of the Turners Falls RiverCulture initiative, which leverages the river as an historical and cultural focus to support local economic development. This initiative is partially funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council. For more information see www.turnersfallsriverculture.org

The jury for the festival includes Steve Alves, who

worked in Hollywood and New York City as a film editor for 10 years and who has produced six videos on local community subjects; Robin Mide, whose film "Positive Profiles in Courage: Vermont Women Living with HIV" is showing at the Brattleboro Women's Film Festival in March; 22 year-old Bob Krzykowski, who is working to turn his highly popular Elsie Hooper comic strip into a motion picture; and Kerry Kazokas, who co-directed and wrote the script for the 90-minute coming of age film "Free to Fly".

For more information on the Young Moviemakers Festival, call Michael or Karen at (413) 863-9576; Jared, Maurice or Nate at 413.863.9559; or email info@thebrickhouseinc.org.

The Brick House itself has experienced video staff, access to nearby video editing facilities, video background through pro-

duction of its "Brick House TV" program, and a history of collaboration with both Montague Community Television and Greenfield Community Television.

Ant Bully Rescheduled

The Free Friday Night Movie: *The Ant Bully*, postponed from last Friday due to the storm, has been rescheduled to Friday night, March 9th, at 6:30 p.m. in the Sheffield School auditorium.

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GLBT Support Group at the Brick House

TURNERS FALLS - The Brick House Community Resource Center in Turners Falls is fostering tolerance and support for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, trans-sexual, and questioning youth, as well as straight allies, by offering weekly meetings of a new GLBT group at its 24 Third Street location, Thursdays from 4 to 6 p.m. Support, awareness, and friendship will be at the heart of

the weekly gatherings that will be facilitated by Brick House volunteer and participant Athecia Greene. Greene, who was the student advisor of the Franklin County Technical School GSA (Gay Straight Alliance) from 2001 to 2003, sees the group as being an extension of the Brick House's supportive environment. In addition to the meetings that will take place at the Brick

House, the group will have the opportunity to attend conferences, Boston Pride, and other events that celebrate who these teens are. Group members may also decide to organize performances, such as poetry readings and variety shows. Teens from throughout the area are encouraged to attend. For more information, call Karen Stinchfield at 863-9576.

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An Unaffordable Dream

A proposal to spend \$65,000 to conduct a feasibility study for a new multi-service community center in Montague is moving forward, following a public hearing on Tuesday, March 6th. The idea is to combine three town departments: the library, the senior center, and the parks and recreation department, in one new building, and to find a space somewhere in downtown Turners Falls to build this new multi-use facility. The area to the rear of town hall has been mentioned as a prime location, with views of the river, access to Unity Park and the bike path, and plenty of convenient parking. For seniors from Gill who share the use of the present senior center on 5th Street, a new center by town hall would make the commute even more convenient. Town officials see possible efficiencies in fundraising, grant writing, and shared facilities (such as kitchen space, bathrooms, or meeting rooms) in a community center.

So far, no price tag has been set for what it would cost to build a new community center, but we believe it would inevitably run to the millions of dollars. An actual cost estimate will await the completion of the feasibility study, and, unfortunately, \$65,000 will need to be expended to determine this figure. We think that money could be better spent meeting the town's current capital needs, including building a new police station.

Last month, the selectboard projected that the new police station, to be built next to the fire station on Turnpike Road, may cost Montague taxpayers up to \$5 million. While that initial estimate may be high, we doubt the final cost will be much lower. Town meeting will face the necessity of borrowing or raising money to meet the cost of this project in June.

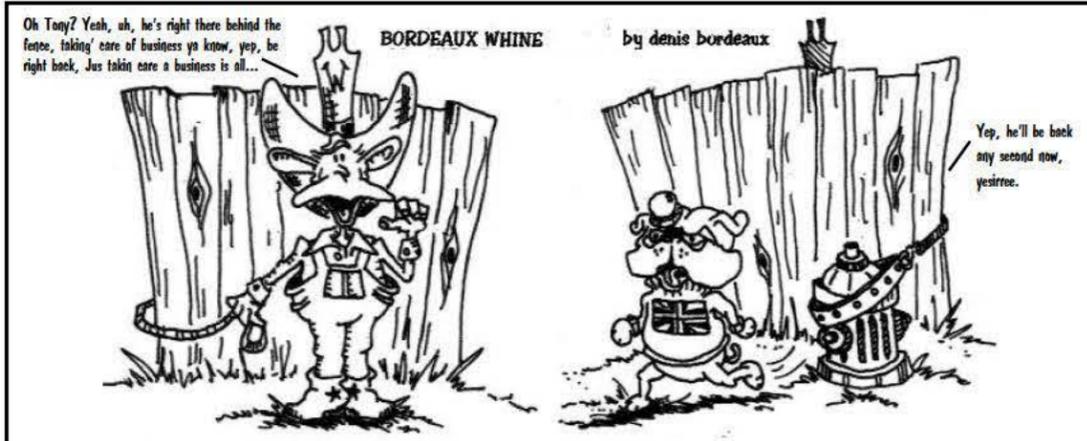
We strongly support the

move to build a new police station. The current facility has been in dire need of retirement for 20 years. But does anyone think the town will find the funds to build a new police station and a new multi-use community center, more or less at the same time? No pun intended to the \$5.7 million combined sewer overflow project, but that's a pipe dream.

Among those speaking in favor of the multi-use center are at least some public officials who have spoken against making capital improvements to the town's elementary school building in Montague Center. An accurate cost estimate for all the improvements needed to bring the Montague Center School into compliance with ADA requirements, replace the aging roof, remove asbestos tile, and upgrade a sewer line and wiring in that building has yet to be arrived at. We await those figures with keen anticipation. But whatever they amount to, they will not add up to a fraction of what it would cost to build a new community center. We would expect all those who are campaigning for fiscal responsibility for the schools to practice the same Yankee frugality when it comes to facilities for parks, seniors and libraries.

Speaking of Yankee frugality, it is a time-honored tradition in these parts to re-use and restore whatever can be economically preserved, rather than tossing it out on the junk heap and buying new. Regarding the century-old Carnegie Library on the main street of town, we think the same principle could be wisely applied. That is a beautiful old building, in need of sensible renovation. It has served generations of Montague library users, young and old, for free. Other than town roads, it could be argued that the Carnegie Library is the town service used more consistently,

see DREAM pg 5



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Once More for Selectboard

Jay DiPucchio printed the Democratic Caucus ballot last week with my name already on it, since he had not heard otherwise from me. This week I would like to make it official, by decision rather than default, that I am again a candidate for Montague selectboard. Several of the projects now underway, as well as some of the problems the town faces, compel me to run again.

It has seemed to be conventional wisdom in these parts that the winner of the caucus is essentially the selectperson

elect. The effect of this is that we seldom have a choice of can-



didates on the ballot. However, it is not too late if someone wants to run in this election. Nomination papers are still available in the town clerk's

office.

I would say also that I have decided as well that this will be my final term as a member of the selectboard, if re-elected. I am telling you this now, hoping to save myself the anguish of trying to make this tough decision again in three years time. In any case, at the end of this term, I hope to see two or three of our capable and thoughtful townspeople step forward to run for the board.

- Patricia Pruitt
Turners Falls

Why the Town Forest Gates Went Up

As a member of the Fiske Pond advisory committee I would like to respond to comments made by Wendell selectboard member Ted Lewis concerning the installation of gates on town owned property, as reported in the March 1st edition of the *Montague Reporter*. Lewis questioned the authority to put up gates that restrict access to roads within the Fiske Pond and Montague Road town forest land.

First, it should be noted that it was the Wendell conservation commission rather than the Fiske Pond advisory committee that authorized the installation of these gates. The advisory committee makes recommendations to the conservation com-

mission and helps to implement stewardship projects, but final authority rests with the commission, not their advisory committee. The authority to manage the Montague Road property was granted to the conservation commission at the 2003 annual town meeting.

I would also like to answer Lewis' question about why we need the gates now. A couple who recently acquired property abutting the town forest was granted permission by the conservation commission to use the old logging road on the land to access part of their property. Access to this road had been blocked by several large boulders, which would need to be moved in order in order to use

the road for the abutters' access or for forest management projects. The purpose of installing the gate is to allow for some vehicular access, without opening up a road into the forest that might invite people to use it as a party spot or dumping ground. The gate will serve to protect the land and the species that inhabit it and, by moving the boulders, it will make it possible to use the old logging road.

As someone involved in helping care for this property, I am grateful that the Valley Land Fund provided us with an opportunity to have these gates installed without using any town funds.

- Marianne Sundell
Wendell

WAVES Looking for New Members

We are looking for women to join WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service) National. All women who have served or are currently serving in the Navy, Coast Guard and Marine Corps, including those presently serving in the reserves, are eligible to join. WAVES National includes yeomen who served during World War I and Navy nurses. Women who have served or are currently serving in other military services, including WRENS, are eligible to join WAVES National as associate members. The members share camaraderie with women who have had similar experiences and lend moral aid

and assistance to all service women and veterans. Hospitalized women veterans and women living in VA facilities are a primary concern. WAVES National has over 4,500 members and more than 100 local units. For more information please call me at 413-863-9044.

- Carolyn Pruner
Turners Falls

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GUEST EDITORIALS

VIEW FROM THE STATEHOUSE

My Focus this Term Will Be on Education Funding, Land Use Reform and Health Care.



BY REP. STEPHEN KULIK (D-WORTHINGTON)

It has been awhile since my last column in the *Montague Reporter*, and a lot has happened at the State House since the November election and the beginning of the new legislative session in January. Let me start by thanking the voters of Montague and Wendell for giving me the privilege of continuing to represent them for the next two years. I also want to thank them for choosing Deval Patrick to be our new Governor. There is now a different atmosphere on Beacon Hill, as we finally have a chief executive who is fully engaged in addressing the needs of the state (as opposed to using the office to campaign for President). Gov. Patrick and the legislature are also committed to working constructively as partners to solve many of the challenges we face. We will not always agree on policies and initiatives (as can be seen in just the first few weeks in office), but I believe that we share a common purpose to work hard, and to think outside of the box in trying

to build a better Commonwealth.

Of course, some things never change at the State House - including getting to work on the new FY08 state budget. During the gubernatorial campaign, we were told by Mitt Romney that the state had a \$1 billion budget surplus on hand. Once he left office it became clear he had left behind a more than \$1 billion budget shortfall. In less than two months, the Patrick administration had to prepare and submit a new spending plan under these difficult circumstances.

Governor Patrick's proposed budget, unveiled on February 28th, reflects these limited revenues, and is therefore less generous than hoped for in a number of areas. For me, these include higher education, the environment, and local aid. Gov. Patrick promises to file some new initiatives for educational and environmental spending later in the spring. As for local aid, he proposes a \$15 million increase in lottery distribution, which is good considering that lottery sales are stagnant. Last year, the budget eliminated the cap on lottery payments to towns, so our communities are now receiving all of the funds they are entitled to.

Last year the legislature also adjusted and improved the formula for distributing education funds (so-called Chapter 70) and proposed a five year phased plan to achieve greater equity and fairness in funding for local schools. For FY08, we predicted a \$255 million increase in Chapter 70 funds. However, based on the lower state revenue estimates

(4% for FY08), the governor has only increased school spending by \$200 million. This is still a sizeable increase, but I will be working over the next few weeks to increase it by \$55 million in the House budget. The same is true for Regional School Transportation funds, which Patrick level funded, and for the education "pothole" account, which he eliminated. I will be working to fully fund transportation this year, and to re-establish the pothole account, which our schools have utilized at times in the past to address unexpected circumstances that create budget problems.

I have also been actively working with a group of school officials and legislators to address education funding problems that are unique to some small, rural schools. The group is meeting under the auspices of the Mass Association of Regional Schools (MARS), and is focusing on finding a way to help school districts that are experiencing declining student enrollment. Gill-Montague and New Salem-Wendell schools are in this category. I have closely followed the struggles that Montague citizens and officials are having with the issue of school facilities and enrollment. The declining state funds that follow enrollment drops present a huge problem for small towns. We are working on the details of a proposal to create a so-called "circuit-breaker" that may provide additional funds to districts that meet three general criteria: sparse student population,

declining enrollment, and lower income of residents. The working group wants to pursue some funding for this in the FY08 budget, although it will be challenging due to the limited revenue and the shortfalls in the educational accounts I mentioned earlier. However, this is very positive work and I will have more to report about it in the coming months. This rural circuit-breaker approach could be an important component of the next phase of education funding reform, to provide relief from the pressures facing local town and school budgets.

Other issues I am focusing on include providing relief to dairy farmers, who are in the midst of an economic crisis. Under the federal pricing order, they are paid less for their milk than it costs to produce it. Therefore, we are trying to devise a support program that can help to close that gap as well as provide long-term support for this important agricultural industry. I am also continuing my work to bring sensible land use reform to Massachusetts by reforming our state's zoning legislation. We need to give our communities the tools to manage growth wisely, meet affordable housing needs, protect open space, and provide for sustainable economic development. Our state's antiquated planning and zoning laws don't adequately support these efforts locally, and I hope that this is the legislative session where sensible land use reform can become a reality.

The legislation I am sponsor-

ing is now called the Community Planning Act, and I welcome the support of all who are concerned about the future of our communities. Please contact me if you would like to know more.

The last thing I will mention for now is my new role as vice chair of the Committee on Health Care Financing. I was appointed to this leadership position in late January, and I welcome the opportunity to become intensively involved in a subject that affects everyone. Last session, the legislature passed a landmark health care reform law that aims to provide quality, affordable health insurance for every citizen. Needless to say, this is a tall order, and we face many challenges to make it succeed. My new role on this committee will include closely monitoring the implementation of the new law and working on any adjustments that may be required along the way. I have already heard from constituents who have benefited from the first phase of the program, and I am working with others, both individuals and business owners, to assist with the transition to the new system.

Be sure to let me or my staff know if we can be of assistance to you on this, or any other matter.

Contact information:
 rep.stephenkulik@state.ma.us
 District Office: 1 Sugarloaf St, South Deerfield, MA 01373. 413-665-7200
 State House, Room 236, Boston, MA 02133. 617-722-2430.

DREAM

continued from pg 4

by more people of all ages, year-round, than any other in town.

There community has a strong pride in that institution. The town could never afford to build another building as well appointed as the Carnegie Library today, nor should it have to. With a modest renovation plan, including the addition of an elevator to reach

the second floor, that building could be affordably updated to serve the town for another century, for the purpose it was originally designed for. Letting it fall into private hands, or worse, into dereliction, would be a blow to the efforts being made to revive the Avenue. No credible public re-use of the library has been put forward.

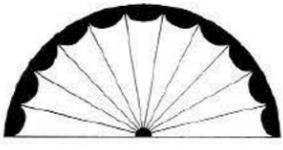
When the building committee looked at adding a new wing to

the Carnegie some years ago, they came up with an ambitious plan that would have cost the town too many millions of dollars. With or without state help, a downsized plan to simply add an elevator to the Carnegie, bring the second floor and bathrooms up to code, and add a few parking spaces outside would make this an affordable project for Montague, one the taxpayers of town could support.

As for the senior center and the parks and recreation department, they need secure homes and improved facilities, true. We thought the proposal to open up half of the Hillcrest School to meet their needs made a great deal of practical, economic sense. Hillcrest is centrally located in town, all on one floor, with plenty of parking. But now the future of school configuration is again in doubt.

We think the town and the school district should settle this issue first, before proceeding to spend profligately on yet another feasibility study for a community center that may not be needed, in a new building Montague cannot afford.

For a complete account of the March 6th community center public hearing, read Sarah Thayer's report in next week's *Montague Reporter*.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



War Wounded Undercounted

Each issue of your paper carries, on the editorial page, the current number of US Forces killed, and wounded in action, in Iraq and Afghanistan, as counted on a sign maintained by the Veterans Agent in Turners Falls and by the Oak Ridge Detachment of the Marine Corps League.

But we have now learned, thanks to Bob Woodruff of ABC, that hundreds of soldiers who have had their brains rattled by roadside bombs have gone through Walter Reed Hospital and then been sent home with that head wound ignored. Yet

they can't think straight, can't work, and leave their wives baffled and desperate. When they go to their local Veterans' Center for help, no one knows what to do. So families throughout the country are in a quandary.

All those brain-damaged veterans should be added to the number of our wounded veterans, but no one knows who they are, or how many there are.

Seems to me you should cover the situation with your own editorial comment.

- Constant Reader
Northampton, MA

Thirty-Five Vermont Towns Vote to Impeach

Excerpted from the web-log *Daily Kos* (www.dailykos.com) from Tuesday, March 6th

"In that charming democratic tradition that still lives in New England, today was the day the people of Vermont got to speak. And to govern.

In town meetings all over the state, Vermonters gathered to debate and decide town business, and in some places, to make larger statements.

Today, news reaches us that thirty-five towns in Vermont said they'd had enough of waiting for someone to probe the depths of George W. Bush's crimes, and would wait no longer.

On the day that Scooter Libby, Special Assistant to the President (let's not forget that he held that title), was convicted of perjury and obstruction of justice, and on the day that U.S. Attorneys from all over the country revealed that they had been pressured by Republican operatives and elected officials to drop cases against friends and bring cases against enemies, and on the day that the New Mexico

State Senate cleared an impeachment resolution for floor consideration, we've received word that 35 Vermont towns have voted to call for impeachment.

The impeachment resolutions have passed so far in Bristol, Calais, Craftsbury, Dummerston, East Montpelier, Greensboro, Guilford, Grafton, Hartland, Jamaica, Jericho, Johnson, Marlboro, Middlebury, Montgomery, Morristown, Newfane, Peru, Plainfield, Richmond, Rochester, Roxbury, St. Johnsbury, Springfield, Stannard, Sunderland, Townshend, Tunbridge, Vershire, Warren, Westminster, Wilmington, and Woodbury, according to organizers.

Several towns voted to not take up the measure: Bakersfield, Londonderry, Dorset, Stamford, and Walden.

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

Safety Complex Update

BY PAM HANOLD

TURNERS FALLS - On February 16th, I joined five other Montague residents on a tour of three police stations with architect Brian Humes, who is doing the feasibility study for Montague's new safety complex. Chief Ray Zukowski, secretary Sandy Guilbault, and Detective Brian Dobosz represented the police department. Tom Bergeron, highway superintendent, came to check out facilities maintenance issues; Patricia Pruitt attended as the selectboard liaison with the building committee, and I am a building committee member.

It was very instructive to both see other safety complexes Humes has designed, and to see how he gathers information and translates it into a town specific building plan. The tour provided an opportunity for us to ask him questions and for him to solicit ideas from our people on what would work best for us in Montague.

The architect's preliminary needs assessment for the new police station was reported on at the February 5th selectboard meeting. That first document was a very preliminary starting point, engendering some figures which startled all of us, the architect included. So I was interested in just what process he had used.

The first point he made was that the draft was a much more preliminary step than some of us had understood. Humes interviewed police staff, asking detailed questions which yielded information which was then itemized in an extensive format he has developed from his 18 years of designing police facilities. He was surprised at

how many more calls our department handles relative to the number of sworn police officers than is typical in Massachusetts police departments, a response I heard repeated by every police chief in the four stations I visited. That meant that when those figures were combined with formulas to generate the typical number of feet needed in police buildings, the initial square footage suggested for Montague's new police station was 16,600.

As the committee and Chief Zukowski have all been focused on getting a building that works well for Montague but is not extravagant, I asked Humes what kind of assumptions were in the square footage formula. He identified them as equivalent to shopping for a smaller Ford on a VW -- Ford -- Cadillac continuum.

The stations Humes took us to were all buildings he had designed. We spent most of our time in two of about 10,000 feet each. Humes was interested in having members of the Montague police department see what the spaces actually felt and looked like, so they could tell him what was too big, too small, the wrong shape, a workable layout or not, and generally let him hear their reactions on what would work well for our town. In addition to our comments, we were able to ask the personnel at these police stations what they liked or found not to have worked as well, or what they would change. It was a very impressive information-gathering process.

Another benefit was seeing different building materials and finding out what the decision tradeoffs were. For instance,

watching Bergeron look at and ask questions about floor coverings gave us a start on knowing we will be weighing not only how long something will last, but also what kind of yearly maintenance costs it requires.

Both stations had variations on steel step-ladder arrangements for accessing utility rooms. That was one of their decisions to save the square footage that a regular stairwell would use. In one case, it worked fine, as far as I could tell as one only watching the climbers, but in the other instance there was an unintended consequence. The ladder worked well for the maintenance people, but made the space set aside for storage unusable as there was no easy way to carry boxes up or down while climbing.

The police chiefs all emphasized the importance of careful planning for storage. Although both stations were built since 2000, they also preceded many of the current security requirements of the federal government. Boxes of equipment received from the government were stacked in the sally port in one case and in a utility cupboard in another because there had been no way to predict that that space would be needed.

I hope this report gives a taste of how we on the committee and in the police department are progressing with plans for the new safety complex. It is important to us for this to remain a very open community process. We will be making regular informational reports to you in the months to come in this newspaper, and we welcome any questions you may have.

More GMEF Mini-Grants

BY CORI URBAN

TURNERS FALLS - Last month we ran out of room trying to print news of all fourteen of the mini-grants funded recently by the Gill-Montague Education fund, in amounts ranging from \$150 to \$1,000. We printed seven of the projects the GMEF funded on February 15th; here are the other seven:

The Great Falls Middle School attended a performance of

Rain by Cirque Eloize. The performance included dance, song and music, and the traditions from ancient times are woven into these. Students will be able to make connections with their studies of the culture of ancient Egypt as well as be exposed to a form of artistic expression they might not otherwise experience. A connection between math and juggling will be investigated, and

students will write reflections for language arts classes.

• Culinary Arts Meets Science. Eighty-eight GFMS eighth graders will make ice cream as part of the science curriculum that teaches chemistry. This project will allow the students to learn about how heat moves in predictable ways, the effect of heat on particle motion, discover

see GRANTS pg 7

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Hand Knit with Love and Stitches

TFHS STUDENT KNITS FOR MILITARY FAMILIES

BY ALI URBAN

ERVING - You might be surprised to see Turners Falls High School students knitting during a free minute at school. But it's not uncommon to see a colorful half-made scarf or blanket placed on a student's desk next to textbooks and binders. Recently, the pastime has become popular among some high school girls. One, however, has used her knitting talents to aid members of the United States Naval and Marine Services and their families.

Dawn Miner, a junior from Erving, has donated more than eighteen hand-made baby blankets so far and looks forward to making more. "I feel good about making these blankets and knowing that I can help people out," she said.

Her mother, Sandy, also an avid knitter, suggested the project last year when she learned about the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society on an internet knitting list. The non-profit charitable organization is designed to provide financial, educational and other assistance at its nearly 300 offices at Navy and Marine bases around the world.

The 36-by-36-inch baby blankets Dawn makes go to the society's "Budget for Baby Classes" in which military families prepare for their expected child. At the end of the class, the parents receive a layette bag. "They get to choose a hand-

made item, either a blanket or a sweater set with the bag," Dawn explained. The society sends her yarn and prepaid mailing labels, and Dawn sends her donations to the society's chapter in Washington, D.C., where they are distributed.

She attaches a card to each blanket that says, "Hand knit with love and stitches" and includes her name, address and email address so the recipients "know where the blankets came from."

She enjoys making the baby blankets and is conscious of those who may not have a chance to own something handmade. "It shows you care," she said. She added that, "The people who get these are far away from home serving our country, and I want to thank them and give these in return."

Dawn said her father and a brother were Marines, so the project is particularly special to



PHOTO BY ALI URBAN

Dawn Miner, a Turners Falls High School junior has knitted more than 18 baby blankets for the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society.

her. She thinks that every knitter eventually finds a special charity, and this is hers. "I also am very close to my nieces and nephews, so I wanted to do something which would help children, too," she said. She joked that she ran

patterns, and using different color combinations.

When she's not singing in the TFHS choir or managing the field hockey team, Dawn enjoys knitting for relaxation. She is also a friend of the Gill-Montague

Education Fund, and maintains first academic honors. "Knitting is a way to relax, but it also gives you a purpose," she said. She finds the craft provides a break from everyday life during which she doesn't have to worry about anything.

Dawn has been knitting since she was seven. Her mother taught her different patterns and techniques. "It's all knit and purl," her mother explained. "It's just a matter of how you combine them."

Dawn started making dishcloths and expanded to hats, booties and scarves, but said blankets are her favorite. She follows a pattern she calls "Dawn's Navy-Marine Relief Blanket" that Sandy designed. Dawn has also started designing her own blanket

patterns, and using different color combinations.

When she's not singing in the TFHS choir or managing the field hockey team, Dawn enjoys knitting for relaxation. She is also a friend of the Gill-Montague

Education Fund, and maintains first academic honors. "Knitting is a way to relax, but it also gives you a purpose," she said. She finds the craft provides a break from everyday life during which she doesn't have to worry about anything.

"I usually knit to wind down," she explained. After she finishes her homework, she often enjoys watching TV or a movie, especially Harry Potter, while working on a blanket. Each one usually takes her about ten hours to complete.

Dawn does not only knit at home, however. "Her knitting bag goes with her everywhere," Sandy said. It's filled with all of her knitting needs, including scissors, extra needles, a tape measure and a row counter. Dawn takes her supplies with her to doctor's appointments, on vacations and wherever else she may have a chance to get a few rows completed.

She also will work on her knitting projects during spare time at school and has taught some classmates to knit. "It feels good to teach someone else how to do the craft. It's passing on a valuable skill," she said.

For more information about the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society or for Dawn's Navy-Marine Relief Blanket pattern, email Dawn Miner at dnm@valinet.com.

GRANTS

continued from pg 6

the energy of heat and learn about the freezing and melting points of substances and the role of salt in the process. The students will then use pictures to explain the process.

- Incredible Insects. Sixty-seven second-grade students from Hillcrest and Montague Center schools will attend a Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental

Center program on the study of insects and life cycles. They will learn about adaptations and habitats of various insects.

- Grade 3 Trip to Sturbridge Village. Forty-five Sheffield School third graders will take a trip to Old Sturbridge Village to experience living history.

- The Preamble. Fourteen Montague Center School third graders will create a tile project recreating the preamble of the constitution. Some tiles will have illustrations of some of

the framers of the constitution. The tiles will grace the school with a backboard and frame as a reminder of the importance of law and rules.

- 2007 Award Winners for Young People's Literature. Award-winning young people's literature will be purchased for Great Falls Middle School and Turners Falls High School to correlate with the curriculum in the high school and supplement the directed reading program

collection in the middle school.

- Pond Probe: Trip to Northfield Mountain. Fifty-one Hillcrest first-grade students will take a field trip to Northfield Mountain to participate in a program that allows students to catch, observe and draw pond life. Students will learn about water cycles and notice characteristics of the pond habitat.

The GMEF seeks to enrich and extend the reach of district

and school goals through the funding of mini grants and special project grants.

The criteria for awarding grants are:

- Projects enrich and support district and school goals and curricula;
- Projects specify clear goals, and implementation plan, timelines(s) and an evaluation process; and
- Projects demonstrate a strong connection to improved student outcomes.

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YOUTH & TEEN PROGRAMS

YOUTH BASEBALL PROGRAM

TEE BALL Registration Deadline: Friday, April 27
WHO: Children ages 4-6
WHEN: Saturday Mornings; 10:30am-11:30am, April 28-June 9
FEES: **Early Bird Registration Fee** (Last Day Friday, April 13): Montague Residents = \$25, Non-residents = \$30
Regular Fee (After Friday, April 13): Montague: Residents = \$30, Non-residents = \$35

ROOKIE LEAGUE

WHO: Grades 1 & 2 (1st Graders must have played at least one season of Tee-Ball to be eligible to play.)
WHEN: Saturday mornings; 9:00am-10:15am, April 28-June 9
FEES: Montague Residents = \$30, Non-residents = \$35 (Fees include hat, shirt & pants)
Enrollment Minimum & Maximum dependent upon the number of parents who volunteer coach. Training is provided.

GIRLS' SOFTBALL PROGRAM Montague has a proud softball tradition--be part of it!

ROOKIE LEAGUE Registration has begun and is ongoing until Friday, April 6.
WHO: Grades K-2
WHEN: Saturday mornings; 9:00am-10:15am, April 28-June 9
FEES: Montague Residents = \$30, Non-residents = \$35 (Fees include hat, shirt & pants)
Enrollment Minimum & Maximum dependent upon the number of parents who volunteer coach.

SENIOR LEAGUE "The Small Town League"

WHO: Girls in grades 3-6
WHEN: Late March/Early April-Late June (Practices--weekdays; dependent upon coaches schedule; League Games--weekdays; varies)
FEES: Montague Residents = \$45, Non residents = \$50 (Fees include hat, shirt & pants)
Enrollment Maximum: 12/team.

OTHER

CREATE YOUR OWN COMIC BOOK Registration Deadline: Friday, April 6
WHO: Youth & Teens; Ages 10-16
WHEN: Tuesday evenings; 6:00pm-7:00pm, April 10-May 15
FEES: Montague Residents = \$15, Non-residents = \$20

KAYAKING Registration Deadline: Friday, May 4
WHO: Youths & Teens; 14 & Up (This is also being offered as a Family Program) Youths under 13 must attend with an adult
WHEN: 10:00am-4:00pm (six-hour program); Saturday, May 12
 Raindate is May 19
FEES: Montague Residents = \$65, Non-residents = \$70
Enrollment Minimum: 10 Enrollment Maximum: 12

PEPSY PITCH HIT & RUN COMPETITION Registration Deadline: Friday, April 27
WHO: Youth & Teens ages 7-14
WHEN: Saturday April 28 @ 12-Noon (Rain date: Sunday, April 29 @ 12-Noon)
Proof of age is required for all levels of participation. Failure to show proof of age will render your child ineligible.

SWIMMING LESSONS - SESSION III Registration Deadline: TBD
WHEN: March 17-April 28
FEES: Montague Residents = \$40.00 Non Residents = \$45.00

ADULT PROGRAMS

YOGA FOR ADULTS Registration Deadline: Friday, March 30
WHO: Adults 18 and Over
WHEN: Wednesday evenings; 6:00pm-7:00pm, April 4-June 13; 10-week program (Tentative)
FEES: Montague Residents = \$45, Non-Residents = \$50

BASIC FIREARMS SAFETY AWARENESS Registration Deadline: Friday, April 13
WHO: This course is also being offered as a Family Program for those 8 yrs. and up.
WHEN: Friday, April 20; 6:00pm-7:00pm
FEES: Free

CRABAPPLE FESTIVAL 5K FUN RUN (or WALK) For more information on the Crabapple Festival, contact the Carnegie Library at 863-3214.
WHO: Everyone is welcome to help us bring in National Physical Fitness & Sports Month (May)!
WHEN: Sunday, April 29, 11am

FAMILY PROGRAMS

Peter Cottontail's EGGstravaganza
WHO: Children ages 4 to 12 are invited to take part in this great community tradition.
WHEN: Saturday, April 7, 10am THIS EVENT IS RAIN OR SHINE.
WHERE: Unity Park, First Street, Turners Falls
 We will have face painting, egg coloring, a bake sale, pictures with Peter Cottontail, and our 3rd Annual Egg Hunt where kids will have the challenge of finding approximately 4,000 candy and toy-filled eggs that will be placed in designated areas throughout Unity Park.
Participants must bring their own basket/bag for the eggs.

Event Co-Sponsors (at press time): The Montague Elks, Greenfield Savings Bank, New England Extrusion, Sirums Equipment Co., Equi's Candy Store, and Boy Scout Troop 6.

KAYAKING Registration Deadline: Friday, May 4
WHO: Youths & Teens; 14 & Up (This is also being offered as a Youth & Teen Program) Youths under 13 must attend with an adult
WHEN: 10:00am-4:00pm (six-hour program); Saturday, May 12; Raindate is May 19
FEES: Montague Residents = \$65, Non-residents = \$70
Enrollment Minimum: 10 Enrollment Maximum: 12

BASIC FIREARMS SAFETY AWARENESS Registration Deadline: Friday, April 13
WHO: Those 8 yrs. and up. This course is also being offered as an Adult Program.
WHEN: Friday, April 20; 6:00pm-7:00pm
FEES: Free

CRABAPPLE FESTIVAL 5K FUN RUN (or WALK) For more information on the Crabapple Festival, contact the Carnegie Library at 863-3214.
WHO: Everyone is welcome to help us bring in National Physical Fitness & Sports Month (May)!
WHEN: Sunday, April 29, 11am

FOR ADDITIONAL PROGRAM INFORMATION PLEASE CALL THE MPRD OFFICE AT 863-3216

NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Police Building Committee Moves Into High Gear

BY ERIC WASILESKI - The Montague selectboard met in a very quick meeting on March 5th that featured none of the fireworks of recent hearings. The board heard a report from chief of police Ray Zukowski, who offered an update for the safety complex building committee. Following his remarks, board chair Patricia Pruitt said, "They are going into high gear." The building committee will report to the selectboard every week starting March 29th. On March 16th, project architect Jacunski Humes will submit plans for the town to review.

In a report about DPW purchasing policy, town administrator Frank Abbondanzio outlined a new policy for a discretionary spending account that had been instituted this year. DPW superintendent Tom Bergeron was authorized to spend \$90,000 on vehicles and equipment, without town meeting approval, during fiscal '07. Abbondanzio said Bergeron spent this amount on three pick-up trucks, and snow removal equipment. In the upcoming fiscal year, the DPW discretionary fund amount will be increased to \$100,000, which will also be available to use for major equipment repairs, and an initial lease payment on a new

backhoe, if the capital improvement committee approves. The CIC will still be asked to weigh in on multi-year equipment leases, since they encumber the town for larger sums over time.

Speaking favorably of the new discretionary account, selectboard and capital improvement committee member Pat Allen said, "He [Bergeron] might find a really great deal and not need to bring it to town meeting." Board member Allen Ross clarified, "The superintendent would confer with the selectboard or [the town administrator]," prior to making equipment purchases from the discretionary account.

The account can only be used for current year expenses.

Town volunteers are sought for a citizen advisory committee for the Avenue A crosswalk and street design improvements slated for the coming construction season, using Community Development Block Grant funds. According to Abbondanzio, one of the requirements of the grant is the involvement of a citizens group to advise the town on the removal of barriers to accessibility, one of the goals of the Avenue A walkway improvements. "We especially need

someone as a low income representative," Abbondanzio said. He added, "We are also trying to ensure that the actual street is handicapped accessible, so there is also need of handicapped representation."

To volunteer for this committee, please contact town administrator Frank Abbondanzio at town hall, 863-3200, extension 110.

Abbondanzio announced that Massachusetts Common Cause had reported on the progress of the town of Montague's website, www.montague.net. Common Cause, a non-partisan citizen's organization whose goal is to ensure open, honest, accountable and effective government at the federal, state, and local levels, reported the town's posting of all key government meetings with agendas, online payment of taxes and town meeting results as strong positives for the website. In the 'needs improvement' category, Common Cause noted the absence from the website of town by-laws or details of the budget, and called for including the town's master plan as well.

The board agreed to consider the upgrades, and directed selectboard secretary Wendy Bogusz to look into these possible additions to the website.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE GILL POLICE LOG

Assisted Bernardston Police

Wednesday 2-28

7:15 a.m. Report of vandalism caused to a vehicle on Main Road.

2:20 p.m. Assisted Bernardston police with domestic arrest on Shaw Road.
 4:35 p.m. ATV complaint on West Gill Road.

Thursday 3-1

12:15 p.m. Received information regarding a possible identity theft at a Main Road business. Under investigation.

2:10 p.m. 911 misdial from Stoughton Place residence, all OK.

4:25 p.m. Assisted Erving police with arrest.

10:40 p.m. Assisted Bernardston police with noise complaint on Bald Mountain Road.

Saturday 3-3

3:30 a.m. Report of an unwanted subject on Mountain Road

3:20 p.m. Criminal charges sought against [redacted]

[redacted] Charged with identity fraud, forgery of a document and use of a false document.

Monday 3-5

2:15 p.m. Assisted highway department with wires knocked down at public safety building.

Tuesday 3-6

6:40 a.m. Checked suspicious vehicle in the area of the town hall, all OK.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Two Car Accident, Heavy Damage

Wednesday 2-28

4:45 p.m. Report of a suspicious man walking near the Route 2 and Route 2A split. Area searched. Nothing found.

Thursday 3-1

4:23 p.m. After a motor vehicle stop on Route 2, Shane Furtado was arrested for defective tail light, seatbelt violation, operating after revocation, open container of alcohol, possession of a class D drug, and a default warrant.

Friday 3-2

4:26 p.m. Two-car accident on Route 2 at the intersection of Route 63. No personal injuries reported. Heavy damage to one vehicle.

Sunday 3-4

12:40 p.m. Assisted motorist stuck in the snow at the cemetery.

Monday 3-5

1:25 p.m. Arrested [redacted] on a default

warrant.

6:30 p.m. Report of a chimney fire at a Central Street address. Fire department responded.

Tuesday 3-6

11:15 a.m. After a motor vehicle stop on Route 2, a criminal application was issued to [redacted] for driving with a suspended license.

NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Revenue Sharing with Erseco Kicks In

BY KEVIN FOLEY - The Town of Erving received \$74,610.25 from Erving Paper Mill on Monday, March 5th. The payment is the first of many that will come to the town as result of an agreement for the paper mill to take in revenue from third-party-wastewater at the treatment plant in Erving Center.

The Erving Paper Mill Wastewater Treatment Facility

from the mill. However, since 2005, the paper mill has brought in third-party-wastewater, or wastewater that does not come from the town or the mill. The payment that the selectboard received on Monday night was for past revenues earned from third party services.

The contract for third-party-wastewater revenue will give the town of Erving 30 percent of the revenue, if the paper mill makes between \$200,000 and \$499,999 per annum, 7.5 percent when revenue is between \$500,000 and \$999,999, and 10 percent when revenue is \$1 million and over. The town will not

receive any payments when revenue is under \$200,000 due to costs to the paper mill involved in taking in third-party-wastewater. The town will not be responsible for any

losses incurred at the treatment facility.

"It should produce annual revenue for the town of about \$120,000, based on past flows in the wastewater treatment facility," said Tom Sharp, Erving town administrative coordinator. "The contract provides revenue for the town, and resolves a legal question."

The town and the paper mill have been negotiating the issue of what to do with the third-party-wastewater revenues for about four years, according to Sharp.

"This has been a long time coming, and I'm excited to finally see the first check coming in," said Andy Tessier, selectboard chair.

In addition to the revenue sharing agreement, the selectboard also signed another agreement indemnifying the town from any responsibility if the paper mill wastewater treatment facility is fined or if any other action is taken against the

Farley Address Change

The house at 7 Maple Avenue in Farley may have to change to 9 Maple Avenue, due to an apartment at the residence. The apartment would become 7 Maple Avenue, in order to keep the numbers in sequence and make it easier for emergency vehicles to locate the houses on the street.

Jeanie Schermesser and Bryant Stewart, the residents at the address, are not happy with the process they may have to go through to effect the address change, including notifying all their correspondents. Schermesser said the address has sentimental value for the couple, as well.

The other option for Bryant and Schermesser is to make a driveway that extends to Route 2 through land they own. The apartment would then technically be on Route 2 rather than Maple Avenue, so the couple

wouldn't have to change their address.

Still No Candidates for Town Offices

There are currently no candidates for the openings on the selectboard, school committee, planning board and recreation committee in the upcoming elections. Monday, March 19th is the last day to submit nomination papers for the election. Anyone who wishes to run should contact Tom Sharp at Town Hall, 422-2800 extension 100.

"This has been a long time coming, and I'm excited to finally see the first check coming in,"
- Andy Tessier, selectboard chair

is owned by the town, but operated by the paper mill, under the subsidiary Erseco. The facility handles a small amount of wastewater from houses in Erving, as well as wastewater

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Multiple Siblings & Nuns Spell Success

BY JOSEPH PARZYCH GREENFIELD - Award winning writer Professor Madeleine Blais made a presentation at GCC in Stinchfield Hall at noon on March 7th, on the topic of "Eyewitness Storytelling."

Blais said her father dying young had a great influence on her, as did living across the street from the library in Granby, MA early in her life. Reading the diary of Anna Frank made an especially lasting impression.

"Eyewitness Storytelling" began for her in 1987, when Blais began teaching "Diaries, Memoirs and Journals" at UMass. She said she begins her courses by laying down the law: "No addictions, bulimia, or other character flaws." She empha-

sized the need for her students to focus on the whole person with a strong sense of being "outside, looking in."

Her tips for a successful memoir - "If you want to be a writer, you need to be a reader." And, "Almost anyone can write a memoir - have as many siblings and nuns in your life as you can."

Her own memoir, *Uphill Walkers: Portrait of a Family* has received numerous awards. The book details her brother's struggles with bipolar disorder and time spent at Northampton State Hospital, according to a GCC brochure. Blais has received a Pulitzer Prize twice for feature writing while on the staff of *Tropic Magazine* of the *Miami Herald*. Her book, *In These*

Girls, Hope is a Muscle, was published by the University of Massachusetts Press in 1992.

"The difference between an autobiography and a memoir can be compared to a photograph and a painting. The writing of the story, rather than the story itself, makes the difference. It is all in the art; there's no credit for living. History is at last relevant. Do not write the story of experience, but tell the story in your experience."

Blais said it is all right to get even. "If you had a third grade teacher that was mean, it is all right to write about it. The author is the hero. In the memoir, writers can make up for what happened, or make peace with themselves."

After her presentation, Blais



Madeleine Blais Speaks at GCC

took questions from the audience. Tim Blagg asked about *Running With Scissors* as an example of a work largely of fiction passed off as a memoir. Blais discussed false memoirs. Blais discussed

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TRAIL

continued from pg 1

pants. This turned out to be exactly where Ginny was headed.

I'd seen Ginny, a 56-year-old woman, at programs numerous times. "I'm fast," she announced, "but I stop often to catch my breath, and people usually catch up with me then."

I wasn't sure how fast she was, so I told her I'd do my best to keep up. To my delight, she entered the state forest straight down the runaway hill that is the main entrance, instead of choosing the "Friendly Trail" that offers a more gradual approach. As she leveled out at the bottom of the hill with me close behind, we began schussing past a lovely view of two beaver lodges across a frozen pond. Ginny then started a conversation as I skied beside her.

"You know," she began, "this program has helped me so much. I couldn't have recovered anywhere near as much as I have without it."

"Oh?" I encouraged. "Tell me more. I spend too much time in the office." Ginny and I barely knew each other and I sensed this was about to change.

"I used to be incredibly people phobic," she explained. "I've spent years in outpatient clinics. Would you believe I used to weigh 210 pounds?" She took in my look of amazement and continued. "A lot of people on medication are overweight. So much of it is depression, you know? And the drugs. You can't feel your feelings or any drive to get out and do things. But one day a staff person at the facility heard of this program and brought a group of us out kayaking. I was terrified... and then I had a great time."

I said, "I can believe that. Just being on the water is so soothing. I've seen some participants' problems just evaporate once they are sitting in a kayak."

Ginny wasn't even breaking her stride as we skied uphill. She kept talking. "We went out in small groups, maybe five kayaks, and searched for blueberries along the shore of the lake. I knew one person in the group and started to get a little more comfortable with the rest. It was like that every time I went, except now I knew the program leader and the lifeguard, so I was more comfortable. I love how this program provides buddies to go out with

you. I was only able to talk with other people like myself - with psychiatric disabilities - you would not believe how isolated we are - until I started coming to Universal Access programs. I just hadn't been comfortable talking to anyone else."

As we passed under towering white pines, Ginny was clearly happy to be sharing her progress. It was dawning on me just how incredible it was to be out skiing with her. Other park users that day might see two people out skiing with no clue of the profound healing process that led up to this ordinary sight. I felt wildly privileged to hear her story. She spoke of her misdiagnosis as a child and how adult stresses of making ends meet forced a clearer psychiatric diagnosis followed by years of poor treatment in an over-medicated fog. Somehow the tranquil beauty of the forest with its soft blanket of snow held the story and allowed her easy access through it. We paused before turning onto the Pine Tree Trail.

"Ginny," I exclaimed, "It is so great that you were able to keep coming back on your own!"

She agreed. "I was fortunate

to have my own car and be able to drive. I kept coming. The exercise felt so good. I tried cycling, hiking, winter activities... each time I struggled through being around more new people, yet there were always the familiar friendly staff and volunteers. I got to know some of the other participants who come regularly. Some of us even talk on the phone between programs. Gradually, I acclimated to people. I still have times though when I can't be in rooms with people talking loudly or in crowds."

Our conversation stopped while she led the way down a series of curving hills. When I

caught up with her, we continued in silence for awhile, enjoying the perfect snow conditions and the trees passing by. The Pine Tree Trail was turning out to be a lovely ski loop. "I really enjoy speed," she continued eventually, "in skiing and cycling too. It makes me feel so alive. The release of endorphin actually breaks through the flat line of my emotional life. My medications prevent me from feeling much range."

This revelation, though probably obvious to social workers, stunned me. Ginny was recovered from her disability, or at

set of tracks crossing the ski trail. "Look at this - bobcat tracks!"

We swung our skis and stepped off the trail alongside a line of rounded prints, each footpad exquisitely articulated in the new snow. I pointed out the central arched ridge between the toes and the main pad and the lack of claw marks that distinguish cat tracks from others. We admired the path of the bobcat for a few moments then continued our ski, swapping wild animal stories all the way back to the park headquarters. Soon we were warming up

next to a wood stove and chatting with others. When I finished my sandwich, I parted ways with the still sociable Ginny and stepped back outside into the cold fresh air.

Jennifer and Annette were returning from snowshoeing, a long side park interpreter Gini Traub who has been dedicated to assisting our programs and providing nature education for participants for years. Both of these young women wore enormous smiles. I see them occa-

sionally at programs though the year. They both have mild cognitive disabilities that present no limitation on their capacity for fun. I could see they were relishing the sense of invincibility that snowshoeing offers as they trudged up the final short hill next to the building. Since they were heading inside, I continued on to the snowmobile loading zone.

Here, I found a family of four piled on and around our snowmobile sleigh, apparently waiting for a ride. Bryant Stewart, the park supervisor, was the designated driver today. Though he was elsewhere at the moment, it didn't seem to mat-

ter. This family was getting a thrill just sitting on the sleigh. A lanky father was folded into the small two-seater, with a child packed in on either side of him. Mom was leaning in from outside the sleigh. The youngest child had remarkable presence. She was dressed in a purple snow outfit with a fur trimmed hood, sparkly movie star sunglasses and a perfect poker face. She wouldn't crack a smile, amidst the giggling and laughter of the others. Out came my camera. We took a few shots, then I retrieved snowmobile helmets from our storage shed. It took a little while to convince the budding movie star to remove her hood for the black bubble helmet. Soon Bryant returned. Mom rode double behind him and my parting photo was of them disappearing across the field into the forest.

Continuing my rounds, I walked to the ice skating rink nearby. The beauty of our winter program is that you can come out and explore the forest in a variety of ways. The rink, however, represents possibly the most inherently playful aspect of the program menu. Created by park staff on a wind protected corner of the field, it offers a safe and more reliable experience far from frozen bodies of water in the park and closer to the warming room. A couple of people were out on seated ice skating sleds. The sun was out and the lighting was good so I prepared to capture more photos.

In almost no time at all, people were drifting onto the rink. Jennifer and Annette appeared, picked out sleds and got themselves seated. I handed them the shortened hockey sticks with picks on the ends that allow people to propel themselves, then turn the stick and play hockey with the blade end if they choose. A few of the program staff showed up and seated themselves on sleds too. One assisted a mother and daughter by fitting stroller bars onto the back of a sled. This girl was resistant to new activities and wouldn't stay seated. Soon her mother was in the seat and the girl was pushing her around. Jennifer and Annette called out words of encouragement to these newcomers.

Quietly I stood atop a picnic table that had been shoveled out of the deep snow and fussed with my camera. With eight or so skaters on the ice, it was only a matter of time before hockey see TRAIL pg 11



PHOTOS MARCY MARCHELLO

The Harris family in the sleigh



Returning from a snowshoe in the woods.

least the stuck place she had lived in due to how her disability had been managed by others. Yet she still had her disability and was actively managing her situation while blazing new trails. Clearly she had great balance in her chemistry now. This aspect inspired my own revelation. "You know what," I offered spontaneously, "I have the exact opposite situation. Years ago my thyroid was removed." I pointed to the scar on my neck. "Now I'm dependent on medication in order to be able to function. Without it, I would drop right down into a flat line myself." We marveled over this briefly, then I noticed a

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G-M School Budget in Flux

BY DAVID DETMOLD - At Tuesday night's budget subcommittee meeting, members of the Gill-Montague school committee received reports from G-M business manager Lynn Bassett about progress in whittling away at the deficit in the present year's operating budget, along with alarming increases in projections for the coming school year budget.

In fiscal '07, the school year currently in progress, the business office had forecast an unanticipated deficit of \$498,278 earlier in the budget cycle, due to a spike in school choice placements out of the district, which added an additional \$227,027 in school choice expenses midway through the term. A deficit in the cost of running the school's special education program (SPED), including an increase in the contract for running the in-house Old Mill program and the cost of transportation for SPED students needing services out of district, added another \$270,000 to the deficit in '07.

Offsetting all this red ink, a budget freeze at the school has resulted in a savings of \$55,000 in supplies, and more savings may still be eked out of materials' budgets before the last day of school in June. The consolidation of principal positions in the school district resulted in a savings to the current year's operating budget of \$100,776. Due to some departures, and some hires of

staff who do not require health insurance from the district, Bassett cautiously projected a savings of \$125,000 in the line item for health benefits. And despite the severe cold in recent weeks, the mild start to winter may yet result in a savings in heating costs for the schools of around \$20,000. Adding in a number of smaller amounts, Bassett said the '07 deficit had been whittled down to around \$18,000.

"We're looking good," Bassett said.

Until next year. Acting on a motion by Michael Langknecht, the school committee decided to depart from the practice of recent years and develop a budget that reflects the costs of meeting the state and federal mandates, and achieving improvements in MCAS scores required by the DOE to keep the G-M schools off the state watch list for needing improvement. In most recent budget cycles, the GMRSD has asked for a level services budget, with only minor staff additions, but this year they are asking for a full-time curriculum director, additional reading specialists, and other staff increases.

Consequently, the school committee approved a preliminary '08 operating budget on January 29th in the amount of \$17,414,562. This amount

would have required large increases in assessments to the town of Montague and Gill, but those numbers are about to increase significantly, if the recommendations of the budget subcommittee to add nearly \$125,000 to the preliminary budget are approved by the entire school committee on

The increase in state Chapter 70 aid - \$60,000 - for next year is a drop in the bucket, more than offset by steady increases in the cost of school choice tuition out of the district - \$475,000 above last year's total - and charter school tuition, up \$150,000 from last year.

**figures provided by
- Lynn Bassett
GMRSD Business Manager**

March 13th.

Bassett said the increase is being driven by three factors: the budget released by Governor Patrick on February 28th, a lawsuit by a subcontractor of the TFHS building project, and the loss of potential savings from the elementary school consolidation vote, rescinded in February. The total \$98,000 the district had hoped to save by closing half of Hillcrest is not all lost,

however, because superintendent Sue Gee has determined that the one teacher position that had been projected to be saved by school consolidation can still be saved due to declining school enrollment.

Bassett said the Governor's budget had contained disappointing regional transportation reimbursement figures, calculated at 65% of the district's actual costs, rather than the 75% they had been encouraged by legislators to factor into the '08 budget. She said the increase in state Chapter 70 aid, \$60,000, for next year is "a drop in the bucket," more than offset by steady increases in the cost of school choice out (calculated at \$475,000 above last year) and charter school tuition (up \$150,000).

Bassett said the school district is being sued for \$100,000 over a dispute about hours worked and compensation received by one subcontractor who worked on the high school - middle school renovation project, and the GMRSD had to set aside funds in the event that suit was settled adversely.

These recommended increases to the '08 budget, if approved by the entire school committee, will lead to proposed increases in school assessments to the towns of Montague of \$1,078,226 (a 14.4% increase) and Gill of \$216,868 (a 16.5% increase).

Bassett said the town officials from Gill have said they can afford no increase in school assessment this year without an override of the levy limit, whereas Montague officials are seeking a maximum increase in the school budget of \$350,000 for '08.

The budget subcommittee meeting got off to a rocky start, as school committee chair Mary Kociela pressed subcommittee chair Valeria Smith to use the meeting to address the fate of elementary school reconfiguration, in the wake of February's vote by the entire committee to rescind their December 19th, 2006 decision to close part of Hillcrest School and expand Montague Center to a K - 5 school. Smith tried to keep the meeting to an agenda focused strictly on the budget.

"I was thinking we were going to talk about next steps," said Kociela. "Are we even saying we are going to close a school by September? Are we going to move [Montague] sixth graders to the Middle School? That feels very connected to the budget."

Committee member Michael Langknecht counseled patience, saying "There was a well-defined body of information that was deemed to be necessary," to advance the school reconfiguration decision. "There is a process underway to determine the missing information."

TRAIL continued from pg 10

took over. It started with small shots to one net and soon merged with everyone forming teams and establishing two goalies. Looking out at the scene, everyone, whether or not they had a disability, was engaged in chasing the puck. Disability just disappeared off the ice that afternoon as the game took over.

In the middle of it all though, I had to marvel at Jennifer's unique approach to the puck. Instead of holding the small hockey stick midway down the shaft as everyone else did, she held it by the blade end and stabbed the puck from above with the pick points. In this position, she would shove the puck toward the goal with occasional success. I'd never seen anyone do this before and it struck me as a wonderful innovation for it allowed her to eliminate hand movements and accomplish both self propulsion and shooting with the same grip position.

As sled hockey continued, I noticed the snowmobile returning across the field. Back to the landing zone I went, driven by curiosity. It was this family's

first visit to our program. The young movie star's older brother, Nathan, has autism. It isn't typical for kids with autism to leap into the snowmobile on their first day. The noise and the smell are usually too overwhelming for their sensitive sensory capacity. Would this family be returning like others in an elated state or would they be tending an emotional outburst?

Elation of the highest order won out. Nathan, it turned out, had a passion for anything motorized. His mother was ecstatic. "This is the first time we've been able to share uninterrupted fun time as a family!" she gushed. "We all had such a great time! At the same time! You have no idea what this means to us!"

This was true, I mused, I had no idea what it meant, yet I was familiar with her joy. Families that show up for assisted recreation experiences discover a whole new dimension - almost unexpectedly they are able to have fun together, to forget about the constant burden of physical care or behavioral disruption and let go into the realm of shared enjoyment. By combining park staff, contracted outdoor leaders and volunteers,

the Universal Access Program provides ordinary yet amazing opportunities in Massachusetts state and urban parks. Individuals, families and groups with disabilities are experiencing supportive recreation where the quality of their lives can take a quantum leap.

My own experience of the day was about to take a quantum leap. Tom McCarthy, the mastermind behind and the director of the Universal Access Program, rolled up in his power wheelchair. He was making his first and probably only appearance at a program this season. Tom, a landscape architect by trade and a polio survivor, not only directs the program but somehow keeps money flowing in our direction from deep within government bureaucracy. Without this relatively consistent funding, only those who could enjoy the state forest entirely on their own with their own equipment would be out enjoying this fine winter day.

Tom rolled up alongside the sleigh. Bryant and I spotted him from front and back while he transferred himself in. On went the required helmet. We placed cushions on either side of him for comfort and stability and a blanket over his lap for warmth.

Behind the plastic wind screen in the open air sleigh, Tom signaled he was ready to go. Bryant motioned for me to hop on the back of the snowmobile. We put on helmets and with a rev of the throttle, we were off, leaving the wheelchair sitting empty on the deck.

Though I prefer the tranquility and exercise of my own effort to the roar of engines on the trail, I gladly take a snowmobile ride each season. It is how I can best understand and communicate what the experience is that we provide to others. Occasionally on a straightaway free of skiers, Bryant gave the throttle an extra twist, pulling us backwards in our seats with the forward thrust of the machine. I smiled. Knowing Tom would be undergoing surgery in a few weeks, this was Bryant's unspoken gift. Like Nathan, both Bryant and Tom are fans of most things motorized. We rode a few miles, touring the tornado damage from the previous summer. Along the way in my own reverie, I enjoyed the sensations of the rising and falling of the landscape and waving to skiers as we slowed down to pass. Tom was grinning from ear to ear. By the time we returned, the

program staff was packing up equipment and the last few participants were saying goodbye.

It was the end of another exhilarating four hour winter program, held weekly at Wendell State Forest, blessed by sun and good snow conditions and most of all the warm and welcoming hearts of a variety of people who dedicate themselves to helping others enjoy the outdoors year round. This particular program is free. Others may have low fees associated with them. To find out more or get involved, contact Tom McCarthy at 413-545-5353 or Marcy Marchello at 413-545-5758. A statewide accessible recreation calendar is published twice a year, that includes other programs in the Connecticut River Valley area.

Marcy Marchello coordinates inclusive outdoor recreation opportunities for people with disabilities in Massachusetts state and urban parks. She, Tom, and Bryant work for the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation. *For more information on parks and programs, check out www.mass.gov/dcr*



SALLOOM MAKES IT TO THE SHEA

BY DAVID BRULE

TURNERS FALLS - The crowd was building Saturday night at the Shea. Roger Salloom was there to play a benefit concert to raise funds for the theater, and people were showing up: some hard-core Salloomheads, others vaguely familiar with his free concert reputation at the Pines, and others looking to liven up a late winter Saturday night. Me, I was headed for a reunion with my old friend.

The evening was to feature an award-winning documentary on Roger's life, *So Glad I Made It*, followed by a bit of Q & A with filmmaker Chris Sautter, then a set by Roger himself. They didn't mention the prelude on the program, because it was a private showing, playing in my head. It featured a couple of young guys in the summer of '65. Maybe this prelude could be called "Roger and Me." That was the year our paths crossed, before either of us was famous. I'm still not famous, by a long shot, not even working on it, and Roger's making something of a living out of being the least famous Best Songwriter in America.

The prelude starts (this private showing) when I got my ticket out of Turners for that summer long ago, finally escaping years of working on tobacco, by landing a dish-washing job in a homestyle restaurant in Provincetown run by a Millers Falls family, Wes Felton, his wife Mildred and son Richard. Roger was working on getting out of Worcester that same summer, and our paths were about to intersect. He actually wrote a song called "Gotta Get Out of Worcester" that dallied with pop chart fame, but didn't quite make it big.

The Feltons ran one of the three top restaurants in P-town in those days, The Cottage, and it was wildly popular, with waiting lines out the door and down Commercial Street. Provincetown in those days was an eclectic mix of artists, writers, Portuguese fishing families, folk musicians, and a small but growing gay community. You could catch Nina Simone at the Atlantic House, the Jim Kweskin Jug Band at the Blues Bag, maybe even Mississippi John Hurt. If you were lucky you could see a drunk and pugnacious Norman Mailer get tossed out of a bar on his arrogant arse.

My best friend Rod Bergeil and I, imagining bohemian adventures like those of Jack Kerouac and Neal Cassady, had to be there to make that P-town scene. So I took the job washing dishes at Felton's.

I could see the harbor out my window through the steam of my dishwasher. It sure beat picking tobacco in Whately. It was clean. This is when Roger showed up. He managed to get a job as busboy at the Felton's. So right away, he outranked me. Usually it seemed like I was just getting ahead of my dirty dishes pile when Roger would show up with another mountain of dishes and silverware for me. As testimony to his deep humanity and understanding of this repetitive indignity (his words, not mine), he'd dump the new mess of breakfast or dinner plates full of table scraps, maple syrup and cigarette butts in my corner and gently apologize. It truly concerned him to have to be doing this, but we both needed the money. That was the beginning of a wonderful friendship.

We hit it off right away, even though Roger was one station above me in the kitchen caste system. We managed to rent a place not far from the restaurant, a converted barbershop, and settled in. We were on the verge of starting the musical bohemian summer of our lives. Already at that time, Roger had a crowd of musician friends and a lot of them were in Provincetown, drawn by the folk scene and the lifestyle in this village set between the dunes and the sea. Every evening after work, a jam session got going, with Roger in the middle of it plus anybody else with a blues harp or guitar who happened to be in town at the time. Roger would wham away on his guitar, and he belted out his music, lots of Leadbelly, blues, and lilting ballads he wrote himself. Musically, I was way out of my league, having left my piano accordion back in Turners. Besides, all I could get it to play were polkas and marches. Definitely not cool in the age of Bob Dylan, Joan Baez and John Hammond.

It was a wonderful summer to be alive, footloose and a year out of high school, keeping the harsh realities of the war and politics at arm's length for a while longer. Roger was just



Roger Salloom

starting out, wondering about which road he would take, just beginning to try to find some answers, taking some newly discovered truths around to show the rest of us through his songs. The reel flickers out in black and white, and in the blink of an eye, it's forty years later...

I'm sitting in Turners again, the applause growing as the real movie starts. It does blend with the rerun in my mind, the flashback over, and it's tracing the young Roger through his formative years, skipping the P-town part. As the film evolves, the portrait of an original artist emerges. On many levels, it's a fascinating and entertaining film about making music and it's all about Roger. His endearing quirks, non sequiturs, obtuse musings where he finds humor and irony the rest of us miss. Lots of vintage Roger and his music, the personality melding

with the talent so many in the Valley have loved.

What also emerges is the portrait of a musician in the somewhat reluctant pursuit of elusive fame and recognition. The path to success in the music business was going to take a fearsome toll, and the movie leads us to wonder if this is what Roger really wants. The filmmaker captures the questioning part of Roger's psyche and the paradox of his musical life thus far: does the songwriter, composer-poet, dreamer and seer sacrifice health, self-esteem and family to meet the requirements of fame? The film poses the question of what happens to an artist who won't sell out. A really existential struggle between the artist and life's contradictions: choices about self-preservation, integrity, family, his two sons. A "musical John Belushi" by his own admission, in his younger days, then withdrawal and self-exile with a yearning for fame. The burden of exceptional gifts and talent, deep sensitivity and constant self-questioning. The film asks where this search will lead and drive him. He has survived the whirlwind and treacherous whirlpool of the perilous, reckless times that devoured and spit out the empty shells of many young musicians. He experienced the San Francisco music scene, sharing bills with the likes of Janis Joplin,

Creedence Clearwater Revival, Santana, Procol Harum. And somehow survived.

His destiny led him back to his roots in Massachusetts where he raised his two boys as a single parent. He made the right choices, placing family and his kids' quality of life before his career, then drifted into self-imposed exile and obscurity as an artist.

An interesting counterpoint chosen by the filmmaker involves Marshall Chess, of Chess Records who played godfather early in Roger's career, promoting him, and encouraging him to keep writing and looking for a break. Sautter brings him back near the end of the film, now much older, white-haired and philosophical, and in a conversation with Roger he lays out some new realities about the recording industry. It's the eternal paradox: *the times they are a'changing*. Marketing, the internet, CD sales and concerts, it's a new game, everyone starts from scratch.

The film brings us full circle by the conclusion, with a wiser, whimsical and still crazy Roger, back to flirting with fame, ever the reluctant suitor, still the poet savoring the lyrical quality of his life, day by day. Philosophical about the price he paid, musing about the ride so far. A survivor. In his own words, "So glad I made it."

Baked in Wendell

The *Montague Reporter* was proud to be the beneficiary of this month's Full Moon Coffeehouse in Wendell. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank the organizers of the event, Coffeehouse sponsor Dean's Beans, and Markmusic, the fantastic Amherst-based Latin band that played two sets and an extended encore to the dancing room only crowd. The band featured the hot *puertorriqueno* rhythm section of Art Clinton on electric upright bass, Ahmed Gonzalez on congas and flute, and Rene Gonzalez on drums and timbales. They made the mix cook with a syncopated salsa beat. Joining them on stage were Peruvian guitarist Freddy Chapelliquen, Guatemalan Julio Guarcax on zampona (Pan pipes) and charango (little tiny lute), and Jaime Cachiguango from Ecuador, who played zampona, charango and quena (Andean flute). This Pan-American world beat band offered an eclectic mix of tunes, from rocking Cuban rumbas to spicy Andean love songs, and everything in between, including at least one stretched-out Santana number.

Almost eclipsed by the music, if not by the unusual portents in the heavens (where a full lunar eclipse was in progress until a little past

7:30 p.m.) a fantastic bake sale table at the back of the hall still managed to do a steady business throughout the evening, as people drifted in from the Deja Brew with little room to spare for a late dessert. Proceeds from the bake sale also benefited the *Montague Reporter*. Our thanks to all who contributed toothsome delicacies, including Linda Carey, Suzette Snow-Cobb, Pat Carlisle, Leslie Brown, Kim Whittaker, Anne Harding, Lyn Clark, David Detmold, Patricia Pruitt, Joanne Potee, Beth Ferreira, Cori Urban, Molly Kaynor, Jonathan and Susan von Ranson and Katie Nolan and Josh Heinemann. So many baked goods were donated, we held a second bake sale the following morning at the Food City, where we narrowly missed a late contribution from the Gill Gourmet, Joseph A. Parzych. (Could it have been his sinfully delicious strawberry rhubarb cheesecake? Or perhaps a dessert none of us had ever heard of before? Stay tuned for the next *Montague Reporter* bake sale to find out!)

The *Montague Reporter* is a non-profit, community owned newspaper. We rely on the support of the community for volunteer writers, proof-readers, and bakers to keep the paper coming to your door each week. Thanks to all who helped make the weekend such a success, including many we have inadvertently forgotten to name.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Disturbing the Peace and other Matters

Friday 2-23

10:22 p.m. After a motor vehicle stop on Turners Falls Road, [redacted]

[redacted] was arrested for operating with a revoked license and registration not in possession.

Monday 2-26

6:53 p.m. [redacted]

[redacted] was arrested on a default warrant.

Friday 3-2

6:12 p.m. [redacted] was arrested on a default warrant.

10:21 p.m. After a motor vehicle stop on Turners Falls Road at Hatchery Road, [redacted]

[redacted] was arrested and charged with a number plate violation, unregistered motor vehicle, unlicensed operation, uninsured motor vehicle, operating with a revoked registration, and no inspection sticker.

Saturday 3-3

1:07 a.m. Report of a neighbor disturbance at a Maple Street address.

[redacted] was arrested and charged with disturbing the peace, disorderly conduct, malicious destruction of property over \$250, and resisting arrest.

Sunday 3-4

3:01 p.m. While assisting another agency at a Chestnut Street address, police arrested [redacted]

[redacted] for unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

Monday 3-5

9:45 a.m. After a motor vehicle stop on Mountain Road in Greenfield, [redacted] was arrested on a straight warrant.



PHOTO EESHA WILLIAMS

Four Arrested at Entergy VY Headquarters

BY EESHA WILLIAMS

BRATTLEBORO - On Monday morning, March 5th, at 6 a.m., Daniel Sicken and Elizabeth Wood of Dummerston, VT, Jane Newton of Londonderry, VT, and John Ward of Gill, MA mounted a 32-foot ladder

onto the roof of the headquarters of Entergy Vermont Yankee, and unfurled a banner calling for the closure of the 34-year old Vermont Yankee Nuclear Plant. All four people were arrested by the Brattleboro police on charges of trespassing.

Monologues Raise Awareness on Sexual Assault

SHARON HORTON TURNERS FALLS - I attended the *Vagina Monologues* at the Shea Theatre on Sunday afternoon, March 4th. It was what you would think it would be - women talking about their vaginas. I wish I asked my partner to go with me, because the performance wasn't just about vaginas. It was about raising public awareness on the issue of sexual assault against women, an awareness that can be raised only by telling individual stories. It was about restoring the broken con-

nection between women and their bodies so they can become their own best defenders and, as such, the best educators on the subject of sexual assault. Men are sexually assaulted, too, but the responsibility for raising awareness has fallen to women by default. Why talk about vaginas, per se? Why not talk about sexual assault directly? Because the sanctity of sexuality and the human body are central to the issue of sexual assault. We have to hear the word vagina spoken aloud to become aware of the severity of the issue of

sexual assault against women, until shame and confusion go away and are replaced by human dignity and truth. Any woman who is fortunate enough to be among the women who have not been sexually assaulted should raise her voice for the sake of the rest, some of whom have not found their voices yet. What would you say if you could raise your voice? You could simply tell the story of your own unique sexuality experience. You could deliver your own 'Vagina Monologue.'

Religious Services

Baptist
Faith Baptist Church, 331 Silver Street, Greenfield, 774-6438
Sunday at 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.,
Wednesday Adult Bible Study 7 p.m. Youth Bible Club at 6:45 p.m.

First Baptist Church of Turners Falls, 10 Prospect, Turners, 863-9083
Sunday at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., and Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Christian Science
First Church of Christ Scientist, 110 Federal St., Greenfield, 773-9765
Sunday at 10:30 a.m. and Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints (Mormons)
25 Bank Row, Greenfield, 772-

8514 Sunday at 10 a.m.

Congregational
Gill Congregational Church, Main Rd., 863-8613 Sunday at 10 a.m.
First Congregational Church, 19 Bridge St., Millers Falls, 659-3430 Sunday at 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Bible study Wed. at 7 p.m

Episcopal
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Seventh and Prospect St., Turners, 863-4602 Sunday at 9 a.m.

Friends (Quakers)
Mount Toby Monthly Meeting of Friends, Rte. 63, Leverett, 548-9188 Sunday at 10 a.m.

Jewish
Temple Israel, 27 Pierce St., Greenfield, 773-5884

Friday at 6 p.m. (first weekend of the month) and Saturday at 9:30 a.m.; schedule does vary, it is advisable to call in advance

Lutheran
St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 23 Long Ave., Greenfield, 773-5242 Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

Nondenominational
Grace Church, 41 K St., Turners, 863-2771 Sunday at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., and Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

National Spiritual Alliance
2 Montague Ave., Lake Pleasant, 367-0138 Sunday at 1 p.m.

Unity in the Pioneer Valley Church
401 Chapman Street, Guiding Star Grange, 625-2960; Sunday at 10 a.m.

Roman Catholic

Our Lady of Czestochowa, 84 K St., Turners, 863-4748
Saturday at 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.; Sunday at 8 and 10:30 a.m.; Monday at 8 a.m.; and Tuesday-Friday at 5:30 p.m.
(Confession one half hour prior to mass)

St. Anne's, J St., Turners, 863-4678
Sunday at 8 a.m. and daily at 7 a.m. through February
St. John's, 5 Church St., Millers Falls, 659-3435
Saturday at 4:15 p.m. and Sunday at 8:30 a.m.

St. Mary's of the Assumption, 80 Seventh St., Turners, 863-2585
Saturday at 4 p.m. and weekdays at 7 a.m. through October

Salvation Army
72 Chapman St., Greenfield, 773-3154 Sunday at 11 a.m.

Unitarian Universalist
All Souls, 399 Main St., Greenfield, 773-5018 Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

First Parish Unitarian, Main St., Northfield, 498-5566 Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

United Church of Christ
Evangelical Congregational Church (UCC), 11 Church St., Erving (978) 544-8658

First Congregational Church (UCC), 4 North St., Montague Ctr., 367-9467 Sunday at 10 a.m.

First Congregational Church of Turners Falls (UCC), 148 L St., Turners, 863-9844, Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

Contact the Reporter to add your service.

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RECYCLE

continued from pg 1

transfer station open two extra days a week.

Ameen said towns often opt to get out of the curbside recycling and trash pick-up business because of the hidden cost of workers' compensation. She said the slipping and falling, bending and hauling associated with the job was "brutal" on the workers. Bergeron said he had one recycling truck driver out on workers comp presently.

Ameen estimated it would cost the town of Montague \$150,000 a year to contract with a private company to pick up curbside recyclables.

Board of health chair Jay DiPucchio, who arrived at the second floor meeting room toting two blue plastic recycling bins filled with a week's worth of bottles, papers, plastic, cans and cardboard, wondered whether the town could pick up recyclables every other week, to save money on the program, but Bergeron said there was barely enough room in the trucks for the weekly amount of material they were currently hauling.

DiPucchio then gave a display of what he thought would be a common practice for disposing of recyclables if the town abandons curbside pickup. He opened a large black plastic 'garbage' bag and dumped the contents of both

his bins into it. "Not in every instance am I going to make the trip to the transfer station. We're all going to be doing this on Central Street, filling these bags. I just can't see sending this stuff to the landfill or the incinerator. It isn't right."

Former finance committee member Mike Naughton said, "It's obvious to me that [the DPW] was asked to find someplace in their budget to cut, and this is the only thing you have left to put on the table. You can't keep asking departments to cut 3% - 5% a year. We have to figure something else out."

Precinct 5 town meeting member Chris Sawyer-Laucanno said he was a proponent of

curbside recycling. He said some of his neighbors would not be able to get to the transfer station. He suggested another increase in the cost of trash sticker fees to cover the program's deficit.

"There's a lot of trash around Montague. When the trash sticker program started, we had a lot of trash dumped on the Montague Plains. [Recycling] is a Green thing to do, and it benefits the town," he said.

Building inspector David Jensen estimated it would be a ten-mile trip for him to reach the transfer station from Lake Pleasant. He estimated the citizens of Montague as a whole would wind up paying something on the order of \$150,000 a year in

added fuel costs to reach the transfer station on weekly trips in individual vehicles. "The town doing this for us has a particular value. The immediate problem is we're short of money. The other problem is this solution pushes the cost to the taxpayer," Jensen said.

Montague health agent Gina McNeely said, "Illegal dumping has certainly increased in the last six years or so. Anything that discourages people from putting their trash out for curbside scares the heck out of me."

Les Cromack summed things up. "The taxpayers and the residents are going to bear the brunt of this no matter what we do." 

GILL

continued from pg 1

and destroyed crops behind, it's teenagers. Well, police chief David Hastings figures they are mostly teenagers, probably some twenty year olds too, and they are making use of the secluded corner of town to "whoop and holler and raise some hell."

Melnick said, "We don't want them driving on our land. It's one thing when you have corn, at \$500 an acre." But Melnick said the partners are now thinking about planting the fertile bottomland in sod, and sod is worth \$5,000 to \$10,000 an acre.

Tim Storrow, who farms nearby on River Road, asked, "You don't have a problem with people walking or hunting or cross country skiing on the land? That's why you haven't posted it...?"

Patterson said posting the land would only keep the honest people out, and they have no quarrel with people using the land for these kind of recreational pastimes. But the scattered beer bottles, vandalized farm equipment, and all terrain vehicle tracks across their cropland tell of other pastimes being pursued there, and these are the activities the farmers want the town to help them put a stop to.

Hastings said he did not have the manpower to patrol the secluded section. "The only time

we drive that way is to get down to Camp Road. It's shorter that way." Highway superintendent Mick LaClaire said, "The only thing I can think of is to put up a fence of some sort." But Melnick and Patterson were not keen on the expense of putting up even a single rail fence along the 1,000s of feet of open land, and Hastings thought the intruders would still drive right through even if they did. LaClaire pointed out that the town had technically closed off that stretch of River Road and Pisgah Mountain Road for the winter, and plowed up a deep berm of snow to prevent access. "But the off-roaders consider it a point of pride to drive right over it."

Storrow brought up the possibility of the town discontinuing the road, allowing it to revert to the surrounding landowners, including Patterson and Melnick. "Most of the land down that way is in permanent protection," including 167 acres controlled by the Department of Environmental Management, called the Stacy Mountain Preserve. Complicating this suggestion is the fact that Cowl's Lumber owns some forestland along the stretch of road under discussion, which they are actively harvesting.

Another factor to consider, Patterson said, is that the farmers have reserved one two-acre house lot along River Road,

where one of them, or one of their children, hopes to someday build a house, to become part of a self-sustaining farm.

The town also happens to own one acre of land at the very end of River Road, which historically terminated at the Stacy Ferry Landing, one of the crossing points to Northfield prior to the construction of the French King Bridge. The town land is now completely surrounded by Melnick and Patterson's acreage. It was once used as a brush dump, but can now only be accessed by a dirt lane through the farm fields. Still, Hastings thought it might complicate the police department's ability to keep trespassers off the property, since they could, perhaps, make a claim in court that they were just trying to reach the one acre of land owned by the town.

Town assessor Greg Snedeker, who with his wife Kathy actively use the area for cross country skiing and daily walks with their dog, warned Melnick and Patterson to be careful how they proceeded with the idea of the town abandoning the road, for if it reverted to private property, the farmers would no longer have the road frontage necessary to qualify for a building lot.

Even with all these complicating factors, selectboard members Ann Banash and Leland Stevens thought it might be worthwhile bringing the

matter to town meeting, after researching the possibility of closing the road with town counsel. They said the town would need to have an easement to reach their property, and police and fire would need a key to any gate that might be installed.

Patterson and Melnick said they would continue to grant permission for recreational use of the land under those circumstances, as long as the recreation was of the non-motorized, non-alcoholic variety. They said they would want to preserve the right to build on the one building lot on the land.

Administrative assistant Deb Roussel said she would research the possibilities with town counsel Donna McNichol and report back to the board in two weeks.

In other news

The town is hoping for warm weather soon, for a number of reasons, not least the need to get a fresh coat of paint on the town hall. The Franklin County sheriff's department prisoner work program has promised to supply the labor, Renaissance Builders has offered use of scaffolding, and LaClaire is researching the best cost on paint. A brief discussion on the choice of color for the building reached a swift conclusion: white.

LaClaire is also pricing out power wash units, not only for

washing the exterior of town hall, but also for keeping highway equipment free of salt and grease. Although they are twice as expensive, board member Leland Stevens recommended going with a hot water spray unit, rather than a cold water one.

LaClaire said his department has voluntarily assumed responsibility for plowing and sanding at the Gill Elementary School. "We drove by [during a recent storm] at 8 a.m. and noticed they hadn't plowed yet. They hadn't even called us." Apparently, the Gill-Montague schools' plow truck is out of commission, LaClaire said. "We're just going to plow it from now on."

The board appointed Tupper Brown to the zoning board of appeals, gratefully. The town will extend its contract with Duseau Trucking for pickup of trash and recycling for another year, at the same price as this year.

As this year's town budget begins to take shape, the board is examining initial budget requests from town departments totaling more than \$250,000 above the levy limit, according to Roussel, without even considering the schools assessment. Preliminary budgets are often trimmed in budget hearings before reaching town meeting, and the board indicated this would again be the approach the town will take. 

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SURE SIGN OF SPRING

BY LINDA HICKMAN

WENDELL - Even though winter weather hit late this year, many people are already hankering for signs of spring. One of the first harbingers of spring is the welcome sight of buckets hanging from maple trees.

As I turned off Mormon Hollow and drove up Davis Road to Bill and Laurel Facey's Sugarbush Farm on Sunday, March 4th, I was greeted by the sight of buckets hanging from very large maples, impressive stonewalls and beautiful fields. As I continued up the hill, I began seeing long lengths of plastic tubing running from the sugar maples into a variety of large containers.

I must confess, I was happy to have an excuse to visit Bill. The views at his farm are breathtaking. The thick stone walls encircling the fields are a testament to long-term agricultural use. Bill bought the almost 80-acre farmstead 40 years ago, and has been working hard ever since.

A full time farmer, Bill's main crops are hay and maple syrup. He also raises some beef cattle and cuts his own wood. Bill built the post and beam sugarhouse with lumber he harvested from his land. It has a

slate roof and a brick floor.

Inside the steamy building, we discussed the vagaries of maple sugaring while he boiled his first sap of the season. Although many large operations have switched to oil, Bill told me, "I don't want to do it that way. It wouldn't be any fun." He also thinks oil heat degrades the flavor of the syrup.

Instead, he boils sap the old-fashioned way, with wood from the farm he has cut, dried, and stacked himself. But Bill does believe in newer technology when it improves the flavor of his product, and increases the efficiency of his operation. When Bill had four children at home, it would take them six hours to drill, tap, and place over 600 buckets. This year it took him and his son Jim six hours to drill holes, hammer in 639 taps, hang 60 buckets, and connect the rest with plastic tubing. Collection is much easier with the new system, and he gets a better grade of syrup because he doesn't have many open buckets.

Once the sap is collected, he boils it down. It takes approximately forty gallons of sap to produce one gallon of maple syrup. His evaporator usually

produces two gallons an hour.

The flow of sap is very weather dependent. He told me, "Warm days, cold nights, and a north wind," result in the best sap production. In his best season, he produced 126 gallons. Last year was not a great season, 97 gallons, but better than the year before, 76 gallons. "Weather conditions weren't favorable," he recalled. "It got warm too fast."

So far, this year's season looks good, but it is too early to tell. His season usually runs from the first of March to the first or second week in April. When the boiling is over for the year, Bill's work is hardly done. He has to remove all of the taps and tubing and clean and store



PHOTO LINDA HICKMAN

The Sugar Shack at Sugarbush Farm in Wendell.

all of his equipment. Then he has to sell the syrup.

The Faceys have had various wholesale customers over the years, but they are now down to two, and could use more. The Copper Angel Restaurant in Erving buys their syrup in five-gallon containers. They use it in the kitchen and on the table. Carroll's Market in Millers Falls sells their syrup. Laurel can be seen every Wednesday, May through

October, at the Great Falls Farmers Market in Turners Falls and at other area markets and fairs. They also sell syrup at the farm. Bill said people are welcome to stop by for syrup, but suggested it is better to call ahead, 978-544-7178.

I think the views alone are worth the drive. The next time you look at a local jug of maple syrup and think it seems expensive, think about all of the work it represents.

CO-OP from page 1

department, or whether to lease the space to the Pelham-based Wheatberry Bakery. The 500 - 600 member-owners of the coop are invited to a meeting to discuss the proposal of leasing out the deli and bakery on Saturday, from 1 - 3 p.m., at the Leverett Library, at 75 Montague Road.

Coop manager Paul Rosenberg said Wheatberry bakery owners Adrie and Ben Lester are Village Coop members who have been delivering bread for sale to the coop since they started their business two years ago. If the coop decides to lease the bakery and deli to them, they will contract to produce baked goods for the coop, and to hire the present bakery and deli workers at least at their present levels of compensation.

Coop board member Pamela Stone-Humphrey said the coop was considering leasing the bakery-deli at this time because the present bakery manager, Morgan Coldwell, will be leaving by summer to have a baby,

and is not planning to return.

Adrie Lester said the Wheatberry Bakery is presently an entirely wholesale business, and they would welcome the opportunity have direct contact with customers. In addition to leasing the kitchen space, Wheatberry would also lease display space in the coop's popular dining area, where daily pizza and homemade soups bring in a local crowd at lunch, and the bakery racks gleam with mouthwatering displays of cherry danish, cranberry corn muffins, raspberry scones, East Indian samosas, chocolate croissants, and the like

Lester said her business specialized in naturally leavened bread and laminated pastries. "Our pride and joy is sourdough," she said.

Dan Bennett, a Moore's Corner resident who played a formative role in expanding the Leverett Village Coop from its former location across Rattlesnake Gutter Road, said the bakery at the new store, which opened in January of

1990, was originally leased to the store's first bakers, Marianne and B.F. Masterton. "I think it is the best arrangement," he said.

Lester said the Village Coop provided the first wholesale outlet for her baked goods. Now, Wheatberry Bakery also wholesales to Amherst Coffee, Northampton Coffee, Cushman General Store, the Night Kitchen in Montague and the Wendell Country Store. They would maintain these outlets if they move to Leverett and lease the coop's kitchen.

Lester said she had trained at the Connecticut Culinary School, and she and her husband had also trained at fine dining establishments like the Blue Heron Restaurant, the Silk Road in Northampton, and the Brasserie Forty-A in Northampton. (For more about Wheatberry Bakery, go to www.wheatberry.org.)

Rosenberg said, "My mind is not made up," about the merits of the proposal to lease out the bakery and deli. Stone-

Humphrey said she, too, was "on the fence," seeing pluses and minuses in the idea.

"We will continue to have an outstanding deli and bakery regardless of where this goes. We're very confident of that," Rosenberg said.

The Leverett Village Coop is the town's only retail store, open 7 a.m to 7 p.m., seven days a week at the intersection of North Leverett and Rattlesnake Gutter Road. Rosenberg said anyone may shop at the store; and anyone may become a member with a \$30 initial investment and \$30 annual increments until the required \$170 share of stock is reached.

Member-owners receive patronage rebates, the privilege to join the 5 College Credit Union, the ability to purchase discounted propane, and the

right to vote in decisions like the one upcoming on the future of the bakery.

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ILLUSTRATION BY ANJA SCHUTZ

THIS WILD PLACE

On the Track of the Fisher

BY KARL MEYER

COLRAIN - It was late afternoon and cold when I came upon the fisher track. The prints registered in offset pairs, the rear foot slipping neatly into the snowy front-foot impression ahead. Though it was late, I headed into the foot of powdery snow that tilted toward a small pond the animal had tracked across. The prints were off-round, about three inches wide. Each showed the arched crown of five sharp claws always prominent in good fisher tracks.

Since it was just fifteen degrees, I assumed the ice would be solid. My guess was off. The water surface was slushy beneath the snow and I thought I shouldn't push it - even though this puddle was only three feet deep. It serves as a breeding pool for wood frogs and spotted salamanders each spring. But I followed the track out onto the pond, heading first to a small jumble of snow where the fisher had made a side trip and then veered off up the embankment.

Animals don't waste energy, especially in the cold. There clearly had been clawing and digging into this little pile. It was about two and a half feet across, and despite the activity it

was pure white. This was unusual for such an active spot. You'd expect to find some other kind of animal sign here: scat, or that amber-liquid slash in the snow left by an animal signaling its neighbors. But there was none of this, nor any obvious fur, blood, or feathers.

I stuck my boot toe into the snow and moved it around expecting to find something beneath, a cached kill, signs of struggle, or just yellow snow. Again, nothing. This was puzzling. Why had the fisher stopped, taken time to dig and plow up snow? Not a clue remained. Maybe there was a mouse trail wind and snow had obliterated in the interim. I scouted around a bit more, but there was nothing. The mystery would remain.

If there was more time I might have figured the puzzle out. Tracking, when you know a bit about the creature, requires time and observation. Follow a trail long enough and you usually get a hint of where the animal was in its nightly forage, whether it had eaten, whether it was prowling for food, or for mating. I was out of time and a bit rusty at tracking as well. It hasn't been a good snow year. I back-tracked on this fox-sized

predator's trail across the pond; and saw where it crept over a downed log and headed down the mountain. Then I headed back to the foot trail in the cold.

Fishers are wonderful to track. They are somewhat cat-like, but built low to the ground and solid, with grizzled to deep-brown fur and thick tapering tails. These are creatures of deep forests, wet areas and broken woodlands. For nearly two centuries after the Bay State's forests were leveled for farms, the fisher disappeared from the Commonwealth. It's returned in the last thirty years with the maturing of the woodlands.

Fishers are rarely about during the day. They're most active after dusk or before dawn. My only good fisher sighting in daylight came near the headwaters of the Connecticut River in New Hampshire, when one bolted across the road, making an energetic run at a snowshoe hare. The hare escaped, perhaps alerted by my approaching vehicle. It made a frantic dash down the center stripe, and nearly ran into my menacing Ford Festiva out of pure terror.

Snowshoe hares and cottontails are part of the 6 - 15 pound fisher's diet, as are squirrels, mice, grouse, raccoons, and

opossums.

They are excellent climbers, with those fantastic claws and flexible wrists that allow them to descend trees headfirst as they pursue their prey. They will also belly flop from trees into deep snow if time and necessity call for it. Many a squirrel has been ripped from the night safety of its nest by a cagey fisher.

But the most unique predator-prey relationship involving fishers is with the porcupine. Fishers have nearly perfected a method of neutralizing the porcupine's brilliant quill defense. The strategy is to engage the porcupine on the ground - even if it must knock the porcupine from the tree to do it. Then it's a battle of quickness, the fisher raking the porcupine about the un-quilled face until it becomes vulnerable. It then works to get



www.borealforest.org

The elusive Fisher

at the quill-free belly to finish the kill. Understandably, the porcupine is then consumed up through its soft stomach to avoid those still-dangerous barbs. Once consumed, all that is left is a hollow corpse, surrounded by quills.

Cooling thought: Having a glass of water or a soft drink at home or in a restaurant? Why not "skip the ice" since the liquid is already chilled? You save energy and skip the ingrained waste in our society's reflexive use of ice in already-cool drinks.

PATTY CAKE

continued from pg 1

powdered sugar, vanilla and meringue powder; mouseline buttercream, with the addition of egg whites to make it slightly less sweet; along with fondant and ganache icings.

They also offer lunch in the form of soup *du jour*, creative salads and sandwiches served on homemade breads, including black forest ham with brie on a croissant, turkey with veggies and garlic mayonnaise, chicken or tuna salad and a veggie sandwich.

If you're not hungry yet, the glass bakecases of hard-to-resist desserts will tempt your palate even if you're just stopping in for a cup of Baronet coffee or hot tea.

The two Pattys actually met through their daughters. Young's daughter Jaime is a hairdresser at Hair Therapy in Greenfield, who styles the hair of McClelland's daughter



DETMOLD PHOTO

Patricia McClelland, left, and Patrice Young show off some of their delectable baked goods at their new 4th Street bakery, Patty Cake Patty Cake.

Andrea. The two girls were talking about their mothers one day and agreed that they should meet to explore the idea of baking together.

"It just went from there," said Young. "This space became available again so we decided to move back home."

McClelland said it was hard to get started in Turners Falls four years ago, when she first ran Blue Skies on 4th Street, but she sees a downtown renewal happening with the opening of other new establishments such as Ristorante DiPaolo.

"It feels good," said McClelland, who loves working with flours to create fresh, homemade breads. "And making a wedding cake and seeing it after you put it all together, it's artistic."

Young shared similar thoughts when asked what is most rewarding about baking. "Just doing a good job and seeing the faces when we do a wedding cake. Just making people happy and seeing people smile," she said, handing a lunch menu to a local patron.

Patty Cake Patty Cake is open Tuesday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon. For a wedding cake consultation, call 863-8900.

Nominations for Abigail Adams Eliot Award in Early Education and Care

The Franklin County Collaboration for Children, in partnership with the Education Department at Greenfield Community College, invites nominations for the third Abigail Adams Eliot Award in Early Education and Care. This award will recognize an individual working directly with children ages 0-5 in the field of early education and care, who has made an exemplary contribution to young children and their families in Franklin County. The award is open to nominations from the public, and will be judged by a panel of local citizens and early childhood professionals. The recipient will be honored at the Fifth Annual Educational Forum to be held on April 27, 2007.

Award nominees should be individuals who are working with young children in an educational setting in Franklin County, and have made an outstanding contribution to our community over a long period of time.

To download a nomination form, go to: www.gcc.mass.edu/adams_award.html.

The deadline for nominations is March 26th.

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A HOLISTIC HEALTH PERSPECTIVE

The Awful Itch of Eczema

BY JENNY CHAPIN

MONTAGUE CENTER - Eczema is an inflammatory condition of the skin, an itchy red rash. The name comes from the Greek, "boil over", which is how the skin feels to those affected. Ranging in size from a small area that looks like a little patch of dry skin, to the entire surface of the body, it can be a source of unbearable misery. In its acute phase, the rash tends to appear abruptly, and the skin blisters and oozes clear fluid. The chronic phase develops either gradually from the acute phase or by itself, with dry, thick, scaly skin. Itching is present in both stages, and can be so severe that the sufferer will scratch until the skin bleeds.

Though uncomfortable and potentially embarrassing, eczema is neither contagious nor life threatening. Eczema occurs without contact and has more to do with internal factors than external ones.

Triggers that worsen eczema

include: emotional, physical, or psychological stress; menstrual periods; weather and temperature - changes in weather, cold weather, raw winter weather, dry winter house heat, intense heat; wool clothing; detergents, perfumes or dyes; perspiration; pollen; food additives; dry skin. Common allergenic foods are dairy products, soy, citrus, peanuts, wheat, fish, eggs, corn, tomatoes and other nightshades, beans, shellfish, sweets, and chocolate. Heating stimulants like caffeine and alcohol can aggravate the condition, as can greasy fried foods. Saturated fats (meats, especially poultry, and dairy), refined foods, and sugar cause inflammation.

The primary conventional treatment for eczema is corticosteroid ointments, which aid in acute flare-ups but do not prevent recurrence. Steroids have a suppressive, not curative, effect and when applied liberally on the skin, may drive the condition deeper into the



body. Keep a cortisone cream handy in case of extremely severe itching, but it is best avoided if possible.

Frequent, soothing baths are beneficial, especially for the dry, scaly type of eczema. Add one cup of finely ground oats and two cups of licorice tea to a tepid bath to relieve itching. Soap should be avoided, as it tends to be drying.

Soft cotton clothes that let the skin breathe are preferable to synthetic materials.

People with eczema may have an essential fatty acid (EFA) deficiency. Studies of evening primrose oil report the

reduction of the symptoms of eczema and the overall severity of the disorder. Plant sources of EFAs include flax seed oil, nuts and seeds. Fish oils such as cod liver oil or cold-water fish (salmon, sardines, tuna) have anti-inflammatory properties that have been shown to help control eczema.

Beta-carotene foods are beneficial in the treatment of skin diseases, particularly of an inflammatory nature. Examples are carrots, winter squash, pumpkin, and dark leafy greens.

Skin creams and salves containing one or more of the following herbs may help relieve itching and burning, and promote healing: chickweed, calendula, comfrey, and chamomile.

Tea tree oil is known for its antiseptic and antibacterial properties, and helps calm skin inflammation. It is toxic if ingested and should only be used topically.

Acupuncture and herbal medicine can be very effective in treating eczema. Chinese medicine views eczema as heat drying the body's normal cooling and soothing mechanisms. Acupuncture and herbs cool the body and soothe the tissues locally in order to treat acute flare-ups as well as provide long-term improvement in the condition.

On a psychoemotional level, eczema has to do with feeling safe and secure in the world, knowing when to trust or mistrust, knowing when to feel fear or not. Our skin being the most obvious boundary between ourselves and the rest of the world, skin problems are related to the balance between independence and dependence.

Jenny Chapin is an acupuncturist, bodyworker, and yoga teacher in Greenfield. For previous articles, and to offer topics of interest for this column, visit her website, www.jenny-chapin.com.

THE HEALTHY GEEZER

Can Coffee Prevent Cirrhosis of the Liver?

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - *Q. I'm a social drinker who has several glasses of wine every evening, but I'm told I can avoid any liver damage if I drink plenty of coffee. Sounds ridiculous. What do you think?*

There was a study of more than 125,000 people who drank coffee. The study, published recently, showed that one cup of coffee a day cut the risk of alcoholic cirrhosis of the liver by 20 percent. Four cups a day reduced the risk by 80 percent. It's not known yet why coffee protected livers in this study.

Even "social drinkers" can develop cirrhosis, a condition that causes irreversible damage to the liver. Whether you get cirrhosis depends upon the amount of alcohol you drink and a predisposition for the condition.

If you drink a lot of alcohol, you will hurt your liver. However, you will not necessarily get cirrhosis. You have a one-in-three chance of getting cirrhosis if you drink 8 to 16 ounces of liquor a day (or

the equivalent in other alcoholic drinks) for 15 years or more.

More men than women get cirrhosis. There is a theory that more men get cirrhosis because they're heavier drinkers.

Women can't tolerate as much alcohol as men can. Studies show that a much higher percentage of women, consuming less alcohol than men, suffer from cirrhosis.

In the United States, excessive alcohol consumption is the single greatest risk factor for cirrhosis. Chronic infection with the hepatitis C virus is the second leading cause of cirrhosis.

The liver, which is located in the upper right side of the abdomen, is the largest organ in the human body. It weighs about three pounds and is - believe it or not - about the size of a football. You cannot live without a liver.

The liver is a multipurpose organ that performs hundreds of tasks. Among its functions are the digestion of fats, removal of harmful sub-



ILLUSTRATION: JESSICA HARMON

stances from blood, production of cholesterol, control of infections and the coagulation of blood.

In cirrhosis of the liver, scar tissue replaces healthy tissue; this blocks blood flow through the liver and prevents it from working efficiently.

At the onset of cirrhosis, there may be no symptoms. As the liver deteriorates, the following may occur: internal bleeding, fluid retention in the legs and feet, bruising, yellow skin and eyes, fluid in the abdomen, itchy hands and feet, dark urine, loss of appetite and weight, nausea,

fatigue, and red spider veins.

Although liver damage from cirrhosis is irreversible, treatment can help prevent more damage and reduce complications. Giving up alcohol is the primary treatment. Improving nutrition is often part of treatment, too.

A doctor can diagnose cirrhosis through symptoms, a medical history, a physical exam, and tests.

Tests that are often used in diagnosis include a computer-

ized axial tomography (CAT) scan, ultrasound, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), or a scan using a radioactive substance that highlights the liver. A doctor might look at the liver using an instrument that is inserted into the abdomen. A liver biopsy - tissue sample - can confirm a diagnosis.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



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FRIDAY, MARCH 9TH
Spring Performance Series-Greenfield Community College The chorus will perform a *cappella* and accompanied works under the direction of Margery Heins, with Amy Crawford, accompanist, at the college's Steinway grand piano (a preview of a longer performance by the GCC Chorus focusing on music for the spring season and holidays, full concert on 3/30). In the Music Room (Room S-358), Greenfield Community College, 775-1171.

At Montague Bookmill: Performance: Chiara String Quartet Playing classical, Andean folk to Prince to Beethoven and Bartok. 8 to 11 p.m. 367-9206.

Deja Brew, Wendell-Euphemisms, folk rock. 9 to 11 p.m., no cover.

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 10TH
Corned Beef Dinner Benefit for Relay For Life Team #28 Parker's Prowlers. At St. Kaz, Avenue A, Turners Falls. 5 pm. to 7 pm. with music from DJ Gladstone to follow.

St. James Coffeehouse presents Aztec Two-Step With special guest Jeff Martell. Guest at 7:15, Aztec at 8 pm. At St. James Coffeehouse, 8 Church Street, Greenfield. 772-2213

Rt. 63 Road House: *Loose Change*, rock, come to dance! 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell-Josh Levangie does Johnny Cash favorites. 9 to 11 p.m., no cover.

Third Annual New Works Festival Showcasing plays by Massachusetts playwrights. Held at the Shea, 71 Avenue A, Turners Falls. 8 p.m. 863-2281.

SUNDAY, MARCH 11TH
The Montague Bookmill Presents: The Dead of Winter Free Films for the Frozen: *Lost in America*. 7 p.m.

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

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

Scandinavian Dancing, Montague Grange. Hambo, Schottis, dances of Dalarna, Sweden taught by Andrea Larson and Scot Applegate, dancers of all levels welcome. \$8 donation. 3 to 6 p.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 12TH
Live Jazz at Ristorante DiPaolo, Avenue A, 6 to 9 p.m. Information 863-4441.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14TH
Fiddle Tune swap at Deja Brew, Wendell, all welcome. 7 to 9 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 15TH
Deja Brew - Paul Spatarella - Rock, 8 - 10 p.m. No cover.

FRIDAY, MARCH 16TH
Cabin Fever Party and everyone is invited. Have some fun & food and meet some great people. At the Brick House, 24 Third St., Turners Falls. 4 to 7 p.m.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, MARCH 16TH & 17TH
The Academy Players Present: The Merchant of Venice at the Shea Theater, Turners Falls 7 p.m.. Call (413)-863-2281 for ticket information. Admission: Adults \$10 / Students \$5.

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

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

Rt. 63 Road House: *Love Bomb!* 9:30 p.m. Come to dance! St. Pats Party-Adam Duncan Memorial Pool Tournament.

St. Patrick's Day Dinner Proceeds benefit the Trinitarian



Aztec Two-Step with special guest Jeff Martell performs at St. James Coffeehouse, guest at 7:15, Aztec at 8 pm.

Congregational Church of Warwick. Menu: Corned beef & cabbage, carrots, Irish soda bread, beverages and homemade pies. Held in Warwick Town Hall. Sittings at 5 & 6 p.m. Takeout available, call 978-575-0310.

Deja Brew: Ronald Meck-Celtic music. 9 to 11p.m. No cover

Millers River Environmental Center, Athol: Woodcock Walk. Join Bruce Scherer at Cass Meadow, Athol to witness the unique courtship display of the American Woodcock. The woodcock's call is a loud nasal "peent". When the male is flying during courtship displays, we can hear a variety of twittering songs, produced vocally, but also by air over wing feathers. Males perform a beautiful "sky dance" at dusk and dawn. Flights include a spiral up to 100 meters, fluttering wings while chirping, and then circling back to the same spot on the ground. 978-544-3282 6:30 p.m.

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 18TH
The Montague Bookmill Presents: The Dead of Winter Free Films for the Frozen Double Feature! *In Heaven There's No Beer*. 7 p.m. &

The Pathfinder, 8 p.m. Food & drink available at The Lady Killigrew.

THROUGH MARCH 25TH
Local artists on display at Green Trees Gallery in Northfield, 5-7 p.m. *Apex to Zenith*, a panoramic collection of over 35 regional artists. Artists: include Dan Brown, Beverly Phelps, Nayana Glazier, Barbara Milot & Daniel Putnam. www.greentreesgallery.com

SUNDAY, MARCH 25TH
The Montague Bookmill Presents: The Dead of Winter Free Films for the Frozen: *I Walked With A Zombie*, 7 p.m.

BEGINNING THURSDAY, MARCH 22ND
Exhibit: John Willis' and Tom Young's "Recycled Realities and Other Stories" Haunting and surreal, series of black and white images invite viewers into a vast paper landscape at Erving Paper Mill (images of scrap paper at the mill are of lives lived, captured in the pages of mass media and then discarded for recycling). Also presented will be images from photographic projects: "View from the Rez" and "Timeline" An artists' reception with live music and hors d'oeuvres will be held on **Saturday, March 31** from 1-5 pm. Also a slide presentation from 7:15-8:45 p.m. at Hallmark Institute of Photography Educational Center. Exhibit is at Hallmark Museum of Contemporary Photography, Turners Falls. Hours: Thursday through Sunday, 1-5 p.m. 863-0009.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, MARCH 23RD & 24TH
Pothole Pictures presents *The Seven Samurai*, Memorial Hall Theater, Shelburne Falls. 7:30 p.m.



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<p>SATURDAY, MARCH 10TH Accessible Birding. 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Join the Hampshire Bird Club on this excursion to investigate bird life at wheelchair accessible and lively birding locations in the Connecticut River Valley. Binoculars and scopes are available for use as well as other assistive technology such as portable folding chairs, large print field guides, monopods, and listening devices. Register or info. call (413) 545-5758. Happy 104th Birthday! Join Refuge staff for a journey through the</p>	<p>104 years of the National Wildlife Refuge System. We'll travel from 1903 when the system was created to today. Learn about YOUR local Silvio O. Conte National Fish & Wildlife Refuge. All welcome, cake served! 1 p.m. TUESDAY, MARCH 13TH Special Places in the Valley Lecture Series: 4 of 7. Virtual Visit to Mt. Toby. A slideshow presentation on the cultural history and habitat changes that have taken place, and about the special species that reside at Mt. Toby. We will also explore</p>	<p>the multiple methods of land conservation practiced at Mt. Toby that currently protect this treasured place. Learn about the recreation opportunities and responsibilities. 6:30 p.m. THURSDAY, MARCH 15TH Greenfield Garden Club - All are welcome! Public monthly meeting at the Great Falls Discovery Center. A special tour of the exhibits will be conducted by local mural artist, Frank Gregory. Contact Linda Tyler for more information about the Garden Club at 774.3505. 7 to 9 p.m.</p>
<p>SATURDAY, MARCH 17TH Green is the Color of the Day! Exploring the shades of green in the natural landscape. An art and nature activity for all that will focus our attention on some details of nature's green. 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. UNTIL MARCH 31ST Stephen Gingold's Nature Photography. Explore the world of nature, both at a landscape scale and focused at close range for details, through the eyes of Stephen Gingold as you see his photographs in this special exhibit.</p>	<p>Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls (413) 863-3221 www.greatfallsma.org</p>	

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3. NOTES ON A SCANDAL R DAILY 9:30 MAT. FRI, SAT, SUN 3:00
4. MUSIC & LYRICS PG13 DAILY 6:45 9:15
- MATINEE FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 3:15
5. GHOST RIDER PG13 DAILY 6:45 9:15
- MATINEE FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 3:15
6. LAST KING OF SCOTLAND R DAILY 6:30 9:00 DTS sound
- MATINEE FRI, SAT, SUN 12:30 3:30
7. 300 R DTS sound DAILY 6:30 9:00
- MATINEE FRI, SAT, SUN 12:30 3:30

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THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

Bring on the Spring

BY LESLIE BROWN

MONTAGUE CITY - March: the season of late snows and mud; of rising sap and returning birds. Whatever kind of winter we've had, by now I'm more than ready for spring.

This month certainly came in like a lion with snow, freezing rain and sleet. Like others, I slipped and slid on Friday and managed to connect with a pile of snow. The end result was an ugly bend in my car's right rear fender. On the up side: the birds sing more vigorously, their feathers show a hint of the summer to come; the days are distinctly longer at both ends and even though we have more snow cover than we've had all winter, it can't and won't last.

If you're looking for an antidote, two local bulb shows are bound to perk you up. The spring bulb show at the Lyman Plant House, Smith College is the most well-known.

It is also the largest and most dramatic. This annual show (March 3rd -18th) draws huge crowds, as well it should. Staff spend weeks preparing for the event, forcing bulbs of all colors and types, daffodils, tulips, crocus, hyacinth, fritillaria, scilla and anemone; they also cut and bring in forsythia, flowering crab and pussy willow. The display is breathtaking. Masses of bloom, heady perfume and artful arrangements abound. So do wall to wall crowds, busy photographers, small children in strollers and back packs, college students, elders and everyone in between, all craving spring and finding it in the greenhouse. It's glorious, and almost over the top. The show is open to the public from 10 - 4 daily and also from 6 - 8 p.m. on Friday, March 9th and 16th. If you are able to see it during a weekday, you'll be able to browse at a more leisurely pace and also to park within hiking distance. Still, it's definitely good for a pick-me-up.

A lesser known bulb show can be found at the Talcott greenhouse on the campus of Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley. This is a more modest event that avoids the claustrophobic crowds and



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inadequate parking at Smith. It is easier to take in and can be absorbed at a slower pace and still offers a pre-spring tonic. This year's display features bulbs as they appear in the wild in North America and Europe. A naturalized landscape shows off tulips, grape hyacinth, scilla, oxalis, anemone, bellevalia, eranthus and Star of Bethlehem. While I haven't made it to this show yet, last year the "naturalized landscape" featured tables of grass trimmed to lawn height, spotted with flowers as if they had grown up together naturally. So while this bulb show lacks the grandiose display featured at Smith, it has a distinct charm of its own. Close by is the building that houses the small but fine college art collection. Hours of the Mount Holyoke bulb show are daily from 11 -4, March 4th -19th.

Here at home, the leek and onion seed I planted on the 31st of January have grown to about four inches. Two weeks ago they were watered with a mild solution of water and liquid seaweed, available at most garden centers. This weekend they were fed again and also trimmed to about three inches to encourage bulb development. They are ready to be transplanted into individual growing cells filled with real potting soil. They can be pulled up from the blade. If a few roots break in the

process, it won't be at all important to the future growth of the plant.

Many years ago when I was still working for Home Care, I stopped to see Rose Rewa's mother and also had the pleasure of watching Rose literally yanking baby marigold plants from their starting medium and firmly throwing them into the new soil in that matter of fact manner with which she met any aspect of her daily life. She was raising plants to sell, so those of us gardening for pleasure can safely work with the same dauntless, firm purpose.

Next weekend is a good time to start pepper plants if you plan to grow from seed. It may seem unbelievably early, but peppers are a slow growing lot, and it is best to put out strong, vigorous plants around the end of May or early June, because they'll need a full garden season to mature and provide you with that delicious fruit you look forward to. Try some chocolate sweet peppers for fall grilling, and maybe a hot pepper plant or two. You won't be disappointed, and if you have a bumper crop you can always share with friends and pop some in the freezer for winter enjoyment. Going to garden shows and getting a few of your own plants started goes a long way toward bringing on the spring, at least in your heart.

Spring Ahead on Sunday

BY FRAN HEMOND

MONTAGUE CENTER - March 11th, 2007, 2 a.m.: Daylight Savings Time begins! It always starts on a Sunday, and those of us who live by God's time that eases us into the changes of light and dark are sometimes its victim. We arrive at church as the congregation is chatting on the church steps, ready to go home to dinner, and it's time for judgment all around.

This year, the facts are these. On Saturday, March 10th, 2007, the sun will rise at 6:06 Eastern Standard Time, and set at 5:45 EST. On Sunday, March 11th, the sun will rise at 7:04 Eastern Daylight Time, and set at 6:46 EDT. This will be the nomenclature in Montague, in our Eastern Time Zone. Our friends in Arizona will not change to Daylight Savings, and our careful concern about making phone calls too early or late will need evaluation. The year's almanacs will keep us up on the current data.

For some years the first Sunday in April was the chosen date to 'spring

resources with which they are provided. It is not strange that the Department of Transportation and Congress have the responsibility to plan and conserve energy, as the legislatures of other countries do. Here in the U.S., Ben Franklin is given credit for first writing about Daylight Savings Time. Its first official use here was during World War I.

However, in 1919 the farmers so opposed Daylight Savings Time that Congress passed a bill to call it off, even over President Wilson's veto. For years there was a higgledy-piggledy system throughout the country, the states and communities choosing their own system. Daylight Savings Time returned during World War II, and in 1966 federal legislation restored its general use, but gave states considerable leeway to accommodate their preferences. Daylight Savings Time is just one more attempt to pragmatically capture that elusive something, Time, that Einstein considered a

ahead.'But as an energy conservation measure, the US Congress passed the Energy Policy Act in 2005, which extended Daylight Savings Time by four weeks, to take effect this second Sunday in March of 2007. That's us, right now. Under the new regulation DST ends on the first Sunday of November, which is November 4th in 2007. Mark your calendar. For some years previous the last Sunday in October was when we were set to "fall back."This lovely old Earth has not seemed to deviate from its revolution and rotation which provide the diversity of our world. And humans, dealing with time and place, try to standardize and best utilize the

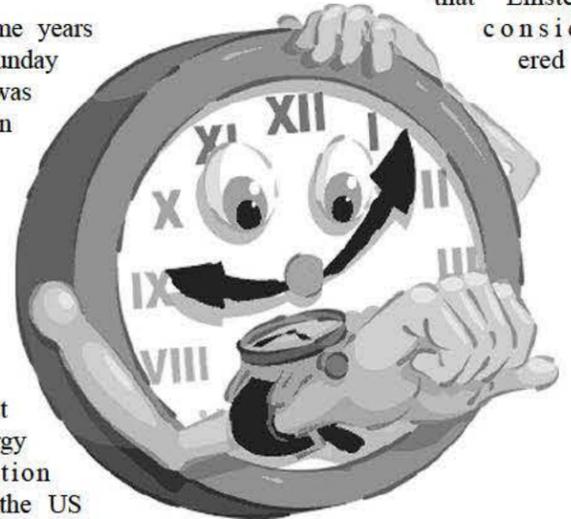


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dynamic fourth dimension. So get ready to 'Spring ahead,' on Sunday.

The author wishes to thank Pat Saczawa at the Carnegie Library for her assistance researching this article.

Don't forget to set your clocks ahead!

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