



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY
on the Greenfield Common
see page 2



Harold Fugere's
Nicknames of Turners Falls
see page 12

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

Year 4
No. 22
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The Montague Reporter

REPORTER@MONTAGUEMA.NET

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MARCH 9, 2006

Feds Put VY Uprate on Hold Due to Excess Vibration

BY KATHRYN CASA | BRATTLEBORO — On Monday, March 6th, federal regulators froze the Vermont Yankee power increase at 105 percent after a measurement on Saturday recorded vibrations that exceeded acceptable levels.

"The data forwarded to us on Saturday for the 'A' main steam line exceeded one of the criteria levels. So, in accordance with the monitoring plan, a hold has been placed on further power increases while the data is evaluated," according to Nuclear Regulatory Commission spokesman Neil Sheehan who replied to a press inquiry by e-mail late Monday.

The NRC last week issued approval to allow Vermont Yankee to increase power to 120 percent of its design capacity under close scrutiny because of concerns about the plant's steam dryer, the component that removes water droplets from the steam before it feeds into the

turbines.

The conditions require VY operators to increase power in increments of 5 percent and hold each increase for 96 hours after the vibration and stress measurements are sent to regulators.

"The NRC staff is independently evaluating the 105 percent data and will review the engineering evaluation [necessary for further power ascension] after it is completed by Entergy," Sheehan said. "Our resident inspectors will continue to monitor Entergy's actions onsite."

An inspection of the Vermont Yankee dryer in November revealed more than 40 hairline cracks. VY officials said the fissures were probably old, and were detected with sophisticated magnification equipment first used during the most recent refueling outage to check 20 cracks found in the dryer in 2004.

Although the steam dryer is considered a non-see VERMONT pg 5

DOE Report Critical of Lake Grove Outlined

BY DAVID DETMOLD WENDELL - The Wendell planning board continued the site plan hearing for the expansion of Lake Grove at Maple Valley School again on March 7th, to allow time for Roland Paulauskas, executive director of the residential school for sexually abusive boys and young men, ages 10 through 21, time to provide a copy of Lake Grove's response to a recent Massachusetts Department of Education report critical of the school's practices and procedures. The hearing, which began on January 5th, has reconvened four times since then, drawing a crowd of more than two dozen residents and town

officials who have questioned the plan to expand the campus to allow for a therapeutic farm animal program, farm stand, skate park, administrative offices, and outbuildings. The hearing is expected to continue briefly on Thursday, March 9th, at 6:00 p.m. to receive the document from Paulauskas, before the planning board begins deliberations on the proposed expansion.

On Tuesday, planning board member Ray DiDonato asked Paulauskas whether Lake Grove had instituted any new policies following the Mass Department of Education's April, 2005 program review of the see GROVE pg 8

Shopping Cart Roundup

BY DAVID DETMOLD

Are they breeding in the alleyways? Are they reproducing on some nocturnal assembly line to pop up on the street corners of Turners Falls at dawn? However they multiply, they are everywhere, in doorways and driveways, parking lots and sidewalks, and if something isn't done soon they may take over the entire town. As the last gritty snow of winter melts into the gutter, they dominate the March streetscape downtown with a chrome and plastic indifference: the shopping carts of Turners Falls.

"I collect four or more a day," said Power Town Apartment's maintenance man Kim Hine. "Sometimes six. I know they are a convenience for people, but they're starting to pile up."

Hine spends fifteen minutes a day collecting stranded carts and lining them up in front of Spinner Park on Avenue A and 4th, hoping someone from the shopping center will drive over and pick them up. Whether by imitation or coincidence, other lines of carts have



Brava (left) helps her mistress Sita Lang corral roaming shopping carts by Spinner Park. Lang counted and photographed 29 carts around downtown on Tuesday morning.

begun appearing here and there, beside the Hallmark Museum, on the corner of 4th Street, orphaned carts waiting for a helping hand to bring them home.

"When we get a large number of them, we call Food City and ask them to come over and retrieve them," said Power Town manager Sharon Cottrell. "We consider them a safety hazard. They pile up in front of building entrances, kids play on them. We had one vandalized cart left out in front of the Senior Center the other day; it

looked terrible."

"It would be great to find some way to mitigate the problem," Hine said.

Anne Jemas, a member of the downtown streetscape committee, agrees. "I acknowledge this is a largely pedestrian downtown, and people need to get their groceries home. I'd like to see all parties come together to come up with a creative solution." Jemas said she liked the idea adopted in some com-

see CARTS pg 16

Davol Tapped for Cultural Coordinator

BY KATHLEEN LITCHFIELD

TURNERS FALLS - Lisa Davol likes her new hometown for all the same reasons that brought success to the RiverCulture grant application which recently provided funding for her new position as the downtown cultural coordinator.

"Turners Falls has a lot of integrity. I love that the buildings are restored. There's such a sense of history here," said Davol, who owns a home on Fourth Street. "We're just so lucky to have all this beauty, like the river and canal running by the village. And I love that it's such a pedestrian-friendly town. I can do everything I need to do without ever getting into my car."

Walking around town, talking to business owners, artists and



ARIEL JONES PHOTO

longtime residents is exactly what Davol has been planning since her job started on Tuesda. She will

serve as the town liaison to the business community around the many cultural happenings in downtown to spur economic development, while helping to expand the reach and variety of offerings at the downtown studio, gallery and museum tours, craft fairs, a film festival, music at the farmer's market, Shea Theater performances, and more.

"For the last 25 years, Montague has been working on preserving downtown buildings, cleaning up the brownfields, putting in a canalside bike path, welcoming the Great Falls Discovery Center. A lot of things have come together that have made Turners ripe for developing its human capital," Davol said. "There are a lot of artists and creative people coming into town."

see DAVOL pg 3

PET OF THE WEEK Instant Friend



Beauty

Beauty is a four-year-old brown and white medium hair cat in need of a good home. Even though she is new at the shelter, Beauty seems completely at home. She's an instant friend, purring with excitement when you open her cage to say hello. Her only requirement is that you don't subject her to dogs! For more information on adopting Beauty, contact the Dakin Animal Shelter in Leverett at 548-9898 or via email at info@dakinshelter.org.

Subsidized Child Care and Preschool Available

Child Care/Preschool: the Parent Child Development Center, serving families with children 0-5, is accepting applications for subsidized Child-Care and Preschool in Franklin/Hampshire Counties, and Head Start Preschool and Home-visiting programs in Franklin County. Spanish speaking services available. Call 413-863-9547 in Franklin County or 413-582-4212 x 233 in Hampshire County for more information.

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LIBRARY NEWS

Dine Out for the Wendell Library in March

BY KATHLEEN SWAIM

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

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

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

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

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

Basket Making at Carnegie Library

BY LINDA HICKMAN

TURNERS FALLS - Basket Making is the theme for the Ladies Night Out series at the Carnegie Library in March. On Tuesday, March 14th and 28th,

from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., women are invited to make baskets or bring their own craft project. Supplies and refreshments are provided at no charge. For more information, please call 863-3214.

Carnegie Library Book Discussion

BY LINDA HICKMAN

TURNERS FALLS - *Our Mothers' War* is the March Munch and Muse Book Discussion title. In this very interesting history, author Emily Yellin examines the roles, experiences and feelings of American women at home and on the front

during World War II. The informal group will discuss the book on Tuesday, March 21st at 7 p.m. at the Carnegie Library. Bev Whitbeck is the discussion facilitator. Copies of this month's book are available at the front desk. For more information, 863-3214.

TFHS Class of 2006 ~ Senior Party

This year's substance-free evening for TFHS seniors will be held at the French King Entertainment Center in Erving on June 9th. Donations of services, merchandise or cash are greatly needed to make the evening a festive one for our graduates. If you are able to help, please do. Donations of money may be made check payable to "TFHS Class of 2006 - Senior Party" and mailed to Pat Siano, 211

Turners Falls Road, Montague, MA 01351.

If you wish to donate merchandise or would prefer that we pick up your contribution, please call one of the following: Mimi York (367-9224), Kevin McCarthy (659-3834) or Nancy Lapean (367-9410). Please respond by May 1st in order for us to evaluate the type of party we may host for our graduates. Thank you for your consideration!

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES March 13th - March 17th

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, 13th
10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. PACE Aerobics
1 p.m. Canasta

Tuesday, 14th
9:30 a.m. Aerobics
Wednesday, 15th
10:15 a.m. Senior Aerobics
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, 16th
1 p.m. Pitch
Friday, 17th
10:15 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11 a.m. PACE Aerobics

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

FACES & PLACES

Mexican Women's Murders Marked on International Womens Day

BY FLORE

GREENFIELD - Remember, it all started in America? It was the year 1909, when a nation first protested the abuse done to women.

It was led by those solid and proud seamstresses descending to the streets to demand the right to vote. Women's rights was born at last.

Whether it was protests over low salaries, endless hours in the factory, or physical and sexual harassment, all was a legitimate awakening for those involved and for the ones unaware of their hardship.

Then, in Petrograd, Russia, eight years later, 10,000 women were again making their voices heard, marching in the streets. Historians agree, they helped bring on the revolution and the downfall of the Czar!

Nowadays one would think the battle over for women's equality is over. But, not so!

It's even more alarming in our time, when people are supposed to be 'civilized'!

In fact we learn that in our close sister country, Mexico, since 1993, 430 women have been murdered, more than 600 'disappeared'.

This year's special gathering for International Women's Day on the common in Greenfield was organized by Susan Dorazio of Montague Center.

She invited a guest spokeswoman: Veronica Leyva, from Ciudad Juarez, in Mexico, where these grisly, unsolved 'femicides' have been occurring. She brought with her translators Fabiola del Castillo and Daniel Pacheco, to speak to the gathered citizens around the common in time-honored New England tradition.

Leyva addressed the group about their continued struggle against the oblivion of the women and children murdered and kidnapped, tortured, physically abused and killed in her



FLORE PHOTO
Veronica Leyva

country. She also pointed out the lack of law enforcement, and the callous disregard of these crimes by the Mexican government.

"We have to create an international network to fight cruelty. It is through solidarity that such action will take place and grow in strength," Leyva said.

We learned that a resolution has been sent to the U. S. Congress to study the Mexican solidarity workers' humanitarian request.

Each day, we must rise to reject all manifestations of cruelty done to people everywhere! Together, let us prevent another day of mourning for injustice, for every mother's child around the world.

Three associations operating in Mexico, whose sites are easily available on the web, can provide more information about the murder and disappearances of women, a crime of international proportions:

Justicia para Nuestras Hijas de la Ciudad de Chihuahua,
Nuestras Hijas de Regreso a Casa en Ciudad Juarez,
Red de Solidaridad con Mexico.

If you have not yet seen Sidney Pollack's film *North Country* you might want to celebrate women's rights by watching it and learning what happened to women workers not such a long time ago in North Dakota.

Rep. Kulik Office Hours
Swift River School Library
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12:30 p.m. Pitch
Tuesday, 14th
9 a.m. Aerobics
9:30 a.m. COA Meeting
12:30 p.m. Oil Painting
Wednesday, 15th
9:30 a.m. Line Dancing
12 Noon Bingo
Thursday, 16th
9 a.m. Aerobics
12:30 p.m. Shopping-Orange
WENDELL Senior Center, located in the town offices on Wendell Depot Rd. Call Kathy Swaim at (978) 544-2020 for info, schedule of events or to coordinate transportation.

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Early Days of Turners Falls ~ Part VI

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

The year 1872 was the beginning of the principal building operations and business enterprises of the village. The Farren House Block was one of the principal buildings put up that year, in which were located the banks, the hardware store of Braddock & Peabody, the drug store of W. W. Hosmer, a graduate of the old store of Howland & Lowell in Greenfield, and the clothing store of Barrett & Allen. The Schuler Block on the corner of Avenue A

and Second Street was built that year by William Schuler, who came over from Greenfield.

The *Turners Falls Reporter* [for which this paper was named, and whose masthead type the *Montague Reporter* borrowed] was also started that year, by Addington D. Welch. On January 1st, 1873, was held the 'Founders' Ball,' and in the list of names published at that time as founders the only ones known to be now living are William D. Russell, of Greenfield, and Converse Ward, of Athol. This year saw Starbuck's Block on Avenue A, and Clapp's Block at the corner of Avenue A and 7th Street built. Also, the Keith Mill began operations.

In 1874, Maria Colle of Greenfield built the block at the corner of Avenue A and Third

Street, now known as the Opera House. It also saw a telegraph office installed in the hotel with Mrs. G. T. C. Holden as the first operator. At this time Cecil T. Bagnall took over publishing of the *Turners Falls Reporter*, which has recently been merged with the *Greenfield Recorder*. It also saw D. P. Abercrombie, Sr., installed as cashier of the National Bank and treasurer of the Savings Bank.

The Rist Block on the corner of Avenue A and 4th Street, also the Bartlett Block on the corner of Avenue A and 5th Street were built in 1879.

The brick block on the corner of Avenue A and 3rd Street was built in 1878 by Dwight Kellogg of Amherst.

Continued next week

Eagle Watch

BY PAT CARLISLE Eagle Watchers: We have an egg laid Sunday afternoon, March 5th and viewed by many on local access TV, Channel 17 from MCTV in Turners Falls. We will hope to see another egg in three to five days; a third is possible. We know that an eagle should hatch in 35 days or so. We will be watching closely on Palm Sunday and for several days after for a peek at the small fuzzy chick or chicks. Their par-

ents will feed them fresh fish breakfast in the nest, daily.

We hope that Greenfield's Channel 15 will also feature our eagle family, as they have in the past. Those who do not have access to local TV can watch at the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls on a TV there on Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. A website is also available with frequent updating at www.nu.com/eagles/default.asp

Blood Drive

The community is invited to participate in a blood drive in Conference Rooms A and B at the Franklin Medical Center. 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. To make an appointment, contact Ellen at 413-773-2284 or Bill at 413-794-4601

DAVOL

continued from pg 1

It's time to really build on that, and create cultural activities around this historic and beautiful bend in the river."

Davol's position was made possible earlier this year when Montague received a \$42,500 John and Abigail Adams Arts grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council for use in the 'RiverCulture' project. This amount is to be matched locally, a task that has nearly been accomplished with the help of over \$30,000 in contributions from Western Mass Electric, Hallmark, Greenfield Coop Bank, and the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce. The effort seeks to renew interest in Turners Falls as a center for the arts and outdoor recreation. Among the partners in the project are the Hallmark Institute of Photography, artists Jack Nelson, Tim de Christopher, and Chris Janke (through his performance space at Suzee's Laundry), Alan Thornton Photography, the Brick House, Great Falls Discovery Center, Friends of Wissetinewag and the Shea Theater.

Among Davol's initial pro-

jects will be helping to form a business association in town, planning a 100th anniversary celebration of Northeast Generation's Station Number One hydroelectric plant in the Patch, collaborating with local musicians and farmers to offer music at the Wednesday farmers market, and helping to plan the upcoming arts walk on May 20th and 21st.

"I'd like to get a sense of what people in this town want to see happen, especially people who've been here through the progression of how Turners Falls has manifested itself," said Davol, who has a background in art history and brings extensive development and event coordination experience to her newly created position.

Since the *Montague Reporter* was founded in 2003, Davol has covered arts and culture for the paper, writing about and photographing downtown events and networking with the local arts community. Before that, she coordinated events and served as a liaison between businesses and artists through a fundraising and development position for a Northampton-based non-profit for several years, before creating a gallery

of American artisans, the Rare Finds Gallery of Eziba, formerly based in North Adams.

"That experience gave me an additional perspective on the arts - the business perspective - how to reach out to customers to provide them with what they're looking for," she said.

"I'm really coordinating the amazing things that other people are doing. There are so many ideas and so many great, creative people working around here. I'd like to see the downtown become livelier and bustling like it used to be, when all the mills were open. The town's in a different place now, with the waning of the old industrial base. Now a creative economy is beginning to take root downtown, and I'd like to see the already established businesses partner with this new economy to nurture growth for all, while respecting the town's past."

Share your ideas and downtown visions with Davol by emailing her at: riverculture@montague.net or call the planning office at 863-3200, extension 207.



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With the news this week that the Great Falls Middle School has been placed on the Massachusetts Department of Education watch list for underperforming schools, due to two years in a row of 8th grade math test scores failing to rise to

MCAS standards, the Superintendent of Schools, Sue Gee, has presented plans to address the way math is taught at all grade levels, throughout the district schools. Her ideas for these and other curriculum changes are given below.

From the Superintendent



Superintendent Sue Gee

Over the past several months, I have been preparing a new five-year strategic plan for the Gill-Montague Regional School District, which will be presented to the school committee and other interested groups in the next few months. This plan will necessarily have to take into account less than ideal circumstances for planning the kind of advancements and innovations our district needs. Federal and state funding of public education continues to decline. Enrollments in GMRSD schools are also decreasing, and the underlying demographics of the region do not foretell a major upward change in these trends anytime soon.

A smaller district does not have to mean a weaker one, though. If we adequately anticipate our enrollments and funding, we can actually plan to build more strength into our educational programs and stu-

dent services. This is precisely what my plan will address: How to make GMRSD schools as effective as possible, while accommodating the fiscal and physical realities we are dealt in these times.

Recent events dictate that some of the steps that will be part of the five-year plan should be taken more immediately, as follows:

Changes in Administration

Turners Falls High School principal Rob Morrill has announced his retirement as of the end of this school year, after a 30-year career in public education. Rob came on board in the initial stages of the \$32 million building project at the high school / middle school complex, and provided effective management of the various aspects of renovating a large complex around the teachers, students and staff. He was instrumental in changing the mathematics program to one that prepares students for success on the MCAS and after high school. The change from department heads to curricular chairs has also reoriented the school toward more emphasis on curriculum and instruction. We wish him well in his future endeavors.

Improving student achievement

With this change, we have the opportunity to create a new structure for the middle school and high school. With decrease-

BORDEAUX WHINE

BY DENIS BORDEAUX 3/3/06



ing enrollments at the middle school, and with recent notification that the middle school has been identified by the Commissioner of Education as one of many underperforming schools in the Commonwealth, based largely on limited resources to put innovations in place, we will be changing the administrative structure to allow the addition of a much-needed K-8 curriculum coordinator.

The plan is to consolidate the administration of the two secondary schools into a leadership team of one principal and one assistant principal for secondary education, keeping in place the middle school philosophy and providing a seamless path from 8th to 9th grade. In both of the recent state accountability reviews of educational programs and test scores, it has been evident that the curriculum articulation from K through grade 8 needs focused attention. The improvement of the MCAS scores in 7th and 8th grade depends on a consistent plan for improving the curricula, instruction and assessment in reading and mathematics in all grades leading into middle school. With this consolidation, no additional funds will be needed to create the curriculum coordinator position that would be responsible for the implementation of this critical plan.

In the last three years, the district has taken action to improve instruction and support for student achievement, even in the face of limited resources, as follows:

- implemented whole-faculty study groups for teachers and paraprofessionals in all schools, providing continuous action research on new methods of teaching and assessment
- implemented, in partnership with Northeast Foundation for Children, principles of the Responsive Classroom and the Responsive Design for Middle Schools to create respectful classrooms to enhance learning for all students

- provided a continuous number of graduate level interns from the UMass CTEP and Bridges to the Future programs, as well as interns from Antioch New England, and Lesley College

- applied for and received a Secondary Reading planning grant for the middle school for 2006-2007

- applied for and received a \$1 million, 5-year grant and implemented Reading First to upgrade instruction for students in K-6

- formed a math curriculum committee to pilot new math programs in K-8

- looking ahead to the MCAS in science, partnerships in environmental education are in place with the Great Falls Discovery Center, Hitchcock Center, UMass environmental programs, and Antioch New England

- after-school and before-school programs for 230 pre-school and elementary students provide an extended day of academic support

- 92% of teachers and paraprofessionals are "highly qualified" according to the requirements for No Child Left Behind

Budget for FY 2007

The budget for the next school year has been in process for the past several months. Fiscal collaboration meetings with Gill and Montague finance committee members, town officials and the GMRSD school committee budget subcommittee have been held periodically, to continually update everyone on the state and local funding news. Due to increased projections for fixed costs, such as fuel oil, electricity and health insurance, the FY 2007 budget will be a 'level service budget,' with the exception of the addition of an elementary art specialist and a part-time art teacher for the middle school, to begin to restore the cuts made in the past.

At this time, we are still wait-

ing for the legislature to work through the various House and Senate proposals for increasing funding for K-12 education, knowing that the cuts made in 2002-2003 have not been restored, and that many districts are facing funding gaps between what towns can afford to pay and the needs of providing quality education for their students. Indeed, without the needed resources, it becomes increasingly more difficult to invest in new textbooks and to provide needed professional development for teachers as they work to improve the MCAS scores.

All of these initiatives and changes will serve the students of Gill-Montague Regional School District well. With parents as our partners, the school committee as the policy-makers and advocates, principals and teachers as the educational leaders, and the collaboration with the towns of Gill and Montague, the district will provide the programs necessary for all students to pass the MCAS and achieve at their highest potential. Our goal is to ultimately have no schools in the district on the underperforming list, and to have all schools at optimum enrollment, which will provide optimum funding from the state. Additionally, with the improved educational programs, the schools will contribute to the vitality and viability of the communities the district serves.

We welcome your letters.
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American Dead in Iraq as of 3/8/06

US FORCES Casualties in Iraq as of this date	2,304
Afghanistan	273
Wounded in Action	17,703

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GUEST EDITORIAL

Vermont Nuclear Oversight Lacking

I could not help but be struck once again by the difference in the actions of New Jersey's Environmental Protection Commissioner and our recent experience with Vermont officials over the uprate at Vermont Yankee. New Jersey has intervened to oppose relicensing of the Oyster Creek Nuclear Power Station, and New Jersey radiation protection officials have demanded analysis of an aircraft's impact on Oyster Creek's spent fuel pool. (In most respects Oyster Creek's pool is identical to Vermont Yankee's.) The NJ legislature funded a radioactive strontium-90 study of infant teeth in the Oyster

Creek vicinity. Rutgers (state) University Environmental Law Center is assisting activists with legal counsel to oppose relicensing. Now, the NJ DEP Commissioner proposes to hold hearings on Oyster Creek safety issues.

New Jersey is among the most heavily populated and highly industrialized states in the nation, yet its regulators and officials appear to be aggressively engaged and proactive in their efforts to protect the public and the environment.

By contrast, regulators in clean, green Vermont, notably Governor Douglas's appointees in the Department of Public

Service, joined Entergy Nuclear Vermont Yankee in using every opportunity, every tool of deception, every bogus argument, to fight tooth and nail against an independent safety assessment for Vermont Yankee. It should be noted that the Maine Yankee independent safety assessment was called for by Maine's governor after it was revealed that computer codes were altered and never checked by the NRC in support of a 1989-granted 10% power uprate. The results of the independent safety analysis led directly to the permanent shut down of Maine Yankee.

Recently, the Vermont DPS advised the Vermont Public

Service Board that the NRC's tucky little inspection of Vermont Yankee would suffice instead of the independent analysis they had called for, and that the PSB should now surrender jurisdiction on the uprate. The PSB swiftly complied. The VT DPS lobbied and litigated against enhanced protections (such as those in Maine, Minnesota, and Maryland) for Vermont Yankee's soon to be constructed high-level waste storage site on the Connecticut River. While Massachusetts officials are vocal in opposition to Entergy's proposal to join the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station and Vermont Yankee re-licens-

ing application procedures, Vermont officials are mum. Vermont Department of Health officials are now over a year into bargaining with Vermont Yankee on the question of effectively *slackening* reactor site boundary radiation limits. Early indications are that they will soon endorse FEMA's latest initiative to reduce emergency planning zones around commercial nuclear reactors from the current 10-mile radius down to just two miles.

Vermont deserves better, and so do we all.

- Raymond Shadis
Staff Technical Advisor
New England Coalition

VERMONT continued from pg 1

safety component, experts say breakage could compromise the reactor's safety systems if, for example, a piece of the cracked dryer were to break off and lodge in a valve.

Cracks discovered late last year in the welded reinforcements of the Dresden II reactor's steam dryer in Illinois, which is similar to Vermont Yankee's, also raised concerns at the NRC about the stability of the devices.

Dresden II, a boiling water reactor like Vermont Yankee, was shut down for a refueling outage when inspectors discovered fissures in six triangular stainless steel gussets that had been welded onto the plant's cracked steam dryer in an effort to reinforce it.

At Quad Cities unit 1 in Illinois, the dryer broke apart, sending fragments flying down steam lines and risking a serious compromise of that plant's ability to shut down quickly during an emergency. Both Quad Cities reactors have been ratcheted back to

pre-uprate power levels as a result.

"To NRC's credit they're saying let's take a look at this," said Ray Shadis, technical advisor to the anti-nuclear group New England Coalition. "But what we anticipate is that they will once again sharpen their pencils, do some calculations and figure out that maybe they can run a little bit longer."

Last week Shadis said he didn't expect VY to exhibit problems at 105 percent because operators last year told the NRC that they had already run the plant above 100 percent.

"If they have excessive vibrations or strain at 105 percent and the executives from VY have already admitted that they routinely run flow rates in excess of 100 percent, I have some concern that they should permit the reactor to run at all," Shadis added.

Vermont Yankee officials did not return phone calls at press time.

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Gill-Montague School Officials Respond to Halt of Uprate at Vermont Yankee

BY COURT DORSEY

Gill/Montague School District officials were asked if they were concerned about the recent vibrations at Vermont Yankee as it reached 105% power, and confident that current evacuation plans are adequate to safely evacuate students from the Gill/Montague schools in the event of an accident during its projected uprate to 120%.

Here are their responses:

Sue Gee, Superintendent: "It concerns me that the vibrations occurred. We are stepping up efforts to review and revise our evacuation plans so that we may safely evacuate all the schools in our district. We are working with MEMA (Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency) to duplicate the existing plans for the Gill Elementary School and to address specific needs for each and every school in our district."

Robert Mahler, Principal, Gill Elementary School:

"Am I confident? Yes and no. We'll do what we have to do, but it's not confidence building that Vermont Yankee can barely get to 105% power. It means to me that people's concerns about the safety of the uprate were legitimate all along. The evacuation plans are based on 'best case' scenarios, buses arriving on time, etc. But if something goes wrong, it won't be 'best case.'"

Chip Wood, Principal, Sheffield Elementary School:

"There have been recent conversations among town officials concerned with evacuation and emergency planning, including the police, the fire department and others. I want to be sure that every available resource is being utilized, in the face of the uprate, to insure that our school children can be evacuated safely. It would appear that the

nuclear industry itself has concerns, since the uprate is on hold at 105%. They have stopped it [temporarily], and we need to be prepared. Our work is proceeding, but we wouldn't be talking about this if we thought the existing plans were fully adequate; so, no, I am not confident."

Vermont Yankee Uprate
Public Hearing
Monday, March 13th,
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GUEST EDITORIAL

Behind the Opposition to Airport Improvements

BY MARK FAIRBROTHER
MONTAGUE - Let's understand clearly what is going on here. The debate and questions and, frankly, insinuations the airport commission has had to deal with about the airport improvement plan are not really about the money involved. They are about whether the runway will be 3,000 or 4,200 feet long.

The airport commission, over the past seven years or so, has promised that when all the studies and permitting are done, the town would be able to decide whether or not to lengthen the runway from

3,000 to 4,200 feet. Then, in the process of putting a formal proposal together this past October, the airport commission discovered that the 4,200 foot figure we've been dealing with all along came not from a business plan, but rather from a mandatory FAA regulation, thus removing the length option from the town's control. Some people are pretty ticked off about that.

So, all of these requests for other options are about staying at 3,000 feet, the runway's present length. I have a question for these folks: how much extra money are you willing to

have the town spend to stay at 3,000 feet, when there is no objective reason not to go to a 4,200 foot runway?

If we were willing to go with the longer runway, for \$175,000 of town money, we would get a brand new airport, with extras. This is clearly the least expensive option, which will also have the largest return for the town. Why oppose this?

If you want to ask the FAA for waivers to their safety and design specifications, the FAA's first question is probably going to be, "Why?" Tell us what you would say to

them.

If you want to go to our congressman to enlist his assistance in getting a waiver from the FAA, when at the moment the town is being offered 97.5% funding for a project which meets all standards, his first question is probably going to be, "Why?" Tell us what you would say to him.

All planes designed to use a B-2 class runway can use our existing runway already. Future air traffic is going to increase no matter what we do. Professional studies indicate that noise levels will not

change. Environmental concerns have been addressed. Native American concerns have been addressed.

With these five points in mind, how does our quality of life change?

Mark Fairbrother is the chair of the Montague conservation commission and a member of the Montague airport commission. The views expressed here are his own, and do not necessarily reflect those of any other member of the airport commission, or anyone else on town government.

Sparks Fly Over Airport

BY DAVID DETMOLD

MONTAGUE - The airport commission mixed it up with members of the capital improvements committee (CIC) on Thursday, March 2nd, with airport manager Mike Sweeney hotly defending the commission's proposed \$7 million runway and infrastructure improvement program at the municipally-owned Turners Falls airport as a sound investment for the town of Montague, whose 2.5% share of the project would amount to \$175,000 over the next two years, barring cost overruns. As part of the improvement project, the commission insists the FAA will require the town to extend the current 3,000 foot runway by 1200 feet to meet safety standards, though both the commissioners and an FAA spokesperson have said the runway is safe for planes using it today. The commission also says the runway extension would not allow any new class of planes to use the airport, other than a small percentage of lightweight jets. Whether or not the runway is extended, the commission predicts a 17% increase in airplane traffic at the Turners Falls airport by the year 2010.

The proposal has run into flak at village meetings, and was met skeptically by the capital improvements committee at its first hearing last month. Sweeney was back before the committee to answer questions

last week.

Mike Naughton questioned the airport manager about discrepancies between the commission's past and present statements. "This committee and town meeting has been assured that keeping the runway at the current length is a possibility."

"If we had the credibility we should have, we wouldn't be in this position," Sweeney said. "We are now telling you the truth, and all the facts. If I could find someone who could get me out of this hotseat, I'd do it in a heartbeat. But I can't." Regarding the FAA requirement to expand the runway during the course of a federally funded capital improvement project, Sweeney said, "The town accepted these regulations in 1958 or 1959, when we first took FAA funding. That's when we signed away our control."

Committee member Doug Dziadzio said, "It was the impression of the capital improvements committee that the town is being presented with only two options: extend the runway at one cost or close the airport at another cost. I was interested in a less costly improvement: just the replacement of the current runway, and not doing the related infrastructure improvements, new hangars and ramps. We don't consider closing the airport a serious option. If the town repaved the existing runway in place, would the FAA cover the

cost?"

Sweeney gave an estimate from Gale Associates, a NH firm the town hired to prepare engineering studies for the airport, saying repaving the runway in place would shave only 14% from the project's total cost. That would translate to a \$21,000 savings for the town, from the \$175,000 estimate for the expanded runway.

Naughton countered that the commission had told the CIC earlier that it would cost only \$250,000 to repave the existing runway, not the \$535,000 Sweeney quoted at the March 2nd meeting. Sweeney denied he had made the previous quote to the CIC.

Naughton produced minutes from the February 2nd CIC meeting where the \$250,000 figure had been provided. "Is that incorrect?"

Sweeney said it was a preliminary figure that should never have been released publicly.

Naughton said, "The town has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on design work with Gale Associates; you'd expect them to give you an exact figure."

Sweeney said repaving the current 3,000 foot runway was a "less desirable option for town economically," as it would not allow a new configuration for new hangars to be built, to raise needed revenue and bring airport finances into the black for

the first time. Therefore, "the commission did not research that option down to the last detail." And, Sweeney said, "I'm afraid we have misled you about the nature of a waiver," from the FAA. "We already have an FAA approved Airport Layout Plan," for the longer runway. Without technical, environmental, or other considerations to prevent the town from meeting the FAA safety requirements for the longer runway, there would be no basis for requesting a waiver. If the town chose not to fund their share of the improvements under the approved layout plan, Sweeney predicted the FAA would take the town to court to enforce the safety requirements. Sweeney also said the FAA would not allow an airport to close. "The FAA has not closed an airport down [nationwide] in five years," Sweeney said.

Naughton decried the process as a sham of democracy. He predicted one of two possible outcomes. Either the airport will limp along and continue to run a modest deficit for years to come, or the improvements would give rise to additional recreational use of the airport, creating more noise for abutters and degrading their quality of life. In either case, Naughton said, "I don't think the town should be in the airport business."

Sweeney said he hated to be the bearer of bad news, but the time for the town to make that

choice was long gone. The present airport commissioners were simply trying to be responsible wardens of the airport infrastructure, make the necessary safety improvements, and give the town a fair shot at breaking even on the costs associated with running the airport.

Dziadzio asked whether a longer runway would have increased maintenance costs, and Sweeney agreed it would. He estimated plowing and mowing costs, and related maintenance, would cost the town an additional \$5,000 a year. Over the course of the 20-year life span of the proposed improvements, the town's \$175,000 investment, coupled with \$5,000 in added annual maintenance costs would come close to canceling out the commission's projections for added revenue from new hangars, Naughton said.

From the audience, Precinct 2's Art Gilmore asked who bears the responsibility to meet cost overruns on the \$7 million renovation project. "We all do, unfortunately," Sweeney replied.

Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio said he would contact Congressman John Olver to see if he could use his position as the ranking member of the House committee on transportation to speak with the FAA about a waiver of the requirement for a longer runway.

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Town Offices Prepare for Temporary Quarters

BY PATRICK RENNICK -

Local architect Margo Jones of Greenfield has made the bid documents for the new Wendell town library and office building available. Meetings have also started with prospective contractors for the two projects. Subcontractors' bids are due March 15th while general contractor bids are due March 23rd.

In the meantime the town will begin leasing temporary office trailers, to be located near the town highway garage. When construction begins, the town offices will relocate to this temporary residence. That move is set to begin this month.

At the February 22nd meeting of the selectboard, the assessors came before the board regarding a position for assistant assessor decided by last year's annual town meeting, when voters approved funding for a \$22,000, 20-hour position. The board of assessors wants to divide the position into a clerical position, and a professional assistant assessor. The matter will be brought back to an upcoming special town meeting. The assessors made it clear that the position would not cost the town any more money, and the intent was to simply divide the position.

The Mass Municipal

Association has asked the Wendell selectboard to send a letter to Senator Stan Rosenberg and Representative Stephen Kulik urging them to support Governor Romney's position on ending the diversion of lottery funds. There has recently been movement on Beacon Hill to phase diversion out over the next few years. However, Romney's new proposal would immediately return the full amount of lottery receipts to the cities and towns. Currently, the money is being diverted in part to balance the state budget. The selectboard passed a motion to send the letter to the legislators.

Grant funding the Franklin Regional Council of Governments received from the Department of Homeland Security has enabled the 26 towns of Franklin County to purchase interoperable radio systems for their police and fire departments that can communicate without interference from other radios. Now, FRCOG has determined a central communication facility is needed. The center will be located in Greenfield. Each county town will pay an administrative fee for this center. To this end, Wendell has been charged \$406 apiece for the police and fire department.

The Shea Presents

The Shea Young Stage Company will present *Light and Grimm*, written and directed by Erik Sherman, March 24th at 7 p.m. and March 25th at 2 p.m. *Light and Grimm* is a humorous look at some of the Grimm Brothers fairy tales. An evening introduced by the brothers themselves, the play brings out the inherent fun in some of the lighter tales, while staying true to the original stories. Four adaptations of tales featuring *The Hare and the Hedgehog*, *Clever Gretel*, *the Town Musicians of Bremen*, and *the Peasant in Heaven* will delight audiences young and old alike. The cast includes area actors 11 - 14.

Advanced tickets can be purchased at the World Eye Bookshop, or by calling the Shea at 413-863-2281.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WENDELL-NEW SALEM SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Union 28 Superintendent Driscoll Retiring

**TENURE MARKED BY BUDGET CUTS, SCHOOL CHOICE LOSSES
'07 BUDGET CALLS FOR \$28,000 INCREASE FOR WENDELL**

BY DOUG TURNER

NEW SALEM - Union 28 School Superintendent Linda Driscoll recently announced she would be retiring at the end of the school year.

Driscoll took over the superintendent's position in July of 2003.

New Salem school committee representative Randy Gordon said a good part of the recent Union 28 committee meeting addressed the search for a replacement.

Gordon also said that the committee explored ways to ease the burden on the superintendent who oversees the administration of schools in Shutesbury, Leverett, New Salem and Erving, with the additional member town of Wendell participating.

Driscoll's office has spent a significant amount of time promulgating the numerous policies which state law requires each of the schools in the union to be guided by.

Each school now has a color-coded binder that spells out policy on subjects from e-mails to sexual harassment.

At the March 2nd meeting, the committee approved, for the final vote, policies on school

councils, the school improvement plan and the discipline of special needs students.

At Swift River School, Driscoll had to deal with budget issues from beginning of her tenure. No sooner had she taken office before the state slashed Chapter 70 funding to the tune of \$270,000.

The school was especially hard hit by school choice, losing 25 students, but the loss didn't allow for any reciprocal budget savings.

Presenting the fiscal year 2007 Swift River School budget to the towns' school committees Driscoll noted the final figure was only \$2307 over the budget presented for 2003.

"We're right back where we were in 2003, the only difference is less kids, but gas, oil, electric have all gone up."

That budget tops out at \$1,581,491. Working with a figure for Chapter 70 assistance of \$571,866 from the state, the budget leaves \$1,009,625 to be raised from the towns.

Parsing it out indicates a decrease in the required minimum contribution from each of the two towns; New Salem from last year's figure of \$352,618 to \$335,272, and Wendell's from

\$225,610 in FY06 to \$201,910.

But after additional support from district funds of \$84,865 the total still falls far short of the \$1,005,625 required to run the school.

To support the budget the school will need additional contributions from both towns totaling \$387,578.

New Salem's share at 58.7% comes to \$227,508 and Wendell's at 41.3% is \$160,070.

The total appropriation from New Salem in FY06 was \$494,090. Wendell paid in \$333,634.

The total appropriation needed this year from New Salem comes to \$562,780, from Wendell \$361,980.

The school's budget will get a public hearing at the next meeting, Thursday, April 6th.

The Wendell school committee voted unanimous approval of the curriculum at the Lake Grove School in Wendell.

The superintendent and committee member Philip Delorey recently toured the school and observed classes.

Driscoll's only criticism of the school is a persistent one, the limited book collection in the library.

"It's still not what it should

be."

However she told the committee she had no problem recommending approval.

Swift River principal Sheila Hunter reported that the school may be out of hot water with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), thanks to long time school maintenance man Keith Fiske.

The DEP had found fault with a drain located near the school's fuel oil line, which posed the potential for spreading an oil leak if one was to occur.

After some research, Fiske

happened on the idea of raising the drain, which seems to have satisfied the DEP's requirements.

It was estimated that plugging the drain and re-directing the oil line would have cost about \$4500.

Fiske also extended the life of the school's communication system after he was able to find a used replacement unit for the system's motherboard.

The Massachusetts School Building Authority gave the school a rating of 1 after its visit in November. The system rates schools between 1 and 4, with 1 being the strongest rating.

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LAKE GROVE

continued from pg 1
Lake Grove. "The DOE found that not all AWOLs were being reported," said DiDonato, "and not all staff were aware of AWOL requirements. This is not just a concern of the DOE, but for the abutters, and a legitimate concern of the town."
Paulauskas replied, "We are averaging probably one or two AWOLs a year. Everyone, including supervisors and staff, are trained in AWOL procedures."
Abutter Joel Sears said, "I think we are up to seven or so AWOLs so far this year, since January." Sears said a youth recently expelled from the school after assaulting a staff member had previously shown up on his doorstep, at 11 p.m.
Planning board chair Dierdre Cabral detailed other concerns about Lake Grove operations contained in the DOE report, among them concerns that: "the school is currently serving students outside the age range approved by the Department of Education... Lake Grove at Maple Valley School does not have a written health care manual meeting all mandated criteria... LGMVS has not made all required notifications to the Department regarding substantial changes to the program and

physical plant as well as serious incidents and restraints resulting in injury... the School has not consistently provided copies of the School's policies and procedures to the students, parents and sending school district upon admission... LGMVS has developed a written set of policies and procedures dealing with discipline and behavior management, however, not all staff have a clear understanding of the school's runaway policy; additionally the school does not have a written policy on emergency termination that meets the regulatory requirements... all staff are not receiving the mandated training on the potential side effects of medications students may be taking..."
Paulauskas said, "I can give you our full response to the DOE report tomorrow."
Cabral said the DOE report identified standards that needed to be addressed but the concerns listed did not jeopardize the school's license. The school is fully accredited by the Massachusetts DOE.
Residents Jennifer Whitcomb and Susan von Ranson asked to be put on record opposing the Lake Grove School's expansion. "I'm glad there is a school for special education students, because there is a need. But Wendell is a small town to become a one company town," von Ranson said.
Mason Phelps asked permission for the conservation commission to be able to walk the land on Wendell Depot Road slated for the construction of a barn and outbuildings, to make sure wetlands were properly delineated. Paulauskas gave

him that permission. Clifford Gelinis, a school employee, said he had contacted National Grid to make certain an adequate distance would be maintained between a proposed access road and the high tension wires and poles that cross the school's property.
On February 21st, when the planning board last held a continuation of the hearing for Lake Grove's expansion, the board asked for documents proving that Lake Grove was an accredited school, along with copies of the LGMVS bylaws, articles of incorporation, and an outline of their curriculum. Paulauskas provided those documents on March 7th.
Speaking of Lake Grove's policy on AWOLs at the February 21st hearing, Paulauskas said the Mass DOE requires notification of runaways only for Massachusetts students, but that a majority of the students at the school are not from Massachusetts. Of AWOLs, he said, "There is nothing in the regulations saying we have to chase them. It is our internal policy to locate them and bring them back."
Abutter Mary Gilman brought notice to the board that the U.S. Health and Human Services Department launched an investigation of Lake Grove Schools and facilities in New York, Connecticut and Massachusetts last year, following reports of a rape at a Lake Grove facility.
She said she had provided documents about that investigation to the Wendell selectboard, who were to take up abutters' concerns at their meeting on Wednesday, March 8th.

Wendell Election May 1st

The Wendell Town Election will be held on May 1st. The deadline for nomination papers to be turned in is March 13th.
The following offices and officials are up for election this year: Please note the vacant seats.

Selectboard - 3 years
Theodore Lewis, candidate for re-election

Board of Assessors - 3 years
Paul Sullivan

Board of Health - 3 years
Donald Richardson Jr.

Planning Board - 5 years
Deirdre Cabral

Planning Board - 1 year
Vacancy

Moderator - 1 year
Kathy Anne Becker, candidate for re-election

Cemetery Commissioner - 3 yrs
Daniel Bacigalupo Sr., candidate for re-election

Cemetery Commissioner - 2 yrs
Vacancy

Cemetery Commissioner - 1 yr
Vacancy

Road Commission - 3 years
Michael Anderson Sr., candidate for re-election

School Committee - 3 years
Phil Delorey, candidate for re-election

School Committee - 3 years
Vacancy

Library Trustees - 3 years
Olga Holmberg, Kathleen Swaim, candidates for re-election
Call town clerk Anne Hartjens for more details: 978-544-6682.

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NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Assessor Calls for Townwide Reval

BY DAVID DETMOLD

Echoing every other party who has commented on the property tax neighborhood - called the Riverview District - created after a small number of properties along the Connecticut River and Barton Cove in Gill sold for prices far above their assessed value in the last three years, assessor Greg Snedeker told the selectboard on March 6th, "I'm frustrated. It's a numbers game with the state. I don't want to play the game anymore."

Selectboard chair Phil Maddern, who served on the board of assessors at the time when the state mandated that all properties in the Commonwealth be assessed at "full and fair cash value, said, "I don't envy you one bit. I don't know how to say this without offending someone, but personally I think this whole thing [creating the Riverview District] was a mistake."

Snedeker said, "I do too." And he said the decision by the current assessors to add more properties along Barton Cove to the district, following the sale of a two-family home on Riverside Drive for \$350,000, "furthered the mistake." But, he said he and JoAnn Greenleaf, the two part-time assessors (who stepped into the posts after the former assessors all resigned) had to do something to set values. "We had to look at the houses that faced the Cove. That

house sold for quite a bit of money. We had to postpone doing the right thing to make sure we could set a tax rate so the town could keep operating."

Snedeker, like Greenleaf before him, told the board the right thing for the town to do at this point is to spring for \$65,000 to hire an independent firm to come in, inspect all properties in town, analyze data, install new software for the assessors computers, train the assessors how to use the new program, and set new values townwide. Greenleaf made this pitch on November 28th of last year, at which point the selectboard told her that program might make for a tough sell at town meeting.

"If you don't do this, you won't have any assessors left," said Greenleaf, who works full-time as Montague's director of assessing, in addition to her duties for Gill.

On Monday, Snedeker reinforced her pitch. "If we don't get a new computer and we don't do a townwide reval, I don't want to do this anymore." Those familiar with the workings of the assessor's present data collection software say it is cumbersome and difficult to update, causing the assessors a great deal of wasted time.

"We have to get everyone closer to 100% value." Snedeker said he felt values had been rising throughout the village in the last few years, but a

dearth of home sales in the center of the village had made comparison difficult. "Next year will be different. We've had some sales up on Mountain Road and elsewhere that should affect the whole town."

Maddern agreed with him. "I wouldn't sell my home for what it's assessed at, and I don't think a lot of people would."

Senedeker said the assessors recently completed a blanket reval of lots that had been listed - without supporting data - as 'undevelopable' after one such lot, a 14 acre parcel on a road the town had discontinued but never formally abandoned, a county road that formerly led from West Gill to Factory Hollow, sold for \$360,000, after being assessed for next to nothing as undevelopable land. This action puts the burden on owners to ask for an abatement, to come explain to the assessors why their plots are undevelopable, for reasons such as the presence of wetlands or power lines. "We need to look at all these lots that have proper frontage and acreage... anything can perc with enough money."

Snedeker made an appeal for someone to step forward and fill the open assessors' seat, to relieve some of the workload that has fallen on the other two.

In other news, the board signed a lease on the Gill Elementary School, after many years of negotiations with the

Gill - Montague Regional School District over the fine points. Superintendent Sue Gee and the Gill committee representatives were presented for the formality, and said the school committee would bring the lease to their next meeting, on Tuesday the 14th, to be acted on.

Preliminary budget figures from the Franklin County Tech School point to a 30% increase for Gill, which will be sending three more students (11, up from 8 this year). Other departmental budgets were being gathered this week, with the highway seeking a 16% increase, and the police department hoping for 14% more funds than last year, and the fire department still adding up totals. The selectboard will begin wrestling with

department budgets, if not the department heads themselves, at their next meeting, March 20th.

Ray Steele came to discuss the fine points of the town's unregistered vehicle bylaw, after complaints about the number of unregistered vehicles on his property had been brought to his attention. The bylaw allows exemptions for antique vehicles (defined as more than 25 years old), farm vehicles, and contractor's equipment, and between the three of those exemptions, Steele said he felt his vehicles were pretty well covered. Maddern asked if he would be willing to move some of the more visible pick-up trucks and such out in back of his barn, and Steele said he would do so, which appeared to settle the matter.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

A Barking Dog and A Fire Alarm

Wednesday 3-01

4:15 p.m. Court process served on Oak Street.

6:45 p.m. Assisted with disabled vehicle on Pisgah Mountain Road.

Thursday 3-02

8:10 a.m. Town by-law offense investigated on Main Road.

8:20 a.m. Barking dog complaint on Walnut Street.

Friday 3-03

8:20 a.m. Assisted with fire alarm on Mount Hermon Campus.

1:30 p.m. Assisted with fire alarm at Stoughton Place.

6:12 p.m. Report of vehicle vs. fox accident on French King Highway.

Saturday 3-04

3:40 p.m. Report of a past larceny from a French King Highway business, report taken, under investigation.

7:45 p.m. Assisted state police on Oak Street with investigation and welfare check

from previous incident.

8:25 p.m. Assisted Erving Police Department with arrest at station.

11:15 p.m. Motor vehicle stop on Main Road, vehicle unregistered with attached license plates and false inspection sticker under investigation, charges pending.

Sunday 3-05

1:25 p.m. Assisted Montague Police with a reported fight on Avenue A.

8:30 p.m. Alarm sounding at Main Road business, all was o.k. and secure.

Monday 3-06

8:40 p.m. Assisted resident with an escort in Riverside.

Tuesday 3-07

9:10 a.m. Report of erratic operator on French King Highway, unable to locate.

11:55 a.m. Assisted Erving Police with medical and welfare check near the French King Bridge.

Gill Seeks to Fill Seats; Election May 15th

GILL - The Gill Annual Election will be May 15th, 2006. Nomination papers for the election are available at the Town Clerk's office and must be obtained by 5 p.m. March 25th. The last day to submit the nomination papers to the clerk's office is March 27th at 5 p.m. Positions up for election this year are:

- Selectman for three years
- Assessor for three years - Vacant
- Assessor for one year - Vacant
- Moderator for three years
- Cemetery Commissioner for three years
- Board of Health for three years
- Library Trustee for three years
- Town Clerk for three years
- Tree Warden for three years
- Open voter registration deadline for voting at the Annual Election is April 25th, 2006 from 2 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 8 p.m.
- Open voter registration for voting at the Special Town Meeting on May 1st is April 21st from 2 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 8 p.m.


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NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Study for Community Center, Police Station, on Warrant

BY PATRICK RENNICK - On Monday, March 6th, the selectboard signed the warrant for the upcoming Montague special town meeting, set for Thursday, March 23rd at 7:00 p.m. at the high school. Among the 17 articles on the warrant is an article seeking an appropriation of \$97,000 to be used for a combined feasibility study for a proposed multi-purpose community center, as well as a new police station. The community center, which may be located behind town hall near the entrance to the fish ladder on First Street, would house the town's senior center, main library, and recreation center.

"We're trying to firm up this project in case it becomes more [expensive] than we expected," said town administrator Frank Abbondanzio. He said some program income money was available if the feasibility study price tag rose above the budgeted amount. "We're still trying to sit down with the architect to make a game plan."

Other articles to be acted on at the meeting include money to

make up a deficit for monitoring at the old landfill, \$9500 in free cash to augment the tax title account in the tax collector's office, a transfer of \$34,168 from the sewer enterprise fund to pay for an unexpectedly high electric bill at the wastewater treatment plant, and a number of articles addressing collective bargaining with the newly formed Town of Montague Employee's Association, which will grant a 2.5% pay raise for clerical and office staff formerly covered by OPEIU, who have worked for two years without a contract.

Karen Larabee of the Konstanski Funeral Home spoke to the selectboard about the Memorial Tree Program. The program seeks to remember departed friends or family members through the planting of trees. Greenfield instituted the program in April of 2005. Montague will begin the program this year, with a \$5000 fund. This amount will pay for the planting of approximately 60 trees. Montague's tree warden has already surveyed 57

locations for saplings in town.

"Once the program gets rolling it should bring in about \$1000 every year," said Abbondanzio. "The program will then plant about four or five trees every year throughout all five villages."

"We are really thrilled that Montague has decided to do this," said Larabee. "I have received so many letters from families in the past expressing thanks for the program."

The personnel board has created a new position in the police dispatch department, titled communications supervisor. After evaluating the current system, shortcomings were found in the areas of judgment, complexity, confidentiality, and supervision.

"I think these factors are very important," said board chair Allen Ross. "Miscommunication in this position can be highly consequential." The position will be paid \$14.84 per hour, retroactive as of July 1st, 2005.

Lisa Davol has been hired as the downtown cultural coordinator, with funding provided by the Mass Cultural Council,

through a competitive \$42,500 Adams Grant aimed at revitalizing the arts in Montague. Davol will be responsible for overseeing cultural programs in Turners Falls such as art walks, museum tours, and music at the farmers market. She will also direct and oversee marketing and promotion for the program, in addition to creating a new town website. A six-person committee was formed to interview potential coordinators for the program.

"Lisa was the unanimous choice of the committee," said Abbondanzio. "We are thrilled to have her, as she is very active and creative within the community." Davol began her position on March 7th at the rate of \$25 per hour. Her term will last for one year, with the possibility of rehiring.

The selectboard has formalized an arrangement with the fire departments in Turners Falls and Montague Center, and the Montague highway department, assigning responsibility for care of flags in the five villages.

"Thanks to Art Gilmore,"

said Ross. "For an excellent suggestion for a simple solution to a potentially difficult problem."

The Railroad Salvage building is currently being evaluated by a structural engineer and contractors. A proposal for the building is due March 14th. A decision on the building's fate must be made by March 21.

"If the building is ever developed the reopened bridge will be used for one-way traffic only," said Abbondanzio.

A motion was passed to allow the use of public space for the Montague Center School Fishing Derby. Seventy-five participants are expected for this year's event.

Irene Greenleaf has resigned from the Gill/Montague Council on Aging. In a farewell letter she wrote about enjoying the ability to contribute. Greenleaf decided to resign after health issues began to affect her performance in the committee.

"This kind of service is extremely helpful to the town," said Ross.

NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

School Budget Continues to Rise

BY CYD SCOTT - On Monday, March 6th, the finance committee updated the selectboard on the progress of '07 school budget after a meeting last week with the school committee. The proposed secondary education budget, already up \$113,000 from '06 as of January 17th of this year, has risen an additional \$140,000, due to a recalculation of tuition costs for Erving students attending the Turners Falls High School. The school district has also suffered some loss of state revenue due to students choosing out of district in the upper grades.

Linda Downs-Bembury said, "Each kid that goes to Greenfield, that's money that

won't come here."

In fiscal '06, Erving spent \$789,000 on secondary education. This year's request will be for \$1,042,000. The '06 budget for elementary education was \$1,668,701. This year's request, which has not changed since the January 17th, is for \$1,767,615, a \$99,000 increase. Most of the increases are being driven by the rising cost of utilities, fuel, and health insurance.

The board will have a chance to sit down with the school committee to go over these figures on March 13th at 7:30 p.m.

Another factor driving up the school budget - special education - was discussed briefly. Selectboard member Andy

Tessier said, "If the kids need it; give it to them." Board member Jeff Dubay asked, "Don't we all have A.D.D.?"

The selectboard met with about 10 residents of Laurel Lane, about a proposed name change for that street, requested by the town. Andy Tessier explained, "It's a safety issue. If a fire truck is going to respond to a fire, they need to know where to go, and they can't be making any mistakes. Laurel Lake is too similar to Laurel Lane; it's as simple as that."

A public hearing will be held on the name change for Laurel Lane on March 20th at 7:30 p.m. in town hall. Hopefully, by then, residents will have had a

chance to come up with ideas for a possible new street name.

In other news, the board received a letter from the Boston and Maine railroad, informing the town of upcoming repairs to the tracks. This notice comes on the heels of a derailment on Thursday, March 2nd, that left three open top coal cars off the tracks between Erving paper mill and the river, just north of the point set for track repairs. According to the Erving paper mill general manager Tom Newton, "It might have been a switch. I don't know exactly what happened." The accident caused no harm to the environment, but Newton said the mishap had "great

potential to cause damage." As of Wednesday morning, Newton said, "The cars are still sitting on the side of the tracks."

On March 20th, at 8:00 p.m., a pole hearing will be held at town hall to inform residents of River Street there will be a new streetlight located on that street.

The board appointed Art Johnson to the Zoning Board of Appeals effective April 1st.

The town is looking for a seasonal worker to cut the grass and perform other maintenance work at town cemeteries. If interested, please contact Tom Sharp at 422 2800 x 100.

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NOTES FROM THE GILL-MONTAGUE REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Teens Use of Alcohol Detailed

BY PATRICK RENNICK - "The use of alcohol has gone up slightly," GMRSD director of grants and technology Marty Espinola told the G - M school committee on Tuesday, February 28th. "Binge drinking by students in the area is higher than the state and national average." The survey also showed a positive correlation between students who don't drink or smoke, and the percentage of grades in the 'A' and 'B' range. Students who were afraid of getting caught were shown to be less likely to smoke, drink, or take drugs. "Many students think, 'Everyone is doing it,'" said Espinola. "This is not true."

Rachel Stoler, of the Community Coalition for Teens, which has sponsored the county-wide teen survey for the last four years, said the incidence of binge drinking among 10th graders in Franklin County, for example, appears to be slightly higher than the state and national average, though less than one third of Franklin County students report taking part in binge drinking. Thirty-day rates of alcohol use and marijuana use are both slightly higher than state and national averages, while use of cigarettes among 10th graders in the county

is less than the US average, but slightly higher than the Massachusetts average.

The Gill-Montague school district has already taken a number of actions to combat the negative statistics, including offering a life and wellness course, peer mediation programs, after school programs, grants to allow police officers in schools, an "All-Stars" anti-drug program for the middle school, and more recently a program aimed at 30 students at risk of dropping out of school, to be run by the Brick House with block grant funding. "We continue to look for whatever we can to help the students," said Espinola.

"Are we able to acquire the resources we need from social agencies for these children?" asked committee member Richard Colton.

"School counselors do refer students to DSS, and other social services if needed," said Morrill.

"The community partnership has helped as well," added Jeff Kenney, principal of Great Falls Middle School. "If students have problems that exceed what the schools can handle, they can be advised where to seek help."

"I am concerned about alcohol poisoning," said committee chair

Mary Kociela. "I think it is a really scary thing that could happen to anyone." Kociela suggested distributing educational material on this problem to students.

Tuesday's Gill-Montague School Committee Meeting was preceded by recognition of 22 students in the Turners Falls High School class of 2006 who received John and Abigail Adams' Scholarships. The scholarships are based on student performance on grade 10 English language arts and mathematics MCAS scores. The number of TFHS students receiving the scholarships has doubled since last year.

"This is a very proud moment for the Turners Falls High School, parents, and community," said TFHS principal Rob Morrill. After a brief interlude of chocolate chip cookies and apple juice, the meeting got under way with the results of a recent health survey on the behavior of students in grades 8, 10, and 12.

The committee returned to the matter of the recently dissolved Elementary Study Group, and its final report.

"This committee cannot ignore the exercise we performed," said Langknecht, who

served on the Elementary Study Group until its dissolution. "The school committee needs to look at [the report] at some point, and it needs to be publicized."

"I think the only way to do this is if a small group of school committee members looks at the report and talks with former members," said Kociela. "I would be willing to do this."

"The complexity is in the size of the report," said committee member Ted Castro-Santos. "We should try to have a meeting devoted to reviewing the report and a subsequent meeting on what's not in the report."

Superintendent Sue Gee spoke about programs that are being considered to enhance the district's K-8 math program.

"If students were to take Algebra I in middle school, they would be able to take more advanced courses in high school," said Gee. A consultant presented two programs designed to increase math performance.

"Everyday Math," for the elementary level, stresses a daily approach where each lesson builds on the previous lesson. This program would require teachers to be acquire new training for teaching math.

"Connected Math," a program for middle school students, has been used already in surrounding districts. "We are really doing some heavy duty math planning," said Gee. "Our goal is to pilot the programs to 7th and 8th grades, and eventually go down to 4th and 5th and so on." If the schools adopt the programs, Gee is hopeful free teaching materials will be provided.

The 15th Annual Youth Conference will be held at the Great Falls Middle School on Tuesday, April 11th. The student-organized event will address a variety of issues this year including: racism, the impact of the media on youth, and the challenges faced by gay students, among others.

"This is the second time we have used the facility," for the youth conference, said Kenney. "This event brings a lot of kids and adults into the building and shows people what we have to offer."

Sally Shaw of Gill has announced she will be resigning from the school committee, due to her family moving from the area. March 24th is the last day to obtain nomination papers for open school committee seats.

Montague Seeks Town Meeting Candidates

Nominating papers are now available in the town clerk's office for Montague residents interested in running for town meeting. Nominations for town meeting representatives are by precinct; candidates must gather the signatures of ten registered voters by no later than March 27th. As of this writing, there are open seats available in five of the town's six precincts. Additionally, in all precincts, incumbents are running unopposed for reelection.

The open seats are as follows: Precinct 2 (Millers Falls and Lake Pleasant): one three-year seat open; Precinct 3 (east side of the Hill): two three-year seats open; Precinct 4 (west side of the Hill): one three-year seat open, two two-year seats

open; Precinct 5 (downtown Turners): one three-year seat open, one one-year seat open; Precinct 6 (Montague City and the Patch): four three-year seats open.

Montague Center, traditionally the precinct with the most solid representation on town meeting, has no open seats this year.

People who wish to represent their neighborhoods on town meeting must be registered to vote in Montague. Town meeting, which acts on budgetary matters, bylaw changes, resolutions, and other municipal concerns, typically meets two or three times a year, with an all day annual meeting on a Saturday in May. For more information, call the town clerk at 863-3200, x 203.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Assault & Battery

Thursday 3-02

1:18 p.m. Report of a larceny at the Tech School. A truck was broken into. CD player and CDs stolen. Report taken.

Saturday 3-04

12:31 a.m. After a motor vehicle stop on 4th Street, a summons was issued for operating with a suspended license and a lights violation.

3:44 a.m. [redacted] was arrested and charged with shoplifting by asportation (3rd offence).

7:14 p.m. Report of an assault at a L Street address.

[redacted] was

arrested and charged with domestic assault and battery, 3 counts of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, threatening to commit a crime, and intimidating a witness.

Sunday 3-05

8:11 p.m. Report of a motor vehicle accident on 3rd Street. One person transported to hospital. Operator issued a summons.

9: 54 p.m. Report of a domestic disturbance at an Avenue A address. Found to be someone yelling on the telephone.

Monday 3-06

8:29 a.m. Walk in to station reported a larceny at the sugar-house on West Chestnut Hill. Maple syrup buckets were stolen. Report taken.

5:40 p.m. [redacted] was arrested on a default warrant.

8:02 p.m. Walk in to station reported an assault at 4th Street and Avenue A. A male juvenile was arrested and charged with assault and battery.

Tuesday 3-07

11:17 p.m. [redacted] was arrest on a probable cause warrant from an outside agency.

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VILLAGE SKETCHBOOK

What's Your Moniker?

BY DAVID BRULE

MILLERS FALLS - Thank Heavens for Harold Fugere! His notebook was placed in my hands a few weeks ago by Sue San Soucie at the Carnegie Public Library.

Many of us knew Harold as the good-natured gym teacher with the whistle around his neck who listened patiently to every excuse in the book for us not wanting to go outdoors in late November to do calisthenics on Sheff Field or for not wanting to jump into the slimy communal shower afterwards.

He taught hundreds of TFHS students to drive, always with quiet amusement and a gentle firmness like he was everybody's ideal uncle.

But he did something else before he passed away a few years ago.

Turners Falls is the town of a thousand nicknames, and Harold set out to record as many as he could in his notebook, which he left to the library.

Apparently, his inspiration to do this was sparked after Foggy Bourdeau's funeral in 1993 when Harold realized that a lot of people in town are known solely by their nickname, with hardly anyone knowing their real names.

For example, Harold's classmate at St. Anne's School, Telesphore Ryan was known as 'Tutu,' and you can see why.

It would seem that hundreds of Turners Falls natives had the luck, or the curse, of being known by a nickname. Looking over Harold's lists, you're astounded by the variety and lyrical descriptive process at work. I suppose that an anthropologist or ethnologist would have a field day here. We know that Native Americans gave or took names according to exploits or tribal totems, European names came from trades and professions, physical characteristics, ancestry or regions, and so on. But Turners' noms de guerre defy categories: you can start out trying names attributed to physi-



Harold Fugere

cal traits like Bung Ears, Schmoz, Shorty, or Wheezer, or ethnic groups like Frenchy or Swede, Staciou or Pitou; you could go with adventures or exploits on or off the sports field like Cannon Novak, Bomber Martin, Bumper, or Machine Gun... But the further in you get, the richness, descriptive quality and imagination is dazzling: there's Buddah Allen, Lace Curtain Ambo, Yabut Berthiume, Hitler and Shadow Bogusz, Buttnut

and Peg Leg Desautels, Powderpuff Shea and Bugsy Morin.

Growing up, I didn't ask questions, but now I wonder sometimes: where did Joe Barrel get his name (you can guess), why was my aunt named 'Pete' and my uncle 'Skunk'? Why was another uncle called 'Tootsie' and my best friend's father called 'Bow Wow'? My grandfather Alan was called 'Abe' and his brother Hair Smith wasn't really called 'Hair' (I figured, because he was bald) but 'Herr' because he had studied German! Many of us knew the individuals called Chink, Bubbles, Sparks, Soupy Campbell and Jingles, but how did Dynamite Bakula, Pug Aldrich, Rainy Day and Fosdick Dolan get their names? And then there's Babe Fritz, Moon Mullins, Chico Paulin, Peachy T, Joe Dollar, Gizmo, Trip Trem and Murph Togneri. And we're

just getting started. On the playground we met up with Krebs Maynard, Hoppy Cassidy, Fenton Yarmac and Coots. There's Buffer, Sprat, Ding Dong, Butts, PeeWee, Stretch, Brush, Popeye, and Pink, as well as Tink. It's fascinating and exhausting. And as Turners Falls natives know, this is only a few of the hundreds of illustrious names Harold recorded.

What he didn't record however, was why.

I think it's time for Phase II: if you the reader, know the stories behind the nicknames, write them down and send them in to the Nickname Project c/o the Montague Reporter. It's time to get started on the next chapter of Harold Fugere's book.

By the way, although his students didn't dare call him that, his nickname was 'Googe'!

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Harassing Calls and Towing

Wednesday 3-01

1:30 p.m. Served summons at a Pleasant Street address.

8:20 p.m. Assisted Gill Police with car off the road on River Road. Two subjects located with their vehicle. Subjects were driven out and moved along.

Thursday 3-02

10:15 a.m. Report of harassing phone calls at an Old State Road address. Under investigation.

3:45 p.m. Assisted Erving Fire Department with a medical emergency at an Old State Road address. BHA transported subject to hospital.
8:00 p.m. Report of erratic operator leaving Erving Elementary School. Vehicle gone on arrival.

Friday 3-03

6:20 a.m. Report of vehicles entered on Northfield Road. Report taken.

5:09 p.m. [redacted] was issued a criminal application for operating a motor vehicle after revocation of license, operating without insurance, and seatbelt violation. Passenger [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] was arrested on a default warrant and issued a citation for a seatbelt violation. Arsenault's removed vehicle.

Saturday 3-04

10:40 a.m. Report of motor vehicle lost front passenger tire on Papermill Road. Sirum's towed.

7:35 p.m. After a motor vehicle stop on Route 2, [redacted] was arrested and charged with domestic assault and battery from Montague.

Erving Seeks To Fill Seats

The following offices are up for election in May 2006. If you are interested in running for one of these offices, please contact the town clerk Richard Newton, at (413) 422-2800, Extension 102. In order to have your name placed on the ballot, you must pick up Nomination Papers and have 20 valid registered voter signatures and return the papers by Monday, March 13th to the town clerk.

Open seats:
Assessor - 3 year position
Board of Health - 3 year posi-

tion
Constable - 3 year position
Library Trustee - 3 year position
Moderator - 1 year position
Planning Board - 3 year position
Recreation Commission - One 3 year position and one 1 year position
Selectboard - 3 year position
School Committee - 3 year position
Town Clerk - 3 year position
Tree Warden - 1 year position

FINDING BALANCE

Sunshine of the Soul

BY JENNY CHAPIN

MONTAGUE CITY - "Here comes the sun," sang the Beatles in 1969, "Here comes the sun, it's all right." Every morning of my life, so far, the sun has come up. Because I count on it, I could take it for granted, but I prefer to consider it a cause for celebration: one more day, one more sunrise!

My favorite time of day is when the sun has yet to come over the horizon but the daylight has started to gather. The world has begun to wake again, to return from darkness, to emerge from hiding. The stirring in the air, in the movements and sounds of animals, is like a promise of fulfillment. When the first rays of the sun ascend above the eastern skyline, followed by the body of the sun lifting above the mass of the earth, that is a moment of gratitude for being granted the opportunity to witness such beauty and transformation.

What does this have to do with holistic health, you might be asking yourself. Well, one of the places we can get most out of balance, I believe, is by forgetting the simple act of gratitude for how much we are given, here and now.

The fact the sun comes up every single day does not make



it less a thing of beauty, delight, and nourishment. Every morning is different, after all, in the external world as much as inside us. Yes, sometimes I'm so caught up in my thoughts that I don't notice what's right in front of me. Meditators call this "monkey mind" because of the resemblance to a constant chattering and swinging from one branch to another, an inability to be still.

But if I'm paying attention, I am more likely to appreciate what is happening in the present moment. My rewards are usually great, especially this time of year. Every day there is more birdsong, extra minutes of sunlight, new life. The coyote that came up behind my dog and me this morning, vehement about us leaving the fields we'd been exploring, may have been guarding newborn pups.

Certainly there are times when it feels like pulling teeth to find something to be grateful for. Whether it's the general state of the world, or closer to home and heart, our lives can feel overwhelmed with pain and sadness,

full of despair and wondering how to ever make things better.

Yet in the ordinary lies the extraordinary; we might just have to look for it from a softer perspective. For example, the feel of the sun on my skin when the temperature goes above 40 degrees in March, the tender touch of a friend's hug, a kind deed done by a stranger, music that stirs the soul. The most humble happenings sometimes hold the deepest connection, reminding us that we belong here.

Every time we open our eyes, we can choose how we see the world around us. Play peekaboo with a toddler and you'll see her doing just that: she covers her eyes - and she's hidden; opens her eyes - squeals of laughter, "Here I am again!" So much fun with something that seems simple and childlike but is actually quite a profound and amazing game: close your eyes and the world disappears; open them, and you have created it anew.

Like the sun that every morning emerges out of the darkness of night, we, too, are filled with light that illumines the shadows. Our capacity to feel gratitude, even in the midst of suffering, feeds these rays of our own heart, and reveals the sunshine of our soul.

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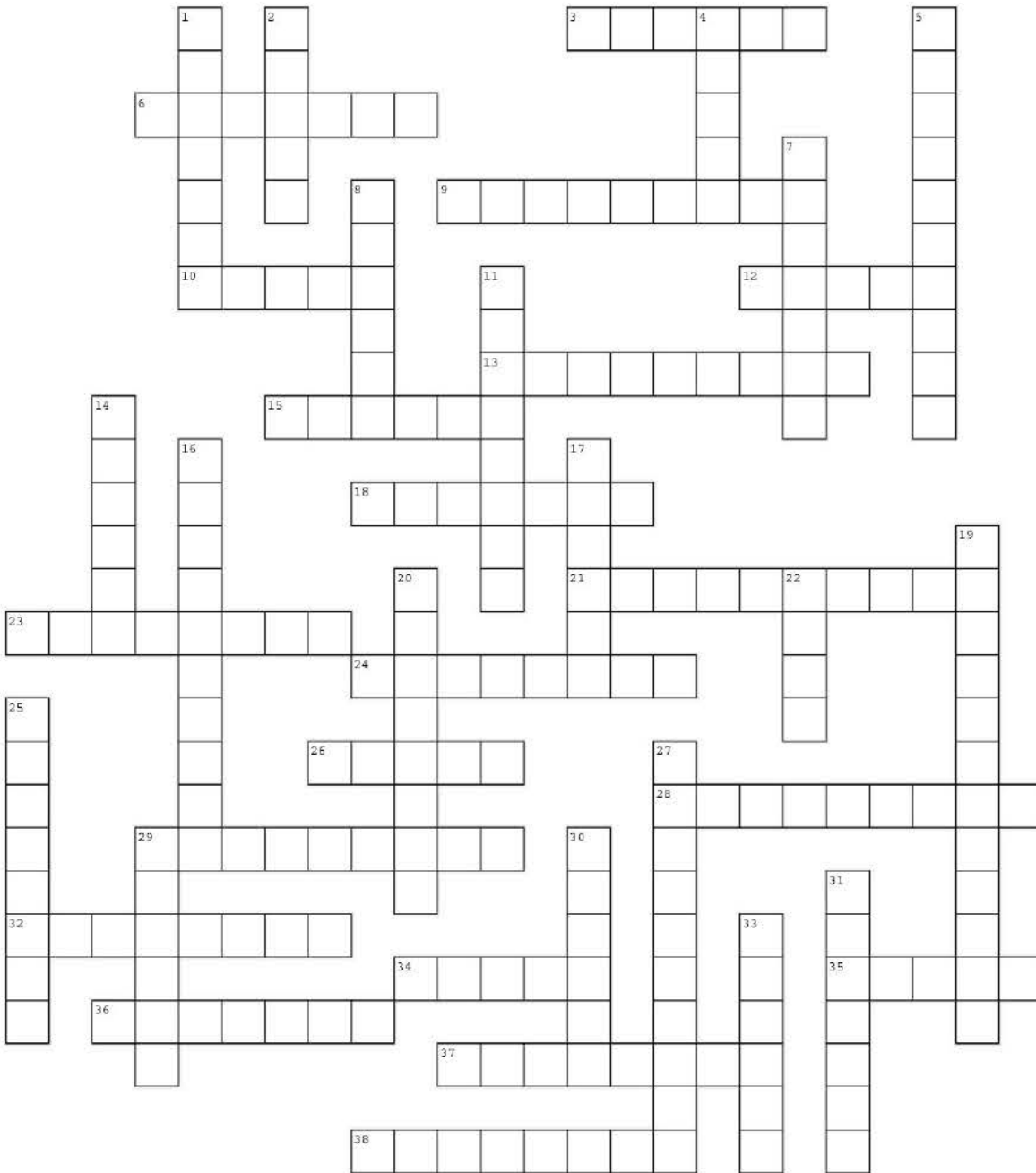
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Gimme Shelter America

by Bette Black



Across

3. This revival style of the 1840s began earlier in England as a backlash against the rigidity of classical forms. The style favored a meandering footprint, elaborately cutout bargeboards and cathedral style windows.

6. Early settlers built this kind of home based on and named for tenant farmer homes on an English estate and it has never gone out of style.

9. Countrywide style of the 1880s that began in England where exteriors and interiors were being designed by the craftsmen who built things, featuring an allover textured skin of shaped shingles, often a tower of sorts, tinted glass window panes and many colorful combinations of paint.

10. 1900s revival based on the English Cotswold cottage without the thatched roof, half-timbered with cement stucco filling, small leaded casement windows, sometimes called a black and white house.

12. Traditional portable home of poles and pelts, historically used by Great

Plains Indians such as the Cheyenne.

13. Style that began to appear in 1905 California, inspired by anti-industrial artistic design movement in England led by architect William Morris, noted for natural materials, built-in furniture and other millwork, gently sloping rooflines.

15. Architectural style found in the Southwest beginning 700 C.E. to the present, originally built by Hopi Indians among others and revived as stylish repeatedly up to the present.

18. Low and broad house style perfected for its climate and named for this Massachusetts land extension, originally built by ship's carpenters and made to ride shifting sands and withstand lashing winds and rain storms.

21. 1850s style borrowed from the Mediterranean, sometimes known as the Bracketed style due to pronounced, ornate roof brackets under widely overhanging eaves, also featuring the recent innovation of cast iron facade embellishment.

23. A Yankee who migrated to

California like so many others in the 1830s built his hip-roofed house of two-storied adobe with balcony on three sides, amazing his neighbors who copied the style which is named for this city and influenced the modern California architecture of the 1930s and 1940s.

24. T or L shaped colonial mansion of 17th century wealthy of Virginia and North Carolina which combined the popular main hall and parlor floor plan with kitchen and servants quarters located in an attached wing, the kitchen chimney on the far exterior and the house front facing the prevailing winds to maintain maximum coolness.

26. Revival style of the 1820s based on classical monuments of the Mediterranean region featuring massive columned porches over the entrance and lots of white paint to simulate marble.

28. Community housing of New York's Native Iroquois built on a linear plan that could be expanded to over 100 feet in length to accommodate extended

families.

29. Style named for America's most internationally renowned architect whose activity spanned 1893 to 1959. He championed the Prairie style and designed architecture to be a living, organic thing.

32. The first house style to be built in quantity by the contractor-builder for later sale, to varying degrees of success, originally influenced by Japanese teahouses, swiss chalets and log cabins, characterized by small size, gently sloping roof, large porch and matching stoop, exposed rafters, ridge beams and purlins.

34. Style, named by architectural historian Vincent Scully, was influenced by best selling author A.J. Downing's insistence on truthfulness in wooden buildings exposing important balloon frame members as design elements on the facade, as well as massive gable trimwork, very steep roof pitch and board and batten siding.

35. Architectural techniques became attuned to this natural energy source in the 1970s (as a world-wide fuel "shortage" affected most lifestyles) in both passive and active forms.

36. Classic New England style house shape named for the medieval storage bin it resembled that developed by extending a roofline over an added lean-to that often housed a kitchen/pantry.

37. Architectural "modernization" named for four successive English kings who ruled from 1714 to 1830, evolved from the building boom in London following its 1666 destruction by fire and eagerly adopted in America.

38. Fort-like structure with overhanging second floor often used as living space over a commercial enterprise with the advantage of being able to shoot down upon attackers trying to break in or set fire to the structure.

Down

1. Mass-produced prefabricated building developed for quick housing for Allied soldiers during WWII, shaped like a steel tunnel and hot as an oven though called a hut.

2. Colonial style brought to America by way of Holland that evolved into its trademark gambrel roof for more second story headroom and flared roof projections to protect foundations and entrances from rainwater.

4. Round or octagonal home roofed with sod historically built by Navajo Indians of the American Southwest.

5. 1960s house style a la Brady Bunch with sequestered formal, informal and sleeping areas of a house, some living areas half underground, to minimize noise factor and crowding.

7. Style original to 18th century America with an emphasis on symmetry and clean simplicity; It was named after the new republic.

8. Traditional lowcost vacation home since WWII with only a roof shape giving it its name, two end walls and a floor.

11. Elaborate home embellishment

style imported by the wealthy of the Mid-Atlantic states in the 1650s featuring end parapet walls of curvilinear shapes attached to an essentially medieval style plus a few stone carvings over the entrance way.

14. Teutonic medieval looking half-timbered colonial home style of 1670s Delaware River Valley that combined exposed braced timbers with brick or stone infill for walls.

16. Early settler's home style named for its proliferation in 1640s Rhode Island and built around a massive chimney and fireplace taking up most or all of one wall.

17. Type of home popularized beginning in the 1950s, evolving into doublewide versions; The ultimate portable lowcost abode.

19. Sometimes referred to as Roman Revival, this American architectural style features the classical pediment and imposing portico and is named for 1770s most original and prolific architect whose masterpiece is called Monticello.

20. Type of dome structure patented in 1954 America by R. Buckminster Fuller who gave lecture tours throughout the 1950s and 1960s promoting factory-made and do-it-yourself kits for lowcost shelter.

22. Style named after three Scottish-born brothers who had the biggest architectural practice in England from 1760 to 1780, employed a staff of up to 3,000 and published an elaborate 1771 book of their designs which was championed in America by Harvard-educated architect Charles Bulfinch who knew all the right people.

25. Home style favored by Abe Lincoln's parents, originally introduced to America's Delaware Valley region where woodland was abundant by Swedish immigrants in the 1630s.

27. Oblong colonial "big house" on early agricultural estates such as Washington's Mount Vernon, oriented on a river, the preferred method of transport for people and goods, with wide roofs and massive porches to shade the building's walls which opened many places to accommodate cross-ventilation.

29. Bark covered shelter built around a bent pole frame historically used throughout the American Northeast by Algonkian peoples.

30. Distinctive style based on the values of a religious community with an emphasis on utility, austerity and communal living with segregation of the sexes.

31. Popular style of the Southwest beginning in the 1890s that was more traditionally Spanish influenced following disenchantment with the eastern styles prevalent in the West since the Gold Rush.

33. Type of plantation house developed by early settlers of Louisiana and Mississippi to accommodate tropical atmospheric conditions that include a half submerged masonry cellar for the ground floor and raised porchlike galleries on every level, sometimes wrapping around all four walls.


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Help Wanted

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

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THE HEALTHY GEEZER**Caffeine Keeps Me Up at Night****BY FRED CICETTI**

LEONIA, NJ - Q. I've noticed that I can't drink a cup of regular coffee after mid-afternoon. It keeps me awake at night. I used to be able to drink coffee at dinnertime and it never bothered me. Is this another age thing?

Uh-huh. Sensitivity to caffeine - the pick-me-up in coffee - tends to increase as you get older. Children metabolize caffeine quicker than adults.

About 90 percent of Americans consume caffeine daily. More than half of all American adults consume more than 300 milligrams of caffeine every day, making it America's most popular drug.

Caffeine occurs naturally in many plants, including coffee beans, tea leaves and cocoa nuts. It is therefore found in a wide range of food products. Caffeine is added artificially to many others, including a variety of beverages. The most common sources of caffeine for Americans are coffee, tea, colas, chocolate and some over-the-counter medications.

Here are some useful numbers to help you determine how much caffeine you take in:

A 6-ounce cup of coffee - 100 mg

A 6-ounce cup of tea - 70 mg

A 12-ounce can of cola - 50 mg

An ounce of chocolate - 6 mg



ILLUSTRATION JESSICA HARMON

One tablet of Extra Strength Excedrin - 65mg

One tablet of Anacin - 32 mg

One tablet of Maximum Strength NoDoz - 200 mg

For most people, 200 to 300 milligrams a day aren't harmful.

But, if you are sensitive to caffeine or use of certain drugs, you may want to cut down or eliminate caffeine from your diet. Your caffeine consumption is worth discussing with your doctor.

Caffeine can cause restlessness, anxiety, irritability, muscle tremors, sleeplessness, headaches, nausea, diarrhea and abnormal heart rhythms.

Some medicines and supplements interact negatively with caffeine. These include some antibiotics, bronchodilators and the dietary supplement Ephedra. Talk to your doctor or pharmacist about whether caffeine might affect

the medicines you take.

In the practice of medicine, caffeine is useful as a cardiac stimulant and also as a mild diuretic. Caffeine is an addictive drug. It stimulates like amphetamines, cocaine, and heroin.

If you feel you have to have caffeine every day, then you are addicted to it. Eliminating caffeine suddenly can cause withdrawal symptoms, such as headaches and fatigue. These symptoms usually pass after several days.

Here are some tips if you want to chase the caffeine monkey:

Read labels carefully for ingredients and keep track of the caffeine you consume.

Gradually reduce the amount of caffeine you take in. This will enable you to acclimate to less caffeine and reduce the effects of withdrawal.

Start drinking decaffeinated coffee, tea and soda.

Brew your tea for less time to cut down on caffeine. Or try herbal teas, which are caffeine-free.

Check the caffeine content in over-the-counter medications you take. If you can, switch to caffeine-free forms of the medications you need.

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

Tidings of Spring**BY FRAN HEMOND**

MONTAGUE CENTER - It's the far side of winter. The snow, an island in the ice at the north end of the pond, repeats itself in mottled patches on the hill. The sun filters through the green branches of the tall pines that line the shore. The twigs of the oak, some still clinging to their rusty leaves, write dark messages on the blue sky where they have emerged above the hill. And a beaver-cut white birch, leaning before its final fall makes a hypotenuse with the earth and the supporting evergreen.

From the Breakfast Club window, the rising sun makes a panorama of delight. Here on the west shore the twisted old

catalpa's branches wait expectantly, the weeping willow sends yellow streamers to the earth, the shadbush, its trunk hopefully protected by a wire cage against the beaver's teeth, waits for its moment of glory. Memory of things past evokes hopes for the year.

Will the marsh marigolds and cowslips flaunt their yellow blooms? Will the snowdrops give pattern to the yard? Are the daffodils that started in the warm spell going to try again? Will the hepaticas nestle in beneath their favorite tree (don't forget to look)? Will the elderberry



explode in profusion this year? Will the cardinal flowers be a gift to the

agile, the forsythia join the pussy willows, the jack-in-the-pulpit and the wondrous ferns to gladden our tidings of coming spring?

This late morning, the Breakfast Club, little flocks of tree sparrows, chickadees and juncos that have found food at the feeder while the ground was snow-covered and frozen, have come, and fed, and gone. On dastardly days, birds are always there, feeding on seed and suet to get their little bodies through the freezing time. The cardinal who supervises, and the only one who does not scatter when a hungry blue jay stops by, is

nowhere in sight. It's late for them; bird time begins at the crack of dawn.

The geese are raucous on the river but do not sail in the sky. No mallards are in the pond; few crows are flapping by.

My east window, just feet from the swinging feeder, needs cleaning. Never! Some hapless bird might see himself reflected in a mirrored glass and bang himself into oblivion, or perhaps with the light just right, a migrating robin might see it as a way through the house. The world of birds and plants is not spit and polish, but casual, commonsense and early. The Breakfast Club waits for no one.

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JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

FRIDAY, MARCH 10TH

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

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

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 11TH

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

Comedy at the Shea Theater, featuring Rev. Tim McIntire, Dave Rattigan, Amy Tee and Joe Wong. 71 Avenue A in Turners Falls. Some proceeds benefit Turners Falls All Sports Booster Club. To be recorded for possible broadcast over XM Satellite Radio. Material appropriate for 17 and older. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Performance at 8:00 p.m. 413-863-2281.

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

Corn Beef & Cabbage Dinner cooked by parish leprechauns! Sponsored by Our Lady of Peace Church. Held in Father Casey Hall, Avenue J, Turners Falls. Dinner and Pots o' gold raffles. 5:15 p.m. Tickets - 413.863-2585.

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

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

Rt. 63 Roadhouse presents Turn

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

St. James Coffeehouse presents a performance by David Roth. 8 Church St., Greenfield. Opening performer at 7:15 p.m. and main performance at 8:00 p.m. 413-772-2213.

SUNDAY, MARCH 12TH

Corned Beef and Cabbage Luncheon at Thomas Memorial Country Club in Turners Falls. Starting at noon with cocktails, meal follows at 12:30. (413) 773-7098 for reservations.

Scandinavian dancing (on 2nd Sundays) at the Montague Center's Grange #141, 34 Main St., on the common. 3 - 6 p.m. Great live music played by Andrea Larson & friends. Swedish dances taught by expert instructors Jennifer Brosious and Tamberlaine Harris. All levels of experience welcome, no partner necessary. \$10 suggested donation. For more info call Andrea at (603) 878-4332 or Alice (413) 774-7771.

THURSDAY, MARCH 16TH

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

Open Mic at Rt. 63 Roadhouse with Art Steele, 8:30 p.m., no cover. Federal St., Millers Falls. For more info call (413) 659-3384.

FRIDAY, MARCH 17TH

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

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

Contra Dance with Tomczak Productions at Guiding Star Grange Hall, 401 Chapman St., Greenfield. 8:00 p.m. to midnight. 802-387-9380.

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY MARCH 17TH & 18TH

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 18TH

Turners Falls Sports Booster Club's 3rd Annual Fund Raiser Event at French King Entertainment Center featuring dinner at 7 p.m. followed by Frank Santos, The R-rated Hypnotist and Comedian at 9 p.m., DJ Rod Herzig til midnight. Limited tickets available \$25/pp. Past shows have sold out! Reservations for groups of 8 or more only. Call sponsors for tickets; Upton-Massamont Realtors, (413) 665-3771 ext104; Don Mailloux, (413) 423-3810. Call the entertainment center for other info at (413) 423-3047.

Award winning Canadian musician, Layah Jane, in benefit house concert 7:30 p.m., Cherry Hill Cohousing, 110 Pulpit Hill Road, Amherst. Award winning singer-songwriter Layah Jane is a young musician with a mission. Vocally, instrumentally and lyrically, Layah's music is emotionally compelling and multi-layered, but still infused with humour and playfulness. Her vocal range is nothing short of spectacular. This concert will benefit the Green River Doula Network, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing access, advocacy and support for families, doulas and aspiring doulas. Through the website (www.greenriverdoulas.org) pregnant women can find independent labor support and postpartum doulas, breastfeeding support, homebirth service, chiropractic care, massage

Baseball & Girl's Softball Registration Montague Parks & Recreation Department Register now for boys and girls grades K thru 6 for baseball and softball programs. Montague Independent Baseball (M.I.B.) serves youths in three different skill-levels (Rookie, Grade 1 & 2 - ; Farm, Grades 2 - 4; Youth, Grades 5 & 6). Parents are needed to help coach and umpire. Rookie Softball League offered for girls grades K - 2; intersquad games played Saturday mornings; Montague Residents = \$20, Non-residents = \$25 (includes hat/shirt). Senior League Teams (grades 3 - 6) play against area towns in The Small Town League. Games are held in May and June. Fees: Montague Residents = \$35, Non residents = \$40 (Fees include hat, shirt & pants). Parents are encouraged to help coach and umpire - no experience necessary, training provided. Registration is ongoing until Saturday, April 8. For more information, call MPRD at 863-3216.

CALL FOR ARTISTS ~ Next Jury Dates The Brick House Community Resource Center of Turners Falls is sponsoring its second annual Great Falls Art Fest on Saturday and Sunday, May 20 and 21, 2006 on the beautiful grounds of the Great Falls Discovery Center on Avenue A, in Turners Falls (just off Route 2 and over the Gill-Montague Bridge). Proceeds from this event will benefit the community-based programs at The Brick House. The Great Falls Art Fest is a juried festival, in order to assure a good balance and wide variety of arts and crafts. Our next two jury dates are March 13th and 27th. Artists who are interested in having a booth at the fest should call Karen Stinchfield at The Brick House (413-863-9576) to obtain an application or more information.

therapy, childbirth education, infant massage and more! GRDN maintains a listing of volunteer doulas, offers scholarships to aspiring doulas, and hosts periodic free events to educate and inform the public about doula services. Suggested donation of \$10 at the door. For more information, call 413/369-4049/www.jazzli@crocker.com. For artist information, visit www.layahjane.com.

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

Contra Dance with Blue Sky at Guiding Star Grange Hall, 401 Chapman St., Greenfield. 8:00 to 11:30 p.m. 413-774-2830.

SUNDAY, MARCH 19TH

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

The Pioneer Valley Symphony & Chorus presents their 67th annual CHORAL CONCERT. This concert features works from Bartok to Barber: A Choral Celebration of Musical Anniversaries. 3.00 p.m. at Second Congregational Church, Greenfield. Advance tickets are \$12.00 general, \$10.00 senior, \$8.00 student and \$5.00 children, available at World Eye Bookshop, Greenfield; Broadside Bookshop, Northampton; and online at www.pvso.org. Door prices are more. Info: www.pvso.org or (413) 773-3664.

FRIDAY, MARCH 24TH

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 25TH

Maple Sugar Supper including

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

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

NOW THRU APRIL 2ND

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

HOT SPOT TEEN CENTER • MONDAYS - Drop-in, 3-5, • TUES & WEDS - Ongoing Music Project, 3 - 5 • THURS - Drop-in, 3 - 5, Movie Night, 6 - 8 • FRI, MAR 10th, Open mic at bellybowl, 6 - 7:30 followed by Appalachian Still • FRI, MAR 31st - Open mic at bellybowl restaurant, 6 - 9 These programs are free (except some trips) and open to local teens. Some require permission slips. For more info: Jared at 863-9559. Hot Spot Teen Center is in The Brick House Community Resource Center, 24 Third Street, Turners Falls, 01376.

Sunday at 7 THE DEAD OF WINTER Free films for the frozen Sunday, March 12th The General Buster Keaton's masterpiece and one of the funniest movies ever made. www.montaguebookmill.com, (413) 367-9206

GREENFIELD GARDEN CINEMAS Main St. Greenfield. MA 413-774-4881 www.gardencinemas.net Showtimes for Fri, Mar. 10th - Thurs, Mar. 16th 1. EIGHT BELOW PG DAILY 6:30 9:30 MAT SAT, SUN, WED 12:30 3:30 2. THE SHAGGY DOG PG in DTS sound DAILY 6:30 9:30 MAT SAT, SUN, WED 12:30 3:30 3. BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN R DAILY 6:30 9:30 MAT SAT, SUN, WED 12:30 3:30 4. 16 BLOCKS PG13 DAILY 6:45 9:15 MAT SAT, SUN, WED 12:15 3:15 5. AQUAMARINE PG DAILY 6:45 9:15 MAT SAT, SUN, WED 12:15 3:15 6. FAILURE TO LAUNCH PG13 in DTS sound MAT SAT, SUN, WED 12:00 3:00 7. THE HILLS HAVE EYES PG in DTS sound DAILY 7:00 9:20 MAT SAT, SUN, WED 12:00 3:00

CARTS

continued from pg 1

munities of paying a deposit to use a shopping cart, and getting the deposit back when the cart is returned.

Hines said the deposit idea might work, but only if the deposit was a dollar or more. At that price, "You wouldn't see very many carts downtown," he said, because people would collect them and return them to the stores.

A woman named Jo, walking a shopping cart with a few bags of groceries and soda back from Food City on Tuesday afternoon said she planned to leave the cart "in the alley" behind her residence at 110 - 108 Avenue A, "because tomorrow I'll use it to do my laundry. Basically, I've

playing on one, I think, 'stitches.' But on the other hand, I think there are people who need them to bring their groceries home, because they don't have cars."

A spokesperson for Ace Cab in Greenfield, the only taxi cab company listed in the local phonebook, said the minimum fare for a ride from point to point in Turners Falls is \$9.

Hebden said, "I think the shopping carts have become such a common sight downtown that people don't even see them anymore."

But the streetscape committee has their eyes on the ubiquitous carts. After inaugurating a successful adopt-a-planter program along the Avenue last year, along with a litter clean-up drive with the Brick House that

large/painting of the downtown streetscape with aluminum foil dots showing where shopping carts tend to congregate. "They tend to congregate in the flat areas," Bander noted. "Some wind up on the steep slopes. They get left there." The selectboard displayed her collage, titled, "The Cartography of Turners Falls" on their meeting room wall for several years.

Bander said, "I find the shopping carts fascinating. They speak to some sort of abandonment thing in me." She said, "I have wracked my brain trying to think what kind of bus or trolley solution might solve the practical problem for people trying to get their groceries home," but couldn't think of one.

"Maybe kids could make some money returning them," she said.

This is a solution that at least one of the store managers along the Avenue strip mall said had been tried in the past, with some success. But for now, Food City, Brooks, and Family Dollar are each using different approaches to the problem, which all admitted was a costly one for their stores.

John Steiner, grocery manager for Food City, which maintains the largest fleet of carts, said he spends five

hours rounding up at least 30 carts a week. He heads out with his pick-up twice a week, and finds carts in all conditions, "between houses, in alleyways, sometimes in the woods. They vandalize them, leave trash in them; some have broken wheels, some get hit by cars." He said Food City spends \$250 to replace a shopping cart, and an unknown amount of money on a company that comes to the store to perform regular maintenance on the carts. Steiner said the store replaces

at least 20 carts a year. Still, he said, "You can't stop them from taking the carts home. You'll only upset the customers." And he said Food City had not considered investing in the expensive locking device needed to install a deposit system for carts to leave the parking lot.

Michael McNight, manager at Brooks Drug, said his store maintains a policy of not allowing customers to take their carts home. He said he planned to install poles in front of the doors of his store to prevent the carts from leaving the store. "We



PHOTOS BY SITA LANG

Hangin' by the Dumpster

will help our elderly customers carry their bags to their cars," he said.

McNight, who has been manager at Brooks for five years, said the store had been losing eight to ten carts a year, at the cost of \$80 to \$90 a piece, before instituting the policy. As for the ongoing problem of carts scattered around the downtown, McNight said, "None of them are mine."

A casual inspection of carts lined up beside the yellow brick building on the corner of Avenue A and 4th Street on Tuesday afternoon showed two red plastic carts with the Brooks logo sandwiched between two chrome carts from Food City. Over on 3rd Street, another Brooks shopping cart was parked in front of a fire hydrant, across the street from the senior housing on Canal.

company building, while another formed an odd tableau at the top of a pile of rubble where a contractor abandoned a foundation hole on the Avenue last summer.

Jemas, of the streetscape committee, said her group's efforts to beautify downtown had been welcomed by many community members, who praised the flowering planters and the clean-up work. "We think there's a ripple effect in people taking pride in the way the town looks," she said. "Visitors have commented on the way the planters look, and what that says about the town."

Until a more comprehensive solution to the problem of abandoned carts is arrived at, perhaps the new emphasis on Turners as an arts community could take a tip from past efforts to exploit the shopping carts'



Fancy Meeting you Here

run out of socks." She said after using the cart for the laundry run, she would probably "leave it with the others in the alley, or on the Avenue."

As it is now, "I don't think they are ever returned," said 4th Street resident Jean Hebden. "I only knew one person who ever returned her cart, but she's dead now."

Hebden said downtown residents use shopping carts "to bring their groceries home; kids play with them; people move with them; people bring their laundry to the laundromat with them."

Hebden said, "I'm kind of torn about the carts. I think they are ugly. I think they are dangerous. Whenever I see a kid

led to the use of all-weather trash cans this winter, the committee intends to address the problems of tagging (graffiti artists leaving their signatures on any handy building or surface) and shopping carts scattered all over the downtown.

So common are they, in fact, local artist Nina Bander has frequently incorporated the shopping carts in her paintings and collages as an archetypal image of Turners Falls. "They may be an aesthetic problem for people's vision of downtown," she said. "But they are solving another problem, a transportation problem. That's why they are there."

Some years ago, Bander presented town hall with a col-



Waiting for the Bus

Adopt a Planter Program Seeks Helping Hands

Spring is around the corner, and it's time to start making plans for the planters in downtown Turners Falls. Last year's 'Adopt a Planter' program was a success, and community members expressed satisfaction with the noticeable improvement in the appearance of Avenue A. Supporters who pitched in by financing or tending the plants were credited with homemade signs placed in each planter. The season was topped off with a celebration, awards, and tour of the Avenue.

If you would like to adopt a planter this year, or if you have questions or suggestions about efforts to improve the appearance of downtown, you are invited to come to a streetscape committee meeting on Wednesday, March 15th at 9:00 a.m. in town hall in Turners Falls. If you can't attend the meeting, but would like to talk with a streetscape committee member, you may contact Linda Hickman during open hours at the Carnegie Library at 863-3214.

At Family Dollar, manager Valerie Titman said she sends her help out regularly to locate her store's roaming shopping carts. She said she objects to able bodied customers taking them home and not returning them, leaving none for elderly and handicapped customers to use when they come shopping. "They are a convenience for the customers," Titman said. "I understand people don't have cars. Just, please, bring them back."

Tuesday, only three carts remained on premises at Family Dollar. A few blocks away, one of their plastic carts was overturned behind the telephone

artistic potential. Bander said on one April Fools Day, about ten years back, residents woke up to find an installation of a herd of shopping carts dressed up as dairy cows on an empty lot at the corner of 3rd and L.

"They had cow heads with horns," said Bander, "with plastic bag udders hanging beneath them." A hand-lettered "Got Milk?" sign was planted next to the cows, "Because where else do folks downtown get milk," Bander wondered, "if not from shopping carts?"

