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

Year 4
 No. 31

50¢

The Montague Reporter

REPORTER@MONTAGUEMA.NET

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MAY 11, 2006

Wendell Receives \$1.3 Million USDA Loan

JOSH HEINEMANN
 The town of Wendell has been approved for a \$1.3 million United States Department of Agriculture loan, under the Rural Development Program, to help finance the construction of a new library and town office building, along with the public water supply and septic system for those buildings. Selectboard member Dan Keller said the town received word of the loan late last week, and he said the approval, "improves the financing for the projects dramatically."

"In round numbers," Keller continued, "the four projects will cost the town \$3.2 million, of which the town has approved taking \$1 million from stabilization." The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners has approved a \$926,000 grant toward the construction of the new library. The USDA loan

will make up the balance of payment remaining for the four municipal construction projects.

"We've been hoping all along for this news," said Keller. "The USDA offers by far the most advantageous terms, with 20 to 40 year, fixed rate financing. We can pay the balance back at any time without penalty. And the interest rates are a bargain beyond our most optimistic expectation, at 4.375%." No bonding fee will be required for the loan, saving the town an estimated \$30,000.

At their May 3rd meeting, the board signed contracts and notices to proceed for Davenport Construction of Greenfield to build the town center septic system, for \$238,000, and for Handford Construction of Springfield to build the new town office and the new library for \$2,357,255. Construction should start by the end of May.

see WENDELL pg 12

Ja' Duke Plans to Expand

NEW CLASSROOMS, PERFORMANCE SPACE PROPOSED FOR INDUSTRIAL PARK

BY DAVID DETMOLD
TURNERS FALLS - Nick Waynelovich is a busy man. When he's not playing in a professional swing band, producing musicals or running the TV studio at Mohawk Regional High, he is orchestrating the performance arts education of 200 students at the Ja'Duke Center for the Performing Arts. His current production of *Beauty and the Beast* is garnering sell-out crowds at the Shea Theater, which he has served in various roles since its inception, as board president, director of the Shea Swing Orchestra, and the impresario behind the live fundraising Shea Radio Days on WHAI. Since he resigned from the Shea's board of directors to found Ja'Duke nine years ago, Waynelovich has brought 60 musicals to the stage there.

Now, Waynelovich is moving up. With space running out for students in his classes and audience members at his produc-



Nick Waynelovich, who has brought 60 musicals to the Shea Theater, hopes to build a performing arts education center and theater next to the Franklin County Technical School.

tions at the Shea, he has announced plans to build a performing arts educational center and performance space next to the Franklin County Tech School, on Industrial Boulevard on the Hill in Turners Falls.

Two years ago, Waynelovich, with his daughters Kimberly and Lisa, formed the family corporation that became the town's first tenants at

the renovated Colle Opera House, next door to the Shea. "When we opened Ja'Duke Center for the Performing Arts," in the 1500-square-foot basement space at the Colle, "we expected 30 students," Waynelovich told the Montague planning board on Tuesday, May 9th. "We opened to 100 students. Now we have 200. We can't do it with what we have anymore.

We are bursting at the seams."

Waynelovich said his company has been forced to turn away potential audience members at their last three performances at the Shea, and noted, "It is impossible to schedule more events (there) without impacting other resident companies' schedules."

For these reasons, see JA' DUKE pg 12

Lake Grove Site Plan Nears Approval

BY DAVID DETMOLD
WENDELL - The Wendell planning board appears to be heading toward approval, with conditions, on the contentious site plan review for Lake Grove at Maple Valley School's expansion. The school has proposed building a barn and animal pens on the former Fiske property at 97 Wendell Depot Road, to house a therapeutic farm animal program for students of the residential school. Lake Grove director Roland Paulauskas has said only the best behaved students from among the 67 emotionally disturbed boys and young men at Lake Grove will be allowed to use the farm program, and he expects

the responsibility of caring for farm animals to be of benefit to them. But abutters have spoken out against the expansion, saying they fear it will overextend Lake Grove's ability to keep track of its students, some of whom have gone AWOL or unaccounted for on school grounds in the past.

The planning board seemed to be struggling to balance the concerns of both sides as they continued to deliberate on the matter until late into the evening on Tuesday, May 9th. Among the preliminary specific findings the board proposed was one stating, "The planning board finds the barn, animal pens, gardens, main-

tenance buildings, skate park, and related farm activities are sufficiently related to the non-profit institution's (Lake Grove at Maple Valley) mission," indicating approval of the plan would be forthcoming.

The board held general discussion of at least four conditions for approving the permit, including one that would stipulate that Lake Grove at Maple Valley form an advisory board during the present calendar year, to include the police chief and neighbors, to advise Lake Grove on activities related to the use of land under site plan review. Other conditions under discussion include one stipulat-

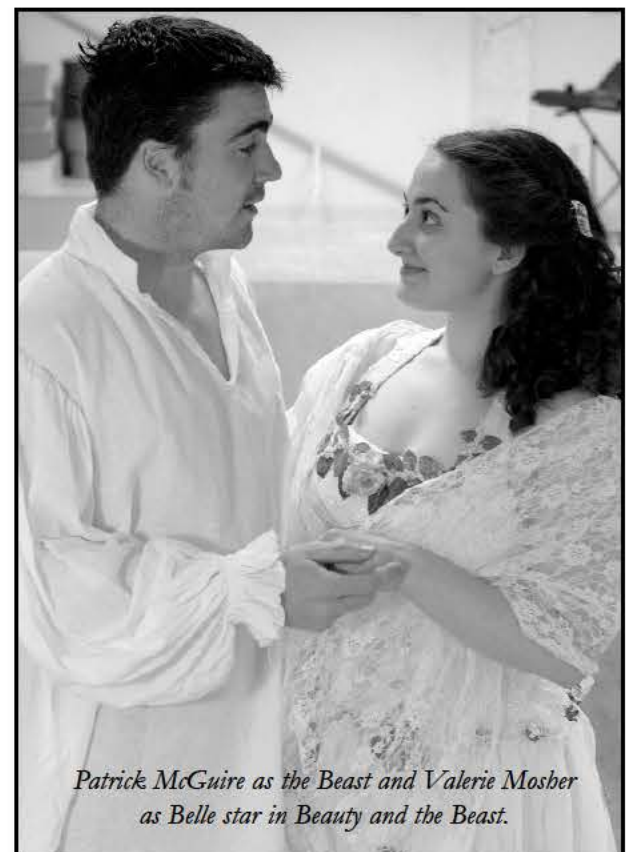
see GROVE pg 10

A Beauty of a Performance

BY NICOLE KAPISE
TURNERS FALLS - Who better to critique a fairy tale brought to life on stage than a seven-year-old? My daughter was thrilled to accompany me on Saturday, May 6th's to Ja'Duke Production's performance of Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*, the stage edition of the animated masterpiece. With her blue eyes the size of singing teacups, Alyson-Rose gave director Nick Waynelovich her ultimate review: "I loved the whole thing!" And I heartily agree.

With great music, magnificent vocals and fantastic costumes, the Ja'Duke company gives *Beauty*

see BEAUTY pg 14



Patrick McGuire as the Beast and Valerie Mosber as Belle star in *Beauty and the Beast*.

PET OF THE WEEK Interactive Toy



Buffy

Buffy is a short-haired cat in need of a good home. Buffy is a solid buff tabby (hence the name) and he's known as a big, lovable mush. He is playful and friendly and loves interactive toys, but he'll also jump at the chance to just cuddle with you as well.

He has lived happily with dogs and sounds like an terrific family pet.

For more info on adopting Buffy, please contact the Dakin Animal Shelter in Leverett at 548-9898 or via email at info@dakinshelter.org .

CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS Spring Planting

BY LINDA HICKMAN
TURNERS FALLS- The annual spring planting program at the Carnegie Library in Turners Falls is happening Saturday, May 13, at 2 p.m. Young children and their families are invited to join master gardener Beverly Whitbeck for decorating plant containers and planting flow-

ers to take home. Refreshments will be provided. The event is free and no registration is required. The planting program is cosponsored by the Community partnerships for Children, a project of the Massachusetts Department of Education. For more information, please call 863-3214.

SLATE MEMORIAL LIBRARY NEWS Wild Edibles

GILL - Wednesday, June 7: "Wild Edible Plants of Massachusetts" will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Slate Memorial Library in Gill. This workshop is a hands-on introduction to identification and uses of

our native plants for food and beverage presented by naturalist/educator John Root. Free, all ages welcome; funded by the Gill Cultural Council and the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

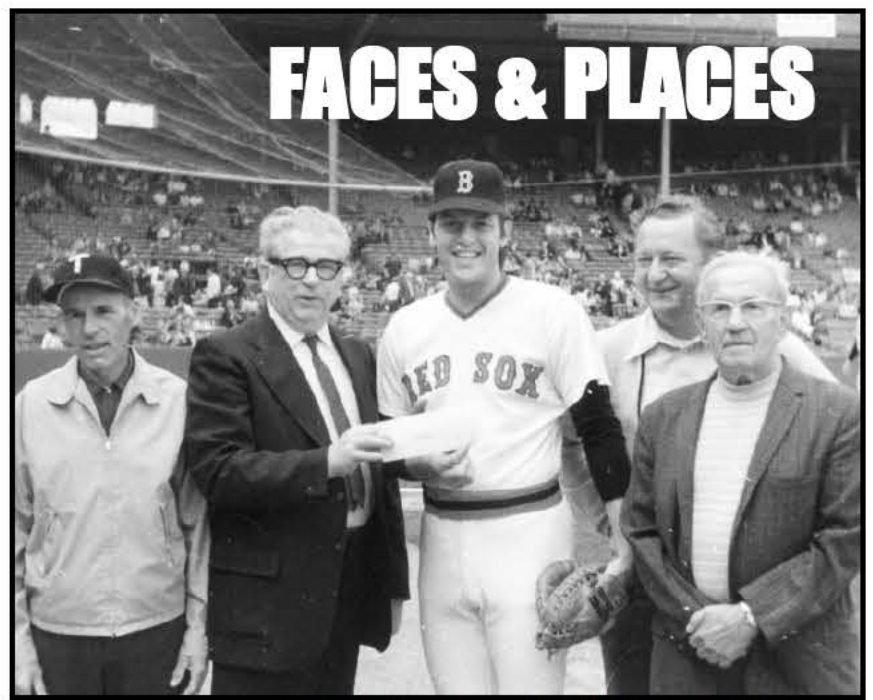


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MONTAGUE POLICE DEPARTMENT

This photograph, of a Jimmy Fund donation in the 1970's, is from the historical collection of the Montague Police Department. Former police chief Red Hughs hands Red Sox Carlton Fisk the check. From left to right, pictured are: John Skrypek, Red Hughs, Carlton Fisk, Frank Dudek and Tony Pluta.

When Mother's Day Became Peculiar

BY ESTELLE CADE

GREENFIELD - My mother died in early March in 1977. Mothers Day of course, is in May. Since that time, Mothers Day for me has become an odd celebration.

I'd say to my husband, "It's now a bit meaningless," and he would answer, "But you're a mother."

I'd reply, "Without a mother for me to shop for, or buy a card for, it somehow doesn't seem to count."

"But you count with us," he'd insist.

Of course, my children remember me. I'm apt to receive cards at different times, and phone calls, sometimes days early from my daughter Prue, in Australia, as Mothers Day is a different date over there. Jonathan and his wife Kelly always call on the day and send a beautiful card - and sometimes our schedules allow

us to get together for lunch. My son Alan, (who has always marched to his own drummer) and his wife might even call on a Tuesday, and a card - chosen with care and thought to make me laugh - will arrive eventually! I find it rather fun to have the day stretched out over several - it's less 'ordinary' that way. Now I also receive a dear card and a pretty present for "Nanni" from my 7-year-old granddaughter, Asa, Jonathan and Kelly's daughter.

Now, some thoughts on Mothers Day. Have you ever noticed, as you browse through the card department looking for a card for Mother, that if you read the word MOTHER often enough, it becomes MOTHER? Very strange.

Have you noticed that ads for 'Gifts for Mom' have changed a lot? Now they feature nice lingerie, pretty blouses, delicious perfumes and

colognes, no more handkerchiefs and fancy boxes of fattening chocolates.

Finally, the ads have surely been modernized, no more elderly moms in lace collars and bad hairdos. Once, back in the 1960's, I did a window display for our store, Cade's Flower Shop, on Avenue A in Turners Falls.

One side had a rocking chair, an afghan, pretty pots of African Violets, and so forth. On the other - our good friend 'Skip' Escott, (remember Escott's Garage?) kindly put one of his big red motorcycles in the window, and I did a 'modern Mom' display, with a helmet and vases of the brightest flowers we had in stock. We created quite a lot of comment along the Avenue!

Mothers Day can be many things to many people; these are just a few.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES May 15th - 19th

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, 15th
10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11:30 a.m. PACE Aerobics
Tuesday, 16th

9:30 a.m. Aerobics
Wednesday, 17th
10:15 a.m. Senior Aerobics
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, 18th
1 p.m. Pitch
Friday, 19th
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, Thursday shop-

ping, or medical necessity by calling Dana Moore at (978) 544-3898.

Monday, 15th
9:30 a.m. Exercise
9:45 a.m. Library
12 Noon Pitch
Tuesday, 16th
9 a.m. Aerobics
12:30 p.m. Painting
Wednesday, 17th
9:30 a.m. Line Dancing
12 Noon Bingo
Thursday, 18th
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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Medicine Mammals Visit Northfield Mountain

BY BETH BAZLER
NORTHFIELD - Laughter rang through the yurt at Northfield Mountain on Saturday, May 6th, as Native American storytellers Loril Moondream and Peter White Fox acted out a tale of coyote 'break-dancing' during an important ceremonial dance of the dog family. Puppets and animal skins were used or donned as costumes to share stories of how animals came to be and how we can live in peace with them. Between stories, participants were also introduced to baby squirrels, possums and a chipmunk, all current residents at the 'Medicine Mammals' Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in Wendell.

found their state-licensed facility. They and their volunteers work tirelessly to care for injured wildlife (mostly mammals) that are brought to the Center. Anyone who has cared for a baby through nighttime feedings, can have some small understanding of what it's like to bottle-feed eight baby squirrels every two hours.

People interested in supporting Medicine Mammals can find them through the MassWildlife website www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/dfw_rehab.htm or by calling them at 978-544-6144. They accept injured wildlife or abandoned young as long as there



A young boy checks out medicine mammal skulls at Northfield Mountain.

is space at their facility.

Weekly programs at Northfield Mountain vary from family-oriented ones like Medicine Mammals to adult programs like the 'Fly Fishing workshop with Jim

Lafley,' to be offered on Saturday, June 10th. Call 800-859-2960 to get a copy of the summer newsletter, or see it at: www.nu.com/northfield/news.asp.

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Almost the Third Annual Rabbit Run

BY DOUG TURNER
NEW SALEM - Now that you've rowed with the river rats, perhaps you'd be interested in a run through the woods with the rabbits at the 3rd "almost" Annual Rabbit Run in New Salem on Saturday, May 20th.

dash along the Quabbin shoreline, utilizing a state access road that enters at gate 27, before the climb back to the common via gate 25 and South Main Street.

The race's most memorable feature by far is the aptly named Horsebreak Hill; a long, winding climb of seemingly endless steps, that flatten out here and there for 50 or more yards before upping the grade a notch with each succeeding ascent.

Runners are needed for competition in the fledgling 10K roadrace, which is the only one of its kind to incorporate the protected lands of the Quabbin Reservoir in its course.

Named for a discontinued railroad line that connected Athol and Springfield until making its last run June 1st, 1935, the Rabbit Run had its inaugural in 2003 as part of the celebration commemorating the 250th anniversary of the founding of New Salem.

Given a chance, Horsebreak Hill could make a name for New Salem's Rabbit Run among running circles, for it surely presents a challenge to the best of distance runners.

But the Rabbit Run is not just a road race. It's also a three-mile walk through the woods, a perfect way to spend a Saturday in May with friends and neighbors - and rest assured, you won't have to deal

with Horsebreak Hill.

After the road race runners and walkers can take advantage of massage therapists on hand before taking in the all day Environmental Fair and Craft Fair, or the always interesting Birds of Prey Presentation, this year featuring Tom Ricardi of the Massachusetts Raptor Rehabilitation and Captive Bald Eagle Breeding Facility in Conway.

Or - if you're up to it, take a stroll to New Salem's nearby eastern overlook of the North Quabbin region. You'll find the view is one of the finest in the state.

New Salem's musical couple, The Hendersons, "will all be there," providing entertainment and fun in their own inimitable way.

Registration begins at 9 a.m. on the day of the race and costs \$20. Start time is 10 a.m. The 10 kilometer event will be pro-

fessionally timed by Accu-Spec.

Contestants can pre-register for \$14 by filling out the entry form and sending a check or money order payable to Town of New Salem, Recreation Dept. at Town of New Salem, 15 South Main Street, New Salem, MA 01355. Entries must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped #9 business size envelope.

For more information contact the Rabbit Run Committee at trconde@yahoo.com.

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Memorial Day Parade Returns to Montague

BY ART GILMORE

On Memorial Day, May 29th, the Trustees of the Veterans Memorial will hold a parade to honor those men and women who have served our country, and died defending it.

This will be the first time in many years an event of this kind has been planned in Montague, and we ask the support of the citizens of the five villages, to honor these men and women.

In past years, Veterans Agent Leo Parent has organized a ceremony at the Soldiers Memorial to honor the veterans. This year we decided to bring back the parade, and Mr. Parent agreed to offer his assistance.

The Veterans Memorial on Avenue A in Turners Falls honors all veterans from the five villages of the town of

Montague. In order to honor these men and women who served, this beautiful memorial has been placed in the village of Turners Falls. The memorial plaques contain the names of all those who resided in Montague at their time of enlistment, from WWII through the Korean Police Action.

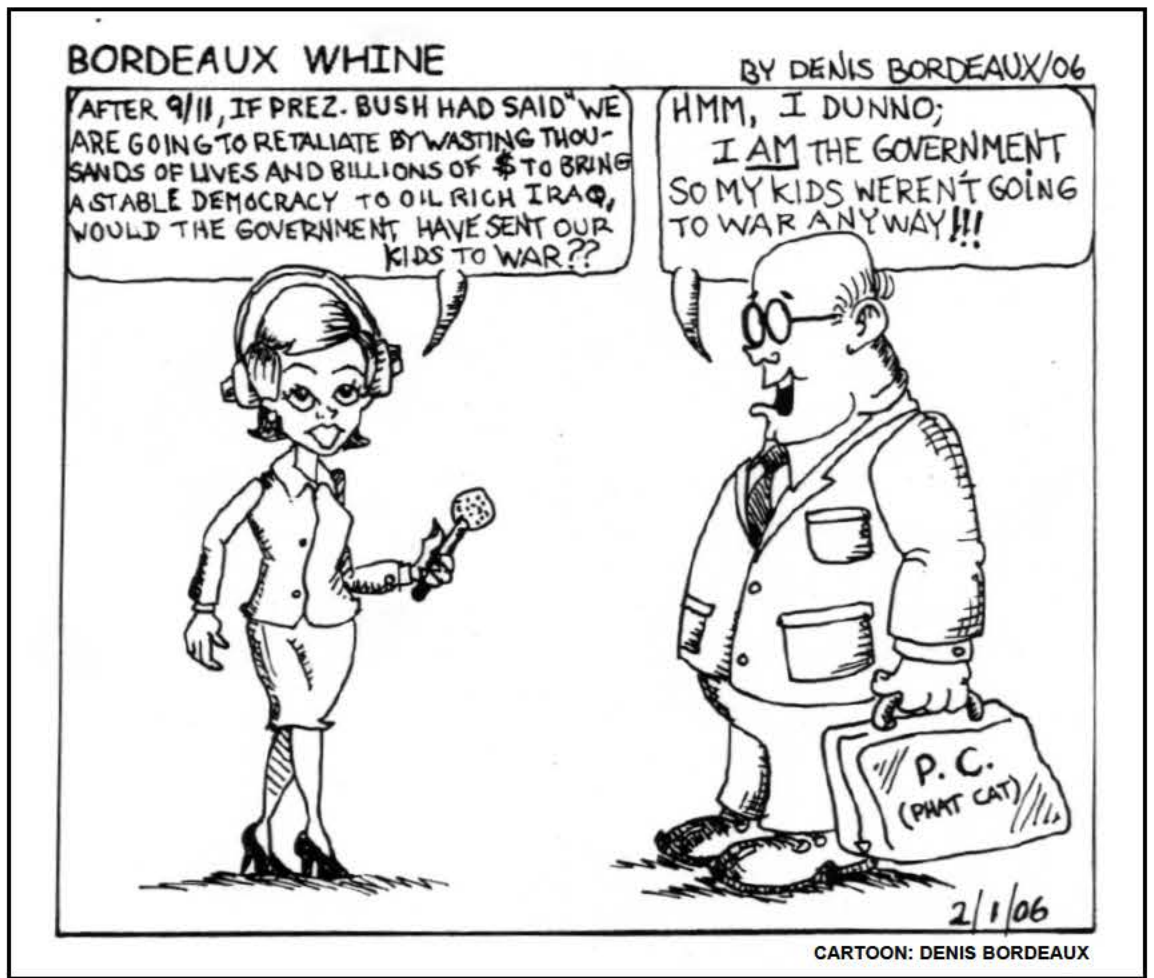
Efforts are continuing under the leadership of the Trustees chairman Michael Cenzano, and members Donald Girard and Chris Boutwell, to redo the monuments and include the veterans from the more recent conflicts, and also to move the WWI monument to the same location. This plan has been held up by the failure of the state legislature to release funds tied in with the transportation bond. Your continued support would be deeply appreciated.

Please bring your children and grandchildren to the parade on May 29th and show them this community really appreciates those men and women who gave up their lives for all of us, and gave these children the opportunity to enjoy freedom.

Forget your present political thoughts for one day and honor these men and women. I hope to see you at the parade, and the ceremony that follows at the Memorial. The parade steps off at 10:30 a.m., from 2nd Street and Avenue A, and continues down the Avenue to the Veterans Memorial. The ceremony at the Memorial will be held at 11:00 a.m. You will all be home at noon.

Thank you.

Art Gilmore, SMS, USAF, retired, is a Trustee of the Montague Veterans Memorial.



CARTOON: DENIS BORDEAUX

GUEST EDITORIAL

John Kenneth Galbraith, a Giant of a Man

BY JOE PARZYCH

GILL - At a writers conference near Dartmouth College in 1999, a speaker using a public address system was being drowned out by a booming voice at the back of the room. The speaker grew irritated and asked someone to quiet that person down. Everyone turned to look. That person, a tall, solidly built man, was none other than John Kenneth Galbraith, who had arrived late for his keynote address, having just returned from attending John Kennedy Jr.'s funeral. The people arranging books at the table looked like midgets standing next to the 6'8" Galbraith.

The audience had expected a dry, boring speech from the world-famous economist. His views on the state of the nation, the world, and on writing, were anything but boring. When he spoke, he didn't need a PA system. His voice projected to the far reaches of the hall. He spoke out against half the national budget going to the military. He said he agreed with Eisenhower (a Republican) who had also warned of the dangers of the military-industrial complex diverting so much national treasure to arms, and the tendency to then go about looking for places to become entangled in prolonged military operations.

He told of warning President Kennedy to avoid getting involved in military adventures in Southeast Asia, when he served as ambassador to India. He warned President Reagan about coupling his massive military buildup with Keynesian trickle-down tax cuts. He opposed across-the-board tax cuts, which largely fueled more



John Kenneth Galbraith died on April 29 at age 97. Here, Galbraith is shown speaking at a 1999 New England Writers Conference.

private consumption - bigger houses and faster cars - rather than investment in "public goods" - education, public health and support for the poor. His plainspoken views on supply side tax cut economics brought a laugh when he used his favorite example. "After feeding oats to the horses, one should not gaze too closely at what trickles down to the sparrows."

Galbraith said he had accurately warned Reagan that the national debt would soar out of sight when tax cuts were coupled with a costly arms buildup, and would ultimately fuel inflation and recession. "Money spent paying interest on the national debt buys nothing." I wonder if he ever warned George W. Bush against adopting tax-cuts along the lines of what George H. Bush called "voodoo economics."

I had a chance to meet Galbraith when I bought his book, *Name Dropping*. The book is a delight, written in a humorous and self-deprecating style. I always got a pleasant reply to any letter I sent him, even when I pointed out that he had neglected to mention the Civilian Conservation Corps

in *Name Dropping*, when the CCC had done so much good during the Great Depression. I treasure that correspondence, the most recent note arriving in the past couple of months, when he was in failing health.

Galbraith was no book-smart but real-life fool. He made a fortune investing in the stock market using his ability to accurately foresee the economic future. He was a giant in every way. A shame our president does not read Galbraith's books. A shame our president does not read.

If our Congress and our presidents had heeded Galbraith's warnings and not sent our young men to be killed on military adventures in Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Iraq and now, perhaps, Iran, we would not have a mountain of debt, the aid to schools would have not been cut and we wouldn't be faced with burdensome taxes and a Proposition 2½ override, for more of a burden, and our young men would be home with their families instead of remembered by more and more flags waving by the library.

We welcome your letters.
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What if the Montague School Override Fails?

BY DAVID DETMOLD - On Saturday, by a vote of 57 - 23, voters at Montague's annual town meeting decided to put a \$600,000 override question in support of the \$7,987,092 Fiscal '07 Gill-Montague regional school budget in front of the voters on Tuesday, June 6th. Though an informal survey of a few of those voters (below) indicated support for the measure, it also turned up anxiety about the high property taxes Montague residents already pay, and some outright resistance to

seeing those rates increase. These cross currents were in evidence the last time Montague voters went to the polls on an override question for the schools. A year after passing a hefty debt exclusion for the renovation of the high school and middle school, on August 4th, 2003, Montague turned down a \$326,000 school override by a vote of 910 to 557 (roughly 62% to 38%). Nearly a third of the town's registered voters turned out in the middle of summer for the vote, the

highest percentage for a municipal election in a decade. Subsequently, the towns of Gill and Montague agreed to a \$5.5 million school budget at special town meetings. Twenty-four teachers and staff were let go that year; less than a third of those positions have since been restored. So it is worth asking what will happen to the schools if the voters turn down a much larger override this year. GMRSD Superintendent Sue Gee predicted if the override fails, and the school committee decides to

cut \$600,000 out of the budget, 18 teachers would lose their jobs. Most of the cuts would come from the elementary schools. Perhaps two of the 18 middle school teachers would receive pink slips. But the superintendent said, "We'd try not to lose any teachers at the high school, because we already have classes of 28 and upwards there. We want to keep kids in the high school in classes instead of study halls." Classrooms of up to 29 students would be likely in the ele-

mentary school, Gee said. If a recommendation were made to close one of the district elementary schools, Gee said 8 out of 9 school committee members would have to vote in favor to enact the closure. She cited Montague Center School, which at 93 students is the school with the smallest student population, as a hypothetical example. If Montague Center School were closed, the district would realize a savings of about \$175,000, Gee said. (During the see **VERRIDE** page 6

WORD ON THE AVENUE

The School Override: Yesterday, we asked the following question to ten people at random outside of Food City who identified themselves as registered to vote in Montague. "The town has scheduled a \$600,000 override election for the schools on June 6th. Will you support it? Why or why not?"



"If they don't do it, they'll have to close schools. We've got to do it for education. The whole world is a mess."
-Fran Hemond
Montague Center



"It's on the table with me and my wife. We're talking about it. We're supporters of education. But why is there an override vote so soon after we spent \$30 million for a new school?"
-Wayne Mullen
Turners Falls



"I don't support it. I think the school has gotten a lot of money in the past several years. We have to draw the line somewhere."
-Nancy Dluagoenski
Millers Falls



"I support it, but I am very uneasy as a retired teacher on a fixed pension. My taxes went up 300 bucks last year. I don't know how much more we can take."
-Mary Melonis
Montague Center



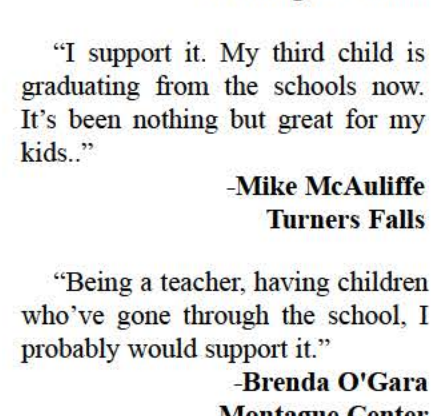
"I don't support it. I think the schools are fine as they are. I can't even get them to put a park in my village."
-Linda Siteman
Montague City



"I don't want to see my taxes go up. But for the schools, I think you have to."
-JoAnne Kretzenger
Turners Falls



"I support it. I'm going to school to become a teacher. I have three children."
-Cody Fournier
Turners Falls



"I support it. My third child is graduating from the schools now. It's been nothing but great for my kids."
-Mike McAuliffe
Turners Falls

"Being a teacher, having children who've gone through the school, I probably would support it."
-Brenda O'Gara
Montague Center

"It's crazy. These taxpayers in the town can't afford that. The taxpayers can't afford what they're paying now."
-Harold McCormick
Turners Falls

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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Tessier Tapped as Board Chair

BY CYD SCOTT - Andy Tessier was elected *in absentia* as the chairman of the Erving selectboard, by unanimous vote of the two members present on Monday, May 8th. Congratulations, Andy.

The board accepted a grant for the senior center in the amount of \$3,000, from the Executive Office of Elder affairs. The board reviewed letters from fire chief Mick LaClaire, regarding progress on completing reports about the town's emergency management and hazardous waste handling plans. Completed reports are necessary to qualify for certain state and federal grants.

The town awarded a bid of \$62,785 to the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association for liability insurance for town buildings and property, vehicles, and public officials. Discussion ensued over a \$1 million cap on liability claims. "If the cops go flying down the road

and kill someone crossing the street, you got problems," opined board member Jeff Dubay. "A million dollars in liability won't go very far. I've been in wrecks that cost a quarter of a million, and no one was seriously hurt.

"What if we have a really bad accident, with a town truck, and we don't have enough to cover it?" he asked.

Board member Linda Downs-Bembury responded, "Well, why don't you set up a meeting with the insurance guy, and raise these questions with him?"

"Happy to do it," replied Dubay.

The board issued a license to Shawn Dubay to operate a business for as a real estate inspector for home buyers.

Finally, the board appointed Leo Parent Jr. as the town's representative to the Franklin Regional Transit Advisory Board.

BY PATRICK RENNICK

At Erving's annual town meeting on Wednesday, May 3rd, selectboard chair Linda Downs-Bembury dedicated the town's annual report to lifelong resident Peter Svetaka, of High Street in Erving Center. A 38-year employee of Erving Paper, Svetaka, an amateur shutterbug, enjoys taking photographs of houses in the area and giving them to their owners, as selectboard member Linda Downs-

Bembury fondly attested. Svetaka served on the finance committee from 1961 to 1977. He took an interest in the youth of Erving, organizing a teen basketball league, and working with young ballplayers on the Orange Athletic Club. Svetaka was a star second baseman in his day.

According to town administrative assistant Tom Sharp, the only time Svetaka has left Erving for any length of time

was to serve in the US Air Corp in the Philippines and the Southern Pacific during WWII. He earned a reputation as a marksman, and flew 50 missions.

In a letter to town meeting, former Erving Paper CEO Charlie Hausen praised Sevatka for standing his ground when the state proposed to build a bridge over Erving Center during the reconstruction of Route 2 in the 50s.

VERRIDE from page 5

2003 budget cuts, Gee, then recently hired, had estimated a savings of just \$63,000 if the Montague Center school were closed. At that time, GMRSD business manager Lynn Bassett was quoted as saying the school district would have to spend \$230,000 to install an elevator at the Montague Center school if they were to reopen it after a temporary closing.) Gee said sufficient classroom space was available at Hillcrest and Sheffield to absorb the students from Montague Center School, and the district would incur no extra busing costs.

If an elementary school were closed, Gee said, the net loss of teachers for the district would be reduced to approximately 8 to 10. Gee said if the Montague Center School were chosen for closure, the district would suffer a loss of perhaps 10 students withdrawn from the district for schooling elsewhere. Gee said unlike in 2003, there were fewer good options for parents seeking to place their children out of the district, as surrounding school districts are facing school closures, increased class sizes, and loss of essential curriculum such as art

and music.

She said the school committee had looked at other options for raising revenue, like hiking athletic fees or reinstating parking fees at the high school, and at ways to reduce energy costs like lengthening school four days a week and closing on Fridays, but found the potential revenue or savings minimal.

Gill, which bucked the regional trend and actually passed a school override measure in 2003 by 10 votes (226 to 216, with a turnout of 44% of the voters), will wait this year to see what Montague decides before scheduling an override, according to selectboard member Ann Banash. Gill's annual town meeting will take place on June 25th, but Banash said unless state aid numbers change significantly by that date, the town will still be \$60,000 short, and unable to meet the GMRSD assessment without an override.

If the override vote fails in either town, Banash said, the school district will have the choice of submitting an adjusted budget to special town meetings in Gill and Montague. Banash said if the schools decided to stand their ground, the GMRSD

could adjust the budget by as little as a dollar. If either town fails to adopt the adjusted budget, the school district can decide to call a districtwide meeting, where all registered voters of both towns will have the ability to cast a vote on the school budget. If the school budget passes at a district meeting, the towns will have to accept it, and make cuts on the town side of the budget accordingly.

Montague town administrator Frank Abbondanzio predicted that would be a painful process. On the town side, "We're at the point now where we're talking about significant cuts in services and staff, things people would not want to see cut."

Abbondanzio said the fiscal collaboration meetings between the towns and the schools would continue throughout the next months on an as needed basis. Banash predicted the schools could shortly face a situation where they would have to operate on a month to month budget, using 1/12th of last year's budget. Gee said if that were the case, the schools would have to lay off a sufficient number of teachers to be able to operate within the '06 budget framework, starting towards the middle of June.

VERRIDE COMMITTEE FORMS

BY MARY KOCIELA - An organizational meeting to establish a Montague Proposition 2½ Override steering committee will be held at

the Great Falls Discover Center on Avenue A, across from the town hall, tonight, (Thursday, May 11th) at 7 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

MCTV Schedule

Channel 17

Friday, May 12th

Eagles All Day From 6:00 a.m.
6:00 p.m. Montague Town Meeting 5/6

Saturday, May 13th

Eagles All Day From 6:00 a.m.
7:00 p.m. Montague Update
8:00 p.m. Franklin County Democrat
8:30 p.m. There and Back
9:30 p.m. Brick House Poetry Reading

Sunday, May 14th

Eagles All Day from 6:00 a.m.
7:00 p.m. GMRSD School Committee 5/9
9:30 p.m. Montague Update
10:30 p.m. Sammy's Video Collages
11:00 p.m. From the MCTV Archives

Monday, May 15th

Eagles All Day from 6:00 a.m.
7:00 p.m. Montague selectboard LIVE
9:30 p.m. There and Back
10:30 p.m. It's Dan Seiden's Show

11:00 p.m. The Truth About Alcohol
11:30 p.m. Brick House Poetry Reading

Tuesday, May 16th

Eagles All Day from 6:00 a.m.
7:00 p.m. GMRSD School Committee Meeting 5/9
9:30 p.m. Montague Update
10:30 p.m. The Jamaican Troubadour and Friends
11:00 p.m. From the MCTV Archives

Wednesday, May 17th

Eagles All Day From 6:00 a.m.
7:00 p.m. There and Back
8:00 p.m. Women in Science
8:30 p.m. Franklin County Democrat
9:00 p.m. Brick House Poetry Reading

Thursday, May 18th

Eagles All Day from 6:00 a.m.
7:00 p.m. Montague Selectboard Meeting 5/15
9:30 p.m. The Truth About Alcohol
10:00 p.m. Montague Update
11:00 p.m. It's Dan Seiden's Show

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Wild Turkey Shot

Wednesday 5-3

3:15 p.m. Report of smoke on Route 2 near east bypass. Assisted Erving fire department. Found to be permitted burn in Wendell.

Thursday 5-4

3:40 p.m. Report of vandalism at Vets Field. Maintenance building was spray painted. Highway department covered it.

Friday 5-5

11:00 a.m. Report of a

camper at Erving State Forest. Asked to leave.

Saturday 5-6

9:30 p.m. Report of a disabled motor vehicle in the Freight House parking lot. Vehicle pushed to Box Car lot to wait for tow.

Monday 5-8

8:30 a.m. Report of dog chasing wild turkeys on Northfield Road. Spoke with owner and advised of situation.


12:00 p.m. Report of fisher cat problem on High Street. Advised of options.

Tuesday 5-9

9:23 a.m. Request for assistance in Northfield, report of shots fired near St. Mary's Cemetery. Found subject had shot wild turkey, not tagged. Notified Environmental Police. Turkey seized. Subject fined.

4:05 p.m. Report of stolen ATV at a High Street address. ATV was returned.

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NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Taking Care of Business

BY JOHN HANOLD - Following on the heels of a lengthy annual town meeting on Saturday, the Monday, May 8th meeting of the Montague selectboard was a calm, compact affair. A license violation hearing for the Route 63 Roadhouse in Millers Falls opened the agenda and attracted the only audience of the evening. Police Chief Ray Zukowski reported that a Montague police officer noticed a number of cars in the Roadhouse parking lot at 3:30 a.m., on a Saturday in early April, and found several people inside with beer on the bar. The owners, Cathy Cameron and Jamie Snyder, were cited for serving alcohol after the 1:00 a.m. 'last call' hour. They were present at the hearing, along with attorney Jack Mason, and agreed with the facts in the officer's report.

Zukowski reported that upon further investigation it was established that all but one of the cars belonged to staff members, who were the only individuals inside. The remaining car belonged to a patron who had left it there before going home. A late meeting to plan an event with a popular group was in progress, and the owners said that similar planning and clean-up operations frequent-

ly keep the staff on premises after closing. The chief agreed this is allowable, but that no drinking is allowed; he requested that the owners call his department when similar late meetings are planned, so that patrolling officers can expect to see the cars and activity inside. Snyder agreed, stating that he does not want to harm the Roadhouse's reputation for cooperation.

Board member Patricia Pruitt said, "It sounds like you've come up with a reasonable solution," and the board passed member Pat Allen's motion to issue a letter of warning to the bar for violating their license, with progressive discipline to follow if there are further violations.

The police chief obtained selectboard approval to apply for the statewide civil service sergeant's exam in October to fill a sergeant's position. Bill Doyle has filled the post, on an acting basis, since the resignation of Gary Billings. The application will give interested candidates time to study, and the chief expects several officers to sit for the exam.

He also reported that one of his grant applications has resulted in an award of \$11,789 from the Department of Justice for equip-

ment upgrades, which will be spent on a list of needs he solicited from department members.

Regarding a topic of considerable discussion at the December 7th, 2005 special town meeting, town administrator Frank Abbondanzio updated the board on the need for a fire curtain at the Shea Theater. After researching the regulations and codes involved, fire chief Ray Godin and building inspector David Jensen have agreed that the moderate height of the 'fly' space, and the limited types of moveable scenery used do not require a fire curtain, particularly in view of the theater's extensive code compliance in other areas. This conclusion means that the \$25,000 appropriation voted from town stabilization at December 7th, 2005 meeting can be rescinded at a future town meeting.

Abbondanzio reported three bids from qualified contractors have been received for the first phase of the Combined Sewer Overflow project at the Wastewater Pollution Control Facility (WPCF). Ludlow Construction's apparent low bid is in line with the project's forecasted budget. Superintendent Bob Trombley and engineering consultants from Camp, Dresser

& McKee are evaluating the bid, and will recommend action at next week's board meeting. Attention will then turn to the second phase of the CSO project, whose scope of work may need adjustment to fit the total \$5.7 million authorized for the project.

The selectboard has received two letters of interest for appointment to the board of assessors, which has a vacancy due to the recent death of chair Norm Fuller. The position will be filled by a roll call vote of the remaining members and the selectboard on Tuesday, May 16th, when next week's selectboard meeting is scheduled. The board will meet on Tuesday because the annual town election will take place on Monday, May 15th. The polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the usual polling places for the town's six precincts. A second election, to consider an override of Proposition 2½ in the

amount of \$600,000, will be held on Tuesday, June 6th, with polls open from noon to 7:00 p.m. Pruitt asked for announcement of a public forum to discuss the relocation of the police station - it will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 11th, in the upstairs meeting room at town hall.

The final item of note was the authorization for the department of public works to post a sign prohibiting trucks from parking for more than two hours, or overnight, in the two parking lots on either side of First Street near the police station. Chief Zukowski suggested the time allowance, in lieu of a total prohibition, to recognize that drivers stopping for a snack in Turners Falls need a place for temporary off-street parking. At 7:45 p.m. the Selectboard went into executive session to discuss two collective bargaining topics.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Arrested on Warrants

Wednesday 5-3

10:13 p.m. After a motor vehicle stop at the corner of 3rd and L Streets, [redacted] Amherst, was arrested on a straight warrant.

Thursday 5-4

10:48 a.m. Report of a motor vehicle accident on Avenue A. No personal injuries. Operators exchanged information.

Friday 5-5

12:32 a.m. Report of arson on Poplar Street. No fire found.

2:24 p.m. [redacted]

was arrested on a straight warrant.

Saturday 5-6

11:43 a.m. [redacted] was

arrested on a default warrant with being a runaway.

2:48 p.m. A 13-year-old, male juvenile was arrested for a probation violation at a 4th Street address.

Sunday 5-7

12:01 a.m. Walk-in to station reported a runaway at a Coolidge Street address. A 12-year-old male juvenile was arrested and charged

Monday 5-8

9:52 a.m. Report of a larceny at the camps by the river off Industrial Boulevard. Found to be in Gill. Referred to Gill Police.

Wednesday 5-10

7:35 a.m. [redacted] was arrested on a straight warrant.

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NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE TOWN MEETING

Some Surprising Outcomes at Saturday's Town Meeting

BY JOANNA FRANKEL - Saturday's town meeting drew two-thirds of the town's elected precinct representatives, (80 in attendance, 22 excused, 19 no shows), as well as a smattering of other town residents, to Turners Falls High School. The most controversial items on the agenda were predicted to be Article 16, the move to replace

and extend the runway at Turners Falls Airport, and Article 7, comprised of two motions regarding funding for the Gill-Montague Regional School District. The second of these motions was to authorize a Proposition 2½ override vote on June 6th, seeking townwide approval to raise \$600,000 for the schools from additional taxes.

The day began with a special town meeting at 8:30 a.m., where two articles easily passed. The first will transfer \$30,000 from the 2006 snow and ice budget account to the 2006 DPW budget account. The second will fund \$32,000 of repairs to an eroded bank of the Sawmill River on Greenfield Road. Following these two votes town planner Robin Sherman gave a presentation on the Turners Falls River Culture project, a collaboration between businesses, community organizations, and government agencies, to promote arts-based economic development in Turners Falls.

Luckily, town meeting members fueled up on coffee and doughnuts, because they were in for a long day. The first two articles on the agenda dealt with the salaries of elected and appointed officials. Although there was some debate about the disparities between the pay of some town officials, both articles eventually passed unanimously. However, it was recommended by a couple of town meeting members that the town look to increase the salaries of selectboard members in the future.

Articles 3, 4, and 5 addressed operating budget issues (two for the Water Pollution Control Facility and the other for most other departments), also met with a unanimous vote. Optimistic news came with a

presentation by Richard Kuklewicz, Precinct 4 town meeting member and Franklin County Technical School committee member. He described an active, engaged student body at Franklin Tech, despite the school's budget strain. The Tech School's budget passed unanimously with commendations for its continuing good work.

Before moving on to Article 7 it was explained that there would be two motions to vote on, one to approve the Prop 2½ override and the other to pass the district's budget. Then came a presentation by members of the Gill-Montague Regional School District. The picture painted was one of a school system fighting to keep programming challenging and engaging despite a climate of severe cuts in funding. Both Mary Kociela, school board chair, and Sue Gee, school superintendent, described their reluctance to bring the process to an override, but their feeling that this was inevitable. Gee explained a current patchwork approach to keeping standards high and opportunities available for students in the district, including utilizing volunteers and partnering with the towns. Even with these efforts, however, students at the elementary level are only receiving art instruction for 45 minutes every 6 days, and other important school programming is in jeopardy.

Following this presentation came a lengthy discussion of the ramifications and processes of an override vote. Allen Ross, selectboard chair, explained that the three members of the selectboard deliberated greatly before deciding to put the issue to a vote in the form of an override. Selectboard member Patricia Allen stated the issue, "can't be decided on by 80 to 90 town meeting members, but has to go to the town."

Barry Levine of Precinct 3 wondered if the people of Montague could afford to pay more taxes or if they've hit their limit. Hyrum Huskey of Precinct 6 countered that, "We need to think about the greater good, not just increased taxes. The problem is we want more for less. This is what we get when we keep electing governments who promise to lower our taxes." Huskey's comment was met with applause by some members of the audience.

Superintendent Gee acknowledged, "this is a hardship for many people, but an override is the only system to find out how the citizens of Montague feel." Art Gilmore of Precinct 2 urged people to vote yes on the override despite the fact that, "My wife will probably shoot me when I sit down."

As the third hour of the meeting approached and people's stomachs began to rumble, finance committee member Marge Levenson moved to vote on both motions of Article 7. Motion 1, approving the town's assessment for more than \$7.3 million for the school budget, passed easily. Motion 2, stating the town would raise an additional \$600,000 contingent upon the passage of a Proposition 2½ override, eventually passed on a 53-27 vote.

The next six articles all involved making improvements or repairs to district schools. All passed easily, despite some debate about whether deferring maintenance to a later time could be a choice.

Article 14, authorizing the appropriation of \$90,000 for the procurement of vehicles for the DPW, was amended to include the possibility of leasing vehicles. It then passed unanimously, as did Article 15, \$250,000 for the replacement of sidewalks in need of repair.

Next up, the much-anticipated discussion of the Turners Falls Airport runway replacement and expansion. Debate about the runway expansion has been hot around town, and folks expected lengthy conversation at town meeting.

The airport manager and commissioners began their presentation with a review of the cost of the improvements to the airport, to be completed in two phases. However, a surprise came when they announced that the portion of the cost to be paid by the town (\$175,000, or 2.5% of Phase 1 and \$124,313 of Phase 2) would no longer be necessary, as the FAA and MAC would now be financing 100% of the projects.

While town meeting members were relieved at the lack of need for town funding for the extension and improvements, they still had questions. Michael Muller of Precinct 1 asked if the airport could still receive the funding from the FAA without

extending the runway. The airport manager explained that, "The only way to get FAA money is to meet FAA specifications. Right now the runway is 1250 feet short of meeting those specifications." After only one question about the impact of the extension on air traffic, the article was approved by a majority vote.

However, talk of the airport wasn't over yet. Ironically, the easy vote was for the article that people had expected to be the most contentious. Meanwhile, the longer debate occurred around Article 17, the Airport Enterprise Fund. This article would create a fund so that the expenses and revenue of the airport would be kept separate from the town's general fund. There was a fair amount of debate over this, with Precinct 1's Deb Radway saying, "I want all that money for future town and future school projects." Lynn Reynolds of the finance committee countered that, "If and when there is airport surplus money, money for future projects will come out of their budgets, not the tax money." The debate continued, with some confusion over whether or not the Enterprise Fund would really change anything, or just be a matter of easier bookkeeping. In the end it passed, as did the airport's operating budget.

Then for something completely different, the adoption of a tax increment financing agreement for the Turners Falls business Australis Aquaculture. This agreement, which ended up passing, provides tax exemptions of over \$36,000 for the company, in return for the company's \$2 million investment in the operation and its creation of eight new jobs. Levenson asked for clarification about the types of jobs that would be created, and Steve Ellis, of Precinct 4, put in a request that these jobs be given to Montague residents.

At this point it was 3:00 p.m., and with many articles left to go, some were grouped together and voted on as consent articles. All passed, as did the final six articles. The debate lingers on, though, as the Proposition 2-1/2 override will be put to the voters on June 6th. This will be the chance for more voices in the town to speak and decide the future of its schools.

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OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

Spring Signs

BY FLORE MONTAGUE CENTER - I have tasted, in the state of Massachusetts, the entire spectrum of seasons. During the past four years, I have watched fireflies lighting up the dark fields at night during suffocating summers, flamboyant autumns, white landscape like tundra, to an unbelievable awakening each spring. Once more, voila... Everyone, this year, seems to agree it is the best of all.

Spring now seems here to stay, but watch, one never knows! Remember how it snowed mid-May not long ago?

But before wild flowers show their blooms, have you noticed, there are a few premonitory signs?

The first sign is 'Tag Sale' going hand in hand with a major project: a good airing of stuff and spring cleaning of the



PHOTO: FLORE

house! All wares are placed in front of lawns or on tables. What bargains!

One semester, UCLA sent anthropology students out to study the things we throw away. Don't you think looking at the 'treasures' people collect could also make a valuable study?

In the West, it is called 'Garage Sale.' The Brits call it 'Boot Sale' since they pile up things for sale in the trunk (boot) of their car. The French call it 'Vide Grenier' (cleaning up the attic.)

The second sign, want

to guess? Local Farmers Markets reopening. The one in Greenfield is not to be missed on Saturdays. Turners Falls, shine or rain, falls on Wednesdays. In both cases this is where you'll meet both your friends and hard working women and men farmers bringing their fresh delectable products to town.

Third one, confirming Spring is here? May Day celebration in Montague Center.

Each year, the tradition is maintained with whirling Morris Dancers and caroling villagers. The children respectfully carry the May Pole. The Common is under siege, with beneficent spells that shower grace upon participants!

Perhaps you missed it, last Sunday, but look forward next year, to unroll its ribbons of rainbow, once again, with gratitude.

Swift River School Field Trips

JOSH HEINEMANN WENDELL - On a cold, gray Wednesday, May 3rd, Chris Wing's fourth grade class took a field trip from Swift River School to Wendell Depot, where they released 285 Atlantic salmon fry into Osgood Brook, just upstream of where it empties into the Millers River.

To do this, the class needed permission from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. They had raised the fry from eggs spawned in the Palmer Fish Hatchery, given to them by the Atlantic Salmon Egg Rearing Project (ASERP). One student told me they got the eggs in early March, but her friend corrected her, saying it was just after her birthday and had to be late February. Trout Unlimited supported the project with training, materials, and supplies because raising the fry, watching them grow and develop, and then releasing them teaches the children about salmon, and about stewardship of the river.

Another student took time to show me the stages in the fish's life, from egg, to eyed egg, which changes into an alevin, a

small fish that still carries a sac with a food supply from the egg. The alevin grows into a fry, and then a parr. After up to two years in the stream, the parr becomes a smolt, and migrates downriver to the ocean where it lives and grows into an adult. When it is ready, the adult (at least in theory) returns to the stream where it grew, and spawns again. Unlike Pacific Salmon, Atlantic Salmon can live after spawning and return to the ocean and eat and return again.

Each stage is fraught with danger, and only one or two in a million fry can be expected to return to their birth river. Wing's classes have been stocking about 300 salmon a year for four years.

On the cool, gray morning each student was given a small net full of about ten fry in a paper cup of stream water. The student counted the fry, then found an appropriate place in the brook, with a bottom of small stones, and not too much current, and lowered the cup into the water, allowing the fry to leave the cup. As soon as each fish went beyond the white background of the paper

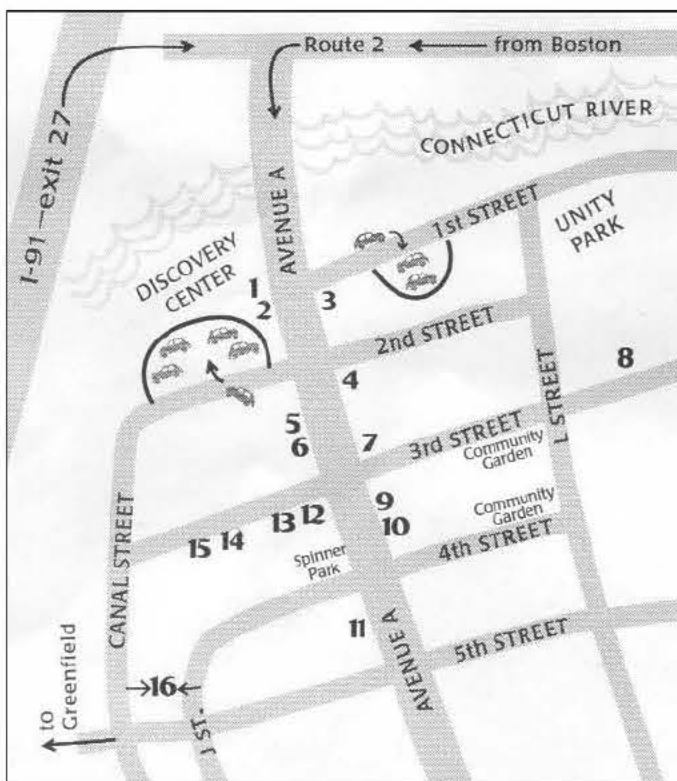
cup, it disappeared, its camouflaged markings perfectly matching the stream bottom. When all the fry were released, the students took measurements of stream depth, temperature, and velocity, and when that was done they gathered bags and bags of trash from the site. The best piece of trash was a pogo stick.

Trip to Red Apple Farm Phillipston - Thursday, May 4th was sunny and warm for Mr. Douglas' fifth grade class trip to Red Apple Farm in Phillipston. The class had a tour led by the farmer, who introduced himself only as Al. He showed them the cooler and sorting room, and told them about integrated pest management. Then he took them outside where they saw winter rye growing in the field where pumpkins would soon be planted. They walked up between two rows of blueberries just opening their buds and past a row of young peach trees that were flowering for the first time. They ended by learning how to thin raspberries and then put that lesson into practice with gloves and clippers.

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THE GILL GOURMET

Square Meat Balls

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH

Round meatballs present many problems. First of all, it is messy rolling the gucky stuff into balls. Secondly, they tend to get lopsided, some wind up too small and some too big; the process is time consuming. Square meatballs are quick and easy to make and uniform in size and shape. They are well behaved and do not embarrass you by rolling off your plate and landing in your lap. Use the recipe below:

INGREDIENTS:

A pound of hamburger or ground turkey seasoned with a packet of beef bullion.

A half cup of diced red onion

Italian flavored bread crumbs

One egg

Grated cheese

Milk

Mrs. Dash

Mix sautéed onion with the rest of the ingredients.

Use enough bread crumbs to bring the mixture to the desired consistency.

Add milk if it gets too dry. After you ruin a couple of batches you will get the hang of it.

The same goes for Mrs. Dash.

Place the meatball mixture in a

large pan, such as a cookie sheet.

Spread a one-inch layer of the mixture over about half of the sheet, as you would a thin meatloaf.

I was going to say like a shepherd's pie, but shepherd's pie conjures up the image of something that shepherds try to avoid stepping into when walking in the sheep pasture. (See *Broke Budget Mountain, the Remake* in last week's issue for more on shepherds and shepherds' pie.)

It is strange about shepherds. In the movie, *Brokeback Mountain*, the producers referred to the shepherds as cowboys because the movie was a serious work of art about the relationship that develops between two men

left alone on the range too long.

The producers could not use shepherds because shepherds work alone, usually accompanied only by a no-nonsense sheep dog.

Getting back to the square meatballs, bake the mixture at 350 degrees until it begins to brown.

Remove the cookie sheet and cut the meatball mixture, as you would cut brownies into about 1" x 1" squares.

Separate the square meatballs, turn them over and return them to the oven. Now they will be able to brown nicely on all sides.

These neatly cubed beauties can be used just as any ordinary round meatball, except that they do not roll off the plate.

GROVE

continued from pg 1

ing that Lake Grove must show permits for its intended use of the property within 60 days of site plan approval from the conservation commission, the board of health, and the National Grid (whose power lines traverse the Fiske property), another stipulating that maintenance buildings and other outbuildings be screened from abutting properties with quickly growing evergreen trees, and a third calling for more detailed information on the proposed skate park before construction on that aspect of Lake Grove's begins construction of that proposed use of the land.

The board noted that security and impacts on abutters are criteria spelled out in the town's bylaws for site plan review, and further noted that Paulauskas had agreed to sub-

mit the school's planned use of the property to a broad review under the town's bylaws, rather than to the narrower scope an educational institution would otherwise receive. The board noted Paulauskas had affirmed a student to staff ratio of four to one during the day, and six to one at night, but further noted that various abutters had reported observing incidents when students had been seen on or about the property in numbers exceeding this ratio, or at times (during AWOL attempts) with no staff supervision. Abutters had also complained of noise and profanity plainly audible from Lake Grove property on numerous occasions.

The board plans to continue deliberation on the Lake Grove site plan review on Tuesday, May 18th, at 8 p.m.



Write Ins Needed and Town Meeting No Shows

Precinct 3 needs one write-in candidate for town meeting at the annual town election on Monday, May 15th. Precinct 4 needs one 3-year, and three 2-year write-ins. Precinct 6 needs three 3-year write-ins. For the record, no-shows at the May 6th annual town meeting were: David Bennett, (2); Michael Boduch, (3); Ernest Brown, (4); Charles Choleva, (5); Edward Corbiere, (3); Brian Costa, (6); Denise DiPaolo, (5); Arthur Evans, (1); Robert Fritz, (3); Gregory Garrison, (6); Kathleen Hyson, (3); Darren Lenois, (6); Don MacPhail, (3); Jonathan Parrott, (2); Carlyn Saltman, (6); Karen Schweitzer, (1) Edward Voudren, (4) Lyn Wasielewski, (6) and Donald Wysocki (4).

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE GILL POLICE LOG

Telephone Pole On Fire

<p>Wednesday 5-03 8:10 a.m. Report of a telephone pole on fire on West Gill Road. Officer sent. Fire and phone company contacted.</p> <p>Thursday 5-04 3:35 p.m. Report of a two-car motor vehicle accident on Route 2, near Barton Cove. Both vehicles towed, no injuries reported.</p> <p>4:30 p.m. Report of loose cows on Main Road. Cows located and corralled.</p> <p>Friday 5-05 5:40 p.m. Mutual aid for Athol State Police barracks for a report of items being thrown from a school bus. Officer identified the bus and assisted state police with the investigation of the situation.</p>	<p>10:30 p.m. Report filed on a recovered stolen motor vehicle that was found burned, off of River Road. Vehicle totaled.</p> <p>Saturday 5-06 4:50 p.m. Mutual aid to the town of Montague. Assistance with an intoxicated male subject.</p> <p>11:45 p.m. Report of suspicious subjects on the French King Bridge. Officer observed the area, and moved the parties along without incident.</p> <p>12:45 a.m. Mutual aid to the town of Erving. French King Motel - assist with a possible suicidal subject.</p> <p>Sunday 5-07 10:35 a.m. Assisted Bernardston police with a</p>	<p>brush fire on Route 10.</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Report of subjects walking under the Gill-Montague bridge. Officer sent to the area, and all parties were gone on arrival.</p> <p>Monday 5-08 7:45 a.m. Officer sent to the Route 2 area for a report of a cat struck by a vehicle.</p> <p>11:40 p.m. Report of suspicious activity behind a Route 2, Gill business. Officer investigated the area, and only found employees in the area.</p> <p>12:09 a.m. Suspicious activity on Northfield Road in Bernardston. Officer was assisted by Northfield and Bernardston police. Possible domestic issues. Report has been filed.</p>
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River Steward Watches Over the Connecticut River

BY RUTH WITTY GREENFIELD

The Connecticut River Watershed Council is a non-profit membership organization that has been working for more than 50 years to protect and restore the Connecticut River watershed. Andrea Donlon is the River Steward for the Massachusetts area of the watershed. This means she watches out for all developments that may affect the river, such as erosion, chemical spills or barriers to the movement of fish.

There are also three fish 'ladders' that help fish over the Turners Falls dam. Actually these form a series of pools, each one a foot higher than the last. The fish don't really climb a ladder, but instead swim from pool to pool. Visitors to the Turners Falls fishway can see shad, lamprey and other fish as they swim upriver to spawn.



Andrea Donlon, River Steward

Q: Do you have any personal experience that led you to be interested in the environment or rivers in particular?

I have always been interested in the environment, even as a kid. In eighth grade I was supposed to write to a woman in the news, so I wrote to Lois Gibbs, of Love Canal fame, who helped get laws in place for hazardous waste cleanup. In college, I got a master's degree in forestry.

Q: Tell me about your work on the Holyoke Dam?

All of the hydro power facilities on the Connecticut River are regulated by FERC (the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) and power licenses come up for renewal every forty years. As an intervenor, the Connecticut River Watershed Council is a party to all proceedings. I review the fish passage reports. I make sure they take into account the wildlife of the river. The Holyoke Dam is the first barrier to migratory fish trying to swim up the river. There is a fish lift, which works like an elevator: fish swim on as water flows through, it lifts up above the dam, and fish swim off. The viewing window at the Holyoke dam is very interesting.

Q: Tell me about the annual Source to Sea cleanup. I heard at the last one over a thousand people came together to pull garbage out of the river.

This year our Cleanup will be held on Saturday, September 30th, and numerous groups will take part. Last year the biggest showing was from Turners Falls and included a number of different organizations, scout groups, equestrian clubs, college students and many others. We pulled all sorts of things out of the river, including car parts, fishing tackle, tires and so forth.

Q: What was the most bizarre thing pulled out of the river?

Probably the bath tub.

Q: Can you talk about the Migratory Fisheries Restoration Initiative?

The Migratory Fisheries Restoration Initiative deals with the removal of barriers to fish on their traditional migration routes. For example, we plan to build a bypass around the dam on the Sawmill River, upstream of the Bookmill in Montague.

Q: Are there any other projects you would like to talk about?

We keep an eye on all state regulations and laws that affect the river. We review permits for the discharge of wastewater into the Connecticut River.

I would like to talk about the pumped storage hydropower facility at Northfield Mountain. It pumps water uphill to a man made reservoir and when market conditions are right it releases the water to flow downhill, to generate electricity. The resulting fluctuation in flow in that area of the river seems to contribute to erosion on the banks of the river, and even nearby streams. The utility company that owns Northfield Mountain has been forced to rehabilitate some stream banks. I sit on a committee that deals with this issue.

Q: The Connecticut River Watershed Council has intervened in the request by Entergy Vermont Yankee to raise the temperature of the river during

certain conditions of discharge of coolant water. I believe Vermont Yankee is asking permission to raise the river temperature to as high as 85 degrees, a mile from the plant, under certain conditions. What is the CRWC perspective on that?

On April 21st of this year, we challenged the decision by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources to grant Vermont Yankee permission to increase the temperature of the river. The appeal was filed in the Vermont environmental court.

Temperature greatly impacts fish as water contains less dissolved oxygen at a higher temperature. It also makes little sense to allow Vermont Yankee to increase levels of pollution to the river at the same time we are working to help important fish species such as shad and salmon to recover their numbers.

Q: Water has been called the impending crisis of our times. Any comment on your work from a global perspective?

We care about water quality. Over the years there have been proposals to divert the Connecticut River to provide drinking water for Boston. It turned out, when they fixed their pipes in Boston this was no longer necessary. As population increases there may again be pressure to use the river water for drinking.

Globally, my concern is that more and more frequently private water companies control public water supplies. My worry is that private companies run public services for a profit rather than for the public good.

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WENDELL

continued from pg 1

and the end date for the buildings is specified as December 31st. The septic system should be done by the end of September.

Dufresne Henry made change orders to the septic plan that brought the project under budget.

Ted Lewis, elected to his 13th consecutive term, without opposition, in the May 1st town election, was re-elected chair of the selectboard.

The meeting began with Geoff Rogers, of the Hampshire Council of Governments, offering the town an opportunity to enroll in the COG cooperative electricity buying program available to towns in the western counties of the state. Larger users get a better price, so his agency is uniting towns into a single buying group. Eighteen towns have signed up, and another six or

seven are considering the options. Under the cooperative arrangement, electricity is bought at auction, and the rates vary widely depending on demand.

Three plans are available: a fixed rate plan which is the most expensive, a real time use plan which is more suited to consumers that can schedule their heavy use at low demand times, and a profit sharing plan. Under that plan the town would pay the same bill it pays now, and at the end of the year the COG deducts its expenses and splits the savings with the town. Keller and Heard were most interested in that plan, and gave Rogers authorization to get access to the town's electric bill, which is the first step in the enrollment process.

Rogers also gave the selectboard a list of state surplus items available to towns at auction. Keller said he would pass the list on to road boss Dan Bacigalupo.

Seal Lamadeleine met the board next, to continue renting the town hall for the fragrance free dances she holds on the second Friday of each month, and in June on the third Friday. Shanti Stark asked to rent the town hall Saturday, June 17th for a world music dance party, starting at 7:00 p.m. She plans to charge according to a sliding scale, as the Full Moon Coffeehouse charges. The selectboard approved her request, and she paid the \$50 rental fee.

While signing bills for payment Keller suggested to tax collector Penny Delorey that she advertise in the *Athol Daily News*, instead of the *Greenfield Recorder* because the *Daily News* is much less expensive, and meets the requirements of the law. (Of course, we know of a local weekly with classified rates less expensive than either of the dailies'. - ed note.)

The board signed a letter to state legislators, written by

Dennis Rindone, asking the state to maintain its payment to the town in lieu of taxes for state-owned land.

Aldrich also read an unsigned letter stating the writer had witnessed town employees smoking in town buildings and vehicles. Heard said, "I don't want to pass around, or act on anonymous letters," and the board did not act on the complaint.

There has been a request for an auction of town owned properties. Keller thought an auction should occur as soon as possible, but Heard protested that the construction projects were taking a lot of time. Keller said an auction would be the responsibility of the auctioneer, and would not take much of his time; he said that decision should be left to Carolyn Manley, town treasurer.

The selectboard did not set the date for the annual town meeting, but the two members

present thought it would have to be some time in mid to late June. Seven days notice is required for posting the annual town meeting warrant, but the special town meeting usually scheduled beforehand requires 14 days posting.

Keller said the annual meeting cannot be held until the finance committee is ready, and that finance committee chair Michael Idoine is still gathering necessary budget information. Town moderator Kathy Becker has said she is not available in June. It is her responsibility to appoint a substitute if she is unable to attend. June 14th and 28th are scheduled meetings of the selectboard, but a town meeting can be held after a short selectboard meeting, if necessary.

The town free box needs to be relocated during construction, and Keller suggested putting it behind the library, with the permission of librarian Rosie Heidkamp.

JA' DUKE

continued from pg 1

Waynelovich has decided a move and expansion for Ja'Duke is a necessity. Although he has had an offer of a space in Greenfield, Waynelovich said, "We want to be in Turners. That's where my identity is."

Waynelovich's identity has been tied to Turners for quite some time. He said his family, Russian on his father's side and French Canadian (Bastarache) on his mother's side, has lived in town since the turn of the nineteenth century.

Recently, Waynelovich signed a purchase and sale agree-

ment with the town for three acres in the Industrial Park, at \$22,000 per acre. He said the 85,000 square foot building he plans to build there will cost at least half a million dollars, and, if all goes smoothly, it should be ready for occupancy by the summer of 2007.

Following Tuesday's site plan hearing with the planning board, town planner Robin Sherman said, "The planning board is very supportive of the Ja'Duke proposal." The hearing on the project was continued until May 23rd, to allow time for Ja'Duke to come up with a maintenance plan for

drainage, a plan to protect the drainage system during construction, more detail on grading of pavement on fire lanes for the parking lot, detail on connection and anticipated flow for the sewer hook-up, and more information on exterior lighting. No abutter objected to the plan. Paul Cohen, principal of the Tech School, commented, "I am interested in cross-educational opportunities with the new facility."

When financing becomes available, Waynelovich said he anticipates a second phase of construction to follow, to build an 11,000-square-foot, 400 seat performing arts space on the site, adjacent to the classroom facility. With the Jonathan Edwards Academy and the Hallmark Institute nearby, Waynelovich points out, "It's really an educational and industrial park. There are three educational institutions there, none of which have an auditoriums." But, mainly, with the growth in popularity of Ja' Duke productions, Wayne-lovich said, "We need a place to perform." The

Shea just isn't big enough for Ja'Duke anymore.

He said his planned theater on Industrial Boulevard would bring more people to Turners.

Financing is in hand for the first phase of construction, for the performance arts education center, which Waynelovich said would "provide four classrooms for instruction in all aspects of performing, including lighting, set design, dancing, acting, singing, set construction, and music writing."

"We're very excited. We've grown by word of mouth, and we're still growing. We are bursting at the seams."

Debra J'Anthony, executive director of the Shea, said the non-profit theater's relationship with Waynelovich and Ja' Duke Productions has been a long and mutually supportive one. Anticipating the possible loss of one of the Shea's three resident companies, if Ja' Duke does build a new performance space on Industrial Boulevard, J'Anthony said the loss would open up opportunities for the 347-seat Shea.

"We're looking at bringing in national touring companies, and we're in early discussions with two local theater companies. If he does leave the Shea, we will fill the space with another local company." J'Anthony said she understood Ja' Duke's plans for a new performance space were several years from fruition, and for now, "The Shea is almost booked solid for next year." In addition to the three resident troupe's productions, she mentioned "children's theater, new works, Stoneleigh Burnham rents the hall for a week, Jonathan Edwards Academy will present Shakespeare. And if we have a good response to Valley Idol (premiering at the Shea for three weekends, beginning May 19th), we'll be doing that again as well," J'Anthony said.

Sherman said with the partitioning of three acres from the five-acre plot next to the Tech School, only one large (14.68 acre) plot will remain undeveloped at the Industrial Park.

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FINDING BALANCE: HEALTH TIPS FOR A HAPPY LIFE

Causes of Disease

BY JENNY CHAPIN
MONTAGUE CENTER

When people get sick, they usually do so in specific and recurring themes. There is often a predisposition leaning us one way rather than another, based on where our sensitivities lie. As important as it is to look at causal factors of disease, so also is it imperative to take in the bigger picture of who we are, how our lifestyle choices influence our health and may make us more or less susceptible to illness.

Long-time practitioner and teacher of Chinese Medicine, Dr. Ted Kaptchuk, states that "the lines of causality are bent into circles." Internal and external forces mirror each other; emotions and body structure are linked. Relationships exist within patterns. Rather than taking a symptom out of context, we need to look at how it fits

into the body and the life in which it appears.

Renowned neurophysiologist Dr. Valerie Hunt has been doing research since the 1940s on human energy fields. She has found that there is a dynamic field of energy that both surrounds and permeates the entire body. Her research determined that change occurs in the field before any other systems within the physical body change. In other words, disease begins at an energetic level. She writes that "physiological symptoms appear because of the field disturbance. If we correct the disturbance in the field, the symptoms disappear and we have been healed. If we treat the symptoms directly, then when a stressful situation once more aggravates the incoherent energy that is the source of the problem, the disease condition returns."

One way to explain this paradigm is that disease begins on subtler levels than the physical body, but when subtle signs are ignored or simply not identified, the condition makes its way to the physical body in its search for acknowledgement, appearing as symptoms which we begin to recognize. The physical form is the most substantial manifestation of energy; accordingly, by the time a disease state arrives at that level, it's in a more solid shape than how it began. Illness can thus be seen as the body's way of trying to bring our attention to an imbalance somewhere in our life - a life lesson, perhaps.

In Chinese Medicine, there are four categories of causal factors. The first is constitution, the genetic makeup inherited from our parents, both their DNA pool and their lifestyle choices.

The second is external environmental ingredients of wind, cold, heat, dampness, dryness, and summer heat. Pathological reactions of the body emulate environmental factors. For example, wind makes something come up suddenly, and move around in the body.

The third category is emotional factors, internal gauges of our well-being. This is our individual personality, our feelings, thoughts, and behaviors. Fourth is lifestyle: diet, sexual activity, and physical activity.

These last two aspects, emotions and lifestyle, are about how we conduct our lives. We can't choose our genetics, but we can choose our attitudes towards work, who we spend time with, what we do for fun, and how we nourish our bodies and souls.

Scientists and spiritual people alike suggest that our deep-



est sense of dis-ease, and corresponding manifestation of illness, may have a lot to do with whether we align with our reason for being here, and recognize and nurture the unique gifts we have to offer.

Of course, life is really an interaction of all these forces. We do not live in isolation, neither our body parts from one another, nor our hearts from our communities. The greatest health comes not from a perfectly functioning body, but from the happiness of sharing our lives in meaningful ways with others.

Jenny Chapin is an acupuncturist, bodyworker, and yoga teacher in Greenfield. Suggest a topic or question for her column at jgchapin@crocker.com



ILLUSTRATION JESSICA HARMON

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - Q. A friend told me that sinusitis could be the cause of a mild toothache I had, so I waited a while. Well, when my sinuses cleared, the tooth pain disappeared. Was my friend right?

I can write from personal experience on this one. I had a bad toothache that sent me to my dentist. He did some x-rays and could find nothing wrong. He asked me about my sinuses and I told him I was fighting an infection. Bingo.

Yes, infection in the sinuses located in your cheekbones can cause your upper jaw and teeth to ache, and your cheeks to become tender to the touch.

Sinusitis is a nasty malady that can do much more than give you a toothache.

Sinusitis, which is infection or inflammation of the sinuses, creates suffering for about 37 million Americans every year.

The sinuses are four pairs of cavities: the frontal sinuses over the eyes, maxillary sinuses inside each cheekbone, ethmoid sinuses just behind the bridge of the nose, and sphenoid sinuses behind the ethmoids. Each sinus is connected to the nose.

Acute sinusitis lasts for four weeks or less. Subacute sinusitis runs four to eight weeks. Chronic sinusitis can continue for years. Recurrent sinusitis includes several acute attacks within a year.

Unlike sinusitis, a common cold usually goes away without treatment in about ten days. So, if you have what feels like a bad cold for longer than ten days, go to your doctor for a check-up.

Most cases of acute sinusitis start with a cold or allergy attack, which inflames the mucous membranes of the sinuses. Swelling traps air and mucus in the sinuses, and they cannot drain properly. The trapped mucus creates ideal conditions for bacteria to grow.

Symptoms of chronic sinusitis may be less severe than those of acute sinusitis. However, untreated chronic sinusitis can cause damage to the sinuses and cheekbones that sometimes requires surgery to repair.

Most people with sinusitis have pain or tenderness. Other symptoms of sinusitis can include fever, weakness, fatigue, nasal congestion, cough and sore throat.

If you have acute sinusitis, your doctor may prescribe decongestants, antibiotics and pain relievers. Many cases of acute sinusitis will end without antibiotics.

Many health care providers treat chronic sinusitis as though it is an infection, by using antibiotics and decongestants. Others use both antibiotics with steroid nasal sprays. Further research is needed to determine the best treatment.

When medical treatment fails, surgery may be the only alternative for treating chronic sinusitis. The most common surgery done today is functional endoscopic sinus surgery (FESS) to enlarge the natural openings and allow drainage.

FESS is less invasive than conventional sinus surgery. With the endoscope, the surgeon can look directly into the nose while clearing the narrow channels between the sinuses. This type of surgery can be done under local or general anesthesia.

One worthwhile way to help keep your sinuses clear is to use an over-the-counter saltwater nasal wash every day. Most

pharmacies carry them. They help remove mucus and bacteria from the nose and sinuses. I use one myself and it has been beneficial.

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

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Sinusitis

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Help Wanted

Montague Parks and Recreation Department Summer Playground Staff Director & Counselors

The Montague Parks and Recreation Department is currently seeking reliable, responsible, and enthusiastic individuals for their Summer Playground Staff. We are accepting applications for Playground Director and Counselor positions. The seven-week Summer Playground Program serves children from the ages of 5 - 12, and is held Mondays through Fridays from July 3 through August 18, 2006. Application Deadline extended to Friday, May 12. Certification in First Aid and CPR preferred, but not required. Individuals must provide proof of legal working age. For more information, please contact the MPRD Office at 863-3216. The Town of Montague is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Help Wanted

Montague Parks & Recreation Department Certified Lifeguard

The Montague Parks & Recreation Department is accepting applications for a P/T lifeguard position for the summer. This individual is needed for both indoor pool and waterfront guarding. This position involves morning and afternoon hours. Certifications in Basic and Waterfront lifeguarding is required, and must be current and valid throughout the employment period. Applications are available at the Montague Parks and Recreation Department, 56 First Street, Turners Falls, MA. For more information, you may call us at 863-3216. Position opened until filled. The Town of Montague is an EOE.

Wanted to Rent

Furnished summer rental. Female writer seeks July-Aug cottage, house, apt. or private rooms in large house. Comfortable, quiet, light, pretty. Call Tammy Mitchell: 561-994-0106.

BEAUTY

continued from pg 1
and the Beast the complete treatment, providing Turners with its own taste of Broadway. Valerie Mosher is simply lovely as Belle, as she sings of hope and adventure, using her kind spirit to bring humanity back to a Beast who has lost his own. Patrick McGuire is the Beast struggling to become a humane and loving being, while locked in a prison of anger and despair. For viewers unfamiliar with the stage production of *Beauty and the Beast*, the Beast himself has

three solo numbers during the show, and McGuire delivers them with impassioned feeling, truly bringing the spirit locked within the Beast to life.

John Redeker is Gaston, striding his way through the hearts of his breathless admirers, followed by Lefou, played by Eric Allen. Tim Mosher is Belle's sweetly scatterbrained father Maurice, while B.J. Kulp and Curtis Rich's gleeful cries of "It's a girl!" when Belle arrives at the castle propel the characters of Lumiere and Cogsworth with vivid expression and amusing banter. Balancing the two out is Judith Dean Kulp as kindhearted, down-to-earth Mrs. Potts (accompanied by her teacup tot Eliza Sagan) and Marissa Sicley as the frou-frou feather duster amour Babette. Colin Allen is the shiveringly sinister asylum-keeper Monsieur D'Arque, and Toni Wilcox makes an operatic appearance as Madame de la Grande Bouche. With appearances by Jodie Walsh, Kyle Dargas, Eula Sagan, and the rest of the Ja' Duke ensemble, the actors give life to an all-time favorite fairy tale with brilliance and heart.

An extra added attraction for AlysonRose was the appearance of the multiple dance ensembles.

From the first performance by the Petite and Teen Hip-Hop groups during the Wolf Chase to the Junior Tap performance during the Battle, the dancers show extraordinary talent and skill. Special highlights of the dances include an appearance by the Tiny Tot dancers during Gaston's proposal and a marvelous number by Senior Tap during the tavern scene. The costumes are beautiful - with each new number AlysonRose's eyes grew bigger and starrer as the costumes grew more elaborate and sparkly.

Ja'Duke's presentation of *Beauty and the Beast* is a magnificent success. On congratulating director and producer Nick Waynelovich on the production, he agreed the the cast and crew gave it their all. "It's a great show; there's music and dance...something for everyone." There is indeed.

Ja'Duke's performance of Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* will run this weekend, Friday, May 12th and Saturday, May 13th at 7:00 p.m.; and Sunday, May 14th at 2:00 p.m.

If you're a fan of musicals, dance, or brilliant acting; if you're a dreamer, a tale-teller or a child, especially a child at heart, Ja' Duke's performance of *Beauty and the Beast* is a must-see for you.



Montague Community TV (MCTV) - a small public access TV station serving Montague, Gill and Erving, is seeking two candidates with excellent organizational, technical and people skills. (1) **Administrative Director**, 15 hrs: outreach and community liaison; fundraising; general office management; oversee volunteers. (2) **Technical Director**, 25 hrs: program channel(s) and community board; liaison with Comcast; maintain/inventory equipment; tape public meetings; implement training sessions. Submit cover letter, resume and references by June 5th to Michael Bosworth, MCCI Business Support, 24 3rd Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376. Please see www.MontagueTV.org for more info.

'Valley Idol' at the Shea

TURNERS FALLS - 'Valley Idol,' a Karaoke singing contest with a grand prize of \$1,000 will take place May 19th, 20th, 27th and June 3rd at the Shea Theater, 71 Avenue A, Turners Falls. Auditions will be on Friday, May 19th, at 7 p.m. for the first 100 applicants only. A \$35 registration fee applies to all contestants.

Singers will need to prepare a 90-second musical karaoke selection for audition. First

night cut will go to 25 singers. Go to www.theshea.org to download registration and to view contest information, or leave a message at 863-2281.

Advance tickets may be purchased at World Eye Book Store in Greenfield; the Jones Library in Amherst; Books & More in Turners Falls; Greenfield Savings Bank, all branches; at WHAI in Greenfield; online at www.theshea.org, or at the Shea Box Office at 863-2281.

Mabel Zobel
By
Sandra Facto

The biggest disadvantage of getting old is that you can not outgrow it!!!

The First Congregational Church of Montague Sunday School will host:

Plant & Bake Sale
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9 am - 12 Noon
Summer food basket raffle with all the fixings for a great picnic and a few surprises. Tickets on sale at Rau's Sunoco. Proceeds will benefit the Heifer Project.

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JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

FRIDAY, MAY 12TH
Rt. 63 Road House come dance to Strangers Rock & Roll. 9:30 p.m. Millers Falls, for more information, cal (413) 659-3384.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, MAY 12TH & 13TH 8 p.m.
SUNDAY, MAY 14 2 p.m.
Beauty and the Beast! JaDuke Center for the Performing Arts continues performances of the smash Broadway musical Beauty and the Beast at the Shea Theatre, Turners Falls. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$10 for 12/under and 65/over and can be reserved by calling the Shea Theatre at (413) 863-2281 Ext. 2. Let the beauty and the magic be part of your life.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, MAY 12/13TH & 26/27TH
Media Arts Cinema shows "Free to Fly" by Northfield filmmaker Mike Schena One show each evening at 8pm in the Green Trees Gallery, 105 Main St., Nfld. Friday (12th) is sold out. Tickets still available for Saturday at either Mim's Market or the Green Trees Gallery in Nfld. or by phone reservation at 498-2100.

SATURDAY, MAY 13TH
The Full Moon Coffee House, Wendell Town Hall. Bring your dancin' shoes for Trailer Park! A high energy, sax driven rock/groove dance band that won't let you down. Trailer Park has performed over 600 shows throughout New England. Open Mike begins at 7:30 and the feature is on at 8:00. Open Mic sign-up and further information visit www.wendellfullmoon.org.

Annual Plant Sale 9 to noon, Leverett Town Hall in Leverett Center. All plant purchases and donations will continue to help restore and maintain the historic Moore's Corner Schoolhouse. Composted Horse

Manure will be available for sale by Leverett's Stone Pony Farm: High School Polo Team! For more info. call Dawn, 367-9562. Held Rain or Shine!

Rt. 63 Road House come dance to Adam Ainslie Band Rockers, 9:30 p.m. Millers Falls, for more information, cal (413) 659-3384.

SUNDAY, MAY 14
Free Admission for Mothers
Mother's Day Celebration: Treat all Mothers and Grandmothers to a free visit at Historic Deerfield. Special gallery tours of "Embroidered History-Stitched Lives." Parents and kids can take part in regularly scheduled "Learn About Gardening" Activities from noon-4 p.m. at the Hands-on History Workshop.

Women's Congress for Peace Annual Mother's Day March for Peace and Justice. "Our sons (and daughters) shall not be taken from us to unlearn all we have been able to teach them of charity, mercy and patience. We women of one country will be too tender to those of another country to allow our sons (and daughters) to be trained to injure theirs." ~ Julia Ward Howe, from her Mother's Day Proclamation in 1870. Meet at 11:45 a.m., Bridge St School, Northampton; at Noon, march downtown for a speakout of prose, poems, and song. Info: (413) 256-1760 or lewis.emily@comcast.net.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17TH
Reel World Free Film Series: "Winter Soldier" 7pm, Arms Library, Bridge St, Shelburne Falls. Documents the "Winter Soldier Investigation" conducted by Vietnam Veterans Against the War. Over 125 veterans give testimony to war crimes and atrocities they either participated in or wit-

nessed. Documentary footage - often taken by these veterans - supports their testimony. Local veterans will be present for discussion. 95 minutes. The Reel World Documentary Film Series is organized by West County residents who share the conviction that democracy is dependent on an informed and engaged public. Info: 625-9708 or 625-9543.

MAY 18-20TH
NMH Dance Program Distills Drama from Daily Life
Spring dance performance at Northfield Mount Hermon, gathers moments from our daily lives and distills from them music and movement. The dance companies of NMH will put on a show each night beginning at 7 pm in Grandin Auditorium on the Mount Hermon campus in Gill. Tickets cost \$2 for NMH students, faculty and staff, and \$5 for all others. Reservations can be made by calling 498-3017. For directions, go to www.nmh-school.org or call (413) 498-3000.

FRIDAY, MAY 19
Tara Jane O'Neil at The Bookmill
Experimental folk chanteuse Tara Jane O'Neil has been crafting her unique brand of finely tuned solo albums for years now. And being the indie rock pioneer that she is, she continues to plow forward in the name of experimentation, refinement and self-realization. Hinging on beautiful acoustics and barely-there personal ruminations, her most recent full-length "You Sound, Reflect" is an understated yet ambitious record.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, MAY 19TH & 20TH
"Free Spirits" at the Media Arts Cinema in the Green Trees Gallery, Nfld. The incredible story of the Massachusetts' Brotherhood of the Spirit/Renaissance Community and its controversial founder, Michael Metelica Rapunzel. What started as an experiment in spiritual seeking and poverty by many became, for a time, a wallow in excess for a select few. At its peak in the early to late seventies, the commune boasted four hundred full-time residents, real estate in four Massachusetts towns, its own airplane, Rolls Royce,



Adam Ainslee Band at the Route 63 Roadhouse in Millers Falls, Saturday Night, May 13th, 9:30 - Hard rocking trio

national rock band, recording studio, and film and video facilities. Q&A with the Director after Fridays film. Written/Directed by Bruce Geisler - Tickets available by phone (413) 498-2100 or at the door. Reservations strongly suggested! \$8 general admission.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY MAY 20TH & 21ST
Arts and Blooms in Turners Falls
Open Studio & Downtown Walking Tour, 10 - 5 p.m. Nestled in the bend of the Connecticut River, a vibrant and funky arts enclave is opening its doors to the public. As the planters bloom along the streets of this reinvented industrial village, downtown artists of Turners Falls will open their working studios and galleries to reveal the blossoming creativity behind the historically preserved facades.

SATURDAY, MAY 20TH
Ethan Miller & Kate Boverman will perform their original fiery songs of hope, justice and struggle at the Echo Lake Coffee House, Leverett Town Hall. Singer/songwriters, Ethan & Kate have hard-

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OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

The Rites of Spring



BY FLORE MONTAGUE CENTER - Have you noticed? May Day rites have finally arrived. The night before, the children have a hard time falling asleep. They ask, "But what shall we wear, should it rain? What if it should snow? What if the gale wind pull down the pole and tear our party clothes?"

"Hush, Hush," murmur the adults, "for the morrow will bring dancing and joy." Remember, the spirits of May will beat their drums, blowing all your fears away! Try imagining instead, how blossoms will float on the heads of maidens. How ethereal smells will envelope us all, for the happiness makers have returned! Watch, how dancers of all ages, hold hands firmly in the circle round. Listen to the fiddlers' songs climb high around the



magic pole! Squeeze boxes keep up the whirling cadenza. Notice they plant each year, smiles on May lips! It happened again this year, in Montague Center. You may have felt its power. Whether a participant, an onlooker, a passerby, we felt this particular *bien etre* (full happiness) called innocence. In unison, all, to feast on these glorious yearly rites of spring, around the May Pole in Montague Center.



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL MULLER

May in Full Bloom

BY FRAN HEMOND MONTAGUE CENTER - Mid-May and the animal world is busy. Winter survival has been supplanted by survival of species, and the migrant robins and bluebirds, the winter hardy chickadees and mallards are busy with nest building and foraging. This morning an energetic robin hopped along the edge of the meadow with what looked like a big yellow worm in his bill. He had trouble managing the load, and a close look revealed a scraggly bunch of yellow straw, perhaps a good start for his nest. He seemed anxious to add to his billful. Was he fearful that he might lose it all, or that he would bring home standard building material that would be scorned by his mate? And one might wonder how heavy a load a mid-sized bird can carry. He finally

decided to risk what he had, and flew off in low gear. On the edge of the driveway, a yellow-shafted flicker rolled along, apparently scooping up ants. His long sharp bill probed the grass and must have decimated the insect population. He looked like an efficient operator. His brown back barred with black stripes and spots, the red at the nape of his neck, his good size and habit of feeding on the ground add up to making him an easy woodpecker to recognize. And a year ago a brother bird had been drumming away on a metal patch on the roof of the house to advertise his territorial rights. A couple of days earlier a similar flicker had been sampling the insect life on the grounds at Unity Park.



A bonus to the brief stop to check out that flicker was a sight of our bald eagle by the town hall. His white tail caught the sun as he soared

high above the river. He was being swooped upon by a crow, maybe for some felony or misdemeanor. Today's children accept eagles as a relatively common sight. Some fifty years ago they were an anomaly. But in every generation, Mid-May brings progression of the season. The pond no longer offers a mixed group of mallard drakes and ducks skimming along in a lively fashion, stopping off on the floating branches to preen and flap their wings, each drake proclaiming himself king of the pond, sitting in the sun, then leaving silver water trails as they resume their cruise. No little brown ducks blend with the water. The iridescent greens or purples of the drakes' heads, their gray and white backs seem muted. It's late spring.

Two disconsolate drakes dip and feed with little enthusiasm. The ducks must be sitting on their nests; the drakes have lost their status. Ducklings will replace them as kings of the pond for some time to come. The drumming of a woodpecker in the orchard drove out the musings about the mallards. He flew off before he could be identified, amid the spray of white apple blossoms. This orchard is an area where late frost can wipe out hope of fruit. One is reminded that today's fabulous apples are a tribute to knowledgeable growers and the fortunes of weather. But the glory of an orchard blossoming must not be lost to practical considerations. And maybe it is this succession of memorable, sometimes marginal sights, that makes New England the best place to live.

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