



Louisiana Red
at The Roadhouse
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A LABOR OF LOVE
Village Sketchbook
Page 16

LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 6 - NO. 33

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MAY 22, 2008

valley idol RETURNS

BY DAVID DETMOLD

TURNERS FALLS - Erin Richman of Royston earned her berth among the top ten contestants at this year's Valley Idol contest at the Shea with her stellar performance of Smokey Robinson's "Ooh, Baby, Baby." Undaunted by the high notes, silky smooth in the lower register, Richman lived up to the expectations she created with her sweeping entrance and kept them calling for more.



DETMOLD PHOTO

Erin Richman

They'll get it, when Richman returns to face the other talented contenders: Dave Peck, of Greenfield, Tami Brooke, of Turners Falls, Jen Tobey, of Montague, Melanie Huber, of Northfield, Victoria Stankiewicz, of Hadley, Brenda Darnley, of Turners Falls, Teresa Dailey, of Shelburne Falls, Carlotta Thompson, of Turners Falls, and Keleigh Pereira, of Greenfield, in the next round of Valley Idol, Saturday night, May 24th at 7 p.m. The top three finalists will compete for a \$1000 prize on Saturday, May 31st in front of this year judges: Bill Jamieson, Ferne Bork and Jamie Berger.

Jocelyn Rice, 13, Greenfield; Helene Kasper, 11, Greenfield; Amber Malooly, 11, Bernardston; Cayla Plasse, 15, Greenfield; Jessica Dawicki, 12,

Shelburne; Brooke Martineau, 13, Turners Falls; Una Jensen, 11, Shelburne; Kirsten Ward, 8, Greenfield; Kiara Sampson, 13, Greenfield; Amber Sampson, 10, Greenfield; Rachel Howe, 9, South Deerfield; Kyle Woodcock, 11, Greenfield; Dane Scott, 9, South Deerfield; Allison Willis, 17, Charlemont; Zach Bergquist, 8, Athol; Kimberly Ainsworth, 11, Colrain; Leanna Albanese, 9, South Deerfield; Kes Rooks, 10, Vernon, VT; A.J. Maroney, 14, Shelburne Falls; Zoe Salls, 15, Northfield will be the finalists competing for top honors among the Valley Idol, Jr. competition, May 24th, 9:30 a.m.

All funds raised from entry fees, ticket sales, and raffles benefit programming at the Shea Theater. Nick Danger MCs with Tom Mayo of Shining Star Karaoke programming the tunes.

The Box Car is Back

KATHY LITCHFIELD

ERVING - Sharon Porlier said there's not much point in changing the name of the Box Car Restaurant along Route 2 in Erving Center. "It's been this way for 100 years, and it's a landmark," said the new business owner who plans to re-open the historic café the first or second week of June.

There will be one family-focused name change though - Porlier's adoring 11-year-old grandson Cody suggested she call it "Mema's Box Car."

"I have 11 grandchildren and I live just up the street. I could walk here in five minutes," said Porlier, who has lived in Erving for almost 30 years and wouldn't do a thing to change the small, rural community that she



LITCHFIELD PHOTO

Erving resident Sharon Porlier plans to re-open the Box Car restaurant in June.

and work together in a small town," said Porlier, who brings a lifetime of restaurant, kitchen and bartending experience to her present endeavor.

From 1990-1992, she owned a restaurant called The Forest View (where the Copper Angel is now), before winning a brief battle with cancer. She has since managed the Starlite Diner, the Smokin' Hippo and the Old Red Lantern in Erving, and worked at the Rt. 63 Roadhouse and the former Equi's in Millers Falls. She presently tends

see **BOX** pg 13

Sun Splashed Art Fest

BY ANNE HARDING

GREAT FALLS - The Brick House was finally rewarded with spring-like weather for the fourth annual Art Fest this weekend, in conjunction with the Arts and Blooms Open Studio and Downtown Walking tour. There were 17 stops on the tour this year, so it was a good thing participants had both weekend days to take in all the sights.

But if you had only one choice, the place to be was on the grounds of the Great Falls Discovery Center, where the Brick House was hosting their annual Art Fest! The days dawned fine, the music started at 10 a.m. and con-



PARZYCH PHOTO

Denise Muro displayed concrete art at the Brick House's annual Art Fest on May 17th and 18th

tinued all day, and there were all manner of activities for children and adults on the green lawn, along with a wide array of vendors offering local

hand crafted merchandise for sale.

Returning artists at the Art Fest included wood craftsman Ben Whitbeck,

see **ARTS** pg 12

MAC Director Welch Resigns

BY DAVID DETMOLD

TURNERS FALLS - Executive director Robert Welch of the Massachusetts Aeronautics Commission (MAC) has resigned, effective June 4th, according to Klark Jesson, director of communications for the Massachusetts Executive Office of Transportation (EOT). Jesson said he could not comment on the reason for Welch's resignation.

On April 4th of this year, Welch, a retired colonel who served as the deputy chief of staff for safety and aviation for the Massachusetts Army National Guard prior to his appointment as the executive director of the MAC in September of 2005, attended an informal meeting with Turners Falls Municipal Airport commissioners and TFMA airport manager Michael Sweeney at the

airport administration office. At that meeting, Welch made the comment that construction on the planned runway expansion project was ready to go, but, "The only thing holding it up is those tree-hugging Indians."

This comment led to an investigation conducted by EOT director of interagency affairs Susan Quinones, which

see **WELCH** pg 12

Primitive and Country Reign at Erving's Old Time Market

KATHY LITCHFIELD

ERVINGSIDE - Angela Lake is taking a step back in time at 7 Lester Street on the Millers side of Erving. Inside her antique-furnished shop, Old Time Market, visitors will find wax and soy tapers and scented jar candles, handmade soaps, baskets, painted wooden signs, lanterns and oil lamps and primitive and country décor.

It's not too much of a stretch to find pleasantly scuffed, old-looking items



Primitive wares and her own hand-made soap will be among Angela Lake's offerings when Old Time Market opens in early June

in this space, which has stood alongside the Millers River since 1871. Formerly home to a favorite watering hole, the

Old Red Lantern, the building was vacant until two or three years ago when Lake's father, Robert Shufelt, purchased it and began renovations.

Last year, Lake and her mother began renovating the left side of the building into a retail shop to house Lake's love of old time country charm in the form of a wide array of hand crafted items, many locally made and produced.

Her father plans to re-see **OLD TIME** pg 7

PET OF THE WEEK

Still Waitin'



Nanook

My name is Nanook and I'm a 7-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 8 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 at leverett@dphvs.org.

CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS

Preschool Story Hour

BY RUTH O'MARA
TURNERS FALLS - Preschool Story Hour at the Carnegie Library is held on Wednesday mornings at 10:15 a.m. Young children and their families are invited to come and enjoy stories, crafts, music, activities and snacks with local resource people. On Wednesday, June 4th, we will be reading Cow Tales. On June

11th, the theme will be planes and buses. June 18th, at 10:30 am, Tom Ricardi will be visiting with live birds of prey. June 25th there will be a preschool story hour and picnic. The weekly free series is designed for ages 3 to 5 and their parents, grandparents, and other caregivers. Siblings of any age are welcome. For more information, please call 863-3214.

Crabapple Children's Festival



BY LINDA HICKMAN
TURNERS FALLS- Laurie Davidson and Tom Carroll of Montague performed at the

Crabapple Children's Festival in Peskeompskut Park on Friday, May 16th.

Laurie worked her way up to wearing five puppets at one time during their bilingual concert. Eighty people attended the event, which was sponsored by the Community Partnerships for Children and the Montague Public Libraries.

WENDELL LIBRARY NEWS

Community Garden Activity

BY ROSIE HEIDKAMP
WENDELL - On Saturday, May 24th from 12 noon to 1:30 p.m., a Community Garden Activity for Children will be held at the Wendell Free Library.

This is the first in a series of three children's programs intended to stimulate children's interest in community gardening, sponsored by the Wendell Community Garden committee.

In this first session activities will include several choices: working together to create a miniature community garden in small containers with each child making their own small "plot" to take home with them; creating on paper a community

garden plan using arts and crafts materials; and starting pumpkin plants that will be planted in the children's section of the new community garden, located next to the new town offices.

Children can follow the growth of the pumpkins at the community garden throughout the summer and can harvest them in the fall.

There will be prizes and treats for all the children who participate in Saturday's program.

This program is funded by the Wendell Cultural Council, a state agency, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES -- May 26th to 30th

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, 26th
 10 a.m. Senior Aerobics
 11 a.m. Easy Aerobics

Tuesday, 27th
 Meals only
Wednesday, 28th
 10 a.m. Senior Aerobics
 12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, 29th
 1 p.m. Pitch
Friday, 30th
 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.

FACES & PLACES



Here's Lookin' at You!
 RiverCulture coordinator Lisa Davol (right) poses beside the newest addition to the 3-D Collaborative Sculpture Park on 3rd and Canal, in Turners, a painted styrofoam assemblage crafted by Lily and Dalila Bennett, Jamilab Roth and Ella Hepner, with help from Joe Landry

Free Metal Pickup in Gill

On Friday, June 6th, Duseau Trucking will haul away unwanted metal for free, including electronic equipment such as televisions, computers and stereos. Items with refrigerant are not allowed unless the freon has been professionally evacuated. Items may not be placed curbside until June 1st. Please contact Duseau directly by June 4th to make arrangements. Duseau Trucking: (413) 586-4101.

Free Zen Workshop

On Sunday, June 8th, the Montague Farm Zendo will offer "An Introduction to Zen Practice," a free workshop led by Sensei Eve Myonen Marko. This 3-1/2-hour workshop, which begins at 9 a.m., will provide basic instruction on Zen meditation. For info/registration: Lance Smith: thishazy-moon@yahoo.com

GREAT FALLS MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Grade 6 : Gabe Coira
Grade 7: Jeremy Brown,
Lindsay Luippold
Grade 8: Lily Kane

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The Annual Great Falls Clean-up: Dogged Volunteers Pick up the Town

BY SITA LANG

GREAT FALLS - The wind was cold and blustery on Saturday morning, May 10th. I parked the truck at the eagle's nest end of the river, pulled on my hooded sweatshirt, scarf, and down vest, grabbed a handful of trash bags and began to clean up Turners Falls.

My dog, Brava, considers herself a working dog, so I invited her to help me. Together we waited for whoever else might show up for the job.

A few weeks earlier, I had innocently attended a downtown streetscape meeting and emerged the Responsible One in charge of the annual Great Falls Spring Clean-up. I don't attend meetings too often, in fear of this very sort of thing. But the clean-up wound up taking very little of my time and was actually quite fun, and I received some nice compliments as well.

I met briefly with Tom Bergeron, superintendent of the DPW, to receive a handful of sturdy contractor trash bags, and discuss where the trash would be left after it had been collected. I called Ruth Nervig at the Brick House to see if any of the teens might like

to pitch in, and she kindly said she'd do what she could. I then redesigned the lovely poster from last year and posted it in all the hot spots around town, and left a poster at the *Greenfield Recorder* for Irmarie Jones to mention in her wonderful column. And, finally, I contacted our very own MCTV and they cheerily and promptly posted a



ANNE JEMAS PHOTO
Sita, Brava, John, Andrew and Meredith clean up Great Falls.

PSA on Channel 17 for all to see. All I had left to do was show up Saturday morning and hand out trash bags.

After Brava and I had walked the length of the river from our starting point to the meeting place in front of the old Cumberland Farms building, picking up trash along the way, I had collected only a few small

pieces of litter. I wasn't surprised by the slim pickings, as I had noticed in the weeks leading up to that morning how tidy the entire town already seemed to be.

As I approached the old Cumbie building, there was a man bending over

picking up tiny pieces of debris from the grass and putting it in his own small plastic bag. We introduced ourselves, and I soon learned that Sam had been starting his days since March at 6:30 a.m. scouring Unity Park and the riverbank for trash dropped by others. He was eager to get to work and already had a plan of action: the pile of old newspa-

pers along a section of the bike path. I handed him a couple of bags and he was off.

I knew Ruth from the Brick House had organized at least one ambitious teen and was waiting for me down at the Avenue A Café, so I looked at my watch - it was well past starting time - and then at Brava, who was dutifully sniffing a gum wrapper, and began to head west when a car pulled up and two small children scrambled out. Their dad, the driver of the car, yelled out, "Is this the meeting place for the town clean-up?"

John and his children, Meredith and Andrew, live in Greenfield, and he teaches at the Hallmark School of Photography in Montague (hence the interest in cleaning up "our" town). I sent them over to Unity Park, and Brava and I

see CLEANUP pg 9

Community Garden Work Day and Plant Swap

BY JOSH HEINEMANN

WENDELL - Saturday, May 17th was a beautiful sunny day with a light breeze. While the annual plant swap was going on by the bandstand, a group of volunteers began construction of a toolshed behind the new town offices, to be shared by the community gardeners and the office building and library landscapers. New roughcut lumber arrived from New Salem's C and M Roughcut, at a discounted price, and used wood came from the highway crew, along with some pieces salvaged from the old schoolhouse. By the end of the day, the deck



BARBARA CRADDOCK PHOTO
Donna Horn admires specimens at the plant swap

Pam Richardson wrote about the plant swap, "What a great time I had... and what treasures I came home with. I spent the afternoon happily tucking all my new residents into their

beds." was built and four walls framed. People came to claim their plots in the garden, and began the work of removing rocks and roots, planting and mulching.

A big Thank You goes out to all you gardeners, and to the people who organized the event.

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"The Voice of the Villages"

Dissent is Patriotic

BY MARVIN SHED

BERNARDSTON - For the fifth consecutive Memorial Day, young Americans are fighting a war in Iraq, a war the majority of the country no longer supports. Ill conceived and poorly managed, it has deprived our country of money desperately needed at home; and created a mess that our children and grandchildren will be left to sort out. The president may honestly believe, as he has often stated, that he has been sanctioned by some divine power to invade and occupy Iraq under the guise of making the world a safer place. Most Americans think he's actually made the world more dangerous. Instead of destroying the terrorists, he's energized them.

Americans who decorate their

president during wartime is deemed unpatriotic and disrespectful to the young men and women serving in harm's way.

I encountered some of this rhetoric while serving as guest speaker at last year's Memorial Day service in Bernardston. Being the son of a former prisoner of war affords me a certain status in some people's minds. They feel my words carry greater importance because of my father's experience. I don't share that sentiment, but enjoy public speaking, and despite my peacenik leanings, always approach the holiday as a time to remember the sacrifice made by so many. It is a day for politics to be set aside.

Last year, I spoke of our troops and how young and

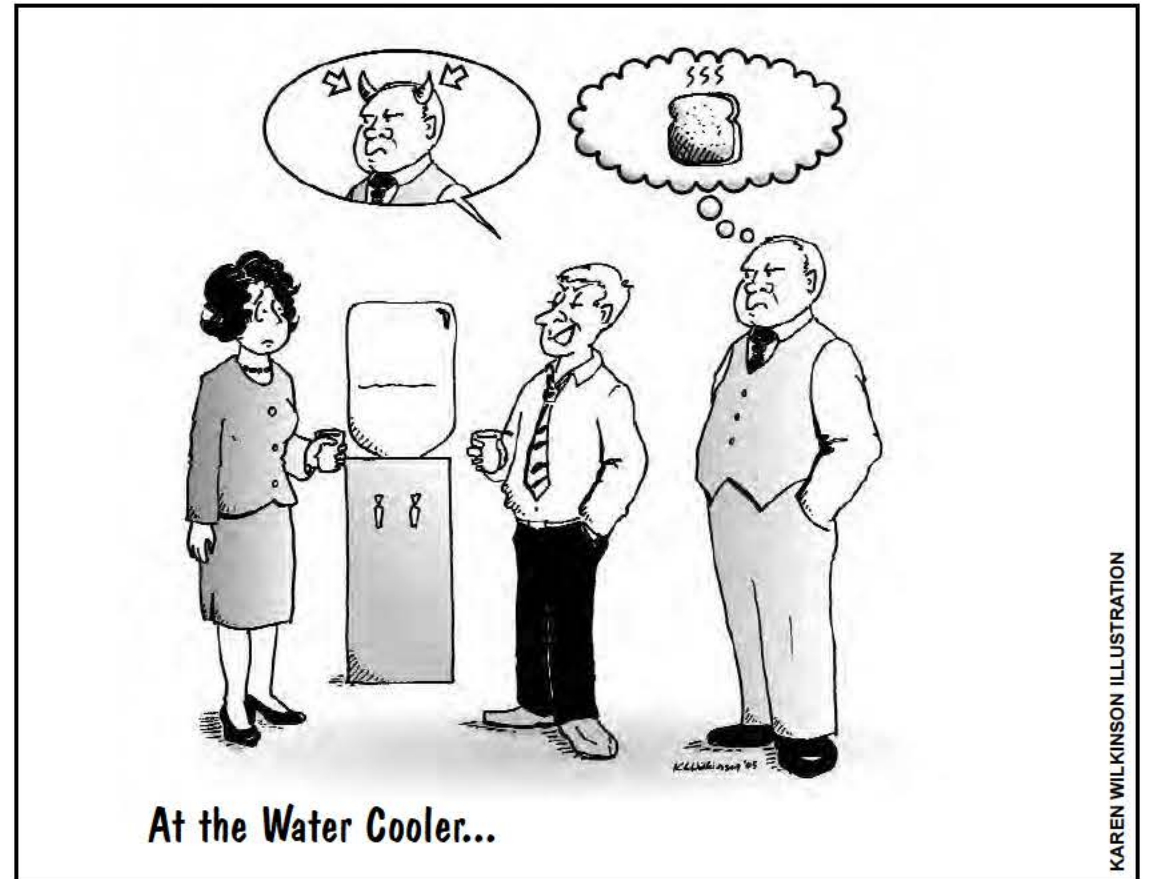


Al Cummings sets out flags behind the Veterans Monument on Avenue A in preparation for Montague's Memorial Day ceremony. The parade steps off at 10:15 a.m. on Monday, May 26th.

vehicles with jingoistic bumper stickers like "Love it or Leave it," or "Stay out of the way of the Red, White and Blue," and blindly follow whatever the president tells them, still support the war. Never mind that the Bush administration thumbed their noses at the United Nations, and sullied the U.S. Constitution in pursuit of their own agenda. In their mind, if you're a "good American" you get in lock step behind the president and march off to war. Any criticism of the

scared they must be. I spoke of those veterans who had returned home but brought the war with them, of parents who wondered each day if someone in uniform would appear at their door to tell them that their son or daughter had died in battle, and how none of those people had any say in the decisions thrust upon them by heads of state. I closed with a dramatic reading of a letter left at the Vietnam wall for a son who never returned home.

In the days following the serv-



KAREN WILKINSON ILLUSTRATION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Lemon

The night of Saturday, May 17th, I competed with 25 other contestants in the first round of Valley Idol 2008 at the Shea Theater in Turners Falls.

My mother accompanied me and cheered me on. Feeling pleased with my performance I felt confident I would place with the ten semi-finalists. Having walked home for a relaxing break, I grabbed my favorite stuffed animal - a yellow bunny with pink ears and pink feet - and brought him with me back to the Shea.

Later, after a long night of performances and judging, the

names of the semi-finalists were announced, and my name was not among them.

Holding my bunny grounded me as overwhelming, painful feelings flooded my being. Tears began to come and I made a momentous decision to let them flow, at once making an important discovery that being a good sport does not preclude crying.

The next morning, I wrote a "Making Lemonade Out Of Lemons" list to gain perspective on my loss. As I wrote, hope rose in me as the "lemonade" entries far exceeded the

"lemon" entries. Feeling a sense of peace when I finished, I showed the list to my mother who had been supportive of me throughout. When she finished reading the list, I told her I intended to name my stuffed bunny after Valley Idol, but that I did not have a name yet. She replied, "How 'bout 'Lemon?'"

In an instant I was touched by the depth of her empathy, and reveling in my newfound serenity I shouted, "'Lemon,' it is!"

- Sharon Horton
Turners Falls

ice, I began hearing that some local veterans had taken offense at my speech. Mystified, I made some inquiries and found out that the problem stemmed from the John F Kennedy quote I used to close the speech - "Mankind must put an end to war, or war will put an end to mankind. War will exist until that distant day when the conscientious objector enjoys the same status that the warrior does today." Some deemed the term "conscientious objector" to be inappropriate.

How sad, on Memorial Day, of all days, that the mere suggestion of peace is deemed offensive and unpatriotic. If ever there was a time to hope for peace, Memorial Day seems like the right time. To those who say it is unpatriotic to offer a dissenting view, I say it is un-American not to. Had a group of rebels, including a distant ancestor of mine, not dressed up as Indians and thrown tea into the Boston Harbor, we might still be a colony of the British. Had college students, some of whom paid with their lives at places like Kent State and Jackson State, not raised their voices in opposition to the Vietnam War, the war might have

gone on even longer. Dissent is essential to a healthy democracy, and should never be viewed as unpatriotic.

I'll be back at this year's Memorial Day services. I'll watch the annual parade where baseball teams, girl scouts and members of the Vets Club march proudly by. I'll play a patriotic tune or two with the Falltown String Band and enjoy the selections performed by the Pioneer Valley High School band. I look forward, each year, to the recitation of the Gettysburg address by a Bernardston Elementary School student. I'll even go to the Vets Club for a beer, before I head home to my own family barbeque. It's a piece of American life that I wouldn't miss.

As Americans, we have a right to offer a dissenting view. I argue that it is our duty to do so. We must broaden our definition of

patriotism. I contend that the students who died at Kent State and Jackson State were as patriotic as anyone who ever wore a uniform. I am a father, brother, actor, writer and liberal, but I am also an American.

I make no apologies for offering the words of one of our greatest warriors. Kennedy knew what war was and realized the need to work towards a day when war is something we only read about in books. What better way to honor those who have given their lives than to work to make Kennedy's "distant day" a reality?

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PRAYERS OF STONE



DETMOLD PHOTO

Doug Harris of the Narragansetts spoke to a crowd of more than 100 following a showing of Hidden Landscapes at the Great Falls Discovery Center on the anniversary of the Great Falls Massacre

BY DAVID DETMOLD

GREAT FALLS - Tribal historic preservation officers from the Narragansett Indian Tribe and Wampanoag Tribe of Gayhead (Aquinnah) came to the Great Hall of the Great Falls Discovery Center, overlooking the site of the dawn massacre that decimated the Pocumtuck Nation 332 years ago to the day, on May 19th, to show a segment of a documentary film about a stone formation on a hill to the northeast of the runway at the Turners Falls Airport. The film is part of a six part series under production by documentary film maker Ted Timreck, a research associate for the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, called *Hidden Landscapes*, about the origins and purpose of the ceremonial stone landscapes to be found in many locations in northeastern North America, as in all continents of the globe.

As the tribal spokespeople made clear in the film and in person on Monday night, before an audience of over 100 area residents, they consider the stone formation on top of the airport hill to be a significant and active sacred site, where Native prayer ceremonies have taken place

over the course of the last 10,000 years.

Timreck's film places the airport hill site in context with other stone sites in a 15 mile radius of the airport, including the locally famous standing stones on Burnt Hill in Heath, a landscape feature visible from the airport hill. In the film, Narragansett Deputy Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Doug Harris, who was present in the Hall on Monday, said oral tradition among his people holds that simultaneous ceremonial activities once took place on hilltop sites within the vicinity of the Great Falls, and would have culminated on August 11th and 12th during the height of the Perseid meteor showers.

Timreck's film began with a shot of a prominent feature of our area's landscape: the mountain that terminates the Pocumtuck Range in South Deerfield, commonly known as Mt. Sugarloaf. Seeking to establish the antiquity and authority of Native oral tradition in this part of the Northeast, Timreck's narrator relates the familiar Indian legend of Hobomock, the spirit giant, killing the giant beaver who once

propped the depths of a great lake that sat where the Connecticut River now flows. Legend had it that the beaver was killed by a blow to the back of his head, then turned to stone and sank to the bottom of the lake.

In Timreck's telling, the lake was Lake Hitchcock, which at the end of the last ice age cov-

erred hundreds of miles from modern day Middletown, CT to north of St. Johnsbury, VT, and the stone beaver with the cloven head was the Pocumtuck Range, terminating in the beaver's head at Wequamps, or Mt. Sugarloaf. The beaver's tail curves to the

Swamp, near modern day Kingston, RI, for Indians escaping the hostilities which had become general through southeastern New England that year. Hundreds and possibly thousands of Indians sought sanctuary there.

The Colonial powers saw the Narragansett refuge as a threat, and ordered Canochet to release

Bay colonies descended on the Narragansetts on December 16th, 1675, aided by 150 mercenaries from the Pequots and Mohegans, and staged a raid at the Great Swamp in which hundreds of Indians sheltered there, and many of the Narragansetts lost their lives. This led the Narragansetts to join the regional hostilities (Metacom's War, called by the English King Phillip's War), and Canochet began hitting the colonial vil-

lages to the north and west. In 1676, Canochet converged with other tribal chiefs and met in council at the Native ceremonial grounds in Squakeag (Northfield), and designated an island in the middle of the Connecticut River at Great Falls as a place of refuge for Indians from various tribes escaping the general conflagration of war.

Captain William Turner, commanding a colonial militia of 145 men, attacked and surprised the encampment of refugees at Riverside on May 19th of that year, killing hundreds and losing only one of his own men in the initial volley. Turners force was harried by retaliating Indians on his retreat south towards Hadley, and dozens fell, including Turner himself, who died near the present day pumping station in north Greenfield.

Of the slaughter of the Indians, Harris said, "The spilling of the blood of women, children and elders added to the spiritual significance of the confluence of spirit energy at Turners Falls."

Harris said that on the occasion of the town of Montague's 250th anniversary celebration in 2004, town officials contacted the Narragansetts about holding a healing ceremony. "There had been talk of a 'curse' on the town. That's not our word," said Harris. "There is a sense the town had not been able to prosper."

Harris said in a first of its kind decision, the medicine people of the Narragansetts agreed to travel to Turners Falls to hold what has come to be known as a Reconciliation Ceremony, where

see **STONE** pg 8



PHOTO: DAN BOUILLION, used by permission

Standing Stones on Burnt Hill in Heath

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Art Pathways Envisioned

BY DAVID DETMOLD

TURNERS FALLS - Sixteen people gathered at the Great Hall of the Discovery Center on Tuesday, May 20th, to talk about the potential for creating artistic pathways between the Hill and downtown Turners Falls, in a community visioning session sponsored by Turners Falls RiverCulture, facilitated by Annalise Bischoff, associate professor of landscape architecture at Commonwealth College. RiverCulture, an arts based economic development project funded by the Mass Cultural Council and local businesses and organizations, has set aside \$5,000 for the Art Pathways, and partnered with community groups including the Brick House, the Franklin Hampshire Regional Employment Board, and School Based Services.

The community go round started with Diane Ellis, of Stevens Street, who came up with the idea of spiffing up the two old concrete pathways the town owns that run between 7th Street, L Street and the Hill. Earlier this year, in honor of Earth Day, she and her husband Steve organized a dozen school children to clean up the litter around the walkways and in the nearby woods.

Ellis said, "It hit me one day these pathways could be more than what they are. They could be transformed. Now, so many creative things are happening in this community, the time is right for this project." So Ellis connected with Lisa Davol, coordinator of RiverCulture, and other groups, and sought out funding for the project.

Neil Young, who with his wife Fafnir Adamites recently moved to a home on Central Street, said, "I love Turners Falls, love the layout of the land, all the history the town has and all the layers of mystery the town has."

Adamites added, "I kind of

stumbled upon the walkways. 'Oh! What is this place?' I pushed through the brambles and looked through..."

Kathy Webber said she had lived in Turners Falls all her life, first in the Patch and now on Fairview Avenue. She said she called the paths 'the boardwalks,' and looked at them as the connection between the Hill and downtown. "They could be like the Bridge of Flowers. They could be something beautiful."

Steve Cahill, a self-employed mason and artist, said he had lived in and around Turners Falls for the last 17 years. "I'm a rock hound," he said. "Montague as a town is such a significant place in terms of fossils and dinosaur footprints... These pathways could serve as a convenience, but also as an educational pathway: 'Do you know you're walking where a T. Rex walked?' Get the kids to look one degree deeper than they do."

He added, "Turners has had a stigma on it - blown out mill town - for a long time. For 17 years I've sat under that bridge and watched the water flow over the dam and dug around for rocks and driftwood. I've enjoyed the natural and manmade beauty that it has. I'm excited to get people to open their eyes and see this town the way I do."

Sculptor Tim de Christopher, who has a studio at the base of one of privately



DETMOLD PHOTO

Amanda Cooke cleans up the future Art Pathway on Earth Day. (Participants at Tuesday's community visioning session for the Art Pathways Project noticed that the tag Evol is just Love spelled backwards.)

owned pathways from Prospect Street to 3rd Street, said, "I've only just started discovering the paths within this past year. The other day we cut through the Unity Street path where the murder [of Eric Zeiba] happened a few years ago. That was really disturbing to see the tree and the memorials.

"One idea I have with these paths is the river and streams and rivulets and blood flowing and time passing and so on. I'm very interested in working with the project and seeing what can be done. It's cool that the town has all these pathways."

Al Dray, of Deerfield, said he was a watercolorist who could offer his services to provide an artistic rendering of what the pathways could look like. He has made an avocation of improving damaged corners of the cityscape in Greenfield, and recently has been doing some urban gardening around the end of the staircase from Our Lady of Czestochowa on Avenue A. "I figure out what to do and get on with it," said Dray.

Town planner Dan Laroche said, "Turners Falls is looking

at itself as a much different place. Economically, to get people who live in Turners Falls to come downtown is really important, to [patronize] the Café, the Rendezvous, the bakeries."

He talked about a meeting he had attended that morning to plan the reconstruction of \$600,000 worth of sidewalks around town this year, including some near the confusing intersection around Scotty's, where children walking to school have to cross a long stretch of difficult road, with poor sightlines coming up Unity Street. "People use other crosswalks to get to school, because it is so dangerous. But we think we can improve that."

Laroche said community development grant funds could not be applied to repaving or improving the pathways up the Hill because they are so steep they could never be made wheelchair accessible. But he said the Art Pathways project was a positive approach to reconnecting the Hill and downtown, "both symbolically and on the ground."

Suzette Snow-Cobb, a 12

year resident of the Avenue, said it was interesting how some people view Turners Falls as an urban environment, while others view it as rural. "We're close to the river and woods, yet we also have a more urban environment. These paths could make connections between manmade and natural realms."

Prakash Laufer, executive director of the Brick House, said he was working to bring outside resources into the mix to assist the project, and Carlyn Saltman, a videographer living on the Patch asked if there could be a map created to show the location of the pathways. She also spoke of the need to create "sustainable ways to maintain what has been created," once the art pathways project takes shape. Anne Jemas, of High Street, urged the group to consider ways of making the paths more accessible for all age groups, and suggested that young people would prefer to maintain autonomous space in the wooded areas around the paths.

The group discussed the need to balance the natural setting of the pathways with the need for more illumination, and more secure railings, to make the paths usable at night, or at different times of the year, especially winter when ice can make them treacherous.

The idea of engaging youth in the design and creation of the art pathways - as a way of inoculating the project against the potential of vandalism - was also discussed.

Bischoff and Davol said the ideas brought up in the community visioning session would be incorporated into the project's next step: a request for proposals seeking an artist to develop an overall vision for the art pathways.

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Deer Demise

Tuesday, 5/13

7:15 a.m. Report of loose dog on Park Street. Dog from Moore Street residence. No one at residence.

11:22 a.m. Medical emergency on Mountain Road. Assisted ambulance.

7:11 p.m. Assisted Orange police at Mechanic Street, Orange.

9:05 p.m. Medical emergency on Central Street. Assisted on scene.

Wednesday, 5/14

1:15 p.m. Report of large pile of metal in roadway on Route 2 near bridge. Removed bumper from travel lane at Orange town line.

3:10 p.m. Disabled motor vehicle on Route 2 at French King Bridge. Vehicle towed.

3:12 p.m. Report of brush fire on Dorsey Road. Assisted Erving fire department at scene.

Thursday, 5/15

11:40 a.m. Vehicle failed to stop, operator fled, foot pursuit ensued, arrest warrant issued for [redacted].

Charged with operating with revoked license, failure to stop for police officer and resisting arrest.

4:40 p.m. Report of three kids with skate boards on West Main Street property. Kids gone on arrival.

5:52 p.m. Arrested [redacted], on a straight warrant.

Friday, 5/16

2:09 a.m. Suicidal male taken into custody, transported to BayState Franklin Medical Center.

6:00 p.m. Report of juvenile making suicidal statements at West Main Street address. Subject found to be okay.

Saturday, 5/17

5:45 a.m. Motor vehicle accident on Route 2 at Mountain Road, car vs. deer.

12:38 p.m. Report of dead deer in area of Box Car Restaurant on Route 2 in Erving Center. Not a hazard. State Highway Department advised and will remove.

Sunday, M5/18

3:00 p.m. Three car motor vehicle accident at Route 2 and Prospect Streets, Massachusetts State Police will cover same, no injuries.

Monday, 5/19

1:30 p.m. Larceny of fire hydrant cap and steel grate on Arch Street. Under investigation.

3:25 p.m. Mutual aid to Northfield police, Main Street, Northfield. Juvenile out of control.

OLD TIME from 1

open the right side of the building as a small café, an antique clock repair shop, or perhaps a lunch counter, any of which would complement her new business.

"I've always had an interest in old, primitive things. I just like the country life. I love living out in the woods of Wendell," said Lake, who is also a part-time attorney practicing family law from her home.

A native of Athol, Lake has lived in Wendell for 20 years. She previously worked for 11 years at Hamshaw Lumber in Orange, and decided to attend law school in order to help people seeking services of an affordable attorney, she said. She graduated from the Western New England College School of Law in Springfield in 2001. While in school, she interned at

the District Attorney's Springfield office.

Her two daughters, ages 24 and 14, will help her staff the Old Time Market this summer, enjoying the incredible picture window view of the Millers River from behind the old wooden counter.

Lake plans to sell the work of local craftspeople including several from Orange and Athol including hand-sewn dolls, table centerpieces, table runners, quilts, braided rugs, as well as decorative painted towel holders, wooden boxes, angels, watering cans and plenty of seasonal goods.

"I love Christmas and I love handmade soaps, so a few years ago I started making soaps and candles," said Lake, who gave her handmade goods as gifts to delighted family members and friends, who encouraged her to find a market for them. She took their advice, literally.

Inside Old Time Market visitors will find a wide array of Lake's handmade soaps - all natural soaps made with simple ingredients, oils and butters -- some scented with essential oils, real blueberries and strawberries.

"Everybody's so friendly around here. People stop at the light by the bridge and wave, and ask when we're opening," she said.

Many local residents frequented the Old Red Lantern, and as Lake was renovating the space, she said several people stopped by to ask if they could look at the ceiling tiles. Before the pub closed, people signed the ceiling tiles and wanted to see if they could find their names, she said.

Old Time Market will open in early June. For more information, call Lake at (413) 423-3099.

NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Police Detail Rates to Rise

BY NICHOLE CLAYTON - Detail rates for Erving police officers were brought to the attention of the selectboard by chief of police Christopher Blair. He noted that the construction taking place on the French King Bridge has the Gill officers on their side making \$40.00 an hour, and the Erving officers on their side of the bridge making \$6.00 an hour less.

Blair asked the board to set the rates fairly by meeting the average being paid in surrounding towns. Board member Linda Downs-Bembury wanted to make up half the difference by bringing the details up to \$37.00 an hour, but newly elected board member Andrew Goodwin supported Blair and spoke up for the full \$40.00 an hour rate.

"I think they should be at the same rate as the state police, as they are doing the same job in this situation," Goodwin said.

Downs-Bembury argued, "I

don't feel they should be at the same rate as the state police, as they do not have the same training the state police force has."

However, when the vote came down, the \$40.00 rate was approved unanimously. Goodwin wanted to make the new pay rate effective for the next pay period, but Downs-Bembury would only agree to the change if the implementation was delayed until the July 1st, 2008.

The Erving public library is hoping for a release form to be signed by the Jump Town skydiving center in Orange, removing the town from any liability in order to hold a skydiving event at Veterans Field, in connection with the

"Get Wild" summer reading program across the street at the library. Without a waiver of liability, the event will not take place.

The planning board will propose zoning changes for setback requirements, which are currently at 50 feet. The planning board wants non-conforming lots to be grandfathered in from the setback requirements, to allow property owners to obtain a permit for a shed or addition without 50-foot setbacks on small lots.

The selectboard closed by setting their summer schedule: they will be meeting every other week starting the end of June through the first week of September.

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STONE from pg 5

the medicine man of the tribe, Lloyd Running Wolf Wilcox, smoked the peace pipe with the selectboard and the town administrator and "buried the hatchet" with the town. "It's been hundreds of years since we did this kind of ceremony," said Harris, at the time.

Among the agreements signed in a *Document of Cooperation and Peace* on that day, May 19th, 2004, between the Narragansett representatives and the Montague town officials, was an agreement to "commit to a future that will continue the exchange of actions to promote understanding about and between the cultures, increase historic preservation, and deepen appreciation for the rich heritage of indigenous peoples of our region..."

"It's such a great precedent about how the wounds of the past can be healed," said Harris, speaking to the camera in Timreck's film. "It's got to be backed up not only in sweet words, but strong deeds. The populace has to stand with what they agreed to in ceremony, and what they agreed to in word."

The film then turned to an examination of the airport hill, called a Prayer Hill by the Native

Americans.

"This is a very significant site," the narration continues. The Hannemann site, found on the southeast side of the runway, is considered one of less than a dozen intact paleo-Indian archeological sites in New England by researchers with the UMass archeology department who have studied it. According to Harris, in *Hidden Landscapes*, the Hannemann site "has an ascending ridge with 12,000-year old, 8,000-year old, and 2,000-year old encampment periods." The 12,000-year old encampment period would have been concurrent with the melting of the glaciers that covered New England, the breaking of the earth dam at Rocky Neck, CT, at the southern end of Lake Hitchcock, and the formation of the Connecticut River valley, revealing such features as Mt. Sugarloaf. The discovery of a campsite of that antiquity in Turners Falls lends some credence to Timreck's claim that the first Indians to explore the interior of New England came by boat.

In the movie, Harris directs the audience's attention to the stone formation found on the hilltop across the path of the airport runway, to the northeast. He says the ridge now called the

Hanneman site was merely the campsite for the nearby Prayer Hill. "This was a ceremonial stone landscape. These stone piles have elements in them that are symbolic. These are ceremonial piles. These are in fact prayers in stone. These are the remnants of our ancient civilization."

That is in dispute. Ed Bell, staff archaeologist for the Massachusetts Historical Commission, recently called the stone formation on the airport hilltop nothing but "the remains of an abandoned stone wall."

But on Monday night, Harris distributed a resolution from the United South and Eastern Tribes, 25 federally recognized tribes including the Narragansetts and Wampanoag Tribe of Gayhead (Aquinnah), relating to Sacred Ceremonial Stone Landscapes, noting that "these prayers in stone are often mistaken by archaeologists and state historic preservation officers as the efforts of farmers clearing stones for agricultural or wall building purposes."

Either way, the \$5 million airport runway expansion project at Turners Falls has ground to a halt while the dispute over the hilltop stone formation is arbitrated between the Federal Aviation Administration and the National Register of Historic Preservation. Harris said as part of the government to government relationship invoked by the federally recognized tribes consultative status, the FAA will now provide funds for the tribes to hire their own experts, and conduct their own investigation of the antiquity and cultural significance of the site. He said the tribes would employ spiritual techniques as well as scientific techniques such as "ground penetrating radar," to determine the extent and import of the site.

In his remarks following the film, Harris said, "It is our belief that that Prayer Hill is going to be saved."

When audience members asked how they could assist in that effort," Harris said, "That is a dialogue you need to have with your political leadership."



Gas Engine Show this Weekend

BY JOE PARZYCH BERNARDSTON - There's always something different to see at the Gas Engine Show in Bernardston, coming up this weekend, off Route 10 just east of I-91, exit 28.

Usually, at least one peanut roaster is in operation, producing the delicious smell of roasting peanuts. The Fall town String Band lends a festive air as folks line up to

displayed a gas engine that once powered a Vermont town. A gigantic single cylinder gas engine, with twin flywheels about six feet in diameter, ran day and night for decades driving a generator that supplied the entire town. Anyway, with luck, that faithful old engine will be chuffing along in the line-up of engines at this year's show.

A person can't help but feel



PARZYCH PHOTO

Bud Streeter trims the handle of one of his popular 'Do Nothings.' If you look to the left, one of the wheels of the Do Nothing can be seen.

For wheels, Streeter uses ash logs sliced into discs on his gas engine powered saw rig. He uses birch for the axle and "most anything" for the handle. Streeter is always on the look-out for straight ash about five or six inches in diameter as stock for the wheels. He does not charge for his creations, but gladly accepts donations to the United Church of Bernardston.

buy hot dogs, hamburgers and fries at the food stands, visit the flea market and plant sales, admire old cars, trucks, bulldozers, tractors, shingle mills, water pumps, gas washing machines and an endless assortment of those old reliable gas engines that just keep putting along.

A gas engine powered ice cream churn turns out delicious homemade ice cream, with a flavor to die for. In the past, a collector has

good at the Bernardston Gas Engine Show. The event is an unofficial Old Home Day, where people greet old friends and make new ones. There is no admission, but you can make a donation to the United Church of Bernardston, the event's sponsor. And the more you donate, the better you'll feel. If that isn't enough, the sounds and sights and smells lend a fair-like atmosphere that will lift your spirits, guaranteed.

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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Further Preparation for Town Meeting

BY JOSH HEINEMANN - At 7:00 p.m., when the May 14th Wendell selectboard meeting opened, board chair Ted Lewis was the only member in the selectboard office. He made a motion that if a quorum was not met by 7:01, then the meeting would be cancelled and everyone could go home, but since there was no one who could second the motion, it died.

Board members Christine Heard and finally, at 7:15, Dan Keller came in. Keller announced he was late because he was returning from a statehouse ceremony in Boston at which Anne Diemand had received an award as an unsung heroine for the countless public service activities she has taken part in without fanfare over the years. Keller said the ceremony in the Hall of Flags was impressive, and they had had lunch with Senator Stan Rosenberg.

Wendell is among five or six Franklin County towns that have no flag in the hall.

Lewis said the town should create a flag, possibly through a contest among the schools, with a prize from community policing money. The state is looking to have every community represented in the Hall of Flags.

The meeting's first order of business was to reorganize the board. Heard nominated Lewis for chair, and he won the seat unanimously, unopposed. Laurel Brenneman was chosen selectboard clerk.

The board voted to recommend an extension of the 90-day probationary employment for road crew member William Blanchette, who failed the test for his hoister's license. The board urged the highway commission to look into classes for new employees, to help them with the required tests, so they would not be limited to reading the book after work. The expense of classes should be at least partially offset by savings gained by not losing good

workers, the board opined.

A second draft of the warrant for the June 3rd annual town meeting was ready, but it still needed final figures from the finance committee on Article 4, the article covering most discretionary town spending.

Articles from the open space committee would designate some parcels of land at the Phelps Forest Conservation Area to be managed for wildlife, with the profits from the sale of wood products from the lots going towards the schools. Two other parcels would be managed as town forests, without the directive to put money towards the schools.

Article 29, a non-binding resolution, calls for the rejection of Entergy's application to relicense the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant for an additional 20 years beyond its original 40 year license, which expires in 2012, and directs the town clerk to send copies of the resolution to state and federal representatives and senators, the

governor, as well as Vermont's legislature and governor. Wendell is situated 15 miles as the crow flies, or the radiation travels, from Vermont Yankee.

Members of the selectboard fell into a discussion of possible shelters in the event of a release or an incident at the plant. Lake Grove School has offered a room above their gym with showers, and facilities for eating and sleeping. Lewis said the town hall had cots at one time but they are gone now. Keller said his wife, Nina, is concerned about the plant's evacuation plans, which are limited to bussing students from schools within ten miles of VY to Greenfield Community College.

Anne Diemand believes there should be a community level response plan.

One article would change the agreement between Wendell and New Salem so that capital expenses at the Swift River School would be shared evenly by the two towns.

An excessive noise bylaw is

also on the warrant.

Phil Delorey, a planner in the town of Athol, forwarded a letter stating that the North Quabbin Loan Fund is close to having loans available for local businesses. People from any of the nine North Quabbin towns who might be interested in getting a business loan should contact Alan Singer at the Franklin County Community Development Corporation, at 413-774-7204.

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich reported that engineers checked the energy consumption of the two new municipal buildings - the town offices and the new library - and found them to be among the best buildings designed in terms of gallons of oil used for heat per square foot.

Dedication of the new veterans memorials and the old ones in their new location by the bandstand is scheduled for Wendell's Memorial Day observance, 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 25th.

CLEAN UP from pg 3

headed down the Avenue, filled with pride and good intentions. Well, that's how I felt, anyway.

But then something strange began to happen. As we headed down Avenue A, past the beautiful flowering planters, finding virtually nothing out of place and everything appearing lovely, I began to want trash to clean up. Where was all the trash?

Then I spied the jumbo McDonald's plastic cup perched on the window ledge across from the bus stop on 3rd Street. But just as I placed my hand on it, a voice behind me called out, "Hey, that's my cup." I turned to see Chris Janke, co-owner of Suzee's Laundry and the Rendezvous. (I could tell he was kidding because he was already

carrying a very large cup of coffee.)

We chatted about the clean-up for a minute, and then Brava and I rounded the corner where she had a very sweet (and sloppy) reunion with her old friend Eric, in front of the Avenue A Café. Eric used to work with me on occasion when I needed an extra hand, and he was just back from a long winter's break in Arizona. After we had caught up on each other's lives a bit, and Brava had thoroughly licked his face, we took up our mission once again. Before we left, I asked if he'd seen Ruth from the Brick House. No, he hadn't.

Scrounging for the odd scrap of paper or cigarette butt as we crossed over 4th Street, I again heard a voice from behind. "Sita Lang!" he called out. I turned to see a tall, handsome fellow,

smiling as he approached us. His name was David, and he wondered if I would please follow him down 4th Street a bit so he could show me some trash. Why not?

As we walked toward David's particular trove of trash, I realized that 4th Street was where all the town's trash had gone. Or, perhaps where it had started. I could hardly believe my eyes - trash was everywhere! How had I missed this? With mixed feelings, I began stuffing my enormous contractor bag with all the discarded waste, and I agreed to return with my truck to pick up the pile of rotted pressed-wood David claimed had been lying beneath a tree for five months, since departing tenants had placed a lovely piece of furniture by the tree belt there free to the first taker. Five months later, we

took them up on their offer.

After 4th Street, Brava and I made our way down to the bank and crossed over to the post office. Peskeomskut Park looked pretty good, so I decided to head back up the Avenue in the direction we'd come from. At this point, my trash bag was nearly full and gaining weight, so I was relieved to see a small grocery cart belonging to the Dollar Store waiting for me just past the post office. I shoved my bag into it and continued collecting trash all along the Avenue until we reached 3rd Street again.

The day had warmed considerably, and my hips were starting to complain about all the stooping I'd done, but I ventured down 3rd toward the Brick House anyway, thinking maybe I'd finally meet up with Ruth. I

was glad I did, as there was a fair amount of trash in that direction on 3rd.

Just as we reached the Brick House, there came Ruth clutching a small bag of recycling and a larger bag of trash. She explained that she and a young man named Jamie had decided, after missing our connection at Avenue A Café, to head over to the bike path to clean up trash. Bless their hearts.

And so the annual clean-up of Great Falls, Massachusetts has come and gone, and some of us are richer for the experience. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to help out, meet neighbors and friends along the way, and renew a sense of pride for the place I call home.

And to everyone who pitched in---THANK YOU!



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Kuzmeskus Underbid for FRTA Contract by Ohio Company

BY ALEX GOTTSCHALK GILL - Gill based Kuzmeskus Transportation has lost out to Ohio based First Transit Inc. for management of the Franklin Regional Transit Authority bus and demand response service. The loss of the contract represents 14.9% of the Gill company's business, according to Kuzmeskus owner Darlene Reipold. While no jobs in the company have been cut as of yet, it's unclear what the future holds for Kuzmeskus employees who worked under the FRTA contract.

First Transit, which manages a number of transit authorities in Massachusetts, bid \$115,000 for the FRTA management contract; Kuzmeskus bid \$275,000.

Frank Abbondanzio, who serves on the board of the GMTA, which has recently merged with the FRTA, responded to the news of First Transit's successful bid by saying, "Obviously it may have an impact on local employment, that would be my main concern."

Reipold said Kuzmeskus

currently employs about 47 fulltime workers and 103 part time workers. She said Kuzmeskus has been contracting with FRTA for demand response routes for 20 years, and only began managing the whole division in July of 2006, just weeks before the merger of the GMTA and the FRTA went into effect. That was a difficult time, Reipold said, as "there were a lot of differences, and a lot of animosity between the GMTA and the FRTA, and the merger did not settle well with the GMTA workers." Rising fuel costs led to some layoffs of drivers and administrative staff in the years that followed, she added.

Asked about the awarding of the management contract to an Ohio based company (which is in turn part of a British owned business conglomerate called First Group), Tina Cote, administrator of the FRTA reacted guardedly. "The decision was based on a number of factors... There were two bidders



Darlene Reipold in her office, with Broadway Playbills. Broadway is one destination point for Kuzmeskus's charter bus service.

for the contract and [First Transit] was a better fit for the needs of the FRTA. Even though they are based in Ohio, they have a strong presence in Massachusetts."

Reipold called First Transit's parent corporation, First Group, "the largest transportation company in the world, with \$10 to \$12 billion gross income."

Reipold is the granddaughter of Jacob Kuzmeskus, who founded the company with a

horse and buggy in Montague Center. By the time his son, Frank Maurice, moved the operation from Meadow Road to Nadeau Avenue on the Hill in Turners Falls, the family business had acquired eight buses, and were locked in a "sometimes fierce," sometimes friendly competition with the Chapin and Sadler bus company on Union Street in Montague Center for the local school bus trade.

In 1999, Reipold said, the company moved to Gill. "We had outgrown our location in Turners Falls. We were mirror to mirror in the parking lot, and we had satellite offices on Chapman Street in Greenfield," and elsewhere, with all the attendant overhead. Consolidation was necessary, and has brought needed revenues to Gill.

This has been a tough year for Kuzmeskus, losing not only

the FRTA contract but also the Northampton school bus bid. But Reipold emphasized the flexibility of her company. "We have charter buses, school buses, limousines, and retail tours. You want to go to DC for the cherry blossoms, or Radio City for Christmas, we're the ones to call."

Reipold was philosophical about the loss of the FRTA contract. "In all honesty, I don't understand the front page news about this. We bid on different jobs. We bid on four contracts this year, we got two and we lost two. It's been that way for the 30 years that I have been in this business."

Reipold would not say how many of her workers might lose their jobs as a result of the loss of the FRTA contract, but she said some might, and she had already talked to the affected workers.

"We care about our people. This is the community we live in."

Budget Error Leads to \$154,000 Gill Shortfall

BY DAVID DETMOLD - The Gill selectboard and finance committee announced this week that a clerical error has been discovered in the fiscal year 2009 budget. The town's accountant, Joyce Muka, who shares accounting duties for a number of area towns through the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, was getting a head start on filling in the tax recap sheet to submit to the Department of Revenue when she discovered the error this week. The error masked a \$154,000 budget gap in meeting FY09 expenses.

Because the assessment for the Gill-Montague Regional School District is still unsettled, the two boards have decided to take no action at this time. At a special town meeting later this season, which will be

needed to vote on a new school assessment figure, the boards will propose a strategy to address the shortage - either through a Proposition 2 1/2 override vote or through budget cuts.

Town administrative assistant Tracy Rogers explained the problem this way:

"At some point we were considering purchasing two highway trucks. So we included \$255,000 in the revenue side of the budget at that time, assuming that a debt exclusion for both trucks would pass."

But at town meeting May 5th, the town opted to replace only one highway truck, and to lease to buy that one over the course of five years. The first year lease for the truck will

only amount to \$36,000, but as the budget was marked up, a higher expense figure had been included, for leasing both trucks, at \$62,000 for the first year.

These budgeting errors were mitigated somewhat by the lower than anticipated amount town meeting approved for the G-M schools. After all the addition and subtraction, the town emerged with a shortfall of \$154,000.

Town administrative assistant Tracy Rogers praised Muka's accounting skills. "If only I'd shown her the budget before town meeting," she lamented.

At town meeting, Gill came up \$178,000 short on the Gill Montague Regional School District's initial '09 request of \$1,517,372.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG Burglaries and a Stolen Car

Tuesday, 5/6
2:29 p.m. Report of burglary / breaking and entering from an Avenue A address, Turners Falls.

Wednesday, 5/7
6:54 p.m. Officer wanted at a Griswold Street, Turners Falls address. Arrested

on a straight warrant.

Thursday, 5/8
1:21 p.m. Officer initiated arrest of

on a straight warrant. Also charged with unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

2:21 p.m. Report of burglary / breaking and entering at a Powers Block address, Millers Falls. Investigated.

8:20 p.m. Officer wanted in front of Subway on Avenue A, Turners Falls. Arrested

Charged with disorderly conduct.

Friday, 5/9
7:32 a.m. Report of burglary / breaking and entering at a Fifth Street address, Turners Falls.

Saturday, 5/10
7:02 p.m. Report of safety hazard at General Pierce Bridge, Turners Falls. Arrested

on two default warrants.

10:56 p.m. Report of burglary / breaking and entering at St. Kazimierz Society, Avenue A, Turners Falls.

Sunday, 5/11
6:01 p.m. Report of fight in alleyway between Second and Third Streets, Turners Falls. One subject taken into protective custody.

8:43 p.m. Report of vandalism at Unity Park, Turners Falls. Investigated.

Tuesday, 5/13
3:36 a.m. Report of assault at a Third Street address. Arrested

on a default warrant.

10:37 p.m. Report of motor vehicle theft at an H Street address, Turners Falls.

Thursday, 5/15
9:58 a.m. Report of vandalism at a Turners Falls Road address, Turners Falls.

10:29 p.m. Report of burglary / breaking and entering at a Bridge Street address, Millers Falls.

11:20 p.m. Assisted other agency at a Fourth Street address, Turners Falls. Arrested

Charged with violation of a restraining order.

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Montague and Gill Underwhelmed by Election Turnout

BY DAVID DETMOLD - On Monday, May 19th, 55 voters (five percent of the registered voters) in Gill turned out to elect a slate of unopposed incumbents, including Ann Banash, who returns for another three-year term on the selectboard, and to elect Sorrel Hatch to a three year seat on the school committee. Sorrel takes the seat being vacated by Ted Castro-Santos; her mother, Patricia Crosby previously represented Gill on the school committee.

The voters created a tie between two write-in candidates for board of assessors: Ray Purington and Paul Nowill;

they both expressed an interest in the position. A joint meeting will be scheduled soon between the selectboard and the assessors to settle the toss-up and elect one of them to the board.

Down in Montague, the six precinct stations were preoccupied with processing almost ten times as many voters - 524 - who nonetheless equaled only 9.4% of the electorate. There were no townwide races; Michael Langknecht and Terry Lapachinski were re-elected unopposed to three year seats on the school committee.

"It's been slow!" said Therese Fugere, waiting to tally

the next ballot at the Precinct 5 polling station.

Evelyn Daly, owner of the Avenue A Café, got written in for a three year seat as a town meeting member in Precinct 5, and Christine Bates was written in for the open one year seat in the same precinct.

Over in Precinct 2, Jeanne Golrick edged out her son Edward Golrick, 27 to 24, to gain a three year seat on town meeting. In Precinct 1, Mark Fairbrother (92 votes) beat out write-in candidate Chris Wise (66 votes) and Malcolm Clark (53 votes) to win the seventh seat on town meeting. Top vote

getter in the nine-way race for seven seats was Robin Sherman, with 115 votes, followed hard on her heels by Veronica Phaneuf (111 votes), David Leh (110), Eileen Mariani (109), Arthur Evans (104), and Bunny Caldwell (96).

Voters in Precinct 6 could not manage to find a single candidate to write in for the two open three year seats, which will remain unfilled, decreasing Montague City and the Patch's representation on town meeting to 19 members, instead of the usual 21. Until next year.

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Greenfield Car Wash Benefits Reipold Family

BY JOSEPH PARZYCH GREENFIELD - On Sunday morning, I read with dismay an account of yet another shooting in Springfield. A promising young basketball star with a scholarship to Brandeis was gunned down, caught in the crossfire of a gang fight.

Later that day, on my way into Greenfield, I saw a group of enthusiastic teenagers jumping up and down on Federal Street holding carwash signs at the Autozone. Despite it being a raw, rainy day, a dozen or more kids were having a great time in the parking lot washing cars.

My car was a mess from a robin that has been attacking his reflection in the rear vision mirrors, the windows of the car and the windows of our house. The robin not only left smears



Classmates of Ethan Reipold and Harley Robinson held a carwash benefit for the Reipold family, whose Wendell home was recently destroyed by fire.

where he smacked into the glass, but he defecated on the car as well. I swung into the lot.

The teenagers went to work with soapy washcloths and had my car sparkling clean in mere minutes, never mind that the robin will have the car a mess the very next day.

When I asked why the group was out in the cold and rain washing cars, they introduced me to Ethan Reipold and Harley Robinson, whose family home on Montague Road in Wendell Road had been destroyed by fire. Not only had fire destroyed their home, but the family is left

with an unpaid mortgage on the property. Ethan and Harley were delighted by the generous support of their classmates.


Katie Crane, Juliya Shumilova and Christian Drew organized the event after hearing about the Reipold - Robinson's family tragedy. Ethan attends school in Turners Falls, with the three organizers.

This thoughtful act is refreshing, offering renewed hope and faith in the young people of Franklin County.


Contributions for the relief of the Reipold family may be sent to the Reipold Fire Fund care of the Greenfield Savings Bank.

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NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Reorganizing the Board Can Wait

BY DAVID DETMOLD - The reorganization of the selectboard was delayed for a week, until Pat Allen returns from her vacation. Allen was re-elected without opposition at the town election on Monday, May 19th.

At Tuesday night's selectboard meeting, John Reynolds, Precinct 1, asked for the floor what had happened to the former practice of rotating the selectboard chair to the member who was in the second year of her term, to avoid an appearance of "favoritism" of a third year selectboard chair heading into a re-election campaign.

Patricia Pruitt, to whom the chairperson position would fall

this year if the practice Reynolds alluded to were adopted, said she was not interested in assuming the chairperson's role this year. She also said she felt it was an advantage for her to have had two years on the board, in her first term, before being elected chair. "I was just coming out of my bewilderment by then," she said.

Ross said he was ready to assume the position of chair, but agreed to wait until Allen returned for the board to decide the matter.

In other news, the selectboard delayed action on a request by the board of the Shea Theater to block off parts of 6th Street and

7th Street to make room for food vendors for a planned barbecue competition and beer garden fundraiser in Peskeomskut Park this summer. The Shea board will meet with the police chief to come up with the best traffic flow arrangement for the event.

The board approved a request by town planner Dan Laroche and parks and recreation director Jon Dobosz to hold a bike tune-up event in Peskeomskut Park on Friday, May 30th, at 11 a.m., followed by a bike parade to Unity Park for a ribbon cutting ceremony at the completed canalside bike trail.

Emily Monosson, a member of the Montague Grange who is

participating in the Grange's Clean Energy Campaign, invited the selectboard to speak at the upcoming Montague Earth, Wind and Sun Fair at the Great Falls Discovery Center on Saturday, June 14th.

The board approved the agricultural preservation agreement (APR) for the 114 acre Mieczkowski Farm on South Ferry Road in Montague Center, which borders both the Connecticut River and the Sawmill River. The town, through its conservation fund, contributed 3.5% - or \$25,000 - of the total \$685,000 cost of preserving the farm for agricultural use, in perpetuity.

"This farmland is as good as you can get in the Pioneer Valley," said Ross.

Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio said other landowners in Montague are interested in applying to the state APR program, but there is only about \$30,000 left in the town's matching fund account.

The board signed off on a Franklin Conservation District study of an "ecosystem approach" to addressing erosion and sedimentation in a stretch of the Sawmill River from Route 63 to the Book Mill. There will be no costs to the town, at this point, in the demonstration and implementation study. Abbondanzio and Ross said the techniques being studied have been applied successfully in Vermont, but may still be considered experimental.

ARTS from pg 1

photographers Brad Peters and Jan Ross, Two Friends Silks, fine artist Polly French, concrete sculptor Denise Muro, cartoonist E. J. Barnes, and painter Edith Hunsberger. New additions included potter Daniel Garretson, watercolorist Alice Thomas, jewelry designer Jean Watt, potter Jaye Pope, and fiber artist Laura Herbert.

On the Art Fest stage, the slow jam of Rust Knuckle Raptor segued into the sprightly bluegrass of Appalachian Still, with face painted youngsters twisting and turning inside the hula hoops provided for the occasion by Shenandoah's Hoopla Hoops. A popular new addition this year was the 'Dreamcatcher' Ride, which gave riders the opportunity to be at the center of a human gyroscope powered by the movement of their own bodies.

The Discovery Center's Sarah Doyle and Steve Winters led more than 20 people on a geo walk and dinosaur footprint tour of some of the geological and paleontological hotspots that make our town such a unique niche in time and place. Following a discussion of plate tectonics, the geology of the region and an up close look at

the Discovery Center's collection of fossils, Winters led the group to the river to see some of the interesting rock formations first hand.

From there, it was on to Barton Cove to the old quarry where Doyle introduced the fossil footprints captured in the huge stone slab along the nature trail. She relayed the history of the dinosaur footprints and how their discovery fits within the larger context of local history and the growth of American science during the 19th century.

Pam Shoemaker was kind enough to open the Gill Historical Society Museum in Riverside for the group's final stop on the tour.

There was just enough time to grab a bite to eat before the start of the next entertainment at the Great Hall, where Rose Whitcomb-Detmold, Katherine Ortiz, and Jaime Ziemba wowed a full house with several West African dance numbers from Senegal and Ghana. Playing the djun djun drums for the dancers was Kalpana Devi, the founding director of AzaAshe, Pioneer Valley's African dance and drum company.

The performance was an added bonus to the photo exhibit shown by Whitcomb-Detmold, who traveled to the

tiny island of Gorée (just off the coastal city of Dakar, Senegal) in September of 2007 along with 18-20 other African dance students and faculty of the Pioneer Valley Performing Arts School, for a three week trip to study with master dancer Picoth.

Many of the photos had sentimental value for Whitcomb-Detmold, and spoke to the history of the slave trade, as well as contemporary issues. Prominent among the photos was *La Maison des Esclaves* or 'the House of Slaves' - where the infamous Door of No Return was the exit point for slaves being hauled off and shipped to the Americas. Sadly, there are still issues with human trafficking, and while visiting Senegal the students spent time volunteering with the Talibais, a social organization in Dakar that helps orphaned children who are most at-risk.

There were many other sights to see at the Art Fest, and all along the walking tour. The streets of downtown were filled with people perusing the shops, artist studios and eateries, and enjoying the music and displays.

Save the date for the next downtown studio tour: Arts and Leaves, October 4th and 5th!



WELCH from pg 1

involved interviews, on the phone or in person, with all the people who were identified as being present in the administration office on April 4th. Jesson confirmed that the investigation had been concluded, and placed in Welch's personnel file. Jesson would not say whether Welch's resignation and the conclusions of the investigation into his remark about "tree-hugging Indians" were linked.

Quinones will serve as interim executive director of the MAC until a permanent replacement for Welch can be appointed.

Two federally recognized Indian tribes, the Narragansetts and the Wampanoag Tribe of Gayhead (Aquinnah) have been granted consultative status in regard to the Turners Falls runway expansion project. They are in discussions with the Federal Aviation Administration and the National Register of Historic Preservation about a stone formation the tribes regard as a sacred ceremonial site on a hill to the northeast of the runway. That hill is slated to be excavated and removed to make way for the \$5 million, 1200-foot runway expansion.

Director Welch did not

return a phone call seeking comment on his resignation at press time.

On April 25th, Welch sent a letter to the *Montague Reporter*, denying he had made the remarks about "tree-hugging Indians" as quoted, saying his remarks had been quoted out of context, and apologizing for any offense given by any remarks anyone at the meeting may have made. In the letter, he said he had "the greatest respect" for Native Americans.

The Narragansett Indian Tribe's historic preservation officer, John Brown, reached for comment on Welch's resignation Wednesday, said, "I wouldn't say I'm happy to see anyone lose their job. I am happy to see that this particular matter has been resolved and the issues clarified. We no longer live in a world where our comments as public officials go unnoticed. We commend the state of Massachusetts on the job that they have done. The governor of the state of Massachusetts said there would be zero tolerance for this kind of remark, and obviously, whether confirmed or not, the governor's word is his bond. We are satisfied this chapter is coming to an end."



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JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - Q. I've been told that hand washing is a highly effective way to prevent the spread of infections. What is the best way to wash your hands?

Hand washing is the best and simplest way to prevent infection and illness, but it must be done properly and often to be effective. Below are some tips I've collected from several reliable sources.

Washing your hands with soap and water works well. Here are the correct techniques:

- Wet your hands with warm, running water.
- Rub on soap and make a thick lather.
- Scrub vigorously over every surface of your hands and wrists for about 20 seconds.
- Rinse completely.

THE HEALTHY GEEZER: Wash Your Hands

- Dry your hands with a disposable paper towel or air dryer.
- Use the paper towel to shut the faucet.

Alcohol-based hand sanitizing gels are better than soap and water in killing bacteria and viruses that cause disease. If you clean your hands with one of these sanitizers, apply the gel to one palm. Then rub your hands together and spread the sanitizer on all surfaces until dry. The gel doesn't need water to work; the alcohol in it kills the germs on your hands.

Not all hand sanitizers are the same. You should use only sanitizers that contain at least 60 percent alcohol.

Antibacterial soaps, which are different from alcohol-based sanitizers, are no better at killing germs than regular soap. The combination of scrubbing your hands with soap - antibacterial or not - and rinsing them with water loosens and removes bacteria from your hands.

When should you wash your hands? Here's a list of some

- important before and after:
- Before & after preparing food.
 - Before eating
 - After going to the bathroom
 - After changing a diaper
 - After touching animals
 - Before & after treating wounds
 - After blowing your nose
 - After coughing or sneezing into your hands
 - Before and after touching a sick or injured person
 - After handling garbage
 - Before inserting or removing contact lenses

It's important to wash frequently because we collect germs on our hands during the entire day from most objects we touch. We can infect ourselves by touching our eyes, noses or mouths with infected hands. We can infect others by touching them or objects they touch.

Infectious diseases that are commonly spread by our hands include colds, flu and gastrointestinal disorders.

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

Fishway Open for Season

GREAT FALLS - The Turners Falls Fishway is now open through Sunday, June 15th, providing an opportunity to watch wildlife of the Connecticut River Valley. View migratory fish and birds like the Bald Eagle, who depend upon the spring runs of anadromous fish (fish who can live in both fresh and salt-water) to feed their hungry young eaglets. A spotting scope is trained on the eagles' nest at Barton Cove, and a live camera allows close viewing of parents feeding and caring for their chick, born April 9th. Viewing windows located under the river afford close sightings of Sea Lamprey, Shad and other fish.

The Turners Falls Fishway is free and open to the public from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday, as well as Monday, May 26th. Fishway guides are eager to answer your questions about the animals and ecology of the Connecticut River.

MCTV Program Schedule: May 23-29

Eagle Cam:
Friday 1P-6P, Saturday 1P-6P, Sunday 1P-6P, Monday 1P-6P, Tuesday 1P-6P, Wednesday 1-6P, Thursday 1P-6P
If We Have a Signal You Will Have a Picture

- Friday, May 23**
8:00 am Mohawk High School performs at Disney
10:00 am Franklin County Matters: Sheriffs Office
11:00 am Independent Voices #36
11:30 am Montague Update: Ted Graveline
12:00 pm On the Ridge: New England Brusck Wolf Hunting
12:30 pm Peske Park Dedication
6:00 pm Chronicles: Mass for Anna & Helen Okula
7:00 pm GMRSD (5/20/08)
10:00 pm Common Man: Eric Goodchild
11:00 pm Dark Water Pie Rats
- Saturday, May 24**
8:00 am Town Meeting (5/22/08)
12:00 pm Community Land Trust in Action
6:00 pm Fall Town String Band
8:00 pm Town Meeting (5/22/08)
- Sunday, May 25**
8:00 am Art Fest 2007
9:30 pm Franklin County Matters: Community Action
11:00 am Mohawk High School performs at Disney
6:00 pm Montague Update: John Anctil
7:00 pm On the Ridge: Turkey Hunting Tips
8:00 pm Power Canal Draw Down
8:30 pm Preachin the Blues
9:30 pm Safe & Green Campaign Forum
- Monday, May 26**
8:00 am Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony 2007
9:00 am MCTV Video Camp
9:30 am Seabrook 1977
11:00 am The Spirit of Lake Pleasant
6:00 pm The Western Mass Democrat: Thomas Merrigan
6:30 pm Thomas Jefferson Speaks
7:00 pm Select Board (5/20/08)
9:00 pm Tiny Tim
10:00 pm Changing Face of Turners Falls
- Tuesday, May 27**
8:00 am Town Meeting (5/22/08)
12:00 pm Chronicles: Mass for Anna & Helen Okula
6:00 pm Discovery Center: Fossil Tracks
7:00 pm Valley Idol Semi-Finals 2008
- Wednesday, May 28**
8:00 am Valley Idol Semi Finals 2008
6:00 pm Tapping Maple Ridge
7:00 pm Town Meeting (5/22/08)
- Thursday, May 29**
8:00 am Valley Idol Semi Finals (5/24/08)
12:00 pm Sustainable Energy
6:00 pm Chronicles Volume 31
6:30 pm Denmark The View The Vision
7:00 pm Select Board (5/20/08)
9:00 pm Mohawk High School Performs at Disney
11:00 pm Montague Grange Variety Show

BOX from PG 1

bar and runs the grill at the Millers Pub in Millers Falls and plans to continue working there while getting the Box Car up and running.

"When I was six years old my mom had a restaurant in Barre, and I helped out. I've been in this business all my life, and I have a pretty good idea of what I'm doing. And I know what people like. I know what they want to eat," she said. "Basic food, good home cookin', good portions and good prices. I can't wait to see people in this town come and see what I've done to the place, and watch them eat my food. I'm a good cook. Most people in this town know my cooking."

Porlier aims to maintain the train theme of the historic Box Car restaurant wherever possi-

ble. She has spent about \$30,000 in renovations to the interior of the historic eatery, including brand new kitchen appliances, ceilings, floors and entryways, a handicapped-accessible bathroom, refinished booths and new lighting.

The Box Car will be open seven days a week from 5 a.m. to 2 p.m., for breakfast and lunch; the take-out window will be open in summer.

Her staff will include her daughter Jocelyn and "like adopted" daughter E.J., waitress Erica Lemieux and cooks Will Sanderson and Tom Novak of Orange.

"I've worked with them all before -- this will be a family-run business, a big family working together making a business go," said Porlier, who will introduce many special family recipes from a cookbook her sis-

ter published.

"I call that cookbook my Bible. My sister's an amazing, very talented girl who runs a tea house in Barre in what was my grandmother's house," she said. "My sister, my mom, my grandmother, have all kinds of recipes that I'll use."

Porlier's menu will feature eggs, omelets with all the fillings, wraps, breakfast sandwiches, pancakes, French toast and other breakfast fare, as well as burgers, hot dogs, reubens, hot sandwiches, westerns, paninis and more for lunch. Every day she will offer two hot meals and two homemade soups, as well as many homemade desserts baked on the premises.

"If I can keep the local people happy, then that's 99 percent of the battle," said Porlier. "Whatever comes down the highway is a plus. I may never

see them again, but my townspeople are the ones who'll be coming back tomorrow."

She said re-opening the Box Car, which has had three previous owners in the time she's lived in Erving, will be good for the town. "I really think the town is going to enjoy it. Even if they just want a cup of coffee, it's a nice little gathering place. I can't go anywhere where someone doesn't stop me and ask when I'm opening. It's an honor to live in this town. The people are just fantastic. And it's a great place to bring up kids."

Porlier and her husband David Porlier, who works for the Holyoke-based Laborer's Union Local #596 and is also a stone mason, raised four children in Erving, three of whom live locally.

Porlier can be reached at the Box Car at (978) 633-7037.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

THURSDAY, MAY 22nd
At Artspace, Greenfield: artist's reception 5:30-7:30 p.m. Group exhibition: *Features, Studies of the Human Form on display May 22 - June 20*. Artwork crafted from a variety of materials. Artists include Heidi Arnold, ARTmuffin, Robert Bent, Lenore Gaudet, Sarah Jarman, Maureen Senn-McNally, Mary Mello, Barbara Milot, Cheryl Rezendes, Shali Sanders, Jeanne Sisson, Nancy Uchman and Laura Garrison. Artspace, 15 Mill Street in Greenfield. Regular gallery hours are Mon. - Fri. 1 - 6 p.m. (413) 772-6811 acfc@rcn.com

are like new. Car wash \$5. Rain or shine. Held at Hallmark Institute of Photography's Educational Center, 27 Industrial Blvd., Turners Falls. Info: Tammy Murphy, (413) 863-8409, tammy@hallmark.edu.

Valley Idol, Jr. Round 2, 9:30 a.m. Audience Admission for all dates: \$5, finale: **May 31st** at 9:30 a.m. Winners perform at the Finale of Valley Idol!

FRIDAY, MAY 23rd
At The Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Exhibit Tours at 11 a.m. & 1 p.m. Join visitor center staff for a tour of the exhibits. Free.

Montague Book Mill, Montague Center: Graham Lambkin and Jason Lescalleet with *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 Falls: Tracy & Co. - rock & roll covers. Come to dance! 9:30 p.m.

At The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: DJs XML/TBA/JazyB present Crescendo, 9:30 p.m., \$2 cover. www.rendezvoustfma.com

SATURDAY, May 24th
Hallmark Institute of Photography's Relay for Life team hosts a tag sale/car wash 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Fund raiser for the American Cancer Society. Many items in the tag sale

Valley Idol! A benefit for the Shea Theater, Turners Falls. Tonight's competition will be down to the 10 semi-finalists round, 7 p.m. *Valley Idol* is a singing/karaoke competition with a \$1000 first prize. Grand Finale: May 31st at 8 p.m. Audience Admission: \$10/\$12 at door. 863-2281

Deja Brew, Wendell: **Eric Love** - Singer Songwriter - covers from the 60's & 70's, 9 to 11 p.m.

Rt. 63 Road House, Millers Falls: LOVE BOMB - rock & roll covers, come to dance! 9:30 p.m.

At The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Equalites* - reggae, \$5 cover, 9:30 p.m. www.rendezvoustfma.com

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

Deja Brew, Wendell: **Nexus** - Have a ball as Rick, Jimmy, Leftie, Bob and Klondike, keep us moving to their harmonic eclectic renditions of favorite oldies, 9 to 11 p.m..

At The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Le Cabaret de-Voo* (aka open mic) 8 p.m., free.

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.

TUESDAY, MAY 27th
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.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 28th



The Equalites, a six piece reggae - rock - roots - dub - ska - r&b band perform at The Rendezvous in Turners Falls. Saturday, May 24th, 9:30 p.m. come dance to originals and covers.

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

Montague Phantom Brain Exchange #5 (a challenging entertainments monthly) featuring: *Dark Inside the Sun* (chaos blues from PA), *Slaughterhouse Percussion* (out rhythms), *To Be Regained* by Zach Iannazzi (16mm experimental film on anadromous fish hatchings) *Correspondence as Literary Form*, lecture by Emma Young, & DJ Joshua Burkett at the Rendezvous, Turners Falls. 9 p.m. \$5.

THURSDAY, MAY 29th
Learn to Fish! Join in on this basic fishing course! Meeting from 6 to 8 p.m. on Thursday evenings, 5/29 & 6/5, at Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls. Free. Especially invited are children under 16. Materials provided! Pre-registration required. Call (413) 863-3221.

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

Brick House Concert: *Dead of Winter, The Vaude Villains and Trials & Tribulations*, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 30th
Bouquet of Music Series
Friday May 30, 2008, 12:00 PM - 12:45 PM

A Bouquet of Music Healing Arts Concert Series: this week features Gretchen Saathoff, classical piano. Held at Franklin Medical Center, Greenfield. Noon-12:45 p.m. (413) 773-2573

Rt. 63 Road House, Millers Falls: *The Bus Drivers*. Great vocals & harp, come to dance. 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY MAY 31st
Bike Auction, 9 a.m. at the Montague Police Station. Approx. 40 bikes available for purchase, bikes are in the condition they were turned in and are final. Cash and Checks payable to the Town of Montague accepted, cash receipts given. Bikes are put on display approximately 1/2 to 1 hour prior to the auction.

At The Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Exploring Water and Watersheds*, 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Hands on activities about water for elementary school students and their care givers. Story, watershed model, and experiments.

Montague Book Mill, Montague Center: *Swing Caravan*. Show begins around 8 p.m. Food, beer, wine and love available at The Lady Killigrew.

FRIDAY, JUNE 6th
Vermont Center for Photography: *Journeys*, photographs by Ron Rosenstock. Opening night 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. during Brattleboro Gallery Walk. This is the first exhibit of Ron Rosenstock's color work from his new book, *Journeys*. On display until Sunday, July 27th. Vermont Center for Photography, 49 Flat St., Brattleboro, VT, (802) 251-6051

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.

JULY 7th TO AUGUST 15th
Theater Workshops for Children: Hampshire Shakespeare Company, Amherst is taking applications for summer theater workshops for children ages 5 - 17 yrs. Info. (413) 788-4750 or www.hampshireshakespeare.org.

ONGOING
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THE VAUDE VILLAINS
TRIALS & TRIBULATIONS
SLIDING SCALE DONATIONS
\$5 - \$10
THE BRICK HOUSE
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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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Friday 5/23, 9 - 11 p.m.
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Covers: **Eric Love**

Sunday 5/25, 9 - 11 p.m.
Oldies: **Nexus**

Memorial Day BBQ 6 - 9 p.m.

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Showtimes for
Friday, May 22nd - Thursday, May 29th

- 1. NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN**
DAILY 6:00 9:10 PG
MAT FRI, SAT, SUN 12:00 3:00
- 2. INDIANA JONES & THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL**
DAILY 6:00 9:00 PG13 in dts sound
MAT FRI, SAT, SUN 12:00 3:00
- 3. IRONMAN PG13**
DAILY 6:00 9:00
MAT FRI, SAT, SUN 12:00 3:00
- 4. HAROLD AND KUMAR ESCAPE FROM GUANTANAMO**
DAILY 6:45 9:15 R
- 4. SPEED RACER PG**
MAT FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 3:15
- 5. WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS**
DAILY 6:45 9:15 PG13
MAT FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 3:15
- 6. NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN**
DAILY 6:30 9:30 PG in dts sound
MAT FRI, SAT, SUN 12:30 3:30
- 2. INDIANA JONES & THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL**
DAILY 6:30 9:30 PG13 in dts sound
MAT FRI, SAT, SUN 12:30 3:30

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Fri. 5/23 9:30pm \$2
CRESCENDO (djs XML, TBA, jazzybl)

Sat. 5/24 9:30pm \$5
THE EQUALITES (reggae)

Sunday 5/25 8pm FREE!
Le CABARET de Voo (our open mic.) sponsored by the Valley Advocate - raffle!

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VILLAGE SKETCHBOOK

Montague Garagemen

BY DAVID BRULE - It seemed like a simple plan that day, coordinated to fit into a busy schedule after school between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. The plan involved two stops at different garages in town plus a trip to the dentist in Greenfield. The garagework was to be done in town because of a long-standing relationship that has developed between Benny Rubin, Mark Johnson, and my cars.

The dentist was another story. I was going all the way to Greenfield for the drilling because my late lamented dentist, Dr. Arthur Charron, told me to, years ago, when he retired.

My career as a dental patient had started out in Millers Falls when Doctor Charron was launching his practice out of a small second-story office above Ward's Clothing Store on the corner of Bridge and Main streets. My dentist was a member of a large family of medical professionals, his own father being remembered for his heroic efforts treating patients during the Spanish Flu epidemic of 1918. His brother Rosario delivered me into this world at the Faren.

Small town loyalties run deep and are built on hard-earned respect. When Dr. Charron moved to 58 Fourth Street, we of course followed him there. The old office is now converted into our *Montague Reporter* newspaper office. I have to admit I even now find it eerie to go down those steps, still half expecting to see Nurse 'Sis' Charron peering at me over her wireframes, telling me Doctor (she always called her brother that) would be with me in a minute.

Ghosts in the paper office. Or maybe it's just the glowing radiation in the walls from all those x-rays. When my lifelong dentist, who performed painless works of art on my post-adolescent teeth, finally retired, he told me I should go to a certain dentist over the hill in Greenfield, so I went.

On this particular day of the Simple Plan, (just last week), before making my way to the dentist, who by the way is less concerned about the pain to the patient both in the tooth and in the wallet than our good Dr. Charron, I planned to get the car inspected first.

I always look forward to going to Benny Rubin's. It's always enjoyable to drop in for a good-natured healthy dose of cussing and swearing while your car is being worked on. It's part

of the oral tradition around here, completely devoid of animosity and aggression, and healthy cussing is sometimes good for the soul, especially after a day in the classroom.

Besides, Rubin's Garage is a time capsule. It's got all the atmosphere you want in a garage: postcards from all over, pictures of babes in bikinis in Florida, some water skiers, a shot of a donkey in a hat, plenty of testimonials to Benny and his father Meyer, and the usual inventory of slogans that make up the working man's Americana. "You don't have to be crazy to work here... but it helps!" Or, "I feel like a mushroom - everybody keeps me in the dark and feeds me %#@!!!"

Then, for me, there's the link between Benny's and Williams' Garage, my father's former place of work. I spent a lot of time in William's Garage in the 50s, where my father toiled six days a week for Dickie, and apparently never really lost his sanity in spite of it.

Whenever we visited my father at work, he always treated us to sodas and candy bars. Looking back, maybe my father and Dr. Charron were in cahoots in the dental cavity scheme of things, but on opposite ends of the business.

Dickie's office in those days was a place of wonderment for a 12-year-old boy. The clanging of the cash resister, the ringing of the pressurized air line sounding out over the noise of the garage, indicating a customer had pulled up for gas, and most of all the pin-up calendars high up on the walls, just far enough to make it hard to see. That's where we all got our first glimpse of a buxom and appealing Marilyn Monroe smiling coyly without a stitch on her. Those were the days of innocence. We would cast a glance up there every once in a while, but we shouldn't be caught staring by the grown-ups.

Benny's office reminds me of those days, minus the naked ladies. Benny himself makes the visit worthwhile: unlit cigar, dapper moustache, infectious good humor. He knows everyone in town and beyond, he's helped everyone in town, and I'm pretty sure everyone owes him a favor. Luckily for us he's not intent on calling in all those favors.

Benny's a part of the oral history and legends in town, his near-visit to the White House Inaugural Ball being one of the

best. So Benny was the enjoyable part of the plan. My inspection was flawless, Greg Williams whisking me and my car in and out, courteous and almost apologetic for charging me the required fee.

So, feeling pretty good, inspected and found worthy of approval, off we go to a more challenging visit in Greenfield. No cussing or swearing there. Too difficult with a mouthful of gauze and all sorts of drains and such. Even if you wanted to, you couldn't.

Forty -five minutes later, just before 5:00, out I came, somewhat numbed in the tooth and much lighter in the wallet. Approaching the car, I should have known. She wouldn't start, and I really needed to get to the next part of the plan, which involved getting this car back over to Montague to Mark's Auto before closing. Looking under the hood as if I knew what to look for, plus some mean-tempered cursing this time, didn't work either.

Back into the office. Of course I wasn't carrying a cell phone. I had to call the only one who could save my schedule now,

Ralph Rau Jr.

Silence at the other end of the line as I told him of my plight way over here in Greenfield. Ralph patiently explained it was close to closing, there weren't many people to look after things if he went out on the road, and told me to try another thing or two, and then call him back.

Outside in the lot nothing worked, so it's back to Ralph who says he'd be right there. Sure enough the Rau wrecker appears as though it knew a shortcut over the hill. Ralph squeezed his big frame behind the steering wheel of the diminutive Toyota, tried a few things, and pronounced the battery dead as a doornail. So it's a jumpstart, and a drive back over to Montague Center, and within minutes a new battery is in and the car is humming contentedly.

So Ralph's speedy service has got me almost back on schedule. A smooth operation, a few words from the big quiet man, and a bill that was reasonable. Still couldn't touch the cost of 45 minutes spent in the dentist's chair.

The final part of the Simple Plan involves a scheduled drop-off at Mark's Auto, about three minutes from Ralph's as the crow flies, when that crow is flying straight. But if you've noticed, that's not often the case.

Into the modern office I step

(the fourth one in the space of two hours). It could almost be the dentist's office with comfortable chairs and a week's worth of current magazines for you to read while you wait. Big Terry Prentice is ensconced at the command center behind the desk, all calm, pleasant, and oftentimes sympathetic to customers the likes of me. He takes the keys, and will shortly hand them off to Mark Johnson, proprietor of Mark's, and as honest as the day is long. The car will stay overnight for some transmission work first thing in the morning.

This car's been around the block a bit, especially today. I've relied on Mark for years and a neighbor has remarked that I probably hold a share in the new addition that Mark built a number of years ago, given the amount of work he has had in keeping my old cars running. Mark knows how to keep a customer satisfied and coming back.

So, for me, the Day of the Simple Plan ended up on a positive note despite the complication. Always one to look on the bright side, I had after all contributed to the local economy, provided business for some important people who keep the engines of our town in working order, and in the end, it hardly cost me any more than the 45 minutes in the office of the Greenfield dentist!

RACE CAR A LABOR OF LOVE

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH
TURNERS FALLS - Rubin's Auto is the main sponsor of the race car pictured at left, built from the ground up by Benny Rubin's son Greg Williams.

Williams spent the past year building the race car. The car interior is a maze of metal pipe bracing designed to form a protective cage to envelope the driver. The sheet metal body Williams fabricated is designed to make the car look exactly like an original Chevrolet Monte Carlo. The 360 cubic inch Chevrolet engine has been modified by Dutcher of Greenfield to crank out 500 horsepower; enough to speed the car along at 145 miles per hour. The ear splitting straight pipe exhaust exits midcar below the doors. Actually, there are no doors; Williams enters and exits via the driver's side window.

Williams is the adopted son of Benjamin Rubin. "Greg started coming to the shop when he was eleven," Rubin said. "He began working here when he was in Tech School studying auto body, before he had a driver's license."



L - R: Katie Williams, Benny Williams, Greg Williams, Benny Rubin.

It is plain to see the affection between father and son, as well as pride and camaraderie. Greg's wife Katie and their son Benjamin are as excited as Greg is about going to Kentucky, where Greg will race his creation at the Kentucky Motor Speedway. Their plans were to leave Turners Falls Wednesday evening to get to the racetrack by Friday and register for Saturday's race on the speedway's mile and a half racetrack.

Rubin's Auto Service is well known in the area. Benny's grandfather started in business at the site in 1920, and the family

has conducted business there ever since. It is not unusual to see Benny, when he is shopping at Food City, give someone a boost to start their car at no charge, as a gesture of good will. Everyone loves Benny, especially his woman customers who don't know a carburetor from a carbuncle, but know they can depend on Benny to treat them and their car well.

We wish Gregory luck, and hope he wins. But even if he doesn't, he'll have the experience of a lifetime racing his handbuilt racecar on a major racetrack. Go for it, Greg! We envy you.

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