

THE GILL STORE
Prices Reduced for Closeout!
/ Page 14



TURNERS GIRLS SOFTBALL
Team is 19-0 heading to final game!
/ Page 13

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

Year 3
No. 32

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The Montague Reporter

REPORTER@MONTAGUEMA.NET

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MAY 26, 2005

A VIETNAM VET'S STORY - PART 2 -

BY MARVIN SHEDD

BERNARDSTON - Thousands of miles from the war in Vietnam, Der's mother Ada was working as a housekeeper for the president of the Northfield School for Girls. She noticed a taxi pull up to the curb. Little did she know, the taxi was there not for the occupants of the house, but to bring her a telegram advising that her eldest son had been shot down and was in a field hospital in Vietnam. This was all she knew; the telegram didn't go into great detail. In 1969, there was no way for her to speak with him, to reach him; she had only to wait for either a phone call or another telegram. Alone, consumed with grief and fear, not knowing when or if she would see her son again, Ada Der sat down on the steps and cried.

Hugh was badly injured, but very much alive, though not entirely aware of how critical his injuries were. He spent three days in the field hospital before being moved to a regular hospital. To staunch the bleeding the doctors in the field hospital placed his leg in a full cast. By the time he was moved to a regular hospital the veins in his injured leg had collapsed. It became evident to the doctors that his leg could not be saved and needed to be amputated above the knee. When Hugh awoke to the news he was devastated. During the two weeks he spent in the hospital, the pilot and the buddy whose place he had taken in the chopper came to the hospital with the medals he had earned. Medals were the last thing Der was interested in at that point.

After two weeks in the hospital, he was well enough to be shipped out to Japan. When he arrived, he was the only one in his ward missing a limb. Der slipped into a spiral of grief, shame and anger. He began to withdraw into himself, erecting the same wall he had used in Vietnam to shelter himself. He learned his injuries were worse than he had imagined. He had been shot three times in the back, part of his stomach and lung had been removed and the damage to his intestines required him to be fed intravenously.

The hundreds of cards and letters arriving from home briefly arrested his descent into depression and for the first time he felt

see VETERAN pg 7

ERVING HONORS CIVIL WAR VETERANS

Erving honored its Civil War dead with a pre-Memorial Day parade and living history reenactment on Saturday, May 21st. Here, the posting of the colors, as the monument recording the names of Erving's Civil War dead is unveiled in Veterans Park. For once, the sun shone.



ARIEL JONES PHOTO

REDEVELOPING STRATHMORE Daunting Costs Imperil Prospects

BY DAVID DETMOLD
TURNERS FALLS - Written into Montague's purchase and sale agreement to purchase the 134-year-old Strathmore Mill

is a clause stipulating the town may withdraw from the contract without penalty if the results of a feasibility study on the potential reuse of the 250,000 square foot complex are discouraging. After a public hearing at the high school Wednesday night, May 25th, revealed the discouraging news that a \$12 million gap exists between what it would cost to rehabilitate the structure and the level of financing future rents would be likely



The Strathmore Mill, photo by Peter Clark

to support, no one should be surprised if the select-board chose to invoke that clause.

Pointing out that the tenants of a rehabilitated mill structure on a peninsula between the power canal and the river, accessible mainly by foot see MILL pg 10

THEATER REVIEW

The Wizard of Oz

REVIEWED BY
SUDI NIMMS
TURNERS FALLS -



Welcome to the magical world of the wonderful Wizard of Oz,

Produced by Ja'Duke Productions at the Shea Theatre, Turners Falls

where a cyclone whisks you off to a land of delight and imagination. The Ja'Duke Center for the Performing Arts (JCPA) led theatergoers there in style in their first musical offering, the Wizard of Oz, at the Shea Theater, 71 Avenue A.

The talented cast of well over a hundred included actors, singers and dancers from primary to senior performing levels. The lively dancing, outstanding costumes, and spectacular special effects helped make this production a worthwhile venture into the dream-like journey of Dorothy Gale.

It seems Almira Gulch has a sheriff's order to destroy Dorothy's dog Toto, after Miss Gulch finds the canine in her yard again, nipping at her leg and chasing her cat. Gulch, later transformed into the Wicked Witch of the West, was played by Marissa Sicley, who delivered a fine performance as the prickly harridan and green-skinned sorceress.

Dorothy, played admirably by Bethany Sterling, begins her journey by running away from her Kansas farm after her family doesn't

see OZ pg 9

A TALE OF TWO BARNES



PARZYCH PHOTO

Valley Crane Service raises the roof trusses on Dan Flagg's barn on Main Road. The small structure at right is the milk room of the former dairy barn.

BY JOSEPH PARZYCH
GILL -

Dan Flagg of Bernardston is building a barn on the foundations of a barn on Main Road the Cole family once used for dairy cows. Flagg now owns the property. The roof collapsed under a heavy snow load a couple of winters ago. The roof had leaked and may have suffered weakness from decay. It is rumored that people renting the barn

may have removed some load-bearing posts to make more room inside. The collapsed barn was not deemed worth saving. Dan Flagg and his father Allen raised the new barn in more ways than one. They cut hemlock logs raised on the Flagg farm, sawed them out on their sawmill and nailed the hemlock lumber into framing for the walls.

"Some of the butt logs

were awful dense," Allen Flagg said. "They dulled the band saw blade, fast."

For the roof, Dan Flagg and builder Brandon Grover of Bernardston, assembled Canadian roof trusses purchased from Romaro Structures, of St. Victor, Quebec. The manufacturer uses spruce, pine and fir in the trusses, as near as I could decipher in speaking with a Canadian

see BARNES pg 11

PET OF THE WEEK

Pet Me, I'm Yours



Giddy

Giddy is a one-year-old brown tiger cat in need of a good home. She is said to be shy at first but warms up quickly. Giddy was rescued from a home with too many pets. Her best quality is how much she loves to be around people. To learn more about adopting Giddy, please contact the Dakin Animal Shelter in Leverett at (413) 548-9898, or via email at info@dakinshelter.org.

ERVING LIBRARY NEWS

World Series Trophy in Erving

"It aint over 'til it's over," says Erving librarian Marion Overgaard, and the Boston Red Sox World Series Trophy tour is almost over. The tour ends in June, and Friday, May 27th from 2:30 to 4 p.m., will be the last opportunity for Sox fans to see the trophy in Franklin County.



can view the trophy and ask questions to visiting Red Sox representatives about the team, Fenway Park, and the trophy.

Erving Public Library staff were just informed about the trophy visit on Tuesday, and are trying to get the news out about this last chance event. Library visitors

The Erving Public library is located on Route 63 just south of Route 2. This Friday the library will be open from 2:30 - 4 p.m. for trophy viewing only. Regular library hours are Mondays 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 5 to 8 p.m., Tuesdays 3 to 6 p.m., Wednesdays 1 to 4 p.m., and Thursdays 5 to 8 p.m.

MONTAGUE LIBRARY FACTS

During 2004, a total of 305 children's programs were held at the Montague libraries. Total attendance? 5,962! And more to come in 2005!

FACES & PLACES



DETMOLD PHOTO

Steve Fitzpatrick of the Turners Falls Water Department flushes hydrants in Turners Wednesday morning. As if the streets weren't wet enough!

Happy 76th Birthday Grandpa Parzych

Love Joe, Katie, Matt & Nick

Summer Programs at the Turners Falls Women's Resource Center

BY CHRISTINE DIANI THE TURNERS FALLS Women's Resource Center, located at 148 L St. in Turners Falls, is now registering women for four summer programs. Starting Tuesday, June 7th, the Fiber Arts Collaborative will run for eight weeks from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. On Thursday, June 9th, the Center will offer two new movement programs, Healing through Creativity and Movement from 10 - 11:30 a.m. and Qi Gong, from 1 - 2 p.m. All programs at the Center are free and provide free childcare.

participants to the history of hand-spinning, building their own drop-spindle, and spinning their own wool before creating a small knitted object to take home. Space is limited; call soon if you are interested in this program. Free childcare is available.

movement, and creative art to explore improvisational movement and our feelings and to deepen connections with our bodies to bring about healing.

We are very pleased to present The Fiber Arts Collaborative, Introduction to Hand-Spinning will introduce

"Can you Spare a Square?" is the second component of the Fiber Arts Collaborative. Members of the community are invited to join the hand-spinning group and take part in creating a community afghan. Call the Center at 413-863-4805 for more information.

Join Jessica Grasmere of the Recover Project for six weeks of Qi Gong, an ancient Chinese health care system that integrates physical postures, breathing techniques and focused intention.

The Turners Falls Women's Resource Center is a safe and welcoming non-clinical drop-in and activities center for women. For more information, please call us at 863-4805 or email christine.mcsm@crocker.com.

Healing through Creativity and Movement will use a blend of guided relaxation, authentic

ERVING LIBRARY NEWS

Summer Flower Workshop

The Erving Public Library will host a Summer Flower Workshop on June 3rd at 7:00 p.m. Participants will create a colorful planter of annuals. The workshop is lead by Teresa Foster. There is a \$15 materials fee, and space is limited. To register, call the library at 413-423-3348.

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SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES May 30th - June 3rd

MONTAGUE Senior Center, 62 Fifth St., Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. Advanced registration at many of our activities is necessary. We need to know how many people will be joining so we can be prepared. A suggested donation of \$1 per exercise class is appreciated. Meal reservations need to be made a day in advance by 11 a.m. Messages can be left on the machine when the center is closed (863-9357). Mealsite Manager is Chris Richer. The center offers a hot noon meal weekdays to any senior. Transportation to the center can be provided. Trip coordinator is Jean Chase. Make trip reservations by calling 772-6356. Payment and menu choice is due three weeks prior to trip.

- Tuesday, 31st**
10:00 a.m. Tai Chi
11:30 a.m. Peter Wood as register of deeds and John Merrigan as restister of the Probate and Family Court on the functions of their offices and answer questions. Handouts will be available on the Homestead Act and Health Care Proxy.
- Wednesday, 1st**
10:15 a.m. Senior Aerobics
12:45 p.m. Bingo
- Thursday, 2nd**
1:00 p.m. Pitch
- Friday, 3rd**
9:45 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11:00 a.m. PACE Aerobics

a.m. with reservations a day in advance by 11 a.m. Transportation can be provided for meals, Thursday shopping, or medical necessity by calling Dana Moore at (978) 544-3898.

Monday, 30th
CLOSED FOR MEMORIAL DAY

ERVING Senior Center, 18 Pleasant St., Erving (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

- Monday, 30th**
CLOSED FOR MEMORIAL DAY
- Tuesday, 31st**
9:00 a.m. Aerobics
12:30 p.m. Oil Painting
- Wednesday, 1st**
10:00 a.m. Line Dancing
12:00 Noon Bingo
- Thursday, 2nd**
9:00 a.m. Aerobics

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

June 1st Blood Pressure and Foot Care clinic from 10 to 11 a.m.

The Montague Reporter

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FC Tech Students Assist in Installation of Photovoltaic Panels

Students in the electrical program at Franklin County Technical School, under the direction of instructor William Gallant, recently assisted the installation of photovoltaic panels on one of Rural Development, Inc.'s new sustainable energy homes in Orange.

This was a terrific opportunity for these students to gain insight and experience in working with this emerging technology. These students, along with others in the Tech school's carpentry and plumbing programs, are also nearly finished with the construction of another RDI home for an income-eligible family in Erving.

These are two of many projects undertaken by the vocational and technical programs at Franklin County Tech that benefit the Franklin County community.



Back row, left to right - Jeff Clearwater from Village Power Designs, student Dana Karlson from Greenfield, electrician Steve Kurkowski, and UMASS-Lowell student Aldo Quiroz. Middle row - Franklin County Tech electrical instructor William Gallant, student Matt Calcari from Orange, student Juan Gonzales from Turners Falls, student Joe Stanford from Warwick, student Mike Olson from Gill, electrician Janice Kurkowski. Front row - student Chris Vilbon from Heath, new homeowner Jean DeGara, and student Tyler Griswold from Charlemont.

Postcards from the Past



Photo Courtesy of the Montague Historical Society

BY LIONEL GIRARD The Millers Falls Inn

When Levi Gunn and Charles Amidon decided to move their small tool factory from Greenfield to Grout's Corner in 1868, to take advantage of the abundance of water power available from the Millers River, they renamed their enterprise "The Millers Manufacturing Company." Soon thereafter the village became known as Millers Falls.

In 1897, Thomas O'Keefe established the Millers Falls Inn to accommodate the

increasing number of travelers and workers attracted by this growing industry.

The Inn flourished as a hostelry and tavern until after World War I and the coming Prohibition. The four-story building was sold after O'Keefe's death and converted into apartments. It continues to be used this way to the present day.

The Inn is situated at the southeastern end of Main Street, next to the railroad tracks, somewhat altered in appearance from its glory days.

More pictures from the Erving Memorial Parade, Civil War monument presentation and Living History Reenactment held May 21st




At left: Jonathan Guilbeault

Above: Union soldiers on a hill

ARIEL JONES PHOTOS



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Kathy Litchfield and Arthur Evans model Reporter T's, which debuted at the Arts & Blooms Festival.

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Something about May

BY DAVID BRULE

MILLERS FALLS - There's something about the month of May, when the cycle of nature and the cycle of family and community events intersect more often than at other times of the year. May always seems memorable, a month of anniversary dates. Along the river, the flow subsides, and although it's still bright, clear and cold, it's not the mad rising river of March and April.

The first tree swallows burst upon the scene with their cousins the chimney swifts, clearly thrilled and excited to streak up and down the river, the pure joy of flight and clouds of insects spurring them on.

The First of May brings the fiddlers, the Morris teams and the Maypole dancers to the common in Montague Center, to celebrate the ancient pagan rites and welcome in the spring. The First of May is always a day of celebration in our family: it marks the birthday of our family patriarch, Abe, born in this house on the river before the turn of the century, when the homestead was a farm and the woodland an open pasture. He became a fixture in the village of Millers Falls, and to this day, just to mention his name to some of the older residents here conjures up a vision of his wool cap and corncob pipe both stuck at a jaunty angle, and a dozen tales of his adventures.

May 3rd brings the swifts, as faithful to their date in the valley as the swallows of Capistrano. By the 5th come the hummingbirds, shivering a little in their jeweled feathers; then the wood thrush, beginning its fluting deep in the woods, a voice with no body, for now. By May 10th, a number of anniversaries converge. Growing up in

the fifties, May 10th was Audubon Day. And on that date, in Mrs. Keough's fifth grade, a thin and prim lady came to class and took us on a field trip (a rare thing in 1957!) to Arcadia. The lady was Pearl Care of Erving Center. She provided the spark. After visiting Arcadia, with its barn full of swallows and the woods filled with rose-breasted grosbeaks and Baltimore orioles, my friends and I were hooked on birds for life!

Back home, imagine our surprise when we saw the same birds in our own trees! They couldn't have been there the day before! Of course, they were, but we didn't know how to see them. Mrs. Care showed us how. Interestingly, in other towns, a few special individuals were performing similar works of inspiration: over the years, Gerry Bozzo in Amherst, Bob Coyle in Athol, Alan Richards in Deerfield inspired a lot of young people to make nature a fundamental part of their lives. The natural cycle and the human experience intersect. And May is the best time to see that conjunction.

So now, May is in full swing: the oriole is out and about "sportin' in them baseball clothes of his" (according to J.W. Riley); the woodpeckers are drumming and nesting; the pair of geese over in the marsh clamor by, low over the house in the morning and evening; the male cardinal carefully selects a seed to bring to his mate, who modestly waits for the favor; the redtails swoop and dive, toying together with a branch that may eventually find its way to the nest; the titmice have discovered that a shedding Siberian is a great source of bedding and so have begun collecting tufts of Husky hair from



"AND THE BEAT GOES ON"

CARTOON DENIS BORDEAUX

the grass, giving them a strange bearded look as they gather up this innovative nesting material.

Within this life-affirming activity, a sad note passes through the family in mid-month: we lay to rest our father Arthur up in the Highland, overlooking the Millers... The mournful sound of Taps echoes through the graveyard and rises on the spring wind. May is full of these intertwined events, and we add a different kind of anniversary to our spring rituals.

May unfolds, as the other "firsts" succeed one another: the first chipmunks (very rare this year), the first lilacs (blooming clearly three weeks earlier than years ago), the first cook-outs, as we tune up for Memorial Day. So now, close to the end of the month, we're poised on the edge of summer, with frost still at our heels, and lots more yet to unfold in the woods and river just beyond the yard. More feathered arrivals have still to appear, and it'll be a while before the blackpoll warbler - the last scheduled arrival - will call from the pines to signal the end of the May migration and open a new phase, the raising of the next young generation of June.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Youth Gone Wild

Thursday 5-19

11:07 a.m. Report of a larceny at a Depot Street address. Medication was stolen. Under investigation.

7:27 p.m. Report of a burglary at a West Chestnut Hill Road address. After investigation, found to be a mistake.

Friday 5-20

3:53 p.m. Report of a larceny at a Central Street address. An apartment was entered. Under investigation.

Saturday 5-21

1:15 a.m. After a traffic stop on Ave A by 7th Street, [redacted], was arrested and charged with being a minor in possession of alcohol, speeding, stop sign violation, and having an open container of alcohol in a car. [redacted], was arrested and charged with being a minor in possession of alcohol and having an open container of alcohol in a car.

1:18 a.m. After a traffic stop on Millers Falls Road, [redacted] was arrested and charged with failure to stop for a police officer, reckless operation of a motor vehicle, operating an unregistered, uninsured motor vehicle, a number plate violation in attempt to

conceal identity, driving with a suspended licence, and speeding.

Sunday 5-22

7:34 p.m. After receiving a 911 hang up call from a Grove Street address, police arrested [redacted] and charged him with domestic assault and battery.

Monday 5-23

4:03 p.m. Report of a two car accident at Avenue A and 3rd Street. No injuries. Report taken.

Tuesday 5-24

10:31 p.m. Report of a burglary at a Vladish Ave address. A house was entered. Report taken.

12:58 p.m. Report of shoplifting at Family Dollar on Ave A. Report taken.

3:11 p.m. Walk-in to station reported motor vehicle theft at a 2nd Street address. Owner told to bring in proof of ownership so a report could be taken.

Wednesday 5-25

2:12 a.m. Report of a domestic disturbance at a 3rd Street address. Male subject summonsed.

American Dead in Iraq as of 5/25/05



Another Spring

There'll be another Spring, I know
Tho, I have wondered.
I've seen so many springtimes come and go.
The spring most recent past
Might have been the last.

But no.

Birds chirp vigorously; early flowers bloom,
And new green leaves grow.

There will be another spring, I know.

--Woody Brown

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GUEST EDITORIALS

Doing the Dance at the State Democratic Convention

BY JOSH HEINEMANN

WENDELL - Wendell sent five delegates and alternates to the state Democratic convention this year, one fifth of the entire Franklin County delegation. The convention took place in the Paul Tsongas Hockey Arena in Lowell on Saturday, May 14th, with special panel sessions beforehand, and parties both Friday evening and Saturday afternoon.

Approaching and entering the Paul Tsongas Hockey Arena, I felt like I was entering a medieval marketplace. People lined the sidewalks waving signs for candidates, handing out leaflets, bumper stickers and

shirt stickers, offering petitions for amendments to the platform or sign up sheets for candidates, and selling food and convention memorabilia. I came home with papers from Democrats for choice, Democrats for Life (against choice), a call for paper ballots, a call for an instant runoff voting amendment, a call to action to provide access to emergency contraception, a call for a state constitutional amendment providing universal health care, a call to renew the voting rights act now, and a 17-page Report of the Social Security Subcommittee of the Sudbury (MA) Democratic Town Committee. Candidates were generous with their bumper stickers and glossy handouts.

Ted Kennedy was the

keynote speaker. He came onstage with the sound system playing, "You're Still the One," and when he left, even with his bad back he danced some. Candidates for governor spoke. Bill Galvin spoke about the need to end a 20-year stretch of dilettante Republican governors. Deval Patrick talked about his mother growing roses in what had to pass for soil on the Southside of Chicago and led a chant of *Yes, We Can*. "We can have good and affordable health care. We can have decent jobs and wages," he cried, verbalizing a common democratic hallucination. Tom Reilly spoke about his proven leadership as Attorney General and said, "We need to be open to new ideas and different points of view, not

assume we're always right." What could he mean by that?

Delegates filtered out of the arena after the candidates for governor spoke, while representatives advocated for platform planks: opposing discrimination in the workplace and tempering our nation's security needs with a respect for civil rights; advocating for a single payer health care system and reasonable schedules for doctors and nurses; full funding for education, including mandated programs; a healthy business environment with tax breaks denied for companies that outsource jobs; support for the right to collective bargaining; environmental protection. The entire platform fills two closely-written pages mailed out to delegates with

other convention materials.

There was some grumbling at the announcement that no amendments to the platform had been properly presented. A resolution to end the U.S. occupation of Iraq had been submitted with signatures. But quickly, a motion was made, seconded and passed by a disputed voice vote to move the entire platform as one. The entire platform was adopted.

The call to end the U.S. occupation of Iraq was passed as a resolution, as was a call for full employment and a resolution I did not understand about United Airlines

Hold onto your hats, 2006 is right around the corner.

Fair Vote Mass

FairVote Massachusetts is presenting a statewide one-day conference, *Vote for a Change!* at Clark University in Worcester, on Saturday, June 11th. FairVote believes that voting is a civil right and that electoral change is essential to the advancement of freedom, fairness, and justice. There is a vision of a stronger democracy in which every voice is welcome, every voice is heard, and every vote counts.

Vote for a Change! offers the opportunity for voting activists to get informed on issues of importance to all: independent redistricting to create competitive districts, public financing to create competitive elections and public accountability, instant runoff voting to ensure majority support for winning candidates, proportional representation to ensure minority representation, grassroots organizing and lobbying to effect change, and voter-verified paper trail and anti-black-box voting legislation to ensure that our votes are accurately counted.

The conference is being cosponsored by Common Cause Massachusetts. For registration information, call 413-256-1760, or go to www.fairvotemass.com

The State Senate Budget: Good News For Local Communities

BY JEFF SINGLETON
MONTAGUE

The Massachusetts Senate approved its version of the state budget, and it appears to contain some good news for Montague. Aid to the Gill-Montague Regional School district will increase by approximately \$148,000 over the governor's budget. This number includes funds for "Chapter 70" aid, the main form of state aid to the district, as well as regional transportation funding and charter school reimbursement. The overall increase over Governor Romney's budget, when new charges for school choice spending are taken into account was approximately \$125,143. This has allowed the school district to reduce its assessment requests to both the towns of Montague and Gill

Montague and the regional school district built their initial budgets around the Governor's recommendations. These assumed a level-funding of

Chapter 70 aid. However, an agreement was reached to delay consideration of the regional school district assessment at May town meetings in Gill and Montague until after the state House and Senate had acted. Originally, the Montague finance committee and the selectboard recommended a lower assessment than that requested by the school district.

The new state aid and assessment numbers nearly eliminate that gap. Lynn Bassett, business manager of the regional school district, noted that the district has also made cuts in its operating budget to produce the revised assessment request. The towns will still have to make cuts or find new revenues - approximately \$20,000 for Montague - to eliminate the remaining gap. Montague town administrator Frank Abbondanzio seemed confident that additional funds could be found, although the finance committee and selectboard have

not met to discuss the revised request.

The Montague town meeting will consider the school assessment at its June 9th meeting.

According to Senator Stan Rosenberg, the increases in local aid contained in the new Senate budget are the product of revised revenue estimates, and a proposed bill to close tax loopholes. As a result, the Senate budget is approximately \$300,000,000 higher than that approved by the House. Both the senate and house budget were higher than the governor's budget. Romney's budget recommended less state aid and a cut in the income tax. The House and Senate rejected a tax cut this fiscal year.


The Senate budget provided the same amount for Chapter 70 aid as that of the House, but created a special fund totaling \$55 million that will be distributed according to a new, revised formula. The Senate increased local transportation aid by \$7

million over the House version. Both the Senate and House versions of the budget contained increases in Lottery distributions to cities and towns, as well as increases in the "PILOT" (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) aid.

Budgets produced by the legislature also contained increases in spending for higher education and health care. Rosenberg noted a one-time grant of \$750,000 to the Franklin Medical Center and a rate increase for the Community Health Center of Franklin County in the Senate budget. However, health care spending continues to produce a structural funding gap at the state level, as it does for local cities and towns. This may well be exacerbated by major cuts in Medicaid reimbursements proposed by the Bush administration.

Jeff Singleton is the chair of the Montague finance committee.


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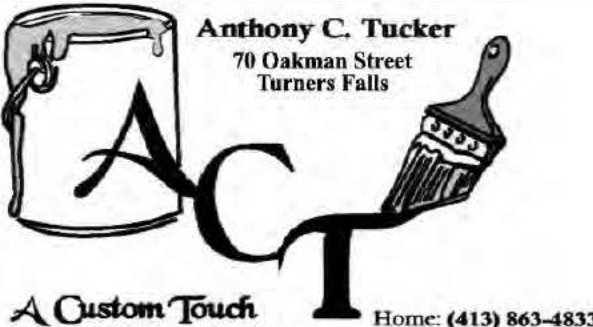
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NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Gill Boards Wrestle Over the Budget

BY DAVID DETMOLD

Gill is trying to come up with a budget, but it ain't easy. The selectboard and the finance committee went over departmental requests and special articles in a joint session on Tuesday, May 24th, trying to bring the Fiscal '06 budget below the levy limit prior to town meeting on June 6th. Even after rejecting the fire department's request for a full-time firefighter at \$30,000, cutting back a proposed shared secretarial position for town boards from 15 to 10 hours a week, quashing the assessors bid for \$3,000 in new computer software, knocking \$14,000 off the police department's budget request, and \$7,800 off the fire department's, still the town was looking at a \$30,000 gap between the total (proposed) operating budget of \$2,522,329 and the

amount available after local property taxes were totalled together with estimated local receipts and state aid for '06. Final figures from the state, and further adjustments in the Gill-Montague Regional School District's assessment may provide breathing room, but in the meantime the two boards managed to close more than half the gap by transferring unexpended funds from a number of previously voted special articles, including \$7618.74 for construction of fire ponds, \$2,834.95 for a wage and classification study, \$3,536.25 for cleaning up old taxes, \$2,000 for surplus property, and \$101 for flooring for the fire department. Totaled together, these accounts provided \$16,090.94, leaving a shortfall in the budget of \$14,607. Every little bit helps.

Honing in on the proposed

benefits for longevity pay, the finance committee suggested the stepped bonuses of \$250, \$500, \$750, and \$1000, for were rather "sumptuous." Committee chair Sandy Brown said annual bonuses of \$200, \$300, \$400, and \$500 would be more in line with what other towns were offering to reward long term employees. Administrative assistant Deb Roussel said she thought it was the personnel board's role to compare Gill's compensation policy with other towns, and selectboard member Ann Banash pointed out that both the personnel board and the selectboard had approved the policy for longevity pay. She said the finance committee's role in reviewing the Fiscal '06 budget was limited to recommending line items for various departments, only two of which would - at this point - be affected by the longevity policy as approved: the police department, which would see a \$50 increase, and the highway department, which would see a \$500 increase due to longevity pay.

Brown said the finance committee was not only looking at this year's bottom line, but considering the long term implications of the longevity policy. Brown agreed to bring her committee's concerns to the personnel board in advance of the June 6th town meeting.

In one of his trademark asides, selectboard member Phil Maddern suggested shooting employees after 25 years of service as a cost saving device, but

the others seemed content to let this remark die.

The feathers flew on the subject of salaries for elected officials. After years of stagnation, the '06 budget proposes nearly a 40% hike for the tax collector's salary, from \$9,404 to \$13,115. The tax collector, Ronnie LaChance, recused herself from the finance committee's deliberations as they took issue with the method of fixing the salary for that position, along with the salaries for the town clerk and treasurer.

Committee member Paul Nowill agreed the elected officials salaries were too low, but thought, "We should have a discussion of what their job entails and what they should be paid."

From the audience, former administrative assistant Bev Demars decried a longstanding tendency to shortchange elected officials. "The attitude seems to be, 'If you're elected you shouldn't expect to earn what you get if you're hired.'"

When Joe Williams said 40% was a big salary increase for anybody, Demars countered, "We went from \$12,777 to \$19,837 for the town accountant (in one year) and nobody batted an eye about that. But that was someone you hired."

On the subject of Gill's regional school assessment, which dropped from \$1,253,230 to \$1,230,580 (a difference of \$22,650) following release of the Senate's version of the state budget last week, the selectboard ini-

tially proposed delaying final approval of the town's operating budget until June 27th special town meeting, to see if any further drop in Gill's share of the school budget might be forthcoming. But Demars, speaking again from the back of the room, rejected this proposal as clumsy.

"I can't imagine going to town meeting and not voting the omnibus. If you need to adjust the school assessment, put a special article on the June 27th warrant," she said.

Banash brightened at this suggestion. "Good idea, Bev!"

Demars replied, "I've still got it, huh?"

Even at the reduced figure, Gill's contribution to the GMRSD's \$15,145,928 operating and maintenance budget will represent a 10.8% increase over last year's figure. Gill will send one more student to the regional schools than it did last year (158 - 159), but Montague's enrollment declined by 72 (960 - 888) in the same year. Still, the change in Gill's share of district operating costs, from 14.13% in '05 to 15.19% in '06, accounts for only about 5% of the increase for Gill in this year's school assessment.

Nowill warned the state would not continue to "hold harmless districts with declining enrollment" for long.

The finance committee and selectboard will meet again on June 1st, to review local receipts, take a last look at state aid, and consider ways to close the remaining budget gap.

Mary J. Wallner dies at age 92

BY JOE PARZYCH

GREENFIELD - Mary J. (Zagata) Wallner, 92, of 65 Pierce St. died peacefully at home, Saturday, 5-21-05.

She was born in Housatonic, MA on December 11th, 1912, the daughter of Mary and Frank Zagata, and attended schools in Montague and Turners Falls.

Many people know Mary Wallner as the soft spoken woman with the friendly smile who worked at the Stop & Shop. The line at her cash register was usually a bit longer, with friends who wanted to greet her.

Mary did not live a sheltered life. At six months of age, her mother took her to Poland to visit family. WWI broke out soon after they arrived. Two years later, with the war raging, and the Germans using poison gas and machine guns, her mother was determined to return to the U.S.-- war, or no war. They first rode Polish troop trains to the front, and then, after getting through the fighting, rode on German troop trains transporting wounded away to hospitals. Mary was not yet three years old when they made their way through the front lines; once being pinned down by shell fire. In Holland, they discovered that the Lusitania they hoped to take to the U.S. lay at the bottom of the sea. With no passenger ships available, they stowed away on a

freighter, the New Amsterdam. The seas got rough, and Mary's mother became seasick. Of her perilous journey to the U.S., Mary only vaguely remembered that a sailor, who agreed to take her to the toilet, had hoisted her up on his shoulder, where she wet all over him. When the freighter docked in New York, they slipped off of the ship after dark to avoid customs, since they had entered the country illegally.

Mary's father, John Zagata, died during the influenza epidemic of 1918, leaving Mary's mother with young John, two, and pregnant with Elizabeth (Bessie). While her mother worked, six year old Mary took care of her brother John and baby Elisabeth, heating the bottle on a hot plate.

Once, Mary poured kerosene on a coal fire because the house got cold. The stove exploded, blew the lids off, and singed Mary's hair. People may have noticed Mary's index finger missing. The landlady's son asked Mary to hold a stick of firewood he was splitting, and chopped off her finger. Her mother came home to find Mary bleeding, and got her to a doctor before she bled to death. A short time later, her mother came home to find two year old John sitting on the railroad track with a train bearing down on him.

see MARY, pg 14

Gill History: Facts and Figures

BY ALLAN ADIE

Interested in historical anecdotes about our town? You can find all you want in the *History of Gill*, from which the following are excerpted (copyrighted by the town of Gill, reprinted by permission).

1956 - Shirley Flagg was elected as Gill's first woman tax collector.

1957 - A recount of votes between John Krejmas and Howard Jackson for a three-year seat on the selectboard resulted in Krejmas winning the post, 225 to 220.

State auditors reported Gill's free cash account amounted to only \$7.50.

In April, John Smith, who

lives near a brook in Riverside where sewage enters the Connecticut River, did not have typhoid fever, as first feared, but instead a case of bronchitis. Treated with modern drugs, Smith responded quickly and is doing fine.

1958 - Position of moth inspector eliminated. First time a woman from Gill was drawn for a jury list. Harriet Tidd was first woman appointed to the finance committee.

1960 - For a consideration paid to Greenfield and Gill, the Fall River bridge was released to Burton Reed.

1961 - First Gymkhana held in Gill at the Old Stone Lodge. Trophies were donated by

"Hap" Duncan and Warwick Annear.

In June, Kenneth Green, tree warden, announced he would spray in Riverside, and cars should not be left in the street, as the spray could cause damage.

1963 - The annual report honored Norine Urgeil, of Munn's Ferry Road, who was named Massachusetts Student Nurse of the year in May, 1962, and Massachusetts Dairy Princess in January, 1963. No word on whether Ms. Urgeil pursued a career in Nursing or Milking.

More historical facts and figures next week.

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VETERANS

continued from pg 1

like he wanted to get up. After a couple of days, the nurses asked him if he wanted to call home. As Hugh entered the ward where the phone was, he discovered he wasn't the only patient missing a limb. There was, in fact, a ward full of amputees; it was so full, there hadn't been room for him. As he made his way on crutches to where the phone was, he saw men missing two, three, even four limbs. He began to realize that as badly hurt as he was there were others much worse off.

The call from her son was the first direct contact Ada had. She had spent three weeks not knowing his condition and had convinced herself he was not going to make it. The sound of his voice brought a huge sense of relief and the realization that he was going to be okay. Der made slow but steady progress and began to recover from his physical wounds. He started to eat solid food again and was thrilled to be off a regimen of liquids and jello. Within days, Der was headed back to the United States. Vietnam was far behind; the war, however, was still very much with him.

Upon his return to the United States, Der was sent to Chelsea Naval Hospital in Boston in the hopes that being near his family would help in his recovery. His feelings of self-pity, the images of war that haunted his thinking and the fact that once again he was the only amputee in the ward plunged Der further into depression. It became so bad he called his mother to say he was leaving the hospital. She pleaded with him to stay until she could get there. When she got to Boston, he was on the sidewalk hailing a taxi. She talked him into going back into the hospital and tried to find anyone that could help. After being shuffled from person to person, she found a major who told her that although it would



Hugh Der at a Bernardston Memorial Day celebration. Photo courtesy of Ada Andrews

place him away from his family, her son belonged at the Army hospital in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.

At Valley Forge, he again found comfort in the company of other amputees, but still couldn't shake the memories of what he had seen and done in Vietnam. Within days, Der received a temporary prosthesis, called a pylon. After learning to use it, he was allowed to go out for convalescent leave.

One weekend, he decided not to return, instead making his way to New Jersey where some of his friends lived. He stayed with them and began working in his friend's garage, despite knowing he would be considered absent without leave. When his mother found out where he was, she contacted the psychologist at Valley Forge. To her surprise he advised that her son should stay where he was. The hospital had no intention of bringing him back as he was not yet ready to deal with the issues confronting him.

Der settled into his life in New Jersey, adapted to his pylon and tried to forget what had happened to him. Plagued with nightmares, and drinking heavily, Der soon reached bottom. He called his mother in tears, saying he could no longer handle the pressure and wanted to join his father who had died two years earlier. Alarmed, his mother called the

psychologist and asked him what to do. He advised that Der was finally ready to talk, ready to be helped. Ada went to New Jersey to get her son, but still fearing court martial he refused to return to Valley Forge. Seeing no other alternative, Ada brought him home. After being home for a few days, the local Navy recruiter paid Der a visit and assured him that he might be demoted but there would be no punishment and he would get the help he needed. Feeling better, Der, his mother and step-father made the journey back to Valley Forge.

Der sat in the back seat, silent for most of the trip, uncertain of what lay ahead. Arriving at Valley Forge, he was greeted warmly by the nurses and his fellow amputees. Recognizing he was where he needed to be, he began what would be a lifelong quest to feel good about himself and his place in the world.

Der spent the next year at Valley Forge working with the psychiatrists and learning to use his prosthesis. In 1970 he walked out of Valley Forge into a civilian world in which he wasn't sure he was welcome. Only twenty years old, Der now faced a new set of hurdles. He had to find a job where the loss of a limb would not interfere. He wondered if women would find him attractive or if his scarred body would prevent

him from having a relationship. He struggled with fitting into a society that was generally unsupportive of the Vietnam veteran, all the while dealing with the physical and mental pains of healing.

Der did his best to readjust to civilian life. He met a young woman who was unfazed by his loss of limb, and they were married in 1972. Soon, however, Der found himself back at Valley Forge for what he described as a stump revision. Being young, the bones in his body were still growing and it was necessary to remove bone growth at the end of his stump. Again, Der had to deal with pain, discomfort, healing, physical therapy and being fitted for a new artificial limb.

The 33 years that elapsed between the time he walked out of Valley Forge and the time he returned to Bernardston to help dedicate the new Veteran's memorial were not easy ones for Der. He still had problems letting anybody get close enough to know him. Three failed marriages bear witness to his inability to fully confront his demons. Gradually, with the help of his family and faith in God, Der started to leave the bitterness, pain and nightmares behind.

A couple of recent events helped Der in his journey to leave the war in the past. Just prior to our initial talk, Der had been contacted by a volunteer from the amputee ward at Valley Forge. She had organized a reunion of the amputees and wondered if he would like to attend. Reuniting with people who understood him best proved to be uplifting and healing. The last and perhaps most profound healing experience was a reunion with the man who saved his life by flying him out of the jungle all those years ago. For years, Der wondered what had happened to him, not sure if he had even survived the war. Unbeknownst to Der, the pilot had been searching for him as well. Der finally found his

address and contacted him. In September of 2004, after 35 years of searching for each other, Der and his pilot were reunited.

Hugh Der still struggles with the past; he's reminded of it every morning when he puts on his prosthesis, but has found comfort in old friends. He has slowly started to take down the protective wall that he used for so long to deflect the pain. Today he is gainfully and happily employed by the same company that hired him 32 years ago.

Over the years he has seen many improvements in the technology of prosthetic limbs and currently wears the newest and best prosthesis for above the knee amputations. Ironically, the product he has been involved in producing these past 32 years is used in the prosthesis he now wears.

He has found strength in a local church near his home in North Carolina, and describes himself as closer to God than he's ever been. He recently received news that he will be the grandfather of not one, but three grandchildren later this year.

Despite what happened to him, Hugh is proud to have served his country and is very proud of his two younger brothers, both of whom had long, distinguished careers in the military. The war will always be with Hugh but he is starting to feel better about his place in the world. He's still nagged by the question of why we were in Vietnam, what we accomplished there; but he no longer lets it run his life. He says he hasn't found the courage to visit the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial on the Mall in Washington, but he hopes to someday.

Hugh Der does not consider himself a hero. In his mind, the real heroes are those whose names are engraved on the wall. Someday soon, he hopes to stand in front of that wall and say thank you.



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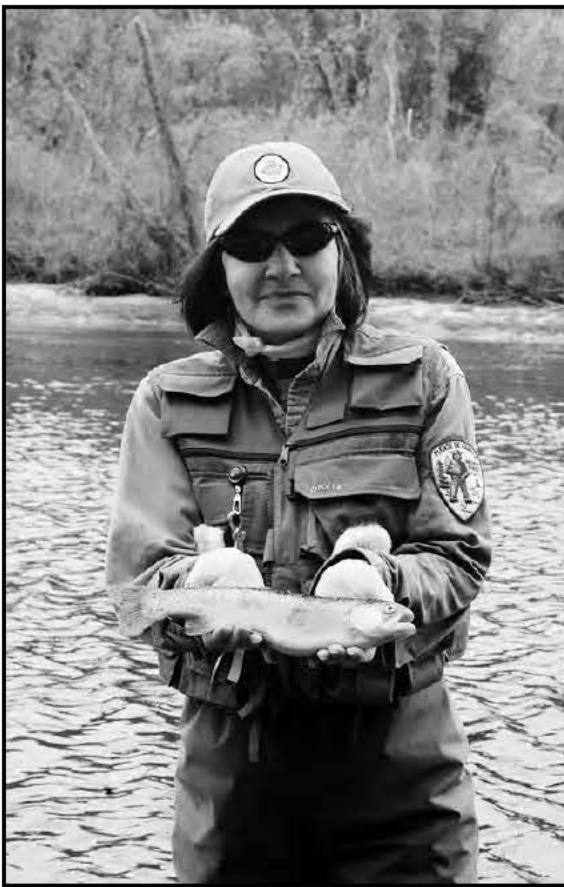
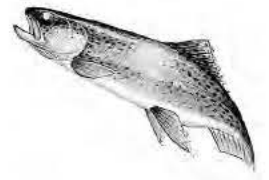
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Learning to Fly Fish Part 8

There are Good Reasons this Ancient Fish is Still Around



Me holding a rainbow. Photo by Clint Wilkinson

**BY ARIEL JONES
THE OZARKS -**

Most of the fish I caught that day were rainbows averaging one and a half pounds. Twice I lost much larger ones. Both times I let them run out and took my time bringing them in, only to lose each just before netting them. One leaped into the air next to my legs, then shot off into some logs beneath the

of a million years of instinct for self-preservation. It was clear I needed to develop my own cunning to keep up.

It was an amazing day of fishing. Every so often we would get back into the boat and travel a ways downstream to fish another spot. I caught 20 rainbow that day and Jack caught something over 35 (he lost track), including some

water nearby, eventually unhooking himself. The other began swimming around my legs. I thought to myself, "This fish is tying me up!" I was so surprised I lost control of my line.

Before I could transfer my rod back around my body to unwind from this ridiculous position and divert this clever trout, he was off. I saluted him and pondered the meaning

of a million years of instinct for self-preservation. It was clear I needed to develop my own cunning to keep up. It was an amazing day of fishing. Every so often we would get back into the boat and travel a ways downstream to fish another spot. I caught 20 rainbow that day and Jack caught something over 35 (he lost track), including some browns. Catching so many gave me a lot of experience in how to land them and safely release fish back into the river. Releasing trout without taking them out of the river was especially satisfying. Not only is this the safest way to release fish, but it showed me I was calming down enough to handle them better. We did, however take five rainbows home for dinner that night.

Hiring a Good Guide is Worth the Money

Having a guide who knows the river and who is a patient and enthusiastic teacher pushed me into a whole new level of confidence and understanding of how to catch trout. For any local anglers desiring to fish in new and fertile waters I have to recommend a trek to the Ozarks. There are many guides and accommodations on both the



Clint with huge brown caught last February. Photo provided by Clint Wilkinson.

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Next week: Back in Massachusetts.



ARIEL JONES PHOTO

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OZ
continued from pg 1

offer her the support and understanding she seeks. Aunt Em suggests Dorothy help with chores or find a place to stay out of trouble. 'Over the Rainbow' is the carefree land where Dorothy escapes in fantasy. A bevy of dancers dressed in rainbow hues added movement to her song with colorful streamers.

To Dorothy's horror, Aunt Em, Uncle Henry, and the farmhands cannot save poor Toto from certain destruction. When Toto manages to escape the clutches of Miss Gulch and runs home to Dorothy, the girl decides to run away with Toto to save her pet's life. They meet Professor Marvel along the way, who sees in his crystal ball that Aunt Em may be ill and in need of Dorothy's help. On her way back to the farm, a cyclone begins to blow and sends Dorothy and Toto on their way to the land of the Munchkins.

The cyclone was represented by a large group of dancers whose costumes, aided by black lights, were sweepingly effective portraying a prairie storm.

Other dances showcased the many children involved with the production. Among them were tiny, cuddly lion cubs who danced with the Cowardly Lion during "If I Only Had Some Nerve" adding an instant "Awww!" factor to that familiar number. The enchanted poppies in the field were gracefully portrayed in fairy-like costume by another group of dancers. And sparkling tap dancers showcased the "Jitterbug" number with great energy. Some of the dancing scenes were rather darkly lit, so it was difficult to see all those danc-

ing legs and fully appreciate the elaborate, colorful costumes, but it was clear all the girls (and the few boys) were having a great time of it.

Wondering where she has landed, Dorothy stares in amazement as Glinda, the Good Witch of the North, appears amidst a shower of bubbles. The lovely Valerie Mosher, playing Glinda, is stunning in her pink tulle dress and adds a bright, sparkling touch to the production. The audience was all smiles as the adorable Munchkins appeared thanking Dorothy for killing the Wicked Witch of the East by dropping her house on her. The Munchkin children did a fine job, despite the unnecessary distraction of having them remain on their knees to portray the diminutive people.

During the glad festivities in Munchkinland, the Wicked Witch of the West suddenly appears and menaces Dorothy for killing her sister. Dorothy finds herself the

new owner of a pair of ruby slippers, formerly the possession of the deceased Witch of the East, now magically secured to her feet by Glinda's powers. This vexes the surviving Wicked Witch more than ever, and she vows revenge on Dorothy.

Glinda suggests Dorothy go to see the Wizard of Oz in the Emerald City if she wants to get back to Aunt Em in Kansas. The best way to get there is - you guessed it - "just follow the yellow brick road." Keenly missing from the stage was any visible hint of a yellow brick road, but Dorothy dutifully followed it anyway on her adventure into Oz.

Along Dorothy's travels she meets the Scarecrow, comically played by Patrick McGuire; the Tin Man, portrayed with exhilarating song and dance by John Waynelovich; and the Cowardly Lion whose character is warmly depicted by veteran actor David Neil.

The best of the many special effects were the fiery interchange between the Wicked Witch and the Scarecrow during the "Want to Play Ball?" scene; the snow on the poppies; and the great and powerful Oz's portrayal.

The Wicked Witch's castle was full of clever devices to describe her wicked chambers and Nikko, the flying monkey, deserves his own pat on the back for his amazing agility jumping and climbing, and excellent vocalizations.

As Dorothy finds her way back home by learning her lessons along the way, we are all reminded that home is where

your heart is and there's no place like it.

The JaDuke Center for the Performing Arts is the newest project for the JaDuke Productions family. Executive director Nick Waynelovich and his team opened the Center in the Colle Building next to the Shea Theater in June 2004. They are now open full time offering classes, including summer workshops, in a variety of performing arts subjects to students of all ages. You can learn more by calling (413) 863-4503 or on the web at www.jaduke.com/jcpa.



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THE HEALTHY GEEZER

An Embarrassing Problem

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - Q. This is embarrassing to discuss with anyone, so I thought I'd write to you about it. I'm having bladder-control problems. What can I do?

About 10 percent of men and women over the age of 65 have trouble with bladder control, known officially as urinary incontinence. Women suffer from this more than men.

During urination, muscles in the bladder contract, forcing urine into the urethra, a tube that carries urine out of the body. At the same time, muscles surrounding the urethra relax and let the urine pass. If the bladder muscles contract or the muscles surrounding the urethra relax without warning, the result is incontinence.

Short-term incontinence is caused by infections, constipation, and some medicines. If the problem persists, it might be caused by weak bladder muscles, overactive bladder muscles, blockage from an enlarged prostate, or damage to nerves that control the bladder from diseases such as multiple sclerosis or Parkinson's.

In most cases urinary incontinence can be treated and con-

trolled, if not cured. If you are having bladder control problems, go to your doctor. Doctors see this problem all the time, so there is no need to be embarrassed.

Your doctor may do a number of tests on your urine, blood and bladder. You may be asked to keep a daily chart about your urination.

There are several different types of urinary incontinence. If urine leaks when you sneeze, cough, laugh or put pressure on the bladder in other ways, you have "stress incontinence." When you can't hold urine, you have "urge incontinence." When small amounts of urine leak from a bladder that is always full, you have "overflow incontinence." Many older people who have normal bladder control but have difficulty getting to the bathroom in time, have "functional incontinence."

There are many ways to treat urinary incontinence. The method depends upon the type of problem.

You can train your bladder with exercises and biofeedback. You can also chart your urination and then empty your bladder before you might leak.

Your doctor has other tools he can use. There are urethral plugs and vaginal inserts for women with stress incontinence.

There are medicines that relax muscles, helping the bladder to empty more fully during urination. Others tighten muscles in the bladder and urethra to cut down leakage.

Surgery can improve or cure incontinence if it is caused by a problem such as a change in the position of the bladder or blockage due to an enlarged prostate. Common surgery for stress incontinence involves pulling the bladder up and securing it. When stress incontinence is serious, the surgeon may use a wide sling. This holds up the bladder and narrows the urethra to prevent leakage.

Even if treatment is not fully successful, management of incontinence can help you feel more relaxed and comfortable about the problem. If you have a question, please write to fredcicetti@gmail.com



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Da Law - Your rights under the Open Meeting and Public Records laws - Libel - Plagiarism

MILL

continued from pg 1

bridge are likely to be artists and other members of the "emerging creative economy," economic analyst Francis Mahady of FXM Marketing called this base "extremely price sensitive. There is other comparable space in the market, and more coming online," Mahady said, therefore you cannot push rents above a certain level and expect to get results. For the Strathmore, Mahady estimated that level would be \$4 a square foot for commercial or industrial tenants, for which 74,000 square feet of reusable space was identified for a first phase of redevelopment. In a later phase, up to twenty spaces for live-in artist lofts and studios could be developed, although only 13 on site parking spaces would be easily carved out for them, and these could only be reached through an underground tunnel beneath the operating Esleeck paper mill.

The Strathmore Mill provides a keen sense of place, an island in the Connecticut River,

close to the village, close to I-91 and Route 2. These are all positive attributes," Mahady said. But they need to be weighed against "serious constraints. There has to be parking. Legal issues regarding access and loading docks need to be resolved. The pedestrian bridge has to be rebuilt before development takes place."

Half facetiously, board member Pat Allen asked why a developer wouldn't simply purchase the complex for \$300,000 and knock it down and start over, rather than invest \$14 million to rehab the aging structure. The consulting team estimated it would cost \$2.1 million to knock the building down, and an additional \$1.85 million to remove hazardous materials from the site.

Jim Alexander, of Finegold Alexander and Associates, who headed the consulting team, replied, "They don't build these things anymore." He detailed a host of historic tax credits, brownfields grants, and potential low interest loans that could be brought to bear to reduce the gap between the project's costs

and potential revenues. Finally, he said, "It might be prudent to wait," to allow the market to catch up to the project's break-even point.

Chris Janke wanted to know if that would require a doubling or tripling of the estimated rents. Mahady conceded that might be the case, but also said the numbers were flexible, and the right buyer might find the Strathmore's potential irresistible and be willing to do what it takes to make the project work.

Sam Lovejoy asked what the prospects for mothballing the complex might be, if the owner did not follow through on the consultants' recommendations to put a new roof on the mill buildings and repaint the brick walls. The estimated cost for mothballing the mill was \$2 million, with \$1.7 million of that earmarked for repainting, and an additional \$35,000 annually needed for heat and electric if these measures were followed. The consultants told Lovejoy a failure to insulate the mill from the effects of the weather would lead to deterioration, and drive reconstruction

costs up for any future buyer.

Lovejoy replied, "If nothing is done, these buildings will get torn down one way or another. It will become GTD all over again. This community is well aware that GTD ignored those buildings until long term deterioration set in. Those buildings are gone now, at a cost of millions of dollars."

Mike Naughton told the consultants, "You've come up with some pretty hardnosed numbers. We asked you to do that. Those numbers, quite frankly, don't look very good. You're trying to put a good face on it by saying, 'Someone could come along and save the day,'" by snapping the building up, "but frankly

that sounds like wishful thinking."

Jay di Pucchio thanked Alexander, Mahady, and their colleagues for presenting their findings clearly and comprehensively. "Clearly a lot of folks in town love this building and love this site. We recognize we're going to have a long term relationship with this site whatever the circumstances." He asked the consultants, in compiling their written report, to focus on what the public sector could do to make the Strathmore Mill more attractive to a private developer.



GMRSD Summer Food Program

The Gill-Montague Regional School District's food service department will be operating their summer Lunch program from June 27th thru July 29th. Free lunch will be offered to anyone 18 years of age or younger, Monday thru Friday, from 11:00 a.m to 12:00 p.m at the Sheffield Elementary School cafeteria and also at Unity Park. The program is operated with funding from the United States Department of Agriculture and the Massachusetts Department of Education.

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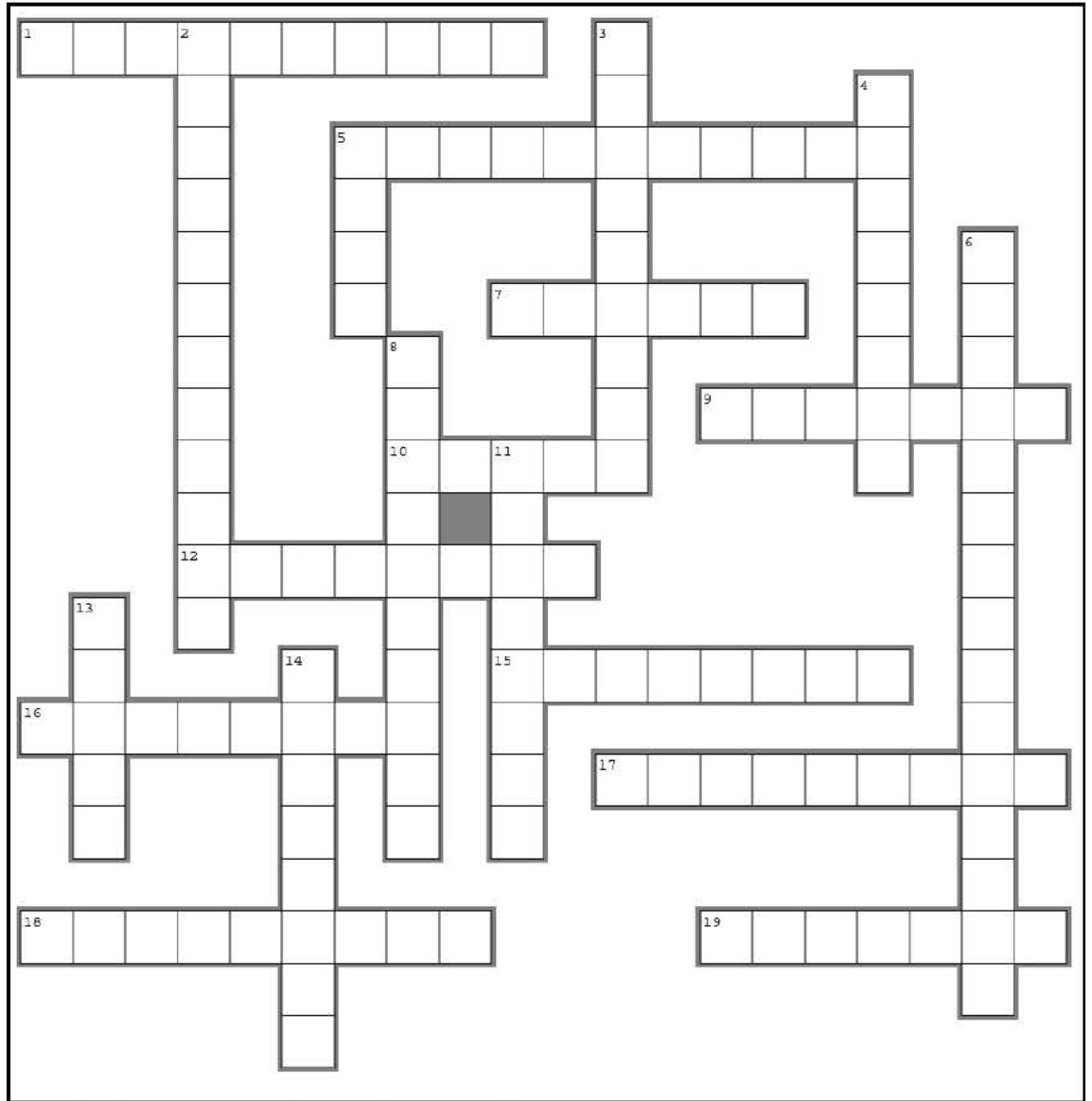
by Bette Black

Across

1. Transitional ritual for leaving an educational institution.
5. Topless automobile.
7. Miniature pants.
9. Plethora found at the farmers market.
10. They catch free rides on our pets.
12. Some of us scream for it as we swelter.
15. Backyard cookery.
16. The boys of summer play it.
17. Unwelcome visitors at outdoor events.
18. Its blade should be sharpened seasonally.
19. Ritual event often scheduled for June.

Down

2. Open-air cinema.
3. Exciting feature of our independence day celebration.
4. Quaff sometimes sold at roadside stands.
5. Overnight or daytime destination for many school-age youth.
6. Regulation of humidity and temperature in buildings.
8. Large seeded fruit often found at picnics.
11. Millers Falls Rod and Gun Club annual event, see page 15.
13. Place to gather shells and a tan.
14. Without shoes and stockings.



SLEEP OUT FOR THE SHELTER!
 Interfaith Council will sponsor fundraising to keep our Franklin County Emergency Shelter open at 15 Farren Ave., in Turners Falls near the Community Health Center
Friday night, June 3rd at 6 p.m.
 Pitch a tent (or box) and sleep out on the Greenfield Common for pledges, or pitch in by making an outright donation to the Shelter Fund at Greenfield Savings Bank.
For more information call 773-7427

BARNS

continued from pg 1

factory representative. He was a semi bilingual person who tended to throw cows over the fence some hay in his sentence construction, spoken in French-accented English.

"To raise the barn by hand

on the ground.

Once crane operator Milton Severence raised the walls into position, Grover and his crew trued the wall framing, nailed them together, and braced them. Severence then hoisted the pre-assembled roof sections to cap the walls.

Grover used foresight in

meter ticking.

The new barn is of sturdy construction, and with a metal roof, should stand virtually indefinitely.

The barn on the William Koch farm, at the east end of the Turners Falls airport runway, is history. The Turners Falls Municipal Airport purchased the Koch farm in June of 2004, and is now renting out the house. Bob Koch, of Koch Automotive, made an agreement to keep the barn, which he sold to Rusty Coombs of Colrain. Coombs has dismantled it with the help of friends. He plans to resurrect the barn on his property in Colrain. This barn is smaller than the Flagg barn, and though sturdy, has metal framing and is of much lighter construction.

Former owner, William Koch, now deceased, moved the house from the Cole farm that once stood on the site of the Turners Falls Municipal Airport. According to William Koch's daughter, Joan May, her father

moved the house to the present site on rollers.

"For now," airport manager Mike Sweeney said, "the house stays, though another smaller barn, in back, will be torn down."

There are more connections in this story. The former Cole barn in Gill, site of the Flagg's present labors, was built by the Zywna family when they were dairy farmers there. When John Zywna Sr. got married, his family held a traditional Polish three-day wedding reception at the farm. A guest, who was an airplane pilot, offered John Sr. an

airplane ride. They went off to the airport, on land of another former Cole farm (perhaps a relative of the Gill Cole's), and flew back to Gill to swoop low over the farm. Zywna wrote a note, tied it to a wrench and threw it out of the plane. Seeing the plane flying so low caused alarm among the revelers that the plane was going to crash. The two adventurers got into hot water for their prank when they got back to the wedding party.



The gable end of the roof has siding installed prior to hoisting into place.

you would need an army of Amish," Allen Flagg said. Allen is acquainted with the Amish, having traveled to Pennsylvania Dutch country with Ray Steele selling horseshoes. His son, Dan, opted to hire Valley Crane Service of Guilford, VT to raise the walls and trusses, which were first assembled in sections

attaching staging onto the wall sections, and in putting stacks of metal roofing onto the roof sections, and capped the gable ends with siding prior to raising the structures. Part of the reason for thinking ahead was that rental on the crane is \$250 per hour. You do not want to stand around scratching your head with that



Rusty Coombs dismantling Koch barn in Turners Falls to resurrect in Colrain.

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NOTES FROM THE GILL-MONTAGUE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

GMRSD Assessment Figures Revised

BY SARAH PEBWORTH
 "We have gained about \$125,000 in additional revenue" based on the state Senate and House versions of the budget, Montague-Gill Regional School District (GMRSD) superintendent Sue Gee reported at the Tuesday (May 24th) school committee meeting. Based on these projections, the assessment - including debt - for Montague would be \$6,536,021; for Gill, \$1,230,580. The district will be asking the towns to accept a new bottom line for the school's '06 operating and maintenance budget of \$15,145,928, at town meetings to be held in June.

Although the state budget has not been approved, the Senate and House versions are the same, dollar for dollar,

Lynn Bassett, GMRSD director of business and operations, noted. "It's a good sign," that the figures will hold, she said.

Gee said Montague's selectboard and finance committee had jointly asked the GMRSD to bring their assessment in at no more than \$6,536,021 this year, saying the town could afford no more than that. With the probable gain in revenue from the pending state budget, Gee said the schools were still \$40,000 short of this target. A compromise was struck, whereby GMRSD cut more than \$20,000 from its budget, and Montague agreed to try to make up the difference.

Also at Tuesday's meeting, the committee approved a 50-cent increase in school lunch prices, which Jim Loynd, food services manager, anticipates

will result in a more than \$24,000 increase in revenue. Starting in the fall, elementary school lunches will be \$2.00, with those at the high school costing \$2.25. "Greenfield and Hatfield are pretty comparable," committee chair Mary Kociela noted. Breakfasts will increase from \$1.00 to \$1.25 at the middle and high schools; afterschool snacks will cost 50 cents at the elementary and middle schools, up from 30 cents; and milk prices will increase from 40 cents to 45 cents at all schools.

The committee accepted the offer by Larry Daniele, of Companion Software, to put the GMRSD policy manual online for free. Daniele had attended a previous meeting, when his partner Vickie Healy, a nurse in the district, was

being honored, and had heard the discussion prior to the committee's refusal to approve a request that the Massachusetts Association of School Committees put the manual online for an initial price tag of \$3,500.

The Elementary Study Group presented its summary report to the committee. The next step is for Gee and Bassett to add financial estimates to the possible configurations, which range from consolidating to one elementary school to maintaining four. Once the financial piece has been added, the study group will review the options again. Group members and the public are invited to participate in the process.

Carol Holubecki invited committee members and the public to attend the Hillcrest

Community Art Walk, which will be held June 2nd from 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. Displays of student artwork and a preview of the Hillcrest - Sheffield walkway mural will highlight the event.

Two teams of students will take part in the 24-hour Relay for Life fundraiser at the Greenfield Fair Grounds, according to student council representatives Ali Urban and Lauren Tela. The opening ceremony will take place at 5:45 p.m. on June 3rd, according to the event website, with the closing lap starting at 4:30 p.m. on June 4th. Donations can be made by contacting student council advisor Cheryl Howard.

Two longtime Gill paraprofessionals, Anne Harrington and Helen Haselton, are retiring in June.

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NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Who Pays for Sewer Upgrades?

BY PHILIPPE DEGUISE

Sewage was again on the minds of the Montague selectboard as they contemplated upgrades to the sewer treatment plant and combined sewer overflow (CSO) abatements totaling \$5.7 million. The board considered the possibility of dividing work on plant facilities and sewers into two separate phases, but it was the issue of how to apportion the cost of the project that posed the real dilemma.

According to Bob Trombley, supervisor of the Water Control Pollution Facility, there are three parts to the project. The first involves improving the sewage treatment plant's capacity to handle up to 96% of the water and debris flowing into the Connecticut River from three CSOs after sudden heavy rains. According to Trombley,

after the upgrades, storm overflow will no longer flow into the river from locations in Turners Falls, and excess runoff from the Montague City CSO will be filtered and chlorinated before being released into the river. This will require plant modifications. Secondly, there is a need at the plant for upgrades to the heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems, due to age. Additionally, upgrades are required to bring the electrical system up to code. Last, but certainly not least, Trombley said plant modifications are needed to improve the handling of solid waste.

Trombley had concerns about dividing the project in two. "You may see an increase in cost and time due to the hiring of two separate contractors and to two billing cycles. You

may also end up working with a less experienced contractor due to the smaller contracts," he said. He added that working with two separate contractors could lead to problems if warranty issues arose, with a lack of clear responsibility.

Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio underscored the need to seriously consider whether dividing the project into two phases would be financially beneficial to the town. Montague is fourth on a list of a hundred communities seeking financial support from the Department of Environmental Protection for CSO upgrades and similar projects. The state revolving loan fund's commitment to Montague stands at \$1.8 million, for the CSO abatement. If the need for plant

continues next page

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Turners undefeated heading into Friday's season finale

BY LEE CARIGNAN
TURNERS FALLS -

The defending state champions Turners Falls girls softball team defeated Westfield 2-1 in a thriller in the pouring rain Monday night, May 23rd.

The game featured a great pitching duel between Turners Falls' Julie Girard and Westfield's Christina Davison. Both pitchers went the distance. Davison had 12 strikeouts for Westfield, while Girard fanned 6 for the Indians.

The game began with Girard retiring Westfield in order in the first, including two strikeouts. In the bottom half of the inning the Indians squandered a great opportunity: With one out, Girard got things going with a single; Davison then walked Kellie Brown and Katie Kidder to load the bases for the Indians with only one away. But she got Westfield out of the inning by striking out the next two batters.

In the top of the third, Westfield mounted their first big threat of the night. With runners on second and third and one out, Girard caught a line drive, turned around and tossed the ball to Katie Kidder at third



Danielle Sullivan took the mound for Turners Wednesday (5/25) in a 16-1 slugfest over Smith Academy. The game was called after five innings, due to the 15 run rule, giving Turners their 19th straight win. They go up against Greenfield on Friday night at 7 p.m. under the lights at Turners High. Ace Julie Girard will be back in action for the last regularly scheduled game of the season, going for her 500th career strikeout.

base, who caught the Westfield runner off the bag to retire the side.

In the fourth inning, Westfield's Kristen Dupee led

off with a triple and scored on a fielder's choice, on a close play at the plate. When the umpire hollered she was safe, Turners fans yelled at the umpire in protest, to no avail. The ump looked at the Turners bench and gave an explanation that the runner slid across the plate before the tag touched her.

Meanwhile Westfield's Davison was steadily mowing down the Indians batters. After loading the bases in the first inning, she retired 14 out of the next 15 hitters, only allowing one runner on a walk.

With the rain coming down harder and Davison getting stronger as the game went on, Westfield's 1-0 lead seemed almost insurmountable. But in the bottom of the sixth, the never-say-die Turners



squad got things going for the first time since the first inning. Girard led off with a line drive into right field, and got a break when Alicia Thibault slipped on the wet playing surface, allowing Girard's liner to fall in for a single. Davison then walked Kellie Brown to put runners on first and second.

Katie Kidder followed up with a single to right field to load the bases. Right fielder Alicia Thibault made a great throw to the plate to prevent Girard from scoring. Davison then struck out Allison Murphy to get the first out of the inning. With 1 out and the bases still loaded, Shelby Landeck followed with a great at bat, running the count full while fouling off pitches left and right to stay alive. She then hit a deep fly ball down the right field line

that would have been foul, but right fielder Alicia Thibault caught it, allowing Girard to tag up from third base to tie the score. Thibault, who made a great throw earlier in the inning, now tossed the ball wildly past the catcher to allow Kellie Brown to come home with the game winning run. The crowd went wild.

In the top of the seventh, Westfield's Elise Stevens reached first on an error. Davison put down a sacrifice bunt to advance her to second. But Turners ace Girard struck out Mel Neece and got Nikki Hebda to ground out to second base to finish off Westfield and seal the big 2-1 win for Turners Falls.

Coach Gary Mullins said he was pleased his team was able to take advantage of some breaks and pull out the victory, leaving the Indians undefeated.

Turners Falls' Tuesday night game against Greenfield was cancelled due to the endless rain, and rescheduled for Friday, May 27th at Turners Falls at 7 p.m., the last game of the regular season. The Indians picked up their 19th win on Wednesday, pummeling Smith Academy 16 to 1.

SEWER

from previous page

upgrades can be linked to the CSO improvements, the DEP might increase the sum loaned. Additionally, Abbondanzio said funding may now be available from the United States Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Fund, which could provide grants for 10% of the project's total cost.

Abbondanzio provided some preliminary numbers of expected costs to town residents. If the \$5.7 million cost was amortized over 20 years, and two thirds of the cost was assigned to taxation, one third to sewer user fees, by the year 2008 - when the debt service would be at its highest - the impact to the tax levy for an average home (valued at \$188,000) would amount to \$76.90, while the average sewer bill would be \$569.00. If no project were undertaken, that same sewer bill would be \$398.00. These figures are based on an average 75,000 gallon usage. There are currently 2200 sewer accounts in Montague, but

Abbondanzio said that many of these represent multi-family dwellings in Turners Falls and Miller Falls. Abbondanzio has asked Camp Dresser McGee, the town's engineer for the project, to develop a more accurate estimate of what percent of Montague's population is currently using the sewers.

According to Trombley, Camp Dresser and McKee based these cost estimates on a breakdown using the tax levy to pay for the CSO improvements and buildings, at a cost of \$3,550,000, with sewer user fees paying the \$2,150,000 balance in project costs to cover new mechanical equipment and sludge treatment. Board chair Allen Ross said different towns handle sewer upgrades differently, but a tax levy is generally part of the funding base.

For residents like Sophia Libby of Hillside Road, the issue brings up strong feelings. As the owner of non-sewered residence, she had to spend \$26,000 to repair her septic system recently. She added that a home with a good soil system could spend

considerably less, between 10 and 15 thousand dollars. "I don't mind paying taxes on schools, but the sewer applies to few people," she added. Libby raised the idea of having the town set up a fund providing low-interest loans to homeowners who have to pay such costs, an idea she said had been raised eight or nine years ago and then dropped. Ross and board member Pat Allen said they would be interested in reconsidering such a program. But, added Abbondanzio, "There is no perfect solution."

Board Priorities

In other business, the selectboard once again heard from Mark Cannon, who handed in a petition signed by local residents complaining about the noise coming from the Second Street Café and Fast Boys Nightclub. "I don't know what has happened to Chief Zukowski," Cannon said, referring to the board's assurance last week that the police would address the issue under the town's new noise regulations. "I

don't want the petition disregarded like the one dealing with Yesterday's," he added.

"The petition is helpful. The chief is aware," of the situation, responded Ross.

At Ross's suggestion, each member of the selectboard provided a list of issues he or she considered important for the town to pursue in the upcoming year. Issues such as the perennial favorite Dry Hill Road Cemetery, revising town bylaws, formation of a local business group, support for the Arts and Blooms Festival, capital building projects and a new industrial park were some of those added to the list.

Cable RFP Postponed

Ross raised the issue of the local cable access provider and the RFP process in order to set a timetable for addressing that issue. He suggested a review of the RFP compiled by the cable advisory committee because he said, "It was not as cohesive as I thought." Board member Patricia Pruitt warned against "turning

the work of the CAC into a mockery," although Ross replied that would not happen.

Allen refused to comment on the cable RFP, citing pending legal advice she has been soliciting from counsel on the issue. Discussion on the cable RFP will continue two weeks from now.

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Gill Store Closeout Sale

BY AMANDA GARRISON -

The Gill Store, 29 years under the ownership of Susie Maddern, held a giant closeout sale on Saturday, May 21st.

Penny candy, toys, and other goods were marked down half price in an attempt to empty out the store.

"I'm not sad," said Maddern, as she watched her loyal customers filter in and out. "This is a time in my life when I'm ready to say - I'm tired. I'm not afraid to admit it. I'm tired.

"Today has been a wonderful relief," she added.

Caitlin Stevens of Gill said the store will definitely be missed. "It was a great place for kids to go. I remember riding my bike down to Susie's and getting candy," she said with a smile.

According to Maddern, the store has a buyer. "It is still going to be the Gill Store. There will still be penny candy, but some different things as well," she said.

There will be a final closeout sale, due to the amount of leftover items, but the date has yet to be determined. Will half priced penny candy be marked down further? Stay tuned to the *Montague Reporter* for more details.



ARIEL JONES PHOTO

Susie Maddern (r) and friend of 35 years, Robin Paris, who helped out all day at the closeout sale. Note the hand-carved sign made by Susie's brother Paul in 1977.

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JOE GRAVELINE

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE, I'M SO BLUE

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MARY
continued from pg 6

Mary's mother then met Joseph Parzych. He proposed marriage on the first date, and she accepted before he finished asking.

At age 14, Mary went to work as a nanny and housekeeper for a grocery store owner. On Fridays and Saturdays, Mary worked evenings in the store below the apartment after she got the chil-

dren into bed and the house in order. Her pay-50 cents a day. She met William Wallner while working at the store. It is not known if Wallner proposed marriage on the first date, but they married on July 25, 1934.

Mary was a superior quilter and won awards for her outstanding quilts. She loved to spend time with her flower garden, collected antiques, and enjoyed walking long distances.

When someone asked her to go on a trip; she was ready to go, even in her 90's.

The world is a poorer place without the warm smile and friendly manner of Mary Wallner.

Note:
Joseph A. Parzych is Mary Wallner's brother. Note: Joseph A. Parzych is Mary Wallner's brother.

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56 First Street/Unity Park Fieldhouse, Turners Falls, MA 01376. The Summer Programs Brochure is also available at Montague Town Hall, all town libraries, Food City and numerous other locations.
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June 20th	Peskeomskut Park, Turners Falls at 7:00 p.m.
June 27th	Masonic Lodge, Montague City at 7:00 p.m.
July 11th	Peskeomskut Park, Turners Falls at 7:00 p.m.
July 25th	Peskeomskut Park, Turners Falls at 7:00 p.m.
August 1st	Buckley Nursing Home, Greenfield at 6:30 p.m.
August 8th	Peskeomskut Park, Turners Falls at 7:00 p.m.
August 14th	Walpole Concert Series in NH at 7:00 p.m.
August 19th	"Old Home Days" Montague Center at 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 4th	Holiday Concert, St. Anne's in Turners at 7:00 p.m.

The Montague Community Band is sponsored in part by the town of Montague and by a grant from the Montague Cultural Council, a local agency that is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

FRIDAY, MAY 27TH
New Wendell Community Dances at Town Hall, held monthly every fourth Friday: *Contact Improvisational Dance Jam*. Fragrance free, drug and alcohol free, all ages, wheelchair accessible. 7 to 10 p.m. Sponsored by Stay Local, Play Local. Come and check out contact improv, a group or partner dance form which plays with connection and improvisation. Warm-up offered first half-hour, otherwise open structure. Please refrain from wearing fragranced products (incl. perfume, cologne, essential oils and scented hair products) to create access for organizers and participants with chemical injury. Admission by donation, suggested fee \$4-\$9.

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

SATURDAY, MAY 28TH
Hilltown Folk presents Rory Block performing with Elric Walker opening • 7:30 p.m. at Memorial Hall in Shelburne Falls. One of the greatest acoustic blues artists alive today, the New York Times has declared Rory Block's "playing perfect and her singing otherworldly." Weilding a fiery guitar and and haunting vocal style, Block has been called a "national treasure in the form of the Mississippi Delta blues." Rolling Stone said of her, "Some of the most singular and affecting Country Blues anyone, man or woman, black or white, old or young, has cut in recent years." But quotes and accolades aside, you will simply be entranced by the passion and intimacy of Rory's performance. \$15 advance, \$18 door, under 18 half price!

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

Open Mic for musicians and writers of all ages at the Gathering Place coffee house, 7:00 to 10:30 p.m. Also card and board games, mah-jongg lessons, hot (fair trade) coffee, snacks and great company in the Webster Room of First Parish, 72 Main Street, Northfield (use side entrance on Parker Street), tell them Mo sent you. Info: 498-5957.

SUNDAY, MAY 29TH
Town of Gill Memorial Day Ceremony beginning at the Gill Congregational Church at 10:00 a.m., with Mr. Paul Seamans speaking, and continuing across Main Road to the war memorial for the Rose Ceremony, the honoring of the colors and the playing of Taps. We hope you can join us for this special event in

honor and memory of those who have fallen while wearing our country's uniform. For more info call Gary Bourbeau at 863-8613.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1ST
Two writers and One Editor from McSweeney's Books appearing at the Lady Killigrew Café at the Montague Bookmill, newly published books in hand, Wednesday, June 1, 8 p.m. The event is free, though capacity is limited. The Lady Killigrew is located at the Montague Bookmill, 442 Greenfield Rd., near the center of Montague. Beer, wine, coffee, and food available at all events. Call (413) 367.9666 for more info.

MONDAY, JUNE 6TH
The Recital Chorus, under the direction of Margery Heins, with Barbara Hudgik, accompanist, will perform its annual Spring Concert at 7:30 p.m., in St. James Episcopal Church, Greenfield. The concert features music by Schütz, Haydn, Brahms, Delibes and Gershwin as well as madrigals, folk songs, and classic show tunes sung by vocalists of all ages who study singing with Heins. The concert is free, and the public is encouraged to attend.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15TH
First Annual Montague Thank-you community barbeque in recognition and appreciation of our civic volunteers, sponsored by the Montague board of selectmen, featuring a presentation of the first

CIVIC INVOLVEMENT AWARD

for volunteer service to the town of Montague, 5 to 8 p.m. at the Schutzen Verein at Barton Cove. Free to members of Montague Town Meeting and other town boards and committees in 2004-2005. \$5 for guests and others. **Reservations required by June 3rd** by calling the town planner at 863-3208 or emailing planner@montague.net.

SATURDAY, JUNE 25TH
Millers Falls Rod and Gun Club annual CLAM BAKE with music by the Mark Snow Band.



Chowder at 11 a.m., bake at 2 p.m. Full bake - lobster, chicken, clams and chowder, \$32.50; Chicken and chowder, \$10. For tickets call 863-3748.

UPCOMING EVENTS
The Vermont Renaissance Festival announces the opening

Vermont Renaissance Festival 4 weekends this summer over the border in Guilford - see below for details



ERIC TETREAULT PHOTO

of its fifth season in Guilford, VT to be held at The Guilford Fairgrounds on **June 25-26th, July 2-3rd, 9-10th & 16-17th 2005**. The Festival is a lush and talent filled re-creation of an English village festival in the 1580s. An exciting, diverse and family-friendly event, the festival has enjoyed a growing patronage that exceeded 7100 people last year and will therefore be utilizing even more of the fairgrounds, leaving room for more stages, merchants and all around fun. The craft village at the festival features over 35 artisans, including purveyors of handmade jewelry, perfume, pewter and iron ware, glass and leather items, hand crafted candles and soaps, herbs, children's wooden swords, shields and other toys, and clothing and accessories for all the Lords and Ladies. Many of these merchants will be giving demonstrations of their art, such as the blacksmith's "fire and iron" workshop. The food offerings have likewise broadened to include savory and historically accurate platters, authentic and modern drinks, and tasty snacks for the kids. Throughout the day there will be a diverse selection of entertainments including performances by local individuals and groups such as Guy Todd - skilled harpist, Melanie Zimmer - puppeteer and storyteller, The Great Scott Magical Show, and Travis Dewey - journeyman upon the Spanish Guitar. Additional artists will be The Good, The Bad, & The Ugly - swordsmen and comedians, Owen Cramp - strolling bard, The Great Unwashed Mud Show, and many others. Each weekend presents a Special Performance by well known international acts. Opening weekend brings both The Empty Hats - featuring Giacomo the Jester, fire-breather and juggler extraordinaire, and Loony Lucy (June 25-26th), and Lord of The Wings - astounding Birds

of Prey show. The following weekends are just as vibrant, with Roderick Russell - world-renowned sword swallower (July 9-10th), and as a grand finale the last weekend will feature the introduction of L'ensemble Cercamon, high energy renaissance music (July 16-17th). For the first time at VTRF, sign language interpreters will be translating for the hearing impaired on July 10th. The Paragon Jousting Troupe will dazzle the Queen, Court and the general populace with feats of arms, including fully-armored knights, competing upon horseback in a jousting tournament and in combat using sword and shield upon the field of honor. Additionally, The Vermont Renaissance Festival is proud to present for the first time demonstrations of authentic reproduction cannons, hand-gonnes, and other more ancient engines of siege warfare. Children will be able to "join the local regiment and participate in pike drills" (with invisible pikes). Opening day, June 25th, offers a special Buy One, Get One Free

promotion. July 2-3rd is Kids Free Weekend, for each adult ticket purchased, as many as three children up to 13 years old get in free. July 9-10th & 16-17th VTRF is hosting a Free Coin - Food Drive: Patrons will receive a free replica coin for each non-perishable food item donated to benefit the Brattleboro Women's Crisis Center and The Drop In Center of Brattleboro Food Shelf, up to 5 coins per person. Admission prices: Adults - \$12, Children (5-13) -\$6, babes in arms are free, no pets please.

Hot Spot Teen Center

Monday - Ongoing Digital Arts Project, 3 to 5 p.m. except 5/30
Tue & Wed - Ongoing Music Project, 3 to 5 p.m.
Thursday - Technology Drop-in hours, 3 to 5 p.m. and Movie Night, 6 to 8 p.m.
Friday, May 27th - Open mic, 6 - 9 and Avenue A Music Project CD Release Party
These programs are free (except some skate trips) and open to local teens. Some require permission slips. For more info about any of these events or programs please call **Jared at 863-9559**.
Hot Spot Teen Center is in **The Brick House** Community Resource Center 24 Third St, Turners Falls

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MATINEE SAT,SUN,MON,WED 12:00 2:00 4:00
- STAR WARS III REVENGE OF THE SITH
DAILY 6:00 9:00 PG13 in DTS sound
MATINEE SAT,SUN,MON,WED 12:00 3:00
- KINGDOM OF HEAVEN R
DAILY 6:00 9:00
MATINEE SAT,SUN,MON,WED 12:00 3:00
- KICKING & SCREAMING PG
DAILY 6:15 9:15
MATINEE SAT,SUN,MON,WED 12:15 3:15
- MONSTER IN-LAW PG13 in DTS sound
DAILY 6:15 9:15
MATINEE SAT,SUN,MON,WED 12:15 3:15
- EDDIE MURPHY RAW R
FRIDAY & SATURDAY AT MIDNIGHT
- STAR WARS III REVENGE OF THE SITH
DAILY 7:00 9:45 PG13 in DTS sound
MATINEE SAT,SUN,MON,WED 1:00 4:00

Mabel Zobel
By
Sandra Facto

Have you noticed that despite the cost of living, it still remains the favorite alternative?

The Ecotone of Tanagers and Buntings

BY FRAN HEMOND

GREENFIELD - Fourteen bird watchers gathered at the Great Falls Discovery Center early on Saturday, May 21st to enjoy a bird walk led by John Green, Jr. of Belchertown. The walk was co-sponsored by the Pioneer Valley Institute at GCC and the Discovery Center. Green is an interpretive naturalist, and his bird walks illustrate his expertise in the field.

The group, as diverse as the birds we were about to see, reached the trails at Highland Park in Greenfield shortly after 8 a.m. Birds are busy even earlier, but at this hour, quite properly, a robin sang as we left the parking lot. The bird was familiar and needed no further introduction. Green pointed out the similarity of his song to other species', and shortly a rose-breasted grosbeak joined in to emphasize his point.

With Green, we were out to listen to birds, as well as watch them. You didn't have to get it the first time a bird called, for Green has the skill to repeat the melody (sometimes better than the bird)! Next time the bird called, you knew!

The elusive warblers in the woods were in good supply. Their songs gave them away. The trees were in partial leaf, but patience was rewarded with

many sightings. My old friend, the ovenbird, whose "teacher teacher" I mentioned in an earlier column on warblers, was a star of the bird listening trip.



the Indigo Bunting

Not only was he vocal and distinctive, but also one of his family seemed to be waiting for us in every locale.

The common yellowthroat called "witchety", the vireos, thrushes, and woodpeckers made their presence known in the woods. Green reminded us of ways to help identify a species when a bird is flitting by, such as habitat, size, color, flight pattern, and of course, song. A word new to me, and not found in my old *Webster*, "ecotone" was clearly illustrated when we stopped at a viewing point on a swath cut through the woods to accommodate high tension towers. It created a field of grass with forest on both sides. The boundary between two types of land, in this case meadow and woods, is the eco-

tone. This edge of woods gave a good view of a colorful and accommodating scarlet tanager, and the swath opened up the sky to see ravens. The big black birds had announced themselves with their guttural call, but their wedge-shaped tail and flap-soar flight would not have been apparent in the woods.

Before we left, an elusive indigo bunting, who had often made his presence known through vocalizations, was finally sighted. Elated by this latest find, the group moved on to Barton Cove.

Here the resident eagles soared over the river, a great contrast to the little warblers that dominated the woods. In both places, the birds are nesting, and the lady birds were not in evidence. They do not share the bright colors and sweet voices. It is their mates who bring the glorious song of the hermit thrush, and the lovely and fabulous color patterns of the warblers to the areas that have kept their living space available.

The Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Pioneer Valley Institute at Greenfield Community College co-sponsored the event.

DO IT FOR DAD A NATIONWIDE CAMPAIGN

Do it for Dad! - A five-month awareness campaign that starts in June and includes Father's Day and Prostate Cancer Awareness Month in September -urges families to look after the men in their lives.

Managed by the National Prostate Cancer Coalition, the campaign is thought to be the largest prostate cancer awareness outreach effort in history.

To help people "Do it for Dad" Franklin County Home Care is offering a free men's health screening on Monday June 6, 2005 at the office of Dr. Ronald Catanese in Greenfield. The health screening is free and open to all men age 18 and older. There are no income guidelines, Everyone qualifies. Men are screened for prostate cancer, diabetes, cardiac health and more.

For more information or to set up a health screening call the Men's Health Partnership at Franklin County Home Care 413-773-5555 or 978-544-2259.

Upcoming Events at the Great Falls Discovery Center

The Great Falls Discovery Center is located at 2 Avenue A. For more information, call (413) 863-3221.

Saturday, May 28th, 8 - 11 a.m. - Accessible Birding Adventure: Indigo Buntings Join Marcy Marchello and Taj Schottland on an outing in search of spring birds in Turners Falls. We will carpool to Northfield to look for indigo buntings and other easily viewed birds singing on territory in fields and wetlands. Advance registration required; please call Marcy at 413-545-5758.

Saturday, May 28th, 1- 2 p m. - It's Nest Building Time All are invited to join us in this family activity to discover the challenge of nest building. Find out why each bird's nest varies by species and habitat. Free and open to the public.



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