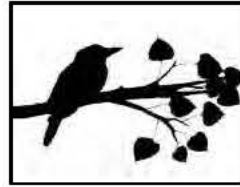




CAPTAIN TURNER

Coward or Hero?
Page 5



THIS WILD PLACE

Shad Run Declining
Page 13

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MAY 15, 2008

G-M Schools Reduce Budget Request - by \$ 50,000

BY DAVID DETMOLD
The Gill Montague Regional School District, facing a shortfall in funding for its \$17,068,078 fiscal '09 operating budget from member towns of at least \$830,142, reduced its budget request on Tuesday - by \$50,000.

"I know, some people will say, '\$50,000?!'" said budget subcommittee chair Valeria Smith at the May 13th school committee meeting. "Yes, \$50,000. We have too many unknowns: school choice, Chapter 70 aid, transportation reimbursement... There are too many variables. That's what we've done, and that's where we're at."

Smith made a motion to reduce the schools' operating budget request for next year to \$17,018,078, and the school committee unanimously approved.

The \$50,000 cut, Smith explained, was made possible by taking

\$30,000 in excess funds from this year's health insurance line item, and \$20,000 from the line item for equipment replacement, and using those funds to pay for the purchase of a work truck. The \$50,000 set aside to buy the new truck will therefore be deleted from the '09 operating budget.

On Monday, interim superintendent Ken Rocke told a joint meeting of the

Montague selectboard and finance committee that he anticipated the '09

see BUDGET pg 10

Montague Schedules Override Election for June 16th

BY DAVID DETMOLD
The town of Montague will hold a special election on Monday, June

16th, for voters townwide to vote on a \$150,000 Proposition 2½ override to help fund the operating

budget for general town government. On Tuesday, June 17th, town meeting members will reconvene for a special town meeting, the day after the override election, to act on the budget should the override fail, "or to address the school budget the second time around," said town

trator Frank Abbondanzio at a joint finance committee and selectboard meeting Monday. Town meeting voted down the Gill-Montague Regional School District's budget request for a Montague assessment of \$7,935,253 on May 7th. By law, the GMRSD must now bring a second certified budget back to town meeting for action within 45 days. The finance committee and the selectboard have recommended funding only \$7,285,091 for the GMRSD for '09, a difference of about \$650,000 from their first budget. Abbondanzio said the original plan to hold an override vote in conjunction with the annual town election on May 19th would have to be scrapped, because town meeting had reduced the override by \$100,000, and state law required a 35 day notice to schedule a

see OVERRIDE pg 9

DeChristopher's Vision Takes Shape at 3rd Street Sculpture Garden



ANNE HARDING PHOTO

BY TARA GORVINE
TURNERS FALLS - Tim DeChristopher has a vision, and it evolves as he works. This weekend, visitors to DeChristopher's new sculpture garden beside the former Chick's Garage,

at 131 3rd Street in Turners will get an inside look at this process as he designs and elaborates on what was once a parking lot for wrecked cars adjacent to his studio.

Now, flower beds and fountains border see SCULPTURE pg 14

Raining Cats and Dogs for Sadoski's Sheffield Finale

BY ANNE HARDING
TURNERS FALLS - It was 'raining cats and dogs' at the Sheffield Elementary School on Thursday and Friday (May 8th and 9th), as Nan Sadoski led the chorus in "the Unity Tree," her final

choral production at Sheffield, after an amazing 30-plus year career teaching music to elementary school students. Sadoski has two more concerts to come: the annual show at Hillcrest School next Tuesday,

May 20th, and the final program at Montague Center School on June 3rd.

I was lucky enough to be backstage at the Thursday performance at Sheffield, helping to paint cat and dog faces on numerous children who were getting more and more excited as their curtain call drew nearer. My 'little sister' Katarina Lenois had invited me to attend the show, and then very nicely volunteered me to help with make-up.

Backstage at Sheffield was actually downstairs in the wings of the old school, where the music rooms of Nan Sadoski were a riot of activity.

see PLAY pg 16



ANNE HARDING PHOTO

Katarina Lenois behind the scenes at Thursday's performance of the Unity Tree

Multifaith Gathering for Peace



DETMOLD PHOTO

Rabbi Efraim Eisen from Temple Isreal performs Yehi Shalom at the interfaith peace service at Our Lady of Peace Church on Sunday, May 11th

BY DAVID DETMOLD
TURNERS FALLS - "OM, Shanti, OM, Shanti, OM."

The sonorous tones of a Sanskrit prayer for peace resounded in the corbelled arches of Our Lady of Peace Church on

Mother's Day evening. Martin Church, with his partner Nora Gurley, Greenfield residents who travel annually to study in an ashram near Trivandrum, in Kerala, India, were reciting an ancient chant for the well-

being of the world.

"Lokah samastah sukhino bhavantu." (May all beings dwell in Love and Happiness and free from fear.) Church played the harmonium, Gurley played the bells, and

see PEACE pg 12

PET OF THE WEEK**Play With Me!****Nanook**

My name is Nanook and I'm a seven-year-old male husky mix in need of a good home. I am a sweet gentle dog that loves to play. My dream is to be adopted by a family that will really love me. I don't want to ask for too much, but if my new family gave me a toy and played with me and thought I was a cute and wonderful dog, I don't think I could ask for anything more.

I'm good with children eight years and older, dogs and confident cats. For more information on adopting me, please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at 413-548-9898 or via email leverett@dpvhs.org.

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Celebrating 20 Years at Rattlesnake Gutter Trust

BY JEAN BERGSTROM

MOORE'S CORNER - On Sunday, May 10th, the Rattlesnake Gutter Trust will hold a 20th anniversary celebration. The public is invited to meet at the Leverett Coop at 1:00 p.m. for a playful and informative hike through the Gutter.

At 3:00 p.m. refreshments will be served at the Leverett

Library and the Rattlesnake Gutter Trust founders will be honored.

At 4:00 p.m. at the library, naturalist and photographer John Green, will offer a slideshow of some of his favorite slides from around the country and the Valley.

All events are free. For more information, call 413-367-2842.

Birch Hill Dam Hike May 17th

Hike Birch Hill Dam on Saturday, May 17th from 1 to 4 p.m. This hike is second in a series of Millers River Watershed Council hikes through the Birch Hill Dam Recreation Area in Winchendon. Meet at gate on New Boston road near the Winchendon/Royalston town line. Rain date (note time) is

Sunday, May 18th, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. For more info contact MRWC at 978-248-9491, or council@millersriver.net.

Directions: take Route 68 to South Royalston and turn onto River Road. Go 0.4 miles and then continue straight on Neale Road (River Road turns right) for another 1.6 miles until T. Turn Right on Neale Place and

Heinemann to Join Maine Lung Association Bike Ride

WENDELL - Josh Heinemann, our Wendell correspondent, will once again be joining the Maine Lung Association's annual Trek Across Maine fundraising bike ride, June 13th - 15th. The trip usually raises over a million

dollars for tobacco education, pollution control and the health of Maine lungs. Like all participants, Heinemann is actively engaged in seeking pledges in advance of the ride. If you would like to contribute to the

FACES & PLACES

LINDA HICKMAN PHOTO

Recent rains swelled an intermittent woodland stream along Wendell Road in Millers Falls.

continue 1.2 miles to gate and park. Neale Place becomes New Boston Road after a short distance. Town line boundary sign is just before gate on left.

22nd Annual South End (Patch) Neighborhood TAG SALE

Saturday, May 17th
8:00 am to ?

Raindate: Saturday May 31st

Several Streets of Sales!

RiverCulture to Hold Charette on "Sense of Place" May 20th

Turners Falls RiverCulture will hold a charrette on Tuesday, May 20th from 6 - 8 p.m. at the Great Hall of the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls on the topic of the community's sense of place. This discussion is a beginning step in the Art Pathways Project.

The Art Pathways Project will create a public art element to an overgrown pedestrian pathway at the end of 7th Street leading up the hill in Turners Falls. The project aims to foster commitment between community members (schools, youth groups, resource centers, town

governance, and area artists) to engage in a collaborative and creative process to redesign part of our community space. Now full of litter and overgrown, these 'Pathways' will become protected space, connecting the downtown village of Turners Falls with the Hill and our greater community school. The Pathways are also expected to serve as a unique and artistic feature of Montague, as well as a pleasant and inspiring path to encourage people to walk downtown.

The session on May 20th will be facilitated by Annaliese

Bischoff, Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture, who has published numerous articles and book chapters on community and open space design. Her research focuses on the cultural influences that shape the landscape with an emphasis on historic identity and landscape character.

The Art Pathways Project is a collaboration between the Turners Falls RIVERCulture Project, Brick House Community Resource Center, Franklin Hampshire Career Center and School Based Systems.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES -- May 19th - 23rd

GILL/MONTAGUE Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. Council-on-Aging Director is Bunny Caldwell. For information or to make reservations, call 863-9357. Meal reservations need to be made a day in advance by 11 a.m. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open. Mealsite Manager is Chris Richer. The Center offers a hot noon meal weekdays to any senior. A reservation is necessary and transportation can be provided. Trips: Call the Senior Center 863-9357 or 863-4500

Monday, 19th

Voting for 2 1/2 proposition. The center will be closed for meals. Meals On Wheels will be delivered as usual. Senior Aerobics

Class will be at 10:00 a.m. at Our Lady of Peace Church

Tuesday, 20th

Meals only

Wednesday, 21st

10 a.m. Senior Aerobics

12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday, 22nd

1 p.m. Pitch

Friday, 23rd

10 a.m. Senior Aerobics

11 a.m. Easy Aerobics

Trips: Call the Senior Center 863-9357 or 863-4500

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 shopping, or medical necessity by calling Dana Moore at 413-422-2584.

Monday, 19th

9:00 a.m. Exercise

9:45 a.m. Library

12 Noon Pitch

Tuesday, 20th

9 a.m. Aerobics

12:30 p.m. Painting

Wednesday, 21st

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing

12 Noon Bingo

Thursday, 22nd

9 a.m. Aerobics

10:15 a.m. Pool

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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Second Montague Mile Honors Allan Adie

BY MATT ROBINSON

TURNERS FALLS - The Second Annual Montague Mile was held Saturday, May 10th, at Turners Falls High School. The event raised much needed money for the Gill Montague schools and honored Allan Adie, a very modest community hero.

About 35 people gathered at the high school track on Saturday. Several races were run as the crowd cheered the runners on, and proud fathers ran alongside their small children. Mr. Adie clapped as each person

honoree of the day, he replied, "I guess they say I helped the school." Then he turned to clap for the next runner.

When it came time for him to accept his plaque, he encouraged the students and thanked them for their extracurricular participation.

Although Adie wouldn't brag

this way," he said.

Adie grew up in Roslindale, a hundred miles east of the community he now calls home. He quit school when he was a kid and went to work as a clerk. It was during the Great Depression that he came to Montague and met his wife, Angie Murly.

He was only 14 in 1929, the year the stock market crashed, the same year he quit school. To counteract the effects of the Depression, the federal government created the Civilian Conservation Corps, (CCC) as part of its "New Deal" to get the

American people working again. Adie joined the CCC in 1935, and traveled to a camp near the airport in Montague, where he worked to help eliminate the pervasive gypsy moths infestation ravaging the countryside.

It was here that Adie met his bride to be, while playing tennis one day. He hit a ball off the court; Angie picked it up, and the rest is history. Seventy years later they're still happy together. And on Saturday, they stood together once more, accepting the thanks of a grateful community.

To donate to Save Our Schools, or to purchase a tee shirt, please contact Bob Avery at 863-9341.



Allan and Angelina Adie at the Montague Mile

finished, to the very last runner in the very last race.

"We're planning to have other events next year," said Bob Avery, one of the fundraising event coordinators. "We may even have pole-vaulting and hurdles."

Many participants were students. The junior varsity softball team showed up in full uniform, led by their coach Mike Blanchard. Kids and parents sold tee shirts, coffee and donuts.

Allan Adie and his proud wife Angie mingled with the crowd and smiled politely at all the praise. But Adie remained self-effacing as always.

Asked how he came to be the

about any of his good works, there were plenty on hand to sing his praises.

"He's ninety-two years old and has the energy of someone much younger," said Father Stan, of Our Lady of Peace parish. "He visits shut-ins at nursing homes, he's a Eucharistic minister, a church lector, and an acolyte. He's done so much for the church, and has a wonderful spirit."

Bob Avery, one of the organizers of the Save Our Schools event, went into some detail about Adie's dedication to the schools, especially to athletic programs. "I thank him for all his service, and I'm glad we were able to acknowledge him

CLARIFICATIONS & CORRECTIONS

The transportation forum at Greenfield Community College that took place on Thursday, May 1st ("GCC Hosts Transportation Forum," MR V #31) was sponsored by the Pioneer Valley Institute. It was the fourth in a series of programs entitled "Sustainable Living in the Valley." Martha Rullman, program coordinator, organized the Sustainable Living series as a way to highlight people in the region who have incorporated successful models of sustainable living practices at work and at home, and to encourage a dialogue on sustainability topics between residents, business owners and government. For more information, contact the Pioneer Valley Institute at mrullman@crocker.com

Also, the last name of the Transportation Manager of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments was misspelled in the article, due to an editing error. Her name is Maureen Mullaney.

In a sidebar on upcoming town meeting races in Montague, the name of one of the candidates running in Precinct 1, Juanita Caldwell,

would have been more easily recognized by readers had her nickname been given as well. Juanita is better known as Bunny Caldwell.

Also in Precinct 1, Chris Wise of 17 Main Street is running for town meeting as a write-in in Monday's election. Another town meeting candidate, Veronica Phaneuf, 547 Turners Falls Road, would also like to be written in for an open 3-year seat on the library trustees.

In the article describing the lengthy proceedings of the Erving annual town meeting on May 7th, an editing error caused an incorrect sum to be given for Erving's appropriation for the Franklin County Tech School for '09. The correct amount is \$101,990.

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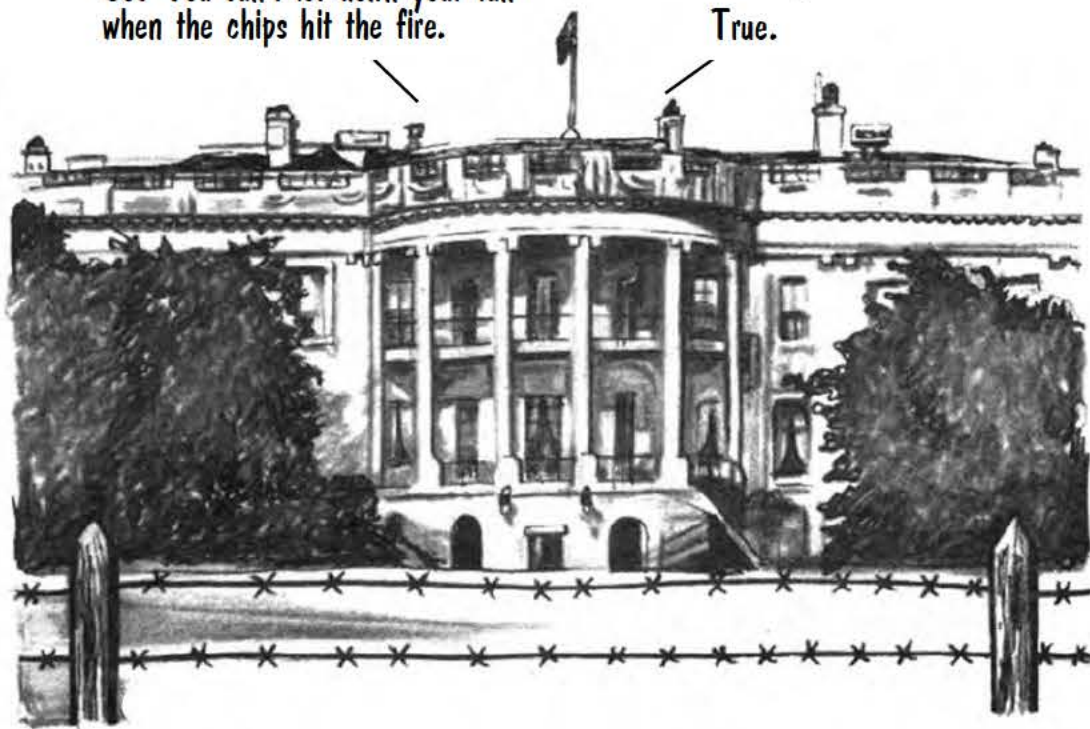
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McCain's running around talking about capping carbon emissions. That gasbag! I ought to withdraw my endorsement.

Sir, your approval ratings are the lowest of any president in history.

So? You can't let down your fan when the chips hit the fire.

True.



A Budget We Can't Afford

GMRSD SEEKS \$17,018,078 FOR '09

Budget numbers are fungible commodities. But even a casual glance at the warrants for recent town meetings in Gill and Montague reveals how far out of balance their budgets are, once you place the Gill-Montague Regional School District's assessments squarely on the scales.

Gill could pretend to bring revenues and expenses in line only by cutting the GMRSD's request for a 16.4% assessment increase by \$178,000. Montague took \$652,000 off the GMRSD's request for an 11.4% hike. But neither town imagines the cuts they have proposed for their school system can be made to stick. Not with the specter of a state imposed budget hovering in the not so distant future.

With the state Board of Education backing the district's turnaround plan to improve what the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education considers an 'underperforming' school system, the school committee is hanging tough on their \$17 million budget request for '09. Never mind the fact that GMRSD interim superintendent Ken Roche has publicly acknowledged that the towns do

not have the fiscal capacity to absorb assessment increases of this magnitude.

Former Montague finance committee chair Michael Naughton used a colorful analogy on town meeting floor last week, just before town meeting voted the school budget down. He compared the towns of Gill and Montague trying to fund a million dollar increase for the schools to a person like himself trying to lift up a pickup truck loaded with bricks, using only his bare hands. "It's impossible," he said.

It was with perhaps unintended irony, then, that the GMRSD school committee returned with a new budget figure on Tuesday, May 13th, after hearing from their member towns that a \$17 million dollar budget is a completely unrealistic figure. The school committee revised their '09 budget request downward - by \$50,000 - the price of a new pickup truck the schools say they need to replace a worn out model.

The committee now believes it can afford to buy the pickup truck from excess funds in this year's budget. No word on how many bricks will fit in its truckbed.

After the towns have done everything they can to trim expenses, they deserve a good faith effort from their school system to live within an affordable budget. Gill needs to buy a truck this year too, for the highway department, but the town is forced to resort to a \$135,000 debt exclusion override to fund

it. There is simply no excess capacity in Gill's tax levy, even though town departments were held to an average 0.8% increase this year.

In Montague, town meeting rejected the selectboard and finance committee's budget, opting instead to cut more than \$145,000 in personnel costs and benefits - an amount equal to a wage freeze for all town workers along with a reduction in the town's contribution to their health care coverage from 90% to 80%. Even so, Montague is seeking a \$150,000 override to fund core municipal services.

In view of these measures, the school committee cannot in good conscience maintain a \$17

million budget request. The \$50,000 reduction offered is nothing close to what the member towns have called for. Nearly a half million dollars in wage hikes for district employees are in the offing this year. We hope the protracted negotiations with the teachers indicate the school committee realizes they cannot persist in aiming for a target of 3% to 5% for personnel cost increases this year, given the fact the towns they represent are looking at huge deficits.

Montague town meeting has set a good example by level funding wages for employees. The district needs to follow suit. There is clearly no money for

wage hikes this year. A wage freeze will not compromise the district's turnaround plan.

Wherever they find room to cut, or however they are able to raise new revenues, we urge the school committee to bring their budget down to a level that does not threaten to bankrupt the towns of Gill and Montague.

We all favor local control of public schools. But if the GMRSD persists with the budget request they are now advancing, the day will not be long in coming when control of our school system passes to a board of Boston bureaucrats, and the budget they impose will be all the more unpleasant for being impervious to our vote.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Defending Lamonakis Story

Paul Seamans feels it is regrettable that the *Reporter* printed an article about Sonya Lamonakis defending her heavy-weight golden glove boxing title, and he invites any reader to retort. I guess I'll be that reader.

My stepfather, an excellent golden glove boxer, taught me how to box when I was 11 years old. His instruction didn't instill me with a wellspring of previously unactualized aggression and hostility. On the contrary, it

gave me a boost of self-confidence.

The viciousness Seamans ascribes to boxing has more to do with sensationalism, as well as the massive corruption that unfortunately invaded pro boxing, than the sport itself. But like another adulterated sport, hockey, boxing in its pure form is an artful test of strength, endurance, and mental and physical agility.

Paul suggests boxing, especially involving women, should

merit no acceptance. This assertion is sexist and chauvinistic. People need healthy outlets for their aggression, whether that be sports, political activism, art, or any number of other positive channels.

When I read the article about Sonya, I simply saw a local paper lauding a local person for an accomplishment, and an impressive one at that.

- Kevin Smith
Turners Falls

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TFHS Graduation Party Donations Needed

Each year the parents of Turners Falls High School graduates put on an all night substance free party at the French King Entertainment Center, in Erving. We rely heavily on donations from area businesses and residents to make this party a successful and fun event for the graduates.

This year, our fundraising has fallen short of what is needed to put on this event for the students.

Please help us if you are able by sending your donation to: TFHS Class of 2008; c/o Sally Delaney; 6 Gary Street, Erving, MA 01344 or call Sally at 413-422-2490 and Michelle at 413-

863-5013 if you have something that needs to be picked up.

Thank you so much for helping us keep the graduates safe and having fun on their special high school graduation night, Friday, May 30th.

- Sally Delaney
Erving

GUEST EDITORIAL

Captain William Turner - Coward or Hero?

Three hundred and thirty two years ago, on May 19th, 1676, Captain William Turner, leading a militia of 145 men from Northampton and Hadley, surprised and wiped out an encampment of Native American refugees from Metacom's War - primarily old men, women, and children - in a dawn raid on the north side of the Great Falls. In the attack itself, more than 300 Indians were slaughtered. The controversy surrounding this event, and the subsequent naming of the town that grew up on the south side of the river after the Colonial militia's leader, continues to this day.

BY LARRY CADRAN

LOWELL - When my book *The Courage Of Conviction, the Story of William Turner* was published, I asked readers if they felt Captain Turner was a coward or hero.

One reader was an officer in the U.S. Army and a ranger. His first response was analytical. By current military standards, a hit and run group must return with all soldiers for a mission to be considered successful. Turner lost twenty-five percent of his soldiers, and his own life, so his mission, by modern standards, should be considered a failure.

I pointed out that three centuries ago Captain Turner's mission was "to distress the Indians." These were Turner's own words and, despite the loss of men, he did succeed in his objective.

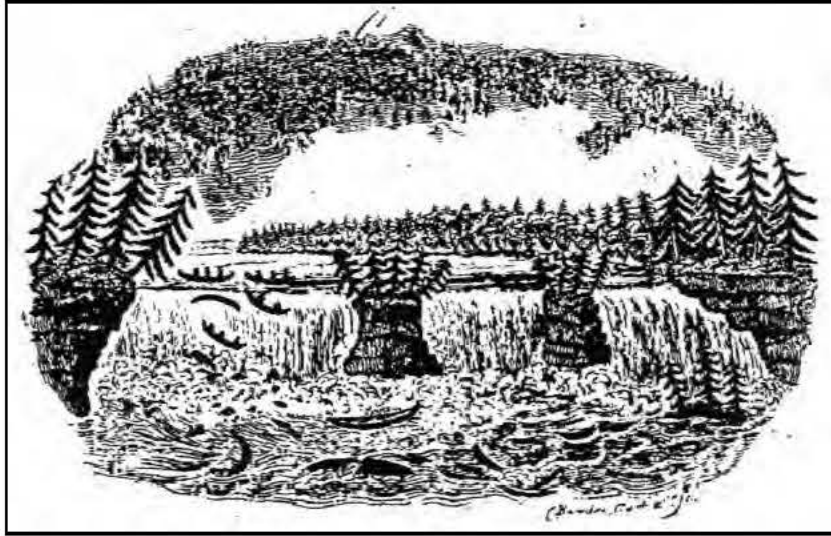
Some readers felt Captain Turner was a hero but for the fact he made a controversial decision during the heat of battle. The Army ranger assessed the impact of Jonathan Wells'

request to halt Turner's army or send soldiers back to help men in the rear. He said that either way there would have been significantly more casualties of war, so Turner's response to Wells was correct. That was, "Better to save some than lose all."

This professional soldier reassessed Captain Turner's mission. He should be considered a hero because he achieved his goal; he made a hard but correct decision to keep his army moving; he did well to hold his frightened men together on the retreat; and seventy five percent of his men returned home when the losses could have been more disastrous.

Turner's Puritan contemporaries saw him differently. His severest critics were first generation ministers who wrote the early histories of the Bay Colony. In addition to the loss of Turner's soldiers there was the apparent loss of one of their own beloved ministers, who was the volunteer chaplain in Turner's army. Both of these events insured that Turner would be given no credit in the histories of the Bay Colony.

It didn't help that the ministers hated Turner because he was a turbulent Baptist among godly Puritans. Jonathan Wells was a Puritan and in all proba-



Indians drowning in the massacre at Wissatinnewag, 1676.
Print courtesy of Larry Cadran

bility was the angry source that for the rest of his life criticized Turner for poor judgment and a bad decision. Wells was most likely the first to call Captain Turner a coward. And this could have been the seed that has grown throughout local history and produced a negative attitude about the name of Turners Falls.

In one man's viewpoint, Captain Turner's action was that of a coward. But there is another viewpoint that speaks differently of Captain Turner. And that is the answer to the question that asks if William Turner's character would permit him to act as a coward.

When Turner lived in Dorchester, near Boston, a town official asked him to become a bailiff. Other men had been asked, but either refused or resigned because they were unsuitable to the townspeople. A bailiff was required to be a man of character and responsibility as he often dealt with angry citizens. Turner accepted and held this position of respect for a full term.

Turner was one of the pillars

that now the only Baptist in jail, and fellow Baptists rallied to give him financial help and moral encouragement. In time, he became despondent about the future of his family. By 1675, Turner had been imprisoned for five years. He had been near death one time but somehow had survived. His health had deteriorated and he was seriously infirm. He probably had a severe case of arthritis as a result of living in a small, cold, damp stone cell. In the fall of 1675, King Philip's (Metacom) War was raging and word reached Turner that many men would willingly fight under no one else but him. Immediately, Turner petitioned the Court to allow him to raise a company of soldiers to go fight Indians. As he was in jail, his request was denied for the reason it was considered a bluff that would allow him to get out of jail and escape. Early in 1676, Colony authorities, desperate to find volunteer soldiers for a new army, decided to accept Turner's offer to scrape together a company of soldiers. He was released from prison and assembled a company of volunteers. His promotion to Captain of the company was given reluctantly. Authorities feared he would lead a revolt against them. Turner resolved to carry out all orders given to him, which he did despite being replaced as company leader. He was ordered to go alone through a wilderness frequented by Indians to the Connecticut River valley, where authorities may have hoped he would meet

They were. All the mainstays were placed in jail without hope of release. They had only their courage, commitment and trust in God to sustain them in the dark, damp cells of the Boston prison. In time, all were released for thirty days to think about their lawbreaking, recant their erroneous beliefs before a Puritan congregation, and be accepted back to the Puritan church. But most knew they could never recant their Baptist beliefs, so they fled to the safety of an uninhabited island in Boston harbor. Living there was close to primitive and caused one of their number to die. Still, they held to their religious beliefs. It was while Turner was living on the island that his first wife died. She had just given birth to their ninth child. The fact that his children were now without any parent drove him to risk a return home across the harbor to Boston. The attempt failed. He was captured and placed back in jail by authorities that wanted him to die in prison, a common event then. He was

see TURNER pg 7

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Celebrate Memorial Day in Montague Center May 25th

Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who died in our nation's service. Officially proclaimed on May 5th, 1868 by General John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, it was first observed on May 30th, 1868, when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery:

"The 30th day of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village, and hamlet churchyard in the land. In this observance

no form or ceremony is prescribed, but posts and comrades will in their own way arrange such fitting services and testimonials of respect as circumstances may permit.

Let us, then, at the time appointed, gather around their sacred remains and garland the passionless mounds above them with choicest flowers of springtime; let us raise above them the dear old flag they saved from dishonor; let us in this solemn presence renew our pledges to aid and assist those whom they have left among us as sacred charges upon the Nation's gratitude -- the soldier's and sailor's widow and orphan."

The day was declared a

national holiday by Congress in 1971 and, since then, traditional observance of Memorial Day has diminished over the years. Many Americans nowadays have forgotten the meaning and traditions of Memorial Day. The graves of the fallen are

day for recalling the memory of all military veterans, alive and dead. Separated from "the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country" and any reminder of the heavy price of war, others have even used the day to justify more war.

nearby village cemeteries to groom, trim vegetation, and decorate the burial markers with flowers we may have in our possession. There, among the memorials of those of our community who also knew this village as home, we will close the commemoration until next year when we will come to another of the village's several cemeteries and, "at the time appointed, gather around their sacred remains and garland the passionless mounds above them with choicest flowers of springtime".

Please join with us this Memorial Day Sunday, and perhaps bring scissors, brushes, and flowers.

- Richard Colton
Montague Grange #141
Montague Center

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



increasingly ignored or neglected. While there are towns and cities that still hold Memorial Day parades, others have not held a parade in decades. Some people think the day is for honoring any and all dead, and not just those fallen in service to our country, while others have made it a

Looking upon early photographs of Memorial Day commemorations in Montague Center, adults and children are seen carrying flowers to the various burial grounds, starting at the town common. It is my hope, then, that any who wish may join us this coming Sunday, May 25th, assembling on the Montague Center town common at 11 a.m. for the initial dedication, following which we will go to one of the

Fund the Safe and Green Campaign

When I first heard of the possibility of tax rebates, my reaction was how disingenuous the whole idea of increasing our deficit to stimulate the economy seemed to be. My first thought was to send the check back to the IRS to pay down the deficit.

Then it hit me, why not use the money to advance a cause I was already working on: the Vermont Citizens Action Network (VCAN), the grassroots lobbying arm of the Citizens Awareness Network,

working to stop the relicensing of Vermont Yankee. They have hired a lobbyist, Bob Stannard, who was instrumental in drafting and moving the legislation on Full Decommissioning Funding of Entergy Vermont Yankee, the Comprehensive Vertical Audit, and the Siting of Radioactive Waste. This was an incredible feat to introduce three bills and pass two of them in the 2008 Vermont Legislative session. And Bob will be fighting for us

in the 2009 legislative session too!

I've been canvassing as a volunteer door to door for VCAN to raise money for Bob, the people's lobbyist. And then I knew I had to put my money in too.

So, I am sending a check for \$600 to VCAN, PO Box 132, Hancock, VT 05748 Today!

Won't you join me? Any amount is welcome!!

- John Ward Gill

Water Department Sets Schedule for Hydrant Flushing

The Turners Falls Water Department will begin flushing hydrants next week.

Flushing hydrants is a necessary part of maintenance of water and fire lines. Tap water may be discolored. The department encourages residents to run tap water to clear up any discoloration before drinking or doing laundry.

The TFWD suggests moving vehicles to use caution in areas where flushing is taking place, as

rushing water from hydrants could damage vehicles

The tentative schedule is as follows:

Monday May 19 - High St, L St, Crocker Ave, Hillside Ave & Riverside Dr, Highland Circle, Dell St, Turners Falls Rd, Randall Rd, Turnpike Rd, Millers Falls Rd

Tuesday May 20- Power St, Canal St, Ave A, 11th St, High St, Highland Circle, L St, Fairway Ave, Dell St, Turnpike Rd, Hillside and

Riverside Drive, Greenfield Rd, Sherman Drive

Wednesday May 21- Ave A, 11th St, Highland Circle, Fairway Ave, Dell St, Turnpike Rd, Greenfield Rd, Turners Falls Rd, Greenfield Rd and Sherman Drive

Friday May 23- Industrial Blvd and Millers Falls

Due to the interconnecting infrastructure water may become roily even if not flushing in your immediate area.

Safe and Green Organizing Meeting

BRATTLEBORO - The Safe and Green campaign has been piling up a lopsided record of town meeting votes in Franklin County favoring a non-binding resolution to decommission the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant. This spring, the resolution to shut down Vermont Yankee by 2012 and replace the power the plant produces with conservation and renewable energy has passed in Conway, Leverett, Montague, Gill, Northfield, Warwick, Heath, Shelburne, and Buckland, and been defeated only in Bernardston, there by 10 votes. The resolution has yet to be voted on in Leyden, Charlemont, New Salem, Wendell, and Colrain.

On Saturday, May 31st, from 10:00 to 3:00 p.m., the Safe and Green campaign will hold a regional organizing meeting at the Marlboro Tech Center in

downtown Brattleboro, with lunch, purchased from the Brattleboro Coop, provided.

The gathering will provide an opportunity for townspeople in the 20-mile radius of Vermont Yankee to meet with one another and plan next steps to "stop the re-licensing of Vermont Yankee and create safe, renewable, and affordable energy alternatives," and "to hear the latest developments regarding broader efforts by other groups and coalitions to achieve these goals, and how we in the 20-mile zone can use our unique position, as the towns and townspeople most at risk, to support these efforts and launch our own," according to an email from the Safe and Green campaign

To RSVP for the May 31st gathering, for directions and more information, contact cchang@nukebusters.org, or call 413-863-8952 by Friday, May 23rd.

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TURNER from pg 5

a fatal end. He realized he had been duped out of his company, but followed orders.

Turner was assigned to command the Northampton fort and, during his first night, Indians attacked it and gained entrance. Though two of his men were killed, soldiers rallied and saved the fort.

The successful defense of this fort was given much publication and hailed as a sorely needed victory over the Indians. However, Turner's name was never mentioned as the fort commander. No one noticed that he was demonstrating command ability.

With war going badly in the east, the Boston war council ordered all adult eastern company soldiers in the valley back east, leaving only untested and inexperienced teenage soldiers. Turner was placed in command of all the Connecticut valley forces that included one eastern company and a number of valley militias. He was given the power to defend the local towns with this manpower.

Due to the severity of his infirmity, Turner felt he couldn't measure up to the physical demand placed on him as the valley commander. He requested release from this position but was denied by Boston. With the sudden absence of Indian war parties in the valley and news of upriver Indians busy at catching fish, Turner recognized an apparent low risk target of opportunity. Without telling Boston, he began planning a surprise attack.

It would have been easy to select Captain Holyoke to be the leader as he was a valley militia officer trusted by his men. However, despite the constant, daily pain of his infirmity, he committed himself to lead the army north.

The massacre of the Indian village near Peskeompskut

was a necessity of the time. It had been deemed an enemy village without any thought that, in addition to warriors, it contained women, children and old men. Even if their presence had been known, Turner's army still would have attacked it just for vengeance. The massacre of these Indians equated to savage acts of violence committed by Indian war parties on white settlers throughout the valley. King Philip's War itself had begun with the massacre of many white people, including women and children. History reveals that the massacre by Turner's army helped end the war. It made the Indians realize they too were vulnerable to serious losses from which they could not recover.

The death of Captain Turner became a Baptist symbol of loyalty to Puritan rule and a clear demonstration of their patriotism. At least to the Baptists, Turner was a hero. The Colony had its back to the ocean and everyone felt the Indians had the momentum to defeat the whites. The massacre near Peskeompskut came just when Colony morale was lowest and fear was greatest. Within a short period of time, several more victories over the valley Indians occurred. Most important, they raised morale and restored a confidence that the whites could win the war.

Was it Turner's fate or was he divinely ordained to act as the right hand of God? In a matter of a few months, he had experienced an extraordinary transformation. He went from being a wretched, solitary prisoner in the dregs of the Boston jail to being commander of a small army that gained a significant offensive success that no other military group at the time had come close to equaling.

So you tell me: Captain Turner - coward or hero?



NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Cows, Boats & Taxes

BY ALEX GOTTSCHALK - Taxes were the main topic of discussion for the Gill selectboard meeting on Monday the 12th.

Selectboard member Nancy Griswold noted that milk cows have a tax value of \$1,000 each, and said there was a Gill resident who had not claimed his cows as personal property, thereby making him eligible to have his herd taxed. Other livestock owners in the town have attached the value of their farm animals to their personal property tax. This left the board in a quandary about whether or not to tax one resident for his cows.

Another point of discussion on Monday evening was the tax for Gill boat owners. The imposition of a tax on boats had been a point of controversy last year, when boat owners in the town were assessed and taxed for the first time for personal property. This had led to some complaints, as some boat

owners in Gill pointed out they did not actually dock their boats in town.

"It was a fiasco. People came in here yelling and stomping," said tax collector Ronnie LaChance.

This year, an informational letter will be sent out with the tax forms, explaining the decision to tax boats. "There aren't that many [boat owners], but because of all the hassle we went through last year, it's important that we get all the money due to us," said Griswold.

In other news, Steve Hussey, director of the Four Winds School in Riverside, in the town municipal building, appeared before the board to ask what the town's long term plans for that building might be.

Hussey said, "We're curious what your plans are, although my board is by no means of one mind on this topic."

In addition to the school, the building also houses the Gill

Historical Society. "We have no plans for the building, other than the fact that the Historical Society likes it. We are pretty much breaking even on it. At this point I don't think the town would be willing to sell it," said selectboard member Ann Banash.

Hussey and the board agreed that should the building change hands, it would be in the interests of all parties to install solar panels, without changing the overall appearance of the structure. "We'd want to maintain the building pretty much as it is," said Hussey. "I don't want to radically alter it."

In other Gill news, the town has received its contract from the University of Massachusetts archeology services in regard to the former Mariamante property, which selectboard chair Leland Stevens signed. Asked what the contract would cover, Banash said, "They are going to do another dig for whatever is, or is not, there."

POETRY & MUSIC BENEFIT FEST for The Montague Reporter

When: Sunday, May 18 7:30- 10:30 at
The Rendezvous, Third Street, Turners Falls

Who Reads: Local poets will be slamming it out at an open mic. All comers are welcome to read their one best poem. Poetry slam starts at 8; sign up from 7:45 on.

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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Tessier Re-elected Selectboard Chair

BY NICHOLE CLAYTON - Newly elected selectboard member Andrew Goodwin was welcomed to the Erving selectboard on Monday, and said he was "excited to jump in and get my feet wet." He took over the liaison appointments departing member Jeff Dubay had previously handled. By unanimous vote, Andrew Tessier was reappointed to the position of selectboard chair.

The Erving Center pump house for the public drinking water supply is in need of renovation, following an inspection last November by the Department of Environmental Protection, which identified deficiencies in the caustic chemical feed system. An updated alarm system, electrical interlocks on pumps, and the installation of a safety shower and emergency eyewash are on the list of upgrades needed at that facility. As of now, the pump house uses a common alarm, which does not indicate the reason for the alarm being triggered.

Engineering consultants Tighe and Bond will prepare a scope of work for the project, and return to the board for further action.

The selectboard is looking into the way the "Just About Anything Goes" annual large item trash pickup will be run next year. This year, the board received several complaints about the appearance of the town during the Anything Goes weeks. The board is considering designating certain locations for residents to bring items for trash collection on specific days, rather than allowing residents to simply leave items for pick-up by the side of the road. More ideas of what to do for the trash pick-up next year will be discussed at a selectboard meeting in coming weeks.

The Memorial Day parade in Erving will be held on May 26th, starting at 10:00 a.m., beginning at Renovators and ending at Veterans Field. A ceremony will take place at the park following the parade. Come one come all.

Open House for Good Neighbors

BY MARA BRIGHT WENDELL - Good Neighbors, the food pantry serving Wendell and New Salem, has moved its distribution site to the Wendell Town Hall. To celebrate, the group plans an open house on Sunday, May 25th from 12:30 - 2:30 p.m. at their new location. As usual, families will be able to pick up food at 1:30 p.m.

Since founder Rosalie Rosser's untimely death, Good Neighbors has been reorganizing. A few people have stepped forward to assume the many tasks Rosalie managed largely on her own. The current vision is for growth and expansion.

Spokesperson Adrian Montagano said, "We're aiming for a wider reach, to get more people to know we're there and to use us."

Good Neighbors invites newcomers to visit, see what's available, sign up and refer others. There's room to volunteer to help as well.

Once a month, Good Neighbors sponsors the

Family Network from 12:30 - 1 p.m. Families with children can receive diapers, juices and health care products. In addition, eligible families can participate in the bi-monthly distribution of USDA government commodities. Recipients are automatically eligible if they receive SSI, SSD, fuel assistance, food stamps, veterans' benefits, WIC or subsidized housing. They can register with Good Neighbors to receive food. People who are disabled or have special needs can come for the weekly 1:30 p.m. distribution fifteen minutes early, so they don't have to contend with crowds.

This past year, Good Neighbors was part of the Foodathon held in Athol and Orange to raise money for the North Quabbin region. This year 2,640 parcels of food and \$27,000 was raised during Foodathon week, which culminated on April 8th. Local schools participated, and collection boxes were placed in Wendell at the post office, library and store.

Each week, Good Neighbors relies on contributions from Trader Joe's, Whole Foods, Fosters and Maple Farms. Local area farmers donate fresh produce and garden surplus as well.

In the past few months, Good Neighbors has expanded from serving about thirty-five households, to fifty or more. A board of eight volunteers manages operations and is currently looking for people with specific skills in administration, grant writing, fundraising and finances. Prospective volunteers can call Adrian at 413-665-3789 or Lola Bedow at 978-544-2109. Dollar donations can be sent to P.O. Box 222, Wendell, 01379.

Generous contributions lately have allowed Good Neighbors to buy bulk grains, beans and tofu for distribution.

The proceeds from Wendell's Full Moon Coffee House on May 18th are earmarked for Good Neighbors. Bob Rosser's Band and Blame It on Tina will be performing.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE GILL POLICE LOG

Mother's Day Arrest on Munn's Ferry Road

Wednesday, 5-7
 10:03a.m. Report of stolen items from Main Road residence.
 1:50 p.m. Unwanted subject at Munn's Ferry Road address.
 6:03 p.m. Report of erratic operator at Main Road, French King Highway intersection.
 11:15 p.m. Checked suspicious motor vehicle on North Cross Road.

Friday, 5-9
 3:45 p.m. Assisted resident with runaway son at station.
 9:31 p.m. Assisted Bernardston police with arrest.

Saturday, 5-10
 1:30 a.m. Assisted Greenfield police attempting to locate operator of vehicle involved in an accident in their town, on West Gill Road.
 2:03 p.m. Report of past unwanted subject at West Gill Road.

5:35 p.m. Arrested [redacted]
 Charged with unlicensed operation of motor vehicle.

9:37 p.m. Assisted Northfield police with fight on Upper Farms Road.

Sunday 5-11
 8:40 a.m. Report of intoxicated subject in motor vehicle parked in the middle of Munn's Ferry Road.
 8:55 a.m. Arrested [redacted]
 Charged with operating under the influence of alcohol, open container of alcohol in motor vehicle, operating after license suspension, operating to endanger and failing to wear safety belt.

Monday, 5-12
 4:55 a.m. Report of loose cows on West Gill Road.

Earth, Wind and Sun Fair debuts in Montague

Play with mini wind turbines, solar cells, and hydropower generators. Challenge yourself to keep 600-watts of light going for one minute with pedal power. Take a geological tour of downtown Turners Falls and see how past climate changes are revealed in exposed rock outcrops. Or bake something tasty to eat from you own solar oven! These free, fun family activities take place at the Montague Earth, Wind and Sun Fair on June 14th from 10 am to 3 pm at the Great Falls Discovery Center, Avenue A, Turners Falls. The Fair is the kick-off event for the Montague's Clean Energy Campaign. Free admission. Full schedule: www.montaguema.net.

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OVERRIDE from pg 1

new override election.

The original measure placed on the annual election had been fashioned as a \$250,000 "basket of services" override to support the branch libraries, the parks and recreation department, the senior center, curbside recycling, the town nurse, and the animal control officer.

Town meeting abandoned that approach, placed those departmental services back into the general operating budget for town government, (except for the animal control officer, whose position was eliminated) and decided to go for a smaller override sum at a time when town residents are already expecting property tax increases of roughly \$170 on the average

property tax bill to pay for sewer projects and the new police station.

Over two days, on Saturday, May 3rd and Wednesday, May 7th, town meeting cut about \$191,839 from the operating budget and from the 'basket of services' items scheduled for the original override. To fund the remaining \$58,161 of the original override, town accountant Carolyn Olsen suggested on the 3rd that about \$40,000 in anticipated new local receipts could be applied. For the remaining \$18 thousand or so, the town will dip further into stabilization, finance committee chair John Hanold said.

The proposed \$150,000 override that will be voted on June 16th would replace a similar amount that would have

been applied to fund general town government from the assessors overlay reserves.

Finance committee member Jeff Singleton defended that override proposal on Monday night. "We're trying to be honest with people. If we want a solution to the structural budget problem, we need a balanced solution. If this override fails, there is absolutely no question that parks and recreation, the senior center, and curbside recycling is on the agenda," (for possible cuts), he said.

Precinct 6 resident Liz Gordon spoke to the boards in defense of the animal control officer's position. "Al Foster works very hard," she said. "He took a big hit. In fact, he got hit right out of the park." Gordon said it was unlikely the police

department would be able to fill the role the animal control officer has played in town, and asked if there was any other way the position could be reconsidered.

Singleton replied, "I don't think there is. Positions at town hall will be coming up constantly."

Precinct 1 town meeting member Paul Kaufman asked how the boards proposed to get information out to town residents about the need for the \$150,000 town government override, and offered to help in that effort. A proposal was made to form a committee of town meeting members to assist the finance and selectboards with distributing information about the override.

Hanold, chair of the finance committee, sent an email out after the meeting to various town meeting members that read in part, "The finance committee can participate in the process and lend its knowledge, but in view

of town meeting's choice of a new structure for budget creation the leadership should come from the larger body of town meeting members."

Chairing the joint board meeting in Pat Allen's absence, Allen Ross warned that "the second shoe" has still not dropped, in the budget making process. Referring to this year's 11.4% increase in the GMRSD's assessment request for the town of Montague, Ross said, "This is where we've all been struggling since the first of the year, to figure out how to get enough income into the town to pay for services and hurt as few people as possible, and keep the town functioning. We are going to need more money than is currently being considered. How much we are going to have to pay for the schools... It's going to be in the high thousands of dollars. It's not even close. A second override is going to have to be considered."



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Identity Fraud in Montague

Friday, 5/2
8:16 p.m. Report of vandalism at The Rendezvous, Third Street, Turners Falls. Investigated.
9:58 p.m. Arrested [redacted] on a default warrant.

Saturday, 5/3
5:08 a.m. Report of loud noise disturbance at an X Street address.
10:19 a.m. Report of threatening / harassment at a Randall Road address, Montague. Services rendered.
5:46 p.m. Report of larceny at a Fourth Street address, Turners Falls.
8:01 p.m. Liquor law violations in progress at Unity Park, Turners Falls.
9:06 p.m. Officer wanted at a Third Street address, Turners Falls. Peace restored.

Sunday, 5/4
6:26 p.m. Report of fight at an L Street address, Turners Falls. Peace restored.

Monday, 5/5
12:01 a.m. Following a traffic stop, arrested [redacted]. Charged with operating an unregistered vehicle, operating a motor vehicle under the influence of liquor, failure to wear seat belt, no inspection sticker on vehicle, operating to endanger and failure to notify registry of motor vehicles of address/name change.

3:42 a.m. Report of vandalism at an L Street address, Turners Falls. Services rendered.
3:59 a.m. Report of loud noise disturbance at a Fourth Street address, Turners Falls. Services rendered.
9:21 a.m. Report of identity fraud from a Montague City Road, Turners Falls resident.
1:05 p.m. Report of fraud from a Franklin Street, Millers Falls resident.
4:39 p.m. Report of fraud from a Fifth Street, Turners Falls resident.
8:08 p.m. Report of domestic disturbance at a Montague Street address, Turners Falls. Arrested [redacted]. Charged with trespassing and resisting arrest.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE IRVING POLICE LOG

Donuts in the Field

Tuesday, 5/6
11:15 a.m. Medical assist River Road, Ambulance transported same.
2:12 p.m. Requested assistance at West High Street residence to keep the peace while subject moved belongings out.
11:15 p.m. Assisted Montague police with a man with a knife call. Searched area. Unfounded.

Wednesday, 5/7
2:23 a.m. Arrested [redacted] for marked lanes violation, operating motor a vehicle under the influence of liquor, second offense, open container and operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license.
6:17 p.m. Advised two parties that they cannot park their motorcycles on the French King Bridge.
8:00 p.m. Report of a black Ford Ranger with kayak in the back doing donuts at Zulinski Field. Located same at Field parking lot, spoke to owner. Advised to clean up marks.

Thursday, 5/8
4:57 p.m. Criminal application issued to [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle without a license. Criminal application issued to [redacted] for allowing a motor vehicle with a revoked registration to be operated and for allowing a motor vehicle with no insurance to be operated.

Friday, 5/9
8:45 a.m. Assisted Gill police with traffic stop on French King Bridge.
2:45 p.m. Spoke with Mountain Road resident regarding traffic complaint on road.

2:50 p.m. Report of running dog on the French King Bridge. Unable to locate.

Saturday, 5/10
12:30 a.m. Criminal application issued to [redacted] for unlicensed operation of motor vehicle.
5:40 p.m. Assisted Gill police with arrest on Main Road in Gill.
8:20 p.m. Report of suspicious male taking pictures of children at the elementary school playground. Searched area, nothing found.

Sunday, 5/11
12:10 p.m. Report of stolen car parts at French King Highway.

Monday, 5/12
6:15 p.m. Criminal application issued to [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle with a revoked registration and operating a motor vehicle with no insurance.

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9. The Rendezvous
10. Tim DeChristopher
11. Patty Cake Patty Cake
12. Starbuck and Sons Art Shop
13. Great Lighting
14. A Young Artist's View
15. Peterman Baskets and Bowls
16. Jack Nelson
17. Carnegie Library Children's Art Exhibit & Used Book Sale

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- Doosel; by Stephen Cahill
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BUDGET from pg 1

GMRSD budget, which has already been amended down by \$178,000 in Gill and by \$652,142 in Montague, would be rejected by the member towns a second time at town meetings, and would not be resolved until a special district meeting is held sometime this summer.

Last July, the district held a previously rare district meeting - to which all registered voters of Gill and Montague were invited - to set the district's operating budget. If a district meeting fails to approve a budget acceptable to the school district, the state can

step in and set a budget for the schools which the towns would be obliged to pay.

On Tuesday, personnel subcommittee chair Kristin Boyle said contract negotiations with the G-M teachers association are ongoing, and have required "a longer time commitment than we had originally planned for." She thanked the negotiating team and the teachers for their patience in the process.

In other news, director of elementary education Chip Wood announced two finalists for the post of principal of the Gill

Elementary School, and two finalists for the principalship of Sheffield Elementary as well. Gill parents are invited to meet the two finalists there on Tuesday, May 20th, at 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Sheffield parents are invited to meet the two finalists at that school on Thursday, May 22nd, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

The two finalists for Gill Elementary's principalship are Rita Detweiler, school psychologist at Frontier, and previously at Mohawk, and formerly a bilingual education teacher in Boston. Thomas McGuire, president of the Principal Residency Network in Keene, NH, is the other finalist for Gill. He was previously a professor at Keene State College and the principal of the Westminster Schools in Westminster, VT.

At Sheffield, the two finalists are Paula Jenkins, principal of St. Michael's School in Brattleboro, and former principal of Holy Trinity School in Greenfield, and Mary Turo, the assistant principal of Harrington Elementary School in Lexington, MA.

As interim superintendent of schools, Ken Rocke received a glowing evaluation from the school committee, who said he had "met or exceeded expectations in all categories," during his ten month tenure at the GMRSD. Rocke has agreed to stay on as interim superintendent for another year.

School committee chair Mary

Kociela told Rocke, "Thank you. So much has been accomplished in the last year. We are very fortunate to have you, and fortunate to have you for another year."

The GMRSD is facing a number of retirements of long-time staff at the end of the school year. Among those departing are: Marie Loven, (35 years service); Jane Oakes, (34 years); Mary Forest (32 years); Lynn Clydesdale (29 years); Nan Sadoski (26 years); Sandra Kosterman (21 years); Lynell Rowe (16 years); and Gloria Funkhouser (14 years).

At the outset of the meeting, students Josh Gannon, Sean Crowell, Sam Colton and Nicholas Skarzynski delivered a petition to the school committee with more than 400 signatures of students, staff and community members calling for the auditorium at the Turners Falls High School to be named in honor of Steve Ciechowski, "for his 33 years of service and dedication as the high school music teacher, concert, jazz and marching band director..."

Kociela assured the students their request would be given consideration by the policy subcommittee, and a reply would be forthcoming by the end of the month.

Rocke said there was a chance up to \$800,000 in state "Pothole" grant money could be heading toward western Massachusetts this summer, thanks to the efforts

of local legislators, who crafted language that would set aside that amount of money to be split between rural school districts with declining enrollment that have joined the Group Insurance Commission, specifically Hawlemont, Athol-Royalston, Mohawk, and Gill-Montague. Rocke said he hoped the state senate would keep that sum and set-aside in the budget.

The school committee gave approval for the Gill-Montague schools to participate in a survey of parents sponsored by the Community Coalition for Teens and the Communities that Care Coalition, that would gather data on parents' views on such topics as the importance of meeting their teens' best friends, setting curfews, and the percentage of teens who smoke cigarettes. The surveys will be sent home with students in the coming weeks. The goal is to build community awareness about the need to reduce the use of illegal substances and to reduce violence in the schools and the community.

Rocke said he was encouraged by the number of school choice in applications received by the GMRSD so far this year: 37 from within the district, and 31 from outside the district. Most of these have been accommodated. There is still room for more school choice in students, particularly at the Gill 8th grade.



MCTV Program Schedule: May 16-22

Channel 17 Eagle Cam: Friday 1P-6P; Saturday 1P-6P; Sunday 1P-6P; Monday 1P-6P; Tuesday 1P-6P; Wednesday 230P-6P; Thursday 1P-6P; If We Have a Signal You Will Have a Picture	8:30 am Coffee House: Fall Town String Band 10:30 am Women Girls & HIV 11:00 am Veterans Day 12:00 pm Tiny Tim 6:00 pm Franklin County Matters: Domestic Violence 7:00 pm Select Board (5/12/08) 9:00 pm Silly Wizard 10:30 pm Bernanke 11:30 pm Chronicles: Mass for Special Intention Stephanie Tilton
Friday, May 16 8:00 am The Western Mass Democrat 8:30 am Underground Railway Concert 10:00 am Wisdom Way Solar Village 11:00 am Women Girls & HIV 11:30 am Tapping Maple Ridge 12:30 pm Source to Sea 6:00 pm Chronicles: Mass for Special Intention Stephanie Tilton 7:00 pm GMRSD (5/13/08) 10:00 pm Independent Voices 44 10:30 pm Montague Update: Josh Goldman 11:00 pm Over the Falls: Kris Holloway Documentary	Tuesday, May 20 8:00 am Chronicles: Volume 30 8:30 am Chronicles: Mothers Day Mass 10:00 am Coffee House: Pat & Tex LaMountain, Russ Thomas 12:00 pm Discovery Center: Birds of Prey 6:00 pm Franklin County Matters: Recovery Project 7:00 pm Select Board (Live) GMRSD will be joined in progress after Select Board Meeting 10:00 pm Common Man: Stephanie Marshall 11:30 pm Discovery Center: Fossil Tracks
Saturday, May 17 8:00 am Coffee House Series: Ferne Bork, Dan Tinen, Bruce Kahn Trio 9:00 am Franklin County Matters: State Government 10:30 am Montague Machine 11:30 am On the Ridge: Fins, Feathers and Fur 12:30 pm Physician Focus: Becoming a Smarter Patient 6:00 pm Senses of Place 7:30 pm TF Block Party 10:00 pm The Spirit of Lake Pleasant	Wednesday, May 21 8:00 am All Day Town Meeting (5/3/08) 6:00 pm Town Meeting (5/7/08) 10:00 pm Coffee House Series: Ferne Bork, Dan Tinen, Bruce Kahn Trio 11:00 pm Discovery Center: Woodpeckers
Sunday, May 18 8:00 am Chronicles: Mass for Mother's Day 9:30 am Common Man: Eric Goodchild 10:30 am Community Land Trust Meeting 12:00 pm Denmark the View the Vision 6:00 pm Town Meeting (5/7/08) 10:00 pm Amanda	Thursday, May 22 8:00 am Franklin County Matters: Community Action 9:30 am Great Falls Middle School Soccer 10:30 am Independent Voices 45 11:00 am Lake Pleasant Slide Show 11:30 am Montague Update: John Hanold 12:30 pm Naturalist Laurie Sanders 6:30pm Town Meeting (Live Broadcast)
Monday, May 19 8:00 am Carlos W. Anderson: If All God had Ever Done	

Student Art Depicts Turners Falls and World Architecture

Students at Sheffield School in Turners Falls have been busy creating art as part of a two-year Massachusetts Cultural Council grant, involving grades 3-5. Local art educator Ruth O'Mara and the school's art teacher, Nancy Meagher have worked with the students in preparing a show called "A Young Artist's View of Turners Falls & World Architecture." The work will be exhibited in several different locations in Turners Falls in the coming weeks.

During the students' art

classes, O'Mara and Meagher have been introducing Sheffield students to a variety of world architecture, including St. Basil's Cathedral in Moscow; the Tower of Belem in Lisbon; and Notre Dame, in Paris, just to name a few. Students were encouraged to discuss what they noticed about shape, repetition and the importance of each building, and to draw these examples. Later, the students were shown historic images of downtown Turners Falls architecture, including the

Shady Glen, Equi's Candy store, the Carnegie Library, other local businesses and historic sites.

Sheffield School is very proud of these drawings and all the hard work students have put into their art. Students have prepared and mounted each piece. Please come see their drawings at the following Turners Falls locations: May 17th & 18th 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. at the Brick House; May 10th - May 30th at the Carnegie Library, and June 1st - 11th at the Discovery Center.

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THE ROGUE EDITOR

Armed with Apostrophes

BY NEIL SERVEN

GREENFIELD - In March, the *Boston Globe* reported on the adventures of two twentysomething men who set out on a cross-country trip to rid our unsuspecting nation of a creeping evil: grammatically incorrect signs.

Jeff Deck and Benjamin Herson began their tour in early March, with Deck leaving his home in Somerville and picking up Herson in Maryland. Using tools that are often confiscated as evidence in vandalism cases (magic markers, tape, *Wite-Out*), the two men undertook to cross the country correcting any and all errors of spelling, grammar, or punctuation encountered in public signage along the way. Any misspelled word, missing apostrophe or conflict of subject-verb agreement they found on roadside signs was corrected to enhance readability, presumably as long as they could reach the offending article without getting caught.

"We're not going after people in a self-righteous manner, like fashion police. Or trying to make them look stupid," Deck told Joseph Kahn in the *Globe's* March 29th issue. "Instead, we're addressing specific errors, like confusing 'its' for 'it's' or 'you're' for 'your.' Finding and correcting these, even every once in a while, is incredibly satisfying."

As an editor, I can understand the satisfying part. There can be a perverse glee, not just among editors, in pointing out where others have erred. It just so hap-

pens that there are few platforms more ideal for doing so than written language.

Language has its rules, none of which were ever set down by any one person; some are strict and some are not. And any time someone breaks one of these rules, it stands out like a sore thumb because it interrupts the reader's flow of thought. The fact that such errors are so easy to correct, whether by a teacher's red pen or an editor's blue pencil, makes it dangerously tempting to do so.

But I have to wonder how well Deck and Herson's gift to society is being received. There are a lot of people who, through humility or pride, are hostile to the notion of having their errors pointed out to them. I am amused by the idea of some angry Midwestern farmer armed with a shotgun chasing Deck and Herson off his property as they try to helpfully alter his sign offering "zuchinis" for sale.

These guys are not the first to take to vigilante editing. When the British writer and radio host Lynne Truss published her surprise 2003 best-seller *Eats, Shoots & Leaves*, about the problems of lax punctuation habits, one of her publicity photos showed the author mischievously taking a magic marker to a promotional poster for the Hugh Grant film *Two Weeks Notice*. (Truss felt the second word of the film's title should have had an apostrophe after the 's.')

It is possible that Deck and Herson put themselves in the

same camp as Truss, the camp of people labeled by the author David Foster Wallace as "snoots." Snoots talk as though they think language should operate like a machine: tight and efficient, free of extraneous parts and consistent in its execution. There's only one problem with this: language is spoken and writ-

ten by human beings, who are none of these things. When we criticize people for using prose that is not clean and efficient, we are criticizing them for displaying human nature.

You might infer from this that I am not myself a snoot. I suppose you would be correct. It's my belief that one of the great

things about language is that, despite having so many rules, we can get away with breaking most of them and nobody gets hurt. Act cool while doing it, and it can be a minor thrill in its own right.

Neil Serven is a lexicographer for Merriam-Webster in Springfield.



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PEACE from pg 1

backed him up on the Sanskrit chant.

The occasion was the Interfaith Council of Franklin County's Peace Service, held on Mothers Day to recognize the fact that Mothers Day, as originally proposed by Julia Ward Howe (the author of *the Battle Hymn of the Republic*) in 1870, was intended to be an international rising of women to oppose all war.

It was appropriate for the Council to have invited Church and Gurley, from the Greenfield Satsang of Mata Amritananda Mayi, to be present and share their prayer for peace on Mothers Day, as they are devotees of a Hindu woman colloquially called Amma, or Mother, and known around the world as "the Hugging Saint."

According to Gurley, Mata Amritananda Mayi was born to a poor fishing family in southwest India, in the state of Kerala, where she grew up in the Hindu faith, and felt an early call to follow Krishna. She is now in her mid-50s, and is renowned for her humanitarian works and charitable projects, founding orphanages, free hospitals for the poor, soup kitchens, schools and a univer-

sity, and helping to organize the rebuilding of homes in the wake of the devastating tsunami of 2005, which Gurley and Church witnessed from the ashram.

Amma will be returning to America this summer, and will hold a public program in Marlborough, MA on July 15th, at 10 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. (for more information and directions call Gurley at 413-774-2116). At these free programs, Amma will hug hundreds and thousands of people, "connecting to the heart, spreading love, radiating love," Gurley said.

If hugs were less in evidence Sunday night in Turners Falls, there was still plenty of love to go around, as representatives from many faith-based traditions took their turn at the pulpit of Our Lady of Peace. David James, of the National Spiritual Alliance, based in Lake Pleasant, talked of reincarnation, saying, "At the heart of Spiritualism is the belief that the essence of the individual is eternally evolving toward perfection, becoming ever more wise, ever more just.... ever more merciful, ever more connected with sibling souls of this Universe."

If we could just get these stumbling blocks of war and injustice out of the way....

James recited the Epitaph authored by the young Ben Franklin, who "predated Spiritualism, although he did believe in reincarnation." James read,

*"The body of B. Franklin,
Printer
(Like the Cover of an Old Book
Its Contents torn Out
And Stript of its Lettering
and Gilding)
Lies Here, Food for Worms.
But the Work shall not be
Lost;
For it will (as he Believ'd)
Appear once More
In a New and More Elegant
Edition*

*Revised and Corrected
By the Author."*

James concluded his remarks by remarking, "It has been said, 'If at first you don't succeed, try and try again.' If peace is our guiding light, someday peace will be our legacy."

Barry Montgomery, chaplain of the Guiding Star Grange, posed the question to the seventy or so souls who came together for the service, "What if God has left our universe? Are we ready for the responsibility given by the Creator?"

That's sort of like asking, "If Elvis has left the House, can Rock and Roll survive?"

"Jesus was a freedom fighter," Montgomery said. "Jesus sacrificed himself for Jewish liberty." A mild, soft spoken man, Montgomery nevertheless adjured the congregants to "Rise up, Get united, Demonstrate, Stop the Iraq War, It's up to Us!"

Rabbi Efraim Eisen from Temple Israel in Greenfield reduced his part of the service to a single word: "Shalom!" Playing guitar and singing that ancient word for Peace, Eisen kept the gathering spellbound for several minutes, until the last syllable echoed away in the distance.

The pagan community of Franklin County were beautifully represented by Jennifer Bennett, reading from a simple yet profound passage from Cora Anderson's *Childhood Memories*, called, "Why I Was Late for School."

Anderson, who passed on earlier this year, was a well-known spokesperson for pagan beliefs, along with her husband Victor. In this reading, Bennett quoted her as telling her teacher she was perpetually late for school because the three-mile country road she walked was too lovely to hurry over, with its "scotch broom and roses... abandoned farms... fruit trees, hickory

nuts, wild grapes, blackberries..." She had to pause to "say good morning to the frogs," who lived in a pond fed by a fresh stream that crossed the road, to which she bent down to drink and refresh herself.

Bennett concluded, "The Mother is always teaching us how to be at peace with ourselves, and thus at peace with the world."

Javed Chaudhri, from Brattleboro, speaking from the Muslim tradition, said "Islam means submit to the will of the creator, in peace." He said Islam was derived from "one of the names of God - Shalom - Peace.

Associating Islam with Judaism and Christianity, Chaudhri said, "We are all people who follow the Abraham tradition." In Islam, believers ask, "What must you do with your life? This life is a most precious gift. Who could ask for a more precious gift than to be alive, to be a human being? We are stewards over the Earth. To be Muslim, or Jews or Christians, or Pagans, or Bahai's is to leave the world a better place than you found it."

He added, "It is our mother who teaches us the most fundamental things in life, to behave to one another with peace and dignity. Everything about faith is learned at the knees of our mothers."


A collection was taken up to provide monetary awards for next year's Traprock Peace Center and Interfaith Council Young Peacemaker Awards to high school students in Franklin County who exemplify the ideals of conflict resolution and cooperation, peace and justice.

Armand Proulx, pastor of the Second Church of Greenfield, offered a homily on *Peace from the Wellspring of Silence*. He said, "Once there was an argument among the gods as to where to hide the secret of life, so women and men would not find it. 'Bury it

under a mountain,' some said. 'It will be safe there.' But no, men would dig under the mountain and find it. 'Sink it to the depths of the sea,' said others. 'It will be safe there.' But no, men would drain the oceans to discover it. 'Put it inside them,' the gods agreed at last. 'Men and women will never think of looking for it there.' And so the secret of life was hidden within us.

"When you pray," said Proulx, "Go to your room and close the door to the noise of the street, and especially to the noise within our hearts. We have to learn to be still, to know that You are God. Unless we learn to put You first, there will be no peace in the world. It is from the noise in our hearts that the rumors of war first sound off."

Leslie Fraser, multifaith chaplain from the Erving Evangelical Congregational Church, offered a practice she learned from a Buddhist nun, to "Look at something within yourself, or within the world, that is not at peace. Take it in. Breathe it in. It might be painful. The breathing out is to send that not peaceful experience; send it peace; heal it. It might be difficult. But holy spirit offered me a way to envision what might be painful, as a crying baby. It's in need. Pick the crying baby up. Breathe it in and hold it in your heart, like a mother. Fill it with love. You can even pick up the beautiful Earth, and all the broken people and places on it. Hold it to your heart, then breathe out healing for our Earth and all the people and places on it."

Barry White Crow Higgins played a Native American flute song, with the chanting of Joanne Shenandoah, of the Oneida Nation playing on tape in the background. The church was filled with mellow woodwind tones, bird song, and keyboard music like a sylvan waterfall, and for a time, the congregation appeared to be truly at peace. 

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JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - Q. I've been having a lot of gas recently. In addition, I've been getting sores in my mouth. Any ideas about what's causing this?

I receive many questions from readers looking for help in diagnosing their health problems. I'm extremely careful to avoid giving personal medical advice. I'm a journalist who provides general information about health. Only a doctor who has examined a patient is qualified to diagnose, and even the experts have trouble figuring out what's wrong with patients.

Here's an example of a problem that exemplifies the diffi-

culty of diagnosis. The following are symptoms of a common disease you may never have heard of. Some of the symptoms contradict each other. Here goes:

Gas, abdominal pain, chronic diarrhea, constipation, pale stool, weight loss, weight gain, fatigue, unexplained anemia, bone or joint pain, osteoporosis, behavioral changes, tingling numbness in the legs, muscle cramps, seizures, missed menstrual periods, infertility, recurrent miscarriage, delayed growth, mouth sores, tooth discoloration and itchy skin rash.

These are symptoms of celiac disease, a digestive ailment that damages the small intestine and interferes with nutrition. People with celiac disease cannot tolerate a protein called gluten, which is in wheat, rye, and barley. There is a scientific debate about gluten and oats.

If you notice or experience any of the signs or symptoms common to celiac disease, see your doctor.

Celiac disease is commonly underdiagnosed because some of its symptoms are similar to those of other diseases. Celiac disease often is confused with irritable bowel syndrome, iron-deficiency anemia, Crohn's disease, diverticulitis, intestinal infections, and chronic fatigue syndrome.

There are other reasons for the underdiagnosis of celiac disease. Many doctors and health-care professionals are not knowledgeable about the disease. And only a small number of U.S. laboratories are experienced and skilled in testing for celiac disease.

It's estimated that about 1 in 133 people in the United States has celiac disease. However, Americans are not routinely

screened for celiac disease. More research is required to determine an accurate number of the people with celiac disease in the USA.

Celiac disease runs in families. Sometimes celiac begins after surgery, pregnancy, childbirth, viral infection, or severe emotional stress. Some people develop symptoms as children, others as adults. Although celiac disease can affect anyone, it tends to be more common in people of European descent.

A person with celiac disease may have no symptoms. People without symptoms are still at risk. The longer a person is not treated for the disease, the greater the chance of developing malnutrition and other complications such as loss of calcium and bone density, intolerance to dairy products, cancer and disorders of the nervous system.

The only treatment for celiac disease is to follow a gluten-free diet. For most people, following this diet will stop symptoms, heal existing intestinal damage, and prevent further damage.

The obvious foods with gluten are breads, pastas, and cereals. But, gluten is also in many processed foods such as frozen French-fried potatoes and soy sauce. Many products such as cosmetics, household cleansers, stamp and envelope adhesive, medicines and vitamins contain gluten.

There are gluten-free substitutes for many problematic foods. Many cities have specialty grocery stores that sell these gluten-free substitutes.

If you have a question, please write to fred@healthygeezzer.com

THIS WILD PLACE

Missing May's Blooms

BY KARL MEYER

GREENFIELD - I have mixed feelings about this gorgeous May. Projects are keeping me tethered to a desk for the most part. So, sometimes I cheat. When a warm stretch of weather drew to a close two weeks back, I snuck in a bike ride. Suddenly there were orioles singing lemony tunes in roadside shade trees. Black-throated blue warblers gave their dipping and rising "zzzzzzzzzz" calls from woody edges. Along a grassy, scrubby field, the sweet, elongated stutters of a field sparrow rang out. Overhead, chimney swifts whirled in tight, chattering circles. And, along with them came the slower notes of a scarlet tanager, obscured somewhere in the tangle of a just-leaving maple.

In the woody edges the trillium had come out. Marsh marigolds lit up any little trickle at streamside wetlands. From deeper woods, the first lovely calls of a hermit thrush drifted in. I swerved to avoid a young garter snake, curling up on the evening pavement. Frogs were suddenly calling from every

possible wet place. Some sang from the trees. The shrill waver of spring peepers still has a hold over many spring wetlands, while the low, hum-trill of the American toad chimes in from below. On warm afternoons, the stuttery-sweet, rising "brrrrttttts" of gray tree frogs sing out from 20-30 foot high branches of trees. You might mistake them for woodpecker calls.

The shadbush was out early. These spindly, 15 - 25 foot tall sentinels light up the roads and hillsides with their delicate white blossoms each year as May begins. They are said to blossom in tandem with the upstream migration of American shad on the Connecticut. In general, this is true. They both need a pulse of warm weather to get going in full gear.

Generally, I try to stay out of the car, but a family commitment called me away. As I drove back from further south on Sunday I decided to stop at the Holyoke Fishway, adjacent to the Connecticut River at the Route 116 crossing. It's a terrif-

ic place to watch the annual migration of fish, including two-foot long, green gold shad, spooky-looking, mottled brown, three-foot sea lamprey, and - rarely now, foot-long blueback herring.

Holyoke is a marvelous place to see fish. Cormorants, gulls, a great blue heron or two, and sometimes an osprey, are all hanging around fishing. Oh, and there are fisherman too, dozens and dozens this day.

It was the first of two annual Shad Derby weekends. And the shad were there, in the stream and in the viewing windows. Lifted to the top of the dam in simple fish elevators - closeable, square buckets that the fish are drawn into by a pulse of "attraction water," they are dumped out and counted, while the public watches the agitated fish mill around in adjacent viewing windows. Back and forth the watery ballet dances until the gates open and fish head upstream.

The one lift I watched produced about forty shad. But they'd had a big pulse of fish earlier, and the day's count

would produce over 3,000 shad. Mixed in were a lone sea lamprey, two smallmouth bass, and couple of white suckers - these latter two species are not ocean migrants.

The annual migration of sea-going "anadromous" fish is a spectacular sight on the Connecticut. But it's floundering. Shad numbers drop each year now, and the blueback herring counts, once in the hundreds of thousands, produced 69 fish last year. Shad numbers that had averaged in the 300,000 range just a decade back, now return at half that rate.

One problem is that fisheries experts, FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) regulators, federal and state fish passage committees and shad passage sub-committees, did nothing when energy deregulation came in 2000, and shad passage dropped by over 80% at Turners Falls. In two seasons the average (already poor) passage there dropped from some 10,000 fish, to little over 2,000 fish annually.

The power company, generating electricity at Turners Falls and just upstream at Northfield



ILLUSTRATION BY ANJA SCHUTZ

had an ongoing license obligation to not damage fish runs. FERC has the power and an ongoing obligation to shut down hydro operations if changes in power production are hurting the fish runs. (Regulation is your middle name, Brownie.) Publicly funded federal and state fish scientists had an obligation to speak up. None did. Yet, their own studies were telling them that less the 1% of the fish that reached Turners Falls were making it past the dam. That site was annually passing 8% of the fish reaching there in the years exactly on the other side of deregulation. And, the Turners Falls dam is the access and gateway to 85% of the Connecticut's spawning habitat for migratory fish. Barely perceptible fish passage numbers and a river-wide decline are apparent.

What's going on at the dam and upstream is deeply impacting Connecticut River fish runs. It's why you have to go to Holyoke if you really want to see shad. It's a magnificent migration. Go; don't miss it. Then, speak up.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



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FRIDAY, MAY 16th
Children's Festival in Peskeompskut Park 9:30 a.m. - noon. Bilingual concert with Tom Carroll & Laurie Davidson 10 a.m., arts & crafts activities. In case of rain, held inside Carnegie Library.

At The Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Sensational Seasons! Buds & Blossoms* Join Rachel Roberts for this free workshop for young children. Science activity & art project. 10 to 11 a.m.

Valley Idol! A benefit for the Shea Theater, Turners Falls. First night begins at 6:30 p.m. Register as a contestant: (must be 18 years old) \$35 (register online or call Shea Theater 863-2281) Audience Admission: \$3.00 (first night only) Round 1: May 17th at 7 p.m., round 2: May 24th, 7 p.m. Grand Finale: May 31st at 8 p.m. Audience Admission: \$10/\$12 at door.

Rt. 63 Road House, Millers Falls: *Jukebox Junkies*, dance music from the 70's - 90's. 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Richard Chase Group* - Acoustic Folk Songwriter, 9 to 11 p.m..

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, MAY 16th & 17th
Jean-Claude van Itallie's performance of *The Tibetan Book of The Dead*, Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls. 5/16 at 8 p.m., 5/17 at 2 & 8 p.m. Directed by Kim Mancuso with Court Dorsey, Kermit Dunkelberg & Susan Thompson. A poetic adaptation of traditional Tibetan passages used to aid and comfort at the time of death. Info: (413) 625-6177. \$18 - \$15/Student/Senior. Benefit to

rebuild Shantigar's Theater Barn.

SATURDAY, MAY 17th
"Valley Idol, Jr." is an a cappella singing competition for 8 - 17 yr-olds. 1st Prize - \$300 U.S. Savings Bonds for each age categories. First Round Try-outs: 9:30 a.m. To register call 863-2281. Audience Admission for all dates: \$5. Round 2: **May 24th**, 9:30 a.m., finale: **May 31st** at 9:30 a.m. Winners perform at Finale of Valley Idol!

Friends of the Montague Public Libraries Used Book Sale. Books are \$2 a bag, spring arts and crafts activities from 10 am. - noon for children at the library with Children's Librarian Linda Hickman, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Pioneer Valley Institute program: *Living With Dinosaurs* join historian Sarah Doyle and geologist Steve Winters for a combined cultural and geological history tour of Pioneer Valley dinosaur fossils. 10 a.m., meet at the Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls. Register: science_matters@yahoo.com

Amanda Chorus 20th Anniversary concert, at Wesley United Methodist Church, Hadley. Admission is free, donations welcome to support the work of the Tibetan Assoc. of Western Mass and the Food Bank.

Rt. 63 Road House, Millers Falls: **YARN!** Alternative country, bluegrass rockers! Pick of the night by the Montague Reporter staff. Check it out. 9:30 p.m.

Wendell Full Moon Coffee House, Wendell center: *Bob Rosser & friends*. 7:30 p.m. \$6 - \$12, partial proceeds to benefit Good Neighbors. (978) 544-5557. www.wendellfullmoon.org

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, MAY 17th & 18th
4th Annual Great Falls Art Fest! The Brick House organized, held on the beautiful grounds of the Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls. Two full days of live local music, fun children's activities, and delicious local cuisine. Proceeds from this event will benefit the community based programs at The Brick House. www.thebrickhouseinc.org.



PHOTO: ROSE WHITCOMB-DETMOLD

*A stop on the Arts & Blooms Open Studio & Walking Tour 5/17 & 5/18 at the Great Falls Discovery Center: **Dancing to West Africa**, photo exhibit by Rose Whitcomb-Detmold. *AzaAshe and Guests, a dance troupe, perform pieces from West Africa on Sunday from 2 p.m. - 3 p.m. at The Discovery Center, Turners Falls.**

Arts and Blooms Turners Falls Open Studio & Downtown Walking Tour. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For complete listing www.turnersfallsriverculture.org.

SUNDAY, MAY 18th
At The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: benefit poetry & music fest benefit for The Montague Reporter! Local poet slam begins 7:30 p.m. *Banish Misfortune, Lower case g's, Ghost Quartet* & more!

MONDAY, MAY 19th
332nd Anniversary of the massacre at Great Falls. Narragansett Deputy Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Doug Harris and documentary filmmaker Ted Timreck showing of a documentary about Native American sacred stone landscapes in Eastern North America, *Hidden Landscapes* with a section specifically dealing with the stone ceremonial site at the Turners Falls Airport. 7 p.m. at the Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls., free. (413) 863-3221.

TUESDAY, MAY 20th
At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Craft Night, 7 p.m. on. Carefully mixing knitting and drinking, though - remember, it's all fun and games until somebody loses an eye.

Oldies Singalong Group, a new informal singing group, called the *Be-My-Baby Boomers*, welcomes new participants. Rock, blues, and folk oldies, plus gospel, Broadway show, Irish/Celtic, and traditional American songs, 6:30 p.m. at a participant's home, Abbott St., Greenfield. Guitars and other instruments welcome, as are all levels of singing ability. Contact John Berkowitz (802) 869-1778 or johnberk@vermontel.net

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21st

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Joe Larr* - Local, mellow guitar, 8 to 10 p.m..

Great Falls Farmer's Market, rain or shine on the corner of 2nd Street and Avenue A, Turners Falls. Annuals, perennials, fresh farm products in season. 3 to 6 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 22nd
Open Women's Singing Circle: sharing songs and chants of healing, inspiration, and women's empowerment. 7 to 9 p.m. at the Second Congregational Church, Greenfield. Ongoing each Thursday, contact: Joy Kaubin (413) 367-0114 stillwaters3@verizon.net

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Larry Kopp* - Country & City Blues Guitar, 8 to 10 p.m..

FRIDAY, MAY 23rd
Montague Book Mill, Montague Center: Graham Lambkin and Jason Lescalleet with - nperign - Idea Fire Company & Chris Cooper

Deja Brew, Wendell: *A Ghost Quartet* - Jazzy Blues with just a taste of fist fight swing! 9 to 11 p.m..

Rt. 63 Road House, Millers Fall: Tracy & Co. - rock & roll covers. Come to dance! 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 25th
The National Spiritual Alliance programs at Thompson Temple, Lake Pleasant. Rev. Tennie Komar of Shirley will present *Druid Ruins*. 1 - 3 p.m. Info. www.thenationalspiritualallianceinc.org.

MONDAY MAY 26th
Montague Memorial Day Parade will lineup at the corner of 2nd Street and Avenue A at 10 a.m. and step off at 10:15. Participants will proceed down Avenue A. to the Soldiers Memorial.

UNTIL JUNE 1st
The Barns of Franklin County show at the Meeting House Community Gallery, Unitarian Church, Bernardston. Thirty area artists showing over sixty works depicting Franklin County Barns of the past and present. Thurs., Fri., and Sat. 11 a.m. - 5 p.m., and Sun. 1 - 3 p.m.

UNTIL JUNE 15th
The Turners Falls Fishway open for the season! Public viewing during the height of spawning season. Open Wed. to Sun., 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

HOT SPOT TEEN CENTER

MONDAYS - Drop-in, 3 - 6 p.m.
TUES & WEDS - Ongoing Music Project, 3 - 6 p.m.
THURS - Drop-in, 3 - 6 p.m. & Movie Night, 6 - 8 p.m.
Free (except some trips), open to local teens. Some require permission slips. Info: Jared at 863-9559.
Hot Spot Teen Center is in **The Brick House**
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ONGOING
On display at the Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Wild about Nature:* WGBY Photo Contest, photographs of nature in Western Mass. till 5/31.

Hallmark Museum of Contemporary Photography, Turners Falls. On display: Lili Almog, Studio 52 - *Perfect Intimacy Revealed Through Photographer's Eyes* & Linda Butler - *Meditations on Simplicity*, Studio 56.

The Leverett Family Museum, 1 Shutesbury Rd., Leverett: open to the public Saturdays 10 - 12 or by appointment. Artifacts, photos and exhibits of early days of Leverett and the surrounding area. Located in the former Bradford Field Memorial Library. (413) 548-9207.



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- MAT FRI, SAT, SUN 12:00 3:00**
- NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN**
DAILY 6:00 9:00 PG in dts sound
- MAT FRI, SAT, SUN 12:00 3:00**
- SPEED RACER**
PG
- DAILY 6:00 9:00**
- MAT FRI, SAT, SUN 12:00 3:00**
- HAROLD AND KUMAR ESCAPE FROM GUANTANAMO**
DAILY 6:45 9:15 R
- MAT FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 3:15**
- BABY MAMA**
DAILY 6:45 9:15 PG13
- MAT FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 3:15**
- NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN**
DAILY 6:30 9:30 PG in dts sound
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OFF THE BEATEN TRACK: Postcard from Holland

BY FLORE - If you are wondering why you haven't read any "Off The Beaten Tracks" lately, I have a pertinent excuse! For we heard the greatest news, early this year: Northwest & KLM Airlines were flying direct from Hartford to Amsterdam.

Jokingly we said, "Wouldn't it be wonderful to get there, say, in tulip blossom time...?" (This usually occurs between the last two weeks of April and the first two weeks of May.) We did it! Simple as tossing a coin in a wishing well!

Should you be tempted to do the same, these are few points to make your stay idyllic.

Once a day, promptly, at 5.35 p.m., the plane takes off, and lands the next day at 6.55 a.m. at Schiphol Airport in Holland. It's a good idea to reserve ahead for a couple of nights at a hotel beside a canal, in view of any of the 1400 bridges in the city. We stayed at "The Rembrandt," for a good start!

Upon arrival, take the train at the station, to Amsterdam Center.

Take a cab to your hotel. Likely you will be unable to occupy your room until early

afternoon. Drop your luggage there and investigate your new surroundings.

Somewhat disoriented by so many bicycles zooming past,



you will be amazed watching mothers bringing their offspring to schools on the sturdy family bike. Men and women are all dressed up on their way to work, riding with a certain aplomb. The tingling bells of the many trams make you look back and forth. Head to any bakery; six hours of plane ride arouses one's appetite!

We found the right breakfast place, serving -- hot from the

oven -- incredible croissants with hot chocolate and steaming tasty tea.

If you can, spend the day normally, as if you were a regular

her moving diary.

As you tour the city, include long walks on Amsterdam's many canals.

Take a boat on the Amstell River for another placid view.

Plan to see a movie at "The Tuschinski Cinema." This is an outstanding Art Nouveau architectural masterpiece. Then cycle through the Vondelpark, where the first sign of tulips welcomes passersby.

Move on to the fabulous Van Gogh Museum. This modern building shelters most of the painter's most important work.

Renting a car will give you wings to travel beyond the city. Head then to "the Keukenhof Garden," where 4.5 million tulips are grown in 100 varieties, and 7 million flower bulbs are planted by hand, yearly.

Continue on to spend a night and day in Haarlem, and see the Franz Hals Museum Collection! Drive to The Hague the next morning to glimpse the gorgeous Vermeer paintings. "The Girl with a Pearl Earring" will keep looking at you for a long while, at the Mauritshuis, even when you take your leave!

Another treat awaits you, next

day, in the mediaeval town of Bruges, where the ageless beauty of Hans Memling portraits, and other masters of Flemish and Dutch art, tell of other times.

The weather being so unusually warm during the trip, we decided to visit one of the northern islands - Texel - before returning to Amsterdam. There we found grand, spacious beaches and fields of tulips and working windmills.

Back to Amsterdam: we saved the last two days to visit those great Rembrandts at the Rijksmuseum. The impressive building is being partially restored this year. We gasped at "The Night Watch." Rembrandt is the master of light caught in shadows!

Our escapade brought us vivid scenes: that unusual light, shining all over this flat land.

We were impressed by the kindness of people all over the country. Imagine, 16 million people live in Holland, which remains the country with the highest density in the whole of Europe. There, we found a strong sense of community and pride, on what is a very small, diverse land.

PLAY from page 1

Many of the sixty students in the cast had multiple roles throughout the afternoon and evening, as it was the Sheffield School Open House, and greeters were meeting visitors at the door, tour guides were showing first-time visitors around the school, and students were bringing family members to their classrooms and showing them artwork on display.

Connie Renaud, Becky Linnell and Cindy Lively were in charge of large boxes of cat and dog ears and tails. They have helped with the production since early January when rehearsals started. As children arrived, they picked up their respective ears and headed over to the face painting table, if makeup was needed. Several members of the

teaching staff volunteered their time to turn their cherubs into critters - Amy Bernard, Donna Klaiber, Cathy Coutu and Laurel Rollins were all adding whiskers, spots, and puppy noses right up to curtain call.

It seems as though all the fifth grades were involved in some way, but Sadoski was very appreciative of the extra help from Mrs. LeBlanc's class, whose co-production of the show made it possible, and Anne Marie Hallowell for taking care of the scenery and stage production with her students.

The plot of the play was simple enough, with a valuable lesson to be learned. A young kitten and puppy (exuberantly played by Rileigh Carlisle and Neven Shattuck) become friends. Their respective cat and dog packs are appalled when the two are dis-

covered playing together!!

Parts of the story were told by the onstage actors from Ms. LeBlanc's class, who portrayed the warring cats and dogs. Others were told by duets with Katarina Lenois and James Adkins and the back-up singers - the 60-strong member chorus. The first was a winsome song titled "Let's Play" echoing the sentiments of the sensible youngsters. The second was a more spirited tune with catchy refrains sung by the opposing sides -- "all dogs are no good" and of course "all cats are no good" - all accompanied by plenty of extremely realistic hissing and barking. (Katarina was taken ill for the Friday performance, but I'm told Tamara Arsenault did a fine job as a last minute stand-in.)

Fortunately for the audience

members, the kitten and the puppy were more successful than Romeo and Juliet, and managed to convince their respective families of cats and dogs that it was possible for them all to co-exist, and even enjoy each other's company

The play was chosen because both Nan Sadoski and Gail LeBlanc are cat lovers, and because principal Chip Wood has been concentrating on teaching peace throughout the year. It was a fine farewell production by Sadoski.

She has spent 26.8 of her teaching years in the Gill-Montague district with Sheffield as her home base. Her schedule has been daunting, as she spends 1½ days at Sheffield, 1½ days at Hillcrest, a half day at Montague Center School and one day at the Gill Elementary

School. She is one of the few teachers who teaches all the students from the time they enter kindergarten until they move on to middle school.

Sadoski has taught thousands of students over the years. While they don't often pop into the school for visits, Sadoski is frequently stopped in public by former students, now all grown up. She may not recognize them at first but it gives her great joy when they rush up to say, "Ms. Sadoski, it's do you remember when we did?"


Inevitably she remembers them and their escapades once she hears their names - a teacher through and through. When asked what she will miss the most, she replied, "that sparkle in their eyes when they learn something new."



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