



**\$600,000 SCHOOL OVERRIDE**  
**To face voters June 12th**  
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**FROM MILLERS TO FENWAY**  
**The Career of Doug Smith**  
 see page 16

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

Year 4  
 No.30

50¢

# The Montague Reporter

REPORTER@MONTAGUEMA.NET

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MAY 4, 2006

## Gill Holds Brief Town Meeting

BY DAVID DETMOLD

Gill opened its annual town meeting on schedule, at 7 p.m. sharp on Monday evening, May 1st. As soon as the meeting opened, the selectboard called for a continuance until June 26th, at 6 p.m., with a pre-town meeting to be held on June 19th at 7 p.m. After taking one question, from former finance committee chair Sandy Brown, who asked, "Will you have budget figures ready by then?" to which the selectboard replied affirmatively, moderator Ray Steele gavelled the meeting to a close, and the 22 voters went home.

The brief annual meeting opener was preceded by a half hour special town meeting, with three articles on the warrant, some of which led to animated discussion about the need for departments to live within their budgets rather than coming to the voters for cash infusions at the end of the fiscal year.

A motion to transfer \$2,000 to the police department expense account, to cover a shortfall Chief Hastings ascribed to the rising cost of fuel, prompted finance committee member Paul Worthington to say, "Supplementing the police budget every year is not a good idea. I'm concerned about that."

Selectboard member Ann Banash said, "Because of how tight it's been over the last few years, we budget all the town departments very low. We were \$77 under the levy limit last year."

"It sounds like you intentionally set the budget low, knowing you'll come back for a transfer," said Worthington.

"We have to stay under the levy limit, or ask for an override," see GILL pg 6

## Caldicott Speaks on Nuclear Power, War & Global Warming



DETMOLD PHOTO

*Quoting Thomas Jefferson, Dr. Helen Caldicott told her audience, "An informed democracy will behave in a responsible fashion."*

BY DAVID DETMOLD

**WILLIAMSTOWN** - Dr. Helen Caldicott, co-founder of the Nobel Peace Prize winning Physicians for Social Responsibility and former instructor of Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School, brought her patented antinuclear jeremiad to the Brooks-Rogers Auditorium at Williams College in Williamstown, Tuesday, May 2nd. Her talk was billed as a discussion of Nuclear Power and Global Warming, but it encompassed the war in Iraq, the metapsychology of the Bush-Cheney administration, and the need for proportional representation see CALDICOTT pg 8

## Erving Fully Funds Schools using Paper Ballot Vote

BY PATRICK RENNICK Using a secret ballot, 85 Erving voters at Wednesday night's (May 3rd) annual town meeting voted to override the finance committee's recommendations and fully fund the school department's request for primary and secondary spending for the coming fiscal year.

The vote was conducted for the first time in town memory using a paper ballot, under the suggestion of moderator Rich Peabody.

"There's a bus leaving after the meeting going down to Six Flags," Peabody joked about the pink wristbands handed out in conjunction with the ballots. "Free rides for everyone!" Voters were all given wristbands and ballots as they signed into the meeting. The paper ballot was used exclusively for articles 4,5, and 6, which dealt with the proposed school committee budget and the town's assessment for the Franklin County Tech School. After each vote was collected, town clerk Richard Newton marked an "x" on the wristband to indicate a voter had voted.

Bob Brown, chair of the school committee, presented Article 4 to the voters, asking \$1,767,615 to operate the Erving Elementary School in fiscal year '07.

"The budget process is never easy,"

said Brown. "We presented the budget to the finance committee in March and a cut of \$108,000 was made between the elementary and secondary budget." The school committee decided to cut this amount out of their special education fund, which is set aside in case children with special needs may enter the school system. Erik Semb, chair of the finance committee, gave his commit see ERVING pg 7

## Elisabeth von Trapp Brings her own Sound of Music to TFHS

BY ALI URBAN

**TURNERS FALLS** - The halls were alive with the sound of music, as Elisabeth von Trapp graced the stage at the Second Annual Gill-Montague Education Fund Gala at the Turners Falls High School theater, on Saturday, April 29th. Along with cello accompanist Erich Kory, the singer/songwriter performed both original and familiar songs for a near capacity audience.

Von Trapp is the granddaughter of Maria von Trapp whose story



PHOTO BY ALI URBAN

*Elisabeth von Trapp poses with Turners Falls High School students at the 2nd Annual GMEF Gala.*

was told in the Sound of Music.

"I'm sure the audience was drawn by the promise of her famous name, only to be awed by the haunting beauty of her voice and musical arrangements," said see TRAPP pg 14

## Three Films Examine Iraq War from Soldiers' Perspective

AT THE ACADEMY OF MUSIC, APRIL 30TH

BY RUTH WITTY

**NORTHAMPTON** - When we first meet Will in "All That I Can Be," a short documentary by Jen Meagher and Antonio Abreu, he seems very young - he is 23 - a little naïve, and at loose ends. His life has not been easy; he was raised by a single mom who has since died. Will has worked for several years at CVS and sees that job going nowhere. He doesn't have the money for college, but he really wants to make something of his life. Into

this situation steps a military recruiter.

Though we don't see their interaction, and only hear Will's side of the story, we sense the recruiter may be filling the gap in Will's life left by the lack of a father. The young man says he feels the recruiter really cares about him. The audience wonders, "Does he really? Or is he just trying to fill a quota of young recruits?"

Will lives in a depressed neighborhood in New York City. We see

the view outside his apartment window: broken-down buildings, not a single tree. But Will says, in a strange way he'll miss it because it's what he has seen his whole life.

Although the movie was not obviously a 'tear jerker' I noticed one woman in the audience crying at the end. When I asked her how she felt about the movie she said Will reminded her of her own son, and she felt bad

he had no other option than to go and learn to kill see FILMS pg 10



### PET OF THE WEEK Mice Beware



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### CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS

#### Civil War Re-enactors



PHOTO BY LINDA HICKMAN

**BY LINDA HICKMAN WENDELL** - Nate Stump of Pittsfield (below) was one of fifteen Civil War re-enactors who camped out at Hemlock Hill Farm, owned by Linda Hickman and Joe Coll, from April 21st - 23rd. The 10th Massachusetts Regiment practiced drilling, drumming, Civil War style cooking, and other activities in their first get together of the season.

#### Drawing Rainbows at Story Hour



PHOTO BY LINDA HICKMAN

**BY LINDA HICKMAN TURNERS FALLS** - The preschool story hour participants drew rainbows on the front sidewalk of the Carnegie Library for one of their theme related activities on Wednesday, April 26th.

### ERVING LIBRARY NEWS

#### Zoomobile Delights Children



PHOTO BY MARCIA BERNARD

Children hold a 12-foot-long python during the Zoomobile program at the Erving Library last week.

### SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES May 8th - 12th

**MONTAGUE Senior Center, 62 Fifth St., Turners Falls, is open Mon. - Fri. from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. Make meal reservations a day in advance by 11 a.m. Messages can be left on the machine when the center is closed (863-9357). Mealsite manager is Chris Richer. The center offers a hot noon meal weekdays to any senior. Transportation to the center can be provided. Special trip coordinator is Jean Chase. Make trip reservations by calling 772-6356. Payment and menu choice is due three weeks prior to trip.**

**Monday, 8th**  
10:15 a.m. Aerobics  
11:30 a.m. PACE Aerobics  
**Tuesday, 9th**

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

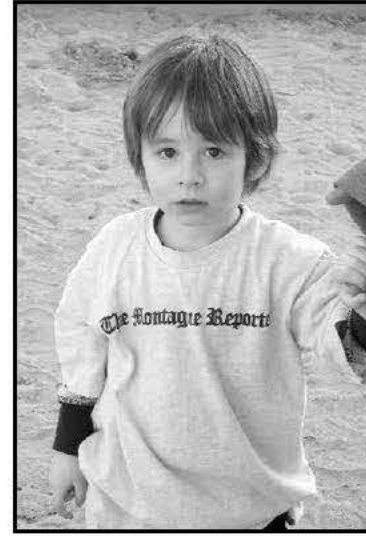
**ERVING Senior Center, 18 Pleasant St., Erving, (Old Center School, 1st Floor), is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. For information and reservations call Polly Kiely, Senior Center director at (413) 423-3308. Lunch daily at 11:30 a.m. with reservations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

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

**Monday, 8th**  
9:30 a.m. Exercise  
9:45 a.m. Library  
12 Noon Pitch  
**Tuesday, 9th**  
9 a.m. Aerobics  
12:30 p.m. Oil Painting  
**Wednesday, 10th**  
9:30 a.m. Line Dancing  
12 Noon Bingo  
**Thursday, 11th**  
9 a.m. Aerobics  
12:30 p.m. Shopping

**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.**

### FACES & PLACES



You too can look adorable in a Montague Reporter T-shirt. Come on down town and find the Montague Reporter table during the Arts & Blooms Walk in Turners Falls on Saturday, May 20th. Gift subscriptions, advertisements and of course the most recent issue of the newspaper will also be for sale!

**Friends of the Montague Reporter Meeting**  
**Monday, May 15th 7 p.m. • 24 Third Street, second floor**  
**Let's plan for our booth at the Arts & Blooms. Volunteer to help your community newspaper. All are welcome!**

#### Tours Rescheduled

The Historical Walking Tour of Turners Falls scheduled for Tuesday, May 2nd, has been rescheduled to Tuesday, May 9th, at 6 p.m. due to inclement weather. The walk with Sue San Soucie will begin at the Great Falls Discovery Center and end at the Carnegie Library. On Wednesday May 10th, DCR forestry specialist Alan Snow will lead a walking tour of trees along Avenue A at 6 p.m. from the Carnegie. For more information about these programs or other Crabapple Blossom Festival events, call the Carnegie Library, 863-3214.

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# Montague to Face School Override \$600,000 Shortfall goes to the Voters on June 6th

The town of Montague is heading towards a \$600,000 override election on June 6th, to deal with a gap in funding brought on by rising fixed costs and insufficient state aid, town and school district officials say. The decision to seek an override election specifically for the Gill-Montague Regional School District's part of the budget was made by vote of the selectboard on Wednesday, May 3rd, and announced at a so-called fiscal collaboration meeting between town and school officials on Wednesday.

Superintendent of Schools Sue Gee said, "I feel positive about the decision. It will give the voters of the town an opportunity to make a decision about the quality of educational programs for the children of the town. It will give us a chance to tell the story about how we have tried to hold the line and yet have

been unable to fund everything we need to fund, due to a shortfall in state spending."

The Gill-Montague Regional School District has proposed a \$7,987,092 operating budget for '07, a 7.64% increase over last year. Gee has defended the request as a level service budget, adding only 1 2/3rds art teaching positions. But rising costs of insurance, contracted salary increases and health benefits, fuel and utilities is driving the steep increase.

Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio said the choice to go to an override vote was taken to avoid further cuts to the budget either on the town or school side. "Further cuts would have been devastating, no matter where they were taken. The experience we went through four years ago, when we laid off 24 teachers, is still fresh in our

minds. With state aid driven by student population, in an era of school choice, it behooves us to remain competitive."

Finance committee member Marge Levenson said, "The override is necessary. But I happen to think the decision is shortsighted, because it puts the burden solely on the schools, when in fact, no matter how you divide the pie, the money isn't there."

Former finance committee chair Mike Naughton said, "I wish them luck. They're going to have a lot of convincing to do."

Town accountant Carolyn Olsen estimated the average tax payer would pay an extra \$148.50 a year on their annual tax bill, if the override passes.

Town clerk John Zywna has suggested that polls should remain open from noon until 7 p.m. for the override election on June 6th.

# Broke Budget Mountain "The Remake"



**BY JOE PARZYCH**  
**DOWNTOWN GILL** - This remake is an attempt to right the wrong of labeling shepherds as cowboys, since they have been traditional enemies for ages. In this ultra-low budget remake, a poignant relationship develops between a lone (or lonely) shepherd and his dramatically reduced flock of one sheep due to severe financial restrictions. The duo is seen here with the shepherd driving his pickup truck to the bright lights of the

bustling business district of downtown Gill for a Saturday night on the town. The shepherd will have double sarsaparilla with a cup of yogurt, and his companion will have a health nut bar.

This remake has not yet been released. However, I can't advise you to not to hold your breath waiting for the movie's release, since the sheep has been busy releasing a number of shepherd's pies in the area.

## 'Soul Retrieval' Workshop

**LAKE PLEASANT** - The National Spiritual Alliance is sponsoring a two-part workshop in May entitled 'Soul Retrieval.'

The workshop will be conducted at Thompson Temple in Lake Pleasant by Rev. Paula DelGiudice, pastor of the Spirit of

Light Church in Leominster. Workshop sessions will be from noon to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 6th, and Saturday, May 20th.

## Ethiopian AIDS Orphans Topic of Speech

**GILL** - Randolph and Grace Knight spent a month in Ethiopia last fall administering antiretroviral drugs to orphaned HIV-positive children whose parents had died of AIDS. They will talk about their experiences at Northfield Mount Hermon School as the year's final State of the World address, May 10th at 6:45 p.m. in the Rhodes Room of Beveridge Hall on the Mount Hermon campus.

The Knights traveled to Ethiopia as volunteers for the Worldwide Orphans Foundation. They spent their time in the east African nation with 53 children at an orphanage called

AHOPE. This was the culmination of two years of clearing bureaucratic hurdles to deliver the antiretrovirals.

They gave medical exams to the children and taught the staff how to administer the drugs. They also set up a method of getting drugs from the pharmacy to the orphanage in a country where logistical barriers abound.

While AIDS has devastated Ethiopia, the country's people inspired the couple. "We found a vibrant country dealing incredibly well with the most important health crisis of our time," said Grace Knight. "Ethiopia has a phenomenally

rich history and an independent culture."

Still, AIDS has caused a crisis there: In a nation with 72 million people, 1 million children are orphaned by HIV and one in six of those children are HIV positive. At the time of the Knights' visit in September 2005, fewer than 150 children were taking life-saving antiretroviral medicine.

Grace Knight is a school nurse in Weathersfield, VT. Randolph Knight is an emergency room physician in Claremont, NH. They are parents of two NMH students.

For more info, call 413-498-3000.

## Spring Road Bike Sale

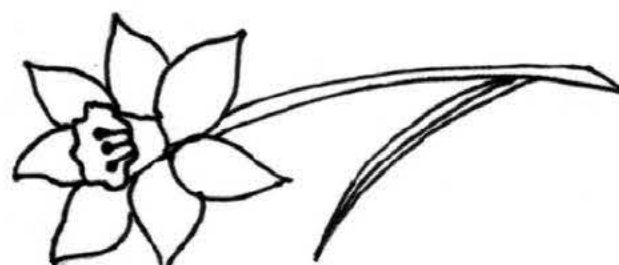
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# The Montague Reporter

24 3rd Street, Turners Falls, Mass. 01376

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## No to Runway Extension

On Saturday, the much-debated plan to expand the Turners Falls Airport comes to a vote at Montague's annual town meeting. The proposal to extend the runway from 3000 to 4200 feet has a checkered career, and town meeting should reject it.

The airport commission says it needs to extend the runway by 1200 feet to satisfy FAA safety regulations. According to a careful review of the FAA advisory on Runway Length Requirements for Runway Design, including calculations for mean day maximum hottest month temperature (81.1 degrees in July), height above sea level at the airport (324 feet), weight of the planes using the airport (less than 12,500 pounds) and average speed of approach (30 to 50 knots), the FAA advisory appears to call for no more than 3400 feet of runway to meet safety requirements. Pilots who use the current runway say they are able to land comfortably on 2000 feet.

One FAA official, John Silva, Manager of Environmental Programs for the New England Region, when asked by a reporter for this newspaper, said, "The runway is safe for the planes that use it today." He also said the driving force behind the runway extension is the airport commission itself, and that there was no rush for the town to pass an appropriation for the airport expansion this year. "It should be thought of as an '07 project," Silva said.

The airport commission own estimates it will cost an extra \$3,000 a year to plow and mow around an extra 1200 feet of pavement. For a town commission that has operated at a consistent deficit for as long as anyone can remember, this added expense for a lengthened runway is hard to justify, if FAA safety regulations do not, indeed, mandate it.

Reluctantly, the capital improvements committee, finance committee, and select-

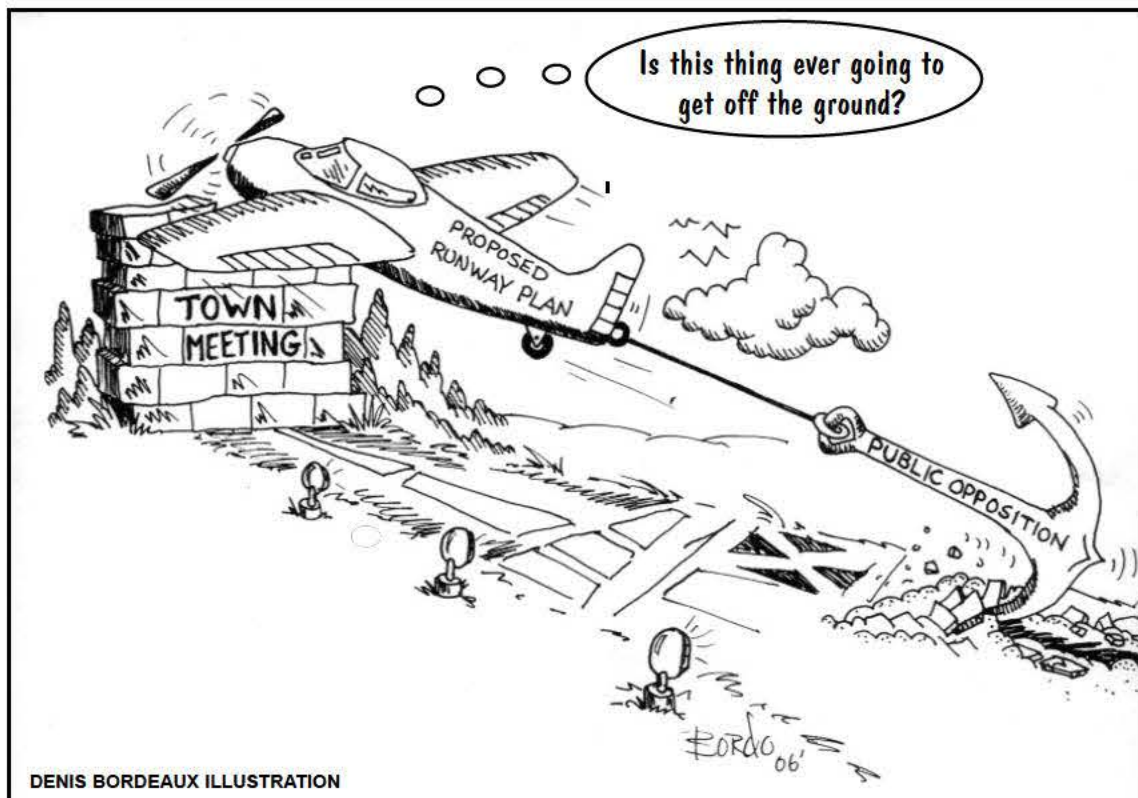
board have endorsed the 4200-foot runway proposal, which is slated to cost the town \$175,000, with the balance of the \$7 million project being paid for by the Massachusetts Aeronautics Administration and the FAA. Several town officials have said in public they feel "put in a box" by the commission's position the FAA will force the town to upgrade safety at the airport, perhaps at a higher cost, if the current proposal is defeated. Neither can the town exercise the option of closing the airport, say the commissioners, because the FAA will not allow them to do so without significant penalties. Or perhaps the FAA will simply not allow them to close the airport at all, now or in the future.

We hear no one calling for the immediate closure of the airport, although the idea of privatizing it in the future has been broached, and we find that an idea worth pursuing. Meantime, we find it hard to believe the FAA would sue Montague to lengthen the runway in excess of their own published standards, to support the recreational pastime of a group of well-to-do flyers who come primarily from surrounding communities.

Montague, as is often said, is not a wealthy town. We take this to mean Montague does not have very many wealthy people living in it, nor does it have any large corporate taxpayer - a Northfield Mountain or a twin nuclear power plant for example - footing the lion's share of its tax base. For this reason, town meeting should jealously guard against any proposal that threatens to needlessly spend the tax dollars of our hard-pressed property owners.

A number of those property owners live in close proximity to the airport on Millers Falls Road. The proposal before town meeting would put the point of take off and landing for air-

see AIRPORT pg 9



DENIS BORDEAUX ILLUSTRATION

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### GMEF Gala a Great Success

The Gill-Montague Education Fund's second annual gala took place at Turners Falls High School on April 29th, and it was a great success.

Not only did the gala, featuring Elisabeth von Trapp and students from the school district, provide a wonderful cultural

opportunity for the people of the area, it provided a great community-building experience. And it raised nearly \$19,000 in much needed funds for enrichment programs for the children in our district.

Thank you, GMEF members for all you did to make this

uplifting event happen. And thank you, Joyce Phillips, for your outstanding effort to make this the success it was. Your hard work and dedication are greatly appreciated.

- Cori Urban  
Millers Falls

### Get Back to the Garden

The release this week of Bruce Geisler's new documentary film recounting the rise and fall of the Renaissance Community may evoke strong feelings, not just from scores of local folks who participated or were touched by that ambitious and unusual social adventure, but as well among anyone who has ever yearned for deeper connection to extended family, tribe, Mother Earth and the transcendence of self. Geisler's film, entitled "Free Spirits" chronicles the evolution of Michael Metelica and the Renaissance Community, will show Saturday and Sunday, May 6th and 7th, at the Academy of Music, at 4:15 and 6:45 p.m.

Like many of my generation, I spent time in the 70s

and early 80s vagabonding around, emulating the hippies' idealistic pilgrimage, looking for a farm, clan, kinship, collective mission -- something more communal and compelling than the traditional American dream. In the wake of Vietnam, Watergate, and Kent State, cynicism was thick and we were filled with longing for a new paradigm.

And though many of the communes proved chaotic and short-lived, with unresolved issues of power, process and personal boundaries, do not discount the deeper longing for tribe and community from which they rose. Indeed, we need only observe where we've been since then and the state of our world today to realize that the hippies were right. Love and peace are the

only things that matter. And our ever-more-surely linked destiny as a species proves this timeless longing to be more than a quaint and curious relic.

The earth is a Garden, and we'd better get back to it.

- Daniel Botkin  
Gill, MA

We welcome your letters.

### The Montague Reporter

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### THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

## A Wellspring of Truth

BY FRAN HEMOND

MONTAGUE CENTER - The Greek philosopher Democritus, living circa 400 B.C., (he introduced the concept of atomic theory back then), tells a fascinating myth that clears up the difficulty in defining truth. Lowell has translated it thus:

"Truth, after all, wears a different face to everybody, and it would be tedious to wait till all

are agreed. She is said to lie at the bottom of a well, for the very reason, perhaps, that whoever looks down in search of her, sees his own image at the bottom and is persuaded, not only that he has seen the goddess, but she is far better-looking than he had imagined."

- from Charles Douglas  
Forty Thousand Quotations



GUEST EDITORIALS

# Quakers Respond to Government Surveillance

We have recently learned that the Department of Defense (DoD) conducted surveillance of an open meeting held at a Quaker meeting-house in Lake Worth, Florida. The meeting was attended by Friends (Quakers) and other like-minded people working to counterbalance military recruitment efforts in high schools in that area. The DoD subsequently declared this group a "credible threat" to national security. Other Friends Meetings have also been secretly observed and likewise declared credible threats.

This raises concerns for those of us at Mount Toby Friends Meeting.

From our beginnings in 17th century England, the religious convictions of Quakers have led us to witness against war as an effective means to resolve conflict. As a group of Quakers wrote to King Charles II in 1660, "We utterly deny all outward wars and strife, and fightings with outward weapons, for any end, or under any pretence whatever; this is our testimony to the whole world." This witness has required searching for and practicing non-violent responses to a variety of social and political realities in different times and places around the world. From this

experience, we know that nonviolence can indeed be a powerful agent for positive change. That those who continue to seek for non-violent solutions are seen as threats to US security is deeply troubling to us.

Like many other groups, early Friends immigrated to the American colonies seeking religious freedom. We still cherish this right, along with the rights to freedom of speech and freedom to assemble peaceably. We believe the reported government spying upon Friends meetings and other religious communities contributes to

the erosion of these rights.

The New England Office of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) has also been secretly monitored, as have some of its staff members in other New England states. Quakers in general, and we at Mount Toby Meeting in particular, agree with a recent AFSC statement, "Nobody needs to spy on us to find out what we are up to; we are more than happy to just tell you." Quakers have always been quite open about their activities. In this spirit, Mount Toby Friends Meeting would like to tell you that quite a few among our

number are energetically involved in presenting young people in our area with alternatives to military recruitment and will continue to do so.

We ask Congress to investigate the practice of government spying on religious communities. Government surveillance of our activities will not curtail our witness for peace. We will continue to try living as faithfully as we can "in the virtue of that life and power that takes away the occasion of all wars."

- Nancy Slator  
Clerk

Mt. Toby Friends Meeting

## Patience Waning on Noise Complaints

BY CHRIS JANKE  
TURNERS FALLS

I like live music. I have played in bands for a long time, some of them loud. I've played at Mama Kin's and the Paradise in Boston, and I am good friends with the tour manager of the Black Rebel Motorcycle Club. I'll just say they're really loud, in case the name doesn't tip you off as to their aesthetic.

The problem with Yesterday's is simply that the bar refuses to treat the area in which it's located as a family neighborhood. Many simple remedies could be put in place to keep the rowdiness inside the establishment instead of on the street. Likewise, some simple soundproofing and attention to problematic areas would keep the loud noise inside. Respectful bars all over the nation encourage and demand that their patrons respect the neighborhood. Yesterday's simply doesn't seem to care. Placed right at the storefront is a corral that's ineffective at keeping the carousing even on their property.

The town is right now spending an extraordinary amount of money (not all from its own budget) to help reposition Turners Falls as a destination for arts and leisure. The bike path, fishing, arts walks, eateries, the Discovery Center, the Shea, the Hallmark Museum of Contemporary

Photography are just some of the elements that the town is hoping to highlight. What's the point of trying to turn Turners' image around? To boost the local economy, to make Avenue A more prosperous, to bring more money into merchants' pockets so they can provide better service and so fewer of them go bankrupt trying to serve their community.

I am right now volunteering on a number of the open committees that are working hard to try to keep Turners going in the right direction, giving many hours to the benefit of the downtown at large. Unfortunately, Yesterday's position in the neighborhood is quite different. Despite that there are four children ages 1-15 in the house that abuts the bar, the volume and rambunctiousness of the bar have only increased in the years it's been called Yesterday's. Millions of dollars have been spent to renovate downtown into something to respect. Yesterday's seems intent on bringing back the days when disrespect was a trademark downtown.

And though a Noise Ordinance has been passed, there has been some difficulty in enforcing it. Chief Zukowski is doing an excellent job, but contradictory criteria - for disturbing the peace violations versus noise regulation violations - have confused the situation a little and inadvertently

delayed action against a bar that is an offender of not only noise regulations but also of common sense standards. The stack of incidents that have required police presence at Yesterday's is quite significant, and are not limited to noise problems.

I work and live on Third Street, and I don't expect bucolic vistas or dead quiet. There's plenty of noise to be expected in Turners, and that's part of the joy of living in a diverse community. The consistent problem is that in the living rooms of the apartments on Third Street, Yesterday's is the soundtrack to our lives: to our dinner conversations, our rented movies, and our dreams.

I'm convinced all my family and neighbors want is a neighborhood bar that respects its neighborhood. Our patience is waning. It's been almost two years since noise complaints at Yesterday's first became an issue. If Yesterday's is unable to understand its neighborhood, and if the town can't find ways to enforce decent community standards, the time, money, and effort being spent on promotion may be wasted. We may find ourselves wondering why the downtown we tried to create never materialized while the one that did made a habit of showing disrespect for the citizens who had worked hard to make a change.

## Why I Love Yesterday's

BY CHRISTOPHER HOLMES  
TURNERS FALLS

Unfortunately, this may be a biased essay. You see, I am a satisfied patron of Yesterday's bar, on 3rd Street. I am not one of those who is woken up at night by the music coming from their direction. It is a welcome call to me on the weekends at 9 p.m. when I can hear the bass thumps from my apartment on 4th Street. Why, do you say? Well, I can give a number of reasons.

Number one, I don't know of any other place in the village of Turners Falls that offers live music on three nights of the week.

Number two, I can drink a 16 ounce Pabst draft for \$1.50 to accompany me when I shake my tailfeather on the dance floor.

And as far as violence goes, I can't recollect the last time I saw someone being physically ejected from there (something that can't be said of the time when that bar went by a different name.)

And how could I forget that on Thursday nights I get to grace the stage myself for karaoke. I still haven't talked to the owner, Linda Morrow, into letting me perform my stand-up comedy there, but I'm convinced she is seriously considering it.

Now, I can understand why there may be families complaining their children are woken up by the noise on the weekend, or the elder-

ly can't sleep, but I do know that school does not fall on weekend mornings, and as far as the elderly go, I can name many of my older friends who enjoy staying up watching old westerns, or those irresistible Golden Girls. Rue McClanahan may be over sixty, but she sure is nifty?

So, I don't know if I'll ever stop going to Yesterdays and enjoying the rock 'n' roll, because, as Pete Townshend said, "I Hope I Die Before I Get Old," or was it, "I Want My MTV?"

No, seriously, I can understand to a degree why there are those opposed to the music, but I hope there are those out there who can see a clearer picture from this essay why there are others that see the music as a blessing.

Christopher Holmes is a resident of 4th Street.

### Memorial Service

There will be a memorial service for Stephen A. Diamond, area writer and activist, on Saturday, May 6th, beginning at 12:30 p.m. The event will take place at the Maezumi Center at the Zen Peacemakers (formerly the Montague Farm), 177 Ripley Road in Montague Center.

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## NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

# Elks Receive Permission to Tap Into Sewer Line

BY PATRICK RENNICK - Water Pollution Control Facility superintendent Tom Bergeron came before the Montague selectboard on May 1st to discuss a request by the Montague Elks for a sewer connection for their planned lodge, banquet hall, and lounge on Millers Falls Road.

"The Elks want to ask for permission to connect to the town sewer before engineering assessments are made," said Trombley. He went on to explain the Elks would have to maintain the 3200 foot plastic pipe and private pump station from the intersection of West Mineral Road up to Winthrop Street.

"The line would be a pressure line," said Bergeron. "It is

impossible to tap into and it will become the sole responsibility of the Elks." The board granted permission for the Elks to tap into the sewer line, on the condition engineering assessments are completed. Montague Elks treasurer Jason Clark, in attendance at the meeting, said, "We hope to make the new Elks Lodge one of the largest and finest facilities in Franklin County."

The \$325,000 bid for reconstruction of Peskeomskut Park was awarded to New England Infrastructure, Inc., the low bidder. The park redesign will begin this season, and will include new loam and reseeding of the park, new walkways, plantings, a new bandshell and a tot lot, paid for with Community Development

Block Grant funds.

Under the advice of town administrator Frank Abbondanzio, Montague has signed an electricity supply contract with the Hampshire Council of Governments.

"Energy was obviously a big factor in this year's budget," said Abbondanzio. "With this program, we will receive a fixed rate. This is a conservative program that will protect us from losing money. We can potentially save 10 percent." A meeting was recently held to outline the potential savings of joining the cooperative electricity supply program. Representatives from the Gill-Montague School District as well as the Turners Falls Fire Department were

among those in attendance.

The program income account was presented by the selectboard. The account balance is now \$93,450.50. Two new projects were recommended including a Community Development Block Grant Match at \$26,392 and the repair of a town hall window at \$5,000. This would leave \$62,058 to tackle various other projects including the skateboard park repair, downtown beautification, and the feasibility study for the new police station and proposed community center.

The selectboard revisited a complaint by Jeanne and Peter Golrick regarding the use of a Class 2 license by D&D Motors in Millers Falls. After inquiry into the matter, D&D Motors

submitted a letter to the board stating that violations may have occurred in the past but were now resolved.

"It is my understanding that the problem has been corrected," said Abbondanzio. "If any activities requiring a Class 3 license were taking place, that is no longer true."

"I received a letter from Mrs. Golrick with photos of dismantled cars," said Pruitt. "But, there were no dates attached. I do appreciate that D&D admitted to having the cars at one point." Bob Hodgkins, D&D's attorney was present at the meeting.

"We may have misunderstood some of the guidelines," he said. "But, we have taken steps to fix those mistakes."

## MCTV Schedule

<b>Channel 17</b>	7:00 p.m. Montague selectboard LIVE
<b>Friday, May 5th</b>	9:30 p.m. Sammy's Video Collages
Eagle All Day From 6:00 AM	10:30 p.m. Seven Times A Man Fall
7:00 p.m. Sammy's Video Collages	
7:30 p.m. Montague Update	
8:30 p.m. It's Dan Seiden's Show	
9:00 p.m. Montague Selectboard	
<b>Saturday, May 6th</b>	<b>Tuesday, May 9th</b>
8:30 a.m. Montague Special Town Meeting LIVE	Eagle All Day from 6:00 a.m.
9:00 a.m. Montague Town Meeting LIVE	7:00 p.m. GMRSD School Committee Meeting LIVE
7:00 p.m. Montague Town Meeting	9:30 p.m. The Truth About Tabasco
	10:30 p.m. GaiaVision
<b>Sunday, May 7th</b>	<b>Wednesday, May 10th</b>
Eagle All Day from 6:00 a.m.	Eagle All Day From 6:00 a.m.
7:00 p.m. GMRSD School Committee 4/25	7:00 p.m. GMRSD School Committee Meeting 5/7
9:00 p.m. Montague Update	9:30 p.m. Montague Update
10:00 p.m. From the Discovery Center	10:30 p.m. From the MCTV Archives
	<b>Thursday, May 11th</b>
<b>Monday, May 8th</b>	Eagle All Day from 6:00 a.m.
Eagle All Day from 6:00 a.m.	7:00 p.m. Montague selectboard Meeting 5/7
	9:30 p.m. GaiaVision

## GILL continued from pg 1

and have a special election every year," Banash replied.

"Clearly, you can't avoid an override by underbudgeting and coming for more year after year."

Selectboard chair Phil Maddem said, "We had a budget over \$2 million last year, and we're back here asking for \$3,500. I think we did pretty well."

Tupper Brown wanted to know how many cruisers the town fuels and maintains, and whether the police chief pays for gas in his personal vehicle.

Hastings said the town fuels

four cruisers and the animal control vehicle, and the gas for his personal car is paid for because he remains on call 24 hours a day.

Brown said, "The town needs to cut back. A lot of people can't afford the taxes. I don't think we ought to have four cruisers in this town. I expect the selectboard to make hard decisions to cut back these [departmental] requests."

Hastings said, "We have 35 road miles in town. If the officers patrol them twice in one eight-hour shift, they cover 70 miles. I don't believe we're wasting gas."

Finance committee member Jim Poulsen asked department heads seeking line item transfers

to recommend cuts in other line items equal to the amount being asked from free cash.

The request for the transfer of funds to the police department passed easily, as did a similar request for the highway department. A motion to change wording in the town bylaws to transfer authority for granting special permits from the planning board to the zoning board of appeals passed unanimously.

Gill will hold a meeting to discuss changes to the zoning bylaws to encourage 'Smart Growth' development in town on May 22nd, at 7 p.m., at the town hall. All are invited.

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

### More Loose Cows

#### Tuesday 4-25

9:40 p.m. Assisted Bernardston police with evaluation on West Mountain Road.

11:21 p.m. Assisted BHA ambulance and Gill EMS with medical call on Oak Street.

#### Wednesday 4-26

2:25 p.m. Report of a larceny from a Main Road business. Under investigation.

5:00 p.m. Court process served to Oak Street resident.

#### Thursday 4-27

4:05 p.m. Report of suspicious activity on West Gill Road. Officer responded, all OK.

6:02 p.m. Arrested [redacted] on a warrant from Greenfield District Court.

#### Friday 4-28

8:30 a.m. Assisted Northfield police on Main Street in Northfield

with arrest of armed robbery suspect.

1:00 p.m. Report of possible illegal trash dumping at French King Highway business.

6:05 p.m. Report of an ATV complaint on West Gill Road. Officer responded and investigated incident.

6:55 p.m. Second complaint of ATVs operating illegally on West Gill Road.

8:20 p.m. Assisted fire department with small fire near Barton Cove.

#### Saturday 4-29

12:15 a.m. Assisted Bernardston police with a disturbance on Eden Trail Road.

1:35 p.m. Assisted Gill fire department with brush fire on Ben Hale Road.

6:25 p.m. Assisted Gill fire department with grass fire and possible vehicle fire on Main Road.

#### Sunday 4-30

1:10 a.m. Assisted Gill fire department and Mount Hermon Security with a person stuck in an elevator on campus.

4:25 p.m. Arrested [redacted] wanted for a default warrant from Hadley District court.

#### Monday 5-01

12:23 a.m. [redacted], summoned for operating after suspension on French King Highway.

10:55 p.m. Report of loose cows in roadway on West Gill Road. Assisted owner capturing same.

#### Tuesday 5-02

12:20 a.m. Investigated suspicious person near Hoe Shop Road.

3:35 p.m. 911 hang up call on Mount Hermon campus, all OK.

4:05 p.m. 911 hang up call on Mount Hermon campus, different location. All OK.

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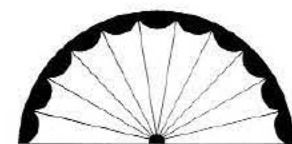
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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD MEETING

# Secret Ballots Proposed for Town Meeting

**BY CYD SCOTT** - Town moderator Richard Peabody stopped by to speak to the Erving selectboard on Monday, May 1st, about the idea of using a paper ballot for warrant articles at town meeting. Peabody stated, "I have people come to me and say they are uncomfortable with standing up in opposition to articles on the floor of the town meetings. They feel they might not get the same service or treatment they might get if they agree with spending increases in police and fire departments or school budgets."

Board member Andy Tessier said, "I have heard that same complaint." Board chair Linda Downs Bembury said, "The fire department will still come to

your house if it's on fire, just as quick, any way you vote."

However, one town employee said, "I can't vote against the police. I have to work with these guys. I don't want to make them mad at me. This town is way too small; everybody can see how you vote."

Tessier said, "What we did in New Hampshire is to give a copy of the questions to each person as they enter; they can vote and leave if they want to."

Peabody said, "Then it makes discussion moot."

Tessier agreed, "That is a problem, as well as the time involved. The paper ballot can take a bit to finish." The matter was tabled for future considera-

tion, but Peabody put the plan into effect for school budget articles on Wednesday on his own initiative.

The Memorial Day parade will be a much smaller affair this year. The Turners Falls High School marching band, that usually livens up the parade, has been called into service in the revived Montague Memorial Day parade.

Tessier said, "What can we do? If there is no band, that's it. I'm sure there will be some mad people, but if they're not here, they're not here."

The board met with Ervingside wastewater treatment plant supervisor Michel Pierce in an effort to encourage more

action to reduce the amount of inflow and infiltration to the town's sewer lines. "Every gallon you keep out is one less gallon you need to treat and pay for," said town administrative coordinator Tom Sharp. Pierce will work with engineers to inspect the lines for seepage and cracks allowing groundwater in, and he will send out a letter to homeowners reminding them of the town bylaw prohibiting hooking up sump pumps to town sewers.

The town has contacted Tighe and Bond for a preliminary quote to change the treatment process at the plant to decrease the use of nitrogen and phosphorous, making the plant more environmentally friendly and reducing the

smell. In other news, the board approved a request from the Montague Elks to tie their proposed lodge in Millers Falls into the Ervingside treatment plant. The police, fire, and highway department have all indicated their approval of a motion to approve adopting the private way formerly known as Laurel Lane, now to be called Ridge Road, as a town road.

Sharp reminded the selectboard they need to conduct annual performance reviews of department heads by June 30th. Finally, the board expressed thanks to Mike and Linda Gralenski for supplying free childcare at annual town meeting.

## ERVING

continued from pg 1

tee's view.

"We met twice with the school committee, and I think we had some great meetings," said Semb. "But, we can only raise the budget so much. I've been on the committee for three years and I am still learning. But, if the school gets everything, where do we start cutting from then? Police? Fire? Highway? We are asking the school committee to cut down to a three percent increase. We are already close to \$2 million over what the state recommends we should be spending [on the schools]."

"Erving does spend a lot of money on education," countered Brown. "And I'm proud of it. In the past year we have experienced a 33 percent increase in the student body. We are also looking at increases in electricity and fuel. This year we also had to stretch resources to handle an unanticipated child who required special care. It's tough folks."

Selectboard member Jeffrey Dubay joined the conversation. "This is my first time on the board and I have a lot to learn," said Dubay. "But, from what I can see, the school committee

cares a lot about the kids. I have a child of my own in the education system. We can appreciate that. But, healthcare costs have gone up tremendously. The effect of this makes the budget increase closer to 8½ to 9 percent, in reality." Speaking of the proposed cutback to the SPED account, Dubay said, "The school committee cut something they would most likely have to come back to us for, and that is not what we were asking them to do."

"My children are 10-12 years out of school now, and I'm retired," responded Brown. "But, it is my obligation, my duty to give these kids the best education they can get. In the past 12 years there have been cuts, and I don't want to see any more made. Our budgets are perilously tight right now."

The back and forth on Article four melded into a discussion on Articles 5 and 6, which proposed a \$933,900 budget for secondary education, (an increase of 18.4 percent over '06), and \$188,473 for Erving's share of the Franklin County Tech School budget, (an increase of two percent). Article 4 passed 52 to 33, Article 5 passed 53-32, and Article 6 passed 57-28.

Brown announced that Union #28 superintendent of schools Linda Driscoll and Erving Elementary School principal Andee Sousa will both be retiring, effective in June. Joan Wickman has been hired to replace the outgoing superintendent, and Charlene Galenski will replace Sousa at the helm of the elementary school.

Article 24 was drastically amended by the voters. The item originally requested \$4200 for the purchase of portable radio equipment for the fire department. Fire Chief Mitchell LaClaire presented the request by informing the town these new radios would allow the fire department to respond efficiently in an emergency. The town decided that the amount should be increased to \$18,000 to include radios for the police and highway departments as well.

Semb voiced concern. "Does it make sense to spend all this money?" he asked. "I appreciate the importance of communication. But, all I ask is that the departments meet with the finance committee and selectboard so we can determine where these radios are going."

The item was called to a vote and passed by a majority. The

money will be drawn from the town's free cash account, which currently shows a balance of almost \$1 million.

Voters accepted the former private way Laurel Lane, now known as Ridge Road, as a town road.



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## CALDICOTT

continued from pg 1

of women in legislative power.

She called civilian nuclear power a cancer industry, and took aim at the recently uprated Vermont Yankee reactor. "They're pushing it to 120%, with more highly enriched uranium in the fuel rods. The reactor will start vibrating, and the metal in the pipes is fatigued; it becomes embrittled from exposure to radiation at extreme heat and pressure. And they want to extend the life of the reactor by another 20 years?"

Caldicott declared, "They are asking for a meltdown. You should just not allow it."

That might seem a tall order for most audiences, but it's all in a day's work for an activist of Helen Caldicott's stature. The fiery Aussie, born in Melbourne in 1938, began her speech by saying, "Things are so grim. I'm 67. I became so scared when I first read a book by Neville Shute called *On the Beach*, set in Melbourne after a nuclear war occurred by accident. As the radiation moved south, the government dispensed cyanide tablets for parents to euthanize their children, until the radioactive cloud eventually reached Melbourne, eliminating all human life on Earth."

After reading that hugely popular fictionalized after-the-bomb account, Caldicott said, "That's when I lost my joy for the future."

Caldicott said, "At age 17, I received a free, first rate medical education," at the University of Adelaide. "That's called a civilized society, where you don't have to pay for education. We still have a free medical system," in Australia.

In college, she studied the causality of ionizing radiation on genetic mutations in fruit flies, and saw how the mutagenic effects were passed from generation to generation. This was during the era of the arms

race between America and Russia, with above ground nuclear testing leading to heightened levels of Strontium-90 in cow's milk (and human breast milk). "Strontium-90 lasts has a radioactive half life of 28 years; it remains harmful in the environment for 600 years. And I thought to myself, 'What's wrong with these people? Were they mentally sick, or just ignorant?'"

She told the story of how President John F. Kennedy's science advisor, Jerome Weisner, later the president of MIT, helped educate the young president to the dangers of nuclear fallout.

In those days, women were standing in front of the White House fence on a regular basis protesting above ground atom tests. One day, looking out on the rain and the women standing there in the rain, Kennedy asked Weisner, "You mean, Jerry, there's radiation in that rain?"

"Yes, Mr. President."

Soon after, Kennedy signed the partial nuclear test ban treaty. Caldicott declared, "That was almost worse, because it drove the testing out of sight and out of mind. Soon the major powers had developed enough hydrogen bombs to 'overkill' everyone in the world many times over. 'Overkill is a Pentagon term," she explained, "meaning you kill them once and stand them up again and kill them again."

Despite the atmospheric test ban treaty, the French continued testing nuclear weapons above ground in Tahiti and the Mururoa atoll, so Caldicott wrote a letter to an Australian newspaper pointing out that children in Australia could be ingesting milk with radiation in it as a result. The newspaper refused to print it, until she marched in to talk with the edi-

tor, who told her condescendingly how many hundreds of letters the newspaper received each day. "Yes, but this one is important," she explained. He printed it, and that evening Caldicott was asked to speak on television. Her career as an advocate for the health of the planet had begun.

ing is like getting a woman a tiny bit pregnant. She said Australia's current PM, John Howard, "won't be satisfied until he opens uranium mines all over the country."

Turning to the topic at hand, Caldicott said, "We are being told, in four page ads in the *New York Times*, 'Nuclear power is

effect on global warming.

Caldicott said the highly carcinogenic wastes are the main product of nuclear power, since they last - and must be isolated - for half a million years. "Electricity is just a fleeting byproduct," she said. She scoffed at the solution of storing high level waste at Yucca Mountain in Nevada, a land form at the intersection of 32 earthquake faults, composed primarily of pumice, a porous mineral. Since only 10 pounds of plutonium are required to create critical mass, she speculated a leak of this isotope - produced in spent fuel at operating reactors in the amount of 500 pounds annually - at any time over the course of hundreds of thousands of years of storage at Yucca would be enough to blow the top of the mountain off, scattering radiation to the winds. She said storage of nuclear waste at Yucca Mountain would require, "1500 to 3000 shipments a year across the country, through all the cities, in casks that haven't been tested yet."

Caldicott said the world's supply of uranium is very limited. She said when the world runs out of oil, "which is soon," no government will be able to continue the energy intensive process of enriching uranium.

"George Bush is scientifically illiterate. He doesn't read. He relies on his aides to feed him information. Dick Cheney formulated your energy policy with Kenny Lay," former CEO of Enron, under indictment for massive fraud, Caldicott declared. "They are investing 13 billion dollars in the revivification of nuclear power, with no money for renewables at all."

She said, "28% of the electricity America uses could be saved by conservation. Turn out the lights at night. Europe uses 50% less energy than America, and has the same standard of living," (though presumably with fewer lights burning all night). She said, "There is enough wind west of the Mississippi to supply all the electricity needs of America," and "Farmers [in some areas] are already making more off wind power than they are off selling food." She said, "Most of your houses could be electrified by solar electricity," from new photovoltaic construction materials. "Every house should be retrofitted to produce solar electricity." She pointed to the huge potential for hydropower and tidal power, cogeneration of

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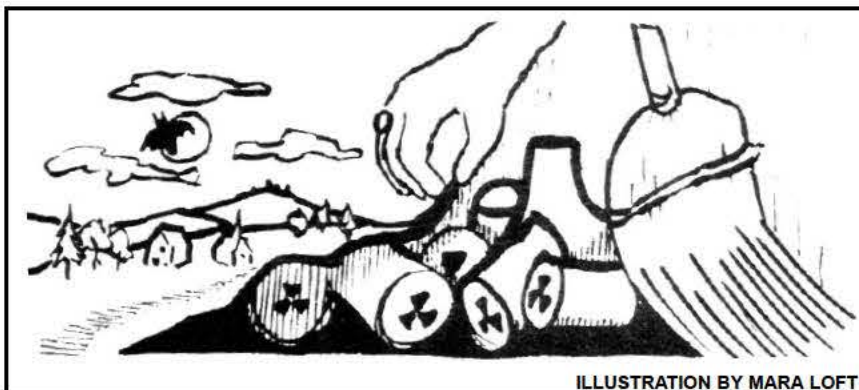


ILLUSTRATION BY MARA LOFT

The Australian government under Gough Whitlam took the French to the International Court of Justice in 1973, and eventually halted the above ground atoll tests. Not content with this victory, Caldicott led a campaign to educate Australian union workers about the dangers of uranium mining.

She said Australia has rich concentrations of uranium deposits, but extracting it poses health risks to the workers who mine it. Caldicott decided to write to the labor unions and request time to speak to the rank and file about the medical effects of radiation and uranium mining. She would show up at a union hall, where a lot of men sat drinking beer, and be granted 10 minutes to address the hall. Five minutes into the speech, she would notice the workers were talking together, and no one was listening. So she would switch to describing the medical effects of radiation on the testicles, and a hushed silence would suddenly fall. "Apparently there are two organs the union workers really care about."

A spontaneous decision by an engine driver to refuse to haul a load of uranium led to a general strike by Australian railroad workers, and front page coverage by Australian newspaper mogul Rupert Murdoch. "He is one of the most evil men in the world today," said Caldicott. "But he championed me on the front page of his paper."

The strike led to a five-year ban on uranium mining in Australia, until Prime Minister Bob Hawke instituted the "Three Mines Policy," to help out the country's balance of payments. She said allowing only a tiny bit of uranium min-

the answer to global warming.' That's an utter fabrication." She made no bones about the need to slash carbon emissions, but said an examination of the nuclear fuel cycle would show nuclear power is not the way to do it.

"We have to reduce Co2 by 70%, now!" Speaking of the planet as a patient, Caldicott continued, "We are in an acute clinical emergency."

Caldicott spoke of the energy-intensive uranium mining industry, and said the United States DOE-owned and -operated uranium enrichment facility at Paducah, Kentucky consumes the electrical output of two 1,000 megawatt coal fired plants to process yellowcake into nuclear fuel. She talked about the global warming gasses associated with uranium enrichment, including uranium hexafluoride, and the ozone eating gas CFC-114, piped in huge quantities into the Paducah plant to keep the uranium hexafluoride cool. Over 800,000 pounds of this ozone eating gas were released into the atmosphere at Paducah and its sister plant in Ohio in 1999, the last year for which figures were available; this despite the fact that CFC-114 has been banned for use globally by the Montreal Protocol and domestically by Clean Air Act amendments. Paducah's emissions of the gas are grandfathered in. She said this gas is 20 times more destructive of the ozone layer than Co2.

She said the construction of nuclear plants consumes huge amounts of energy, and the transportation and storage of nuclear wastes also entail fossil fuel consumption and Co2 emissions. The entire fuel cycle needs to be considered when discussing nuclear power's

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from previous page  
electricity from waste steam, and geothermal heating for buildings. "It's all here. But the DOE is spending nothing on renewables." She said the \$6.5 billion investment required to build a new nuclear plant, with a five year lag before coming on line, could all be better invested in renewable energy, "producing no carbon," and rapidly available.

Caldicott compared the planet to a patient entering a stage of organ failure, as the atmosphere warms. "The ozone layer is like the skin of a complex organism, and it is diminishing." She said Australia, where the ozone layer is particularly thin, has the highest incidence of melanoma in the world, afflicting 1 in 13 people. She said, "As more ultraviolet rays get in, they kill the phytoplankton in the ocean that help prevent global warming." She spoke of plagues of mosquitoes and spreading infestations of malaria, "clouds gathering as the heat rises, polar ice caps melting, raising sea levels by two feet or more." She said, "We can't predict the future. It could be much more serious than we're even saying."

After a brief detour into the male, aggressive mindset, characterized by paranoid power hungry types like Donald Rumsfeld and Dick Cheney, she said more of the world's parliaments and legislatures should be made up of "53% women, it might help change things." Men and women are very different, asserted Caldicott, "but we are complementary, and there is no complementarity in the way the world is run today."

"If we don't look at the psy-

che, we ignore the etiology of what is happening."

She turned to the cancer causing effects of ionizing radiation. "Radiation is cumulative," in its effects on the human organism, she cautioned. She urged her audience to avoid unnecessary x-rays, and plunged into a treatise of how radiation affects healthy cells. After a 5 to 60 year latency period, irradiated cells can suddenly "go berserk and produce millions of cells. A single mutation in a single cell can [eventually] kill you." Though radiation concentrates in the food chain, there will be no little flag on a tumor saying, "This cancer is caused by a fish you ate 20 years ago."

She spoke of the 100 tons of enriched uranium loaded in the typical core of an operating nuclear reactor, and how it produces 200 new, far more dangerous elements as the critical reaction takes place, producing heat and steam and turning the turbine to create electricity. Normal operations release 'noble gases' like argon, krypton, and xenon, high energy gamma emitters that concentrate in the fatty tissues of the abdomen and thighs and irradiate the gonads. Noble gasses also convert to highly mutagenic elements like strontium, cesium, and tritium, Caldicott said.

The potential for catastrophic accident at an operating reactor should be well known after the 1979 meltdown at Three Mile Island, in the heart of Pennsylvania's dairy country, and the explosion at Chernobyl 20 years ago in the Ukraine. "These were relatively new plants. These accidents were

caused by human error. We are fallible."

When the fuel rods were uncovered at these plants, by operator error, they quickly heated up beyond 1600 degrees F and melted through their zirconium cladding. Around Harrisburg, PA, "They haven't a clue" how much radiation was emitted after the partial core melt at TMI, as the stack monitors were disabled, but afterwards "Cows gave birth to two-headed calves, animals and birds died, and humans died of acute radiation sickness." She warned the audience not to eat Hershey's chocolate, because of lingering effects of radiation in the cow's milk there.

At Chernobyl, after the reactor blew up in the early hours of April 21st, 1986, "600,000 soliders were brought in to clean up the radioactive mess. They were literally picking up bits of fuel rods with their bare hands. Many developed symptoms of acute radiation poisoning. Their skin turned brown with a nuclear tan, their legs and arms swelled to the point where they burst, their brains swelled. Five thousand seven hundred of the 'liquidators' died of acute radiation sickness. They're still dying. In the Ukraine, 8,000 people, most of whom were children when the accident occurred, have had their thyroids removed. And the nuclear industry says, 'Well, they're not dead yet,' so they don't count as casualties.

The land and food chain of vast areas of Europe are still contaminated from the radiation from that accident, Caldicott asserted.

After a quick, barefoot run

through the annals of superpower bomb production, and a graphic description of what would happen to the Boston area (every human being within six miles vaporized, people 20 miles out lying in what's left of the streets, burned over every square inch of their bodies, all hospitals destroyed, 500-mile-an-hour winds sucking people out of windows, a huge holocaust within 3000 square miles, where everything spontaneously ignites) if one of the 16,000 nuclear warheads maintained in American and Russian arsenals were ever launched at Beantown. She told the story of how the alcoholic Boris Yeltsin came within 10 seconds of pushing the button due to a mistaken report of an incoming strike, which proved to be a test firing of a missile from Norway. Then she turned to America's present conflict in Iraq.

She said a recent article by the author of the October 2004 study in *Lancet*, a British medical journal, of Iraqi civilian casualties had revised an earlier estimate of 100,000 civilians killed to a new estimate of 300,000. "That's slaughter," said Caldicott. "Paid for by your tax dollars. That's what Hitler did to the Jews. Why? They are building an American embassy in Baghdad the size of 80 football fields, so they can dig up all the oil, so you can all drive your SUVs."

She dispatched the controversy over Iran this way. "They have 164 centrifuges to enrich uranium, a right they have under the non-proliferation treaty they have signed. Russia is helping them build a nuclear reactor. They do have madman in power

over there, which is boosting testosterone levels in Washington." But, she said, no one seems exercised over the "400 H-bombs" Israel has secreted away. "Israel is the third largest nuclear power in the world, but the biggest rogue states with the biggest arsenals of mass destruction remain Russia and America. They are holding life on Earth at ransom."

She talked of how America is already using depleted uranium weapons in Iraq, and how the incidence of childhood cancer and childhood deformities had increased by seven times there. "Have you ever seen a child die of cancer," she asked, "with swollen belly, and sallow skin, bleeding from every orifice, as the parents stand helplessly by? How hard we try to save our children."

She exhorted the crowd, in summation, "If you love the planet, you'll work harder, and express yourselves. America is determining the future of the world. But there are enough people in this room, if you speak the truth, to save the world. And I know you are going to do it."

At the end of the speech, one young girl with cornflower blue eyes and long blond hair sat slumped in her chair, seemingly stunned by what she had just heard. Her parents, flanking her on either side, leaned in protectively. Clearly, they were already working to keep her from losing her joy for the future.



## AIRPORT continued from pg 4

meeting would put the point of take off and landing for airplanes 1200 feet closer to their front doors, significantly increasing the nuisance and noise they are already forced to live with. The concerns of these tax paying citizens weigh heavily in the balance against the ambitions of the airport commissioners, whose enterprise has been a consistent money loser for our town.

In an attempt to bring the bottom line into the black, current airport director Mike Sweeney has battled with the pilots who rent hangar space at the airport to bring their leases in line with the actual cost of

running the airport. It does nothing to advance the merit of the airport expansion, or win the good graces of town meeting, to witness the lawsuits being brought against the town by some of those pilots as a result. If the pilots aren't willing to make the airport pay its own way, why exactly should we be supporting their expensive hobby?

Sweeney has been the first to admit not a single business at the industrial park is dependent on the airport, other than Pioneer Aviation itself. The hope that well-heeled airplane owners flying in and out of the airport will stop to spend money in our town has not been borne out by any studies we have seen.

Whether or not *any* of the \$7 million for the expansion comes from town coffers, or whether the whole sum comes from state or federal grants, these are still *your* tax dollars at stake on Saturday. At a time when the real needs of public schools, public safety, and the basic infrastructure shared by all in town are being stunted, we should guard them carefully and spend them wisely.

The flying clubs and weekend pastimes of average folks who once frequented the airport are being left in the dust as gas prices continue their upward spiral. Mr. Sweeney, a representative of a jet engine manufacturer in his day job, could quote you the sticker price of the new class of light-

weight jets that will make use of his new runway. They don't come cheap.

There are numerous questions still hanging over the airport runway expansion. Rosy forecasts of the number of hangars that will soon be built to accommodate recreational enthusiasts seem to fly in the face of reality in a world of rising demand, diminishing oil reserves and spiking energy prices. Does Montague really want to sacrifice much more land for the airport, if the FAA does not, indeed, require it?

Art Gilmore of Precinct 2 asked why someone from the FAA could not appear in person at a Montague town meeting to answer questions. We'd like to second that motion.

Until then, we urge town meeting to send this overly ambitious plan back to drawing board.



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**FILMS**

continued from pg 1

or be killed. This movie reminded me of the words of the poet Robert Bly, who said the biggest crisis in America today is the lack of father figures in the lives of young men, fathers who will truly help them to be all they can be.

The second movie, a full-length film titled "Operation Dreamland," directed by Ian Olds, takes us to Iraq to the city of Fallujah. The city is a dry and dusty place, a crossroads town on major north-south, east-west highways, with large numbers of unemployed. As the film begins, Fallujah is at the center of the Sunni insurgency and resistance to U.S. forces occupying Iraq.

The film depicts the role of the U.S. Army as maintaining order and suppressing resistance. In "Operation Dreamland," we hear the stories of several soldiers, stories that echo Will's in the earlier film. They are young men trying to find a way in life with very limited options. One worked in a shoe store for several years;

one dropped out of high school and could not find work. One seems to have nothing better to do than join the Army: "I don't want no long term goals f- up my life." Another says, "I'm in it for the experience and to learn things. Trouble is now, some of 'em I wish I never knew."

In this movie, we see U.S. soldiers patrolling the streets in what looks like routine police work. The difference is they are patrolling amid the ever present danger of being shot at or blown up. We see soldiers talking respectfully to Iraqi civilians through an interpreter. The civilians ask, "Why are you here?" The soldiers offer no answer. One Iraqi man tells the soldiers, "Find all these people work and there will be no insurgency." He points to the crowd of young men all around him. "If they have jobs they will be too tired at night to fight. Give us running water, electricity and jobs and stop the looters, all that was promised and has not happened."

In contrast to the scenes of respectful interaction between soldiers and Iraqis we also see scenes of Iraqi men, suspected

insurgents, being taken away on trucks with bags over their heads while their family members weep. We see soldiers bursting into homes and searching families' personal belongings while frightened women and children cower in a corner. Says one U.S. soldier, "At first I tried to help them but they shot at us; now I just hate them." We see evidence of culture clash when U.S. soldiers seize a woman for questioning. The elders of the town are in an uproar over the incident. To them, it is totally inappropriate to question a woman.

The soldiers in this movie offer frank opinions. "How can Fallujah get fixed?" asks one soldier "Will it take years of people like us getting blown up? I want some answers as to what we are doing here."

Another soldier seems troubled by the thought, "If foreign soldiers came and searched my apartment back home, I would shoot at them myself."

And, "The last I checked most terrorists are from Saudi Arabia, but we won't attack them because they have money and influence."

The great thing about this

movie is that it shows a small slice of the real life of soldiers. Some of it seems boring and some seems very frightening, with explosions and gunfire all around. Lately I have noticed previews for movies that seem almost like recruitment vehicles, all about the guts and glory of war. This movie shows the truth, from the troops' perspective. As one soldier says, "The thing is, people don't want to know what goes on in the military. People eat their steak but they don't want to see the slaughter house."

The last short film, "Purple Hearts," by Nina Berman, depicts images and voice-over narrative of wounded Iraq War veterans returned to the United States. There is Spc Jose Martinez, who was handsome, he says, but now has burn scars all over his face and body. Spc Sam Ross lost his leg and eyesight, and now lives alone in a trailer. Tyson Johnson has horrible wounds to his torso. Some administrative snafu prevents him from getting any kind of financial support, and he now sleeps in his car. Robert Acosta suffers from

severe post-traumatic stress disorder. However, he is the only one who seems to be doing anything positive with his time; he regularly goes to high schools to tell his story.

In my discussion with one of the filmmakers, Jen Meagher, I asked her how young people can see the alternatives that exist to military recruitment. She said she is part of an organization in New York City called the Educational Video Center, that teaches documentary filmmaking to young people. She also mentioned City Year, a part of Americorps that gets young people involved in community service, to earn a sense of belonging and respect.

These movies are regularly taken to high schools and screened with a discussion afterwards. Maybe this will get young people to think critically about the military recruiters' pitch.

The documentary films shown in Northampton were sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee. For more information on their availability, call 413-584-8975.



**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG**

**Unlicensed Drivers**

**Friday 4-28**

9:00 a.m. Walk-in to station reported a possible larceny at a 4th Street address. A cell phone is missing. It could be lost or stolen.

3:45 p.m. Report of breaking and entering at a Dry Hill Road address. A house was entered. Under investigation.

**Saturday 4-29**

7:13 p.m. Walk-in to station reported a disturbance at an Avenue A address. Neighbor was yelling in building. Officer sent, found neighbor intoxicated, making a lot of noise. Advised to quiet down.

**Sunday 4-30**

5:44 a.m. After a motor vehi-

cle stop on Avenue A in front of Miskinis, [redacted] was arrested and charged with possession of a class B drug, possession of a hypodermic needle, and speeding.

3:31 p.m. Walk-in to station reported a runaway at a 3rd Street address. A 15-year-old juvenile was arrested and charged with being a runaway.

**Monday 5-1**

7:56 p.m. [redacted] was arrested on a default warrant.

**Tuesday 5-2**

2:04 a.m. After a motor vehi-

cle stop at the corner of 8th & L Streets, [redacted]

[redacted] was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle after license revoked as a habitual traffic offender, possession with intent to distribute a class D drug, excessive noise or smoke from exhaust, marked lanes violation, speeding, failure to signal, and no inspection sticker. Also [redacted]

[redacted] was arrested and charged with possession with intent to distribute a class D drug.

1:07 p.m. After a motor vehicle stop on Old Northfield Road, [redacted]

[redacted] was arrested and charged with unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle and speeding.

10:16 p.m. After a motor vehicle stop in front of Ed's Barber Shop on Avenue A, [redacted] was arrested on a default warrant and also charged with operating after license revoked as a habitual traffic offender and a lights violation.

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG**

**K-9 Tracks Suspect on Old State Road**

**Tuesday 4-25**

5:28 p.m. After a motor vehicle stop, [redacted] was arrested and charged with operating after suspension and a seat belt violation.

8:18 p.m. Officer went to an Old State Road address to try to make contact with [redacted], wanted on two warrants out of Springfield. Upon arrival, subject fled on foot behind residence. Greenfield K-9 called. Officer made contact with another male subject inside residence. [redacted] was arrested on a violation of probation warrant from Pittsfield. [redacted] was located in woods behind residence by Greenfield K-9 and arrested.

**Wednesday 4-26**

1:50 p.m. Be on Lookout issued for a gray or tan vehicle with Vermont registration. Two white males shooting a handgun out of vehicle damaging road signs.

**Friday 4-28**

8:15 a.m. Be on Lookout from South Hadley police. Black male and Hispanic male for armed rob-

bery of a convenience store. Possibly residing in Northfield. Officer assisted at a Main Street address with Be on Lookout suspects [redacted] and [redacted]. Officer assisted with booking and video recording.

**Saturday 4-29**

8:45 a.m. Caller from a Moore Street address complaining their neighbor's dog is using their lawn as a bathroom. Advised neighbor to keep dog off neighbor's lawn.

10:38 a.m. After a motor vehicle stop on Route 2, [redacted] was arrested and charged with operating after revocation (subsequent offence), operating an uninsured motor vehicle, and no license in possession.

**Sunday 4-30**

10:25 a.m. Chief Blair reports a refrigerator dumped in the area of switch yard on Route 63.

**Tuesday 5-2**

3:50 p.m. Report of a one-car accident on State Road. Operator cited for speeding and marked lanes violation.

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# Westfield River Race

BY JOSH HEINEMANN

**WENDELL** - There are two race days on the Westfield River each April; this year on Saturday, April 22nd, the novice race ran eight miles downriver from the Huntington Highway garage through pools and some class II rapids, and on Sunday, April 23rd, the expert and pro races ran five miles and twelve miles through class II and III rapids, starting upstream of Saturday's race.

Unlike the River Rat race, where the obstacles are mostly other canoes after the shotgun start, most respectable canoe races, including Westfield, are time trials. Boats are released at 30 second or one-minute intervals, and timed; results are posted as soon as officials can compile the information. At Westfield, your starting position is decided by when you get there and put

your boat in line, and arriving 15 minutes before the start up meeting, I was about 200 boats back, a three-hour wait. I used the time by driving my truck to the finish line (with dry clothing inside) and riding my bicycle back to the start. On the ride back I stopped often to check out the river; 2006 has been dry and the water level was so low that I wondered if my boat would clear the shallows. The ride back to the start also allowed me to get soaked in rain, which was heavy at times, and to read the temperature (45) on the lumberyard clock. I was smart enough to wear a rain jacket, but not smart enough to bring rain pants, or a wet suit.

The last few years, and the last few weeks fooled me by being so warm I forgot that April is supposed to be cold and wet.

Someone had started a fire near the start, and the rain

stopped after I parked my bike. I was able to stand near the fire and get dry and almost warm before it was time to start moving my boat forward toward the starting place on the river. The guys next to me near the fire were drinking beer, which struck me as not the best winning strategy, but who am I to say? I ate my lunch, drank water, and grew nervous as my start time approached. Directly behind me in line were two kayakers, a father and son, Dennis and Keith, Dennis racing a boat in my short kayak class, Keith in a long racing kayak. Dennis told me they had raced every weekend since March.

Getting my spraydeck clipped in has always been a weak point for me; another weak point is that my legs often fall asleep when I am sitting in my boat. Both of these evils make the two portages on the Westfield race a problem.

After the first portage I clipped in smoothly but when I went to move into the river I was stuck. The boat was held where my stern loop had fallen over a root. Dennis passed me, (already a minute ahead of me) but Keith came along, and answered my call for help. He lifted the boat off the root and into the water, and then got in his boat. When he passed me (two minutes ahead of me) I said I owed him, but I never did pay him back. It was not long before I lost sight of him ahead of me. He finished first in his class.

In the Hill and Dale rapid, which you can find by the number of people watching from shore, water was so low I could see rocks where in other years I have seen only foaming water. I went to skirt the side of one rock, but when I got close I saw it was not just a rock but also a canoe wrapped around the front of the

rock. That meant I had to give it more room, which almost put me into an eddy on the other side, but I slipped by that, and from then on there were no more adventures. I just paddled as hard as I could until the finish line came to me. Rain returned and increased, and my spraydeck leaked just enough to soak my pants again, but I did not notice that until I was done and out of the boat. I passed a few canoes, but most of them were just strolling. They might have been the guys drinking beer by the fire.

There is an ambulance ready at the finish line, and I asked the state trooper watching traffic if they had hot rum inside; he answered he would be there if they did.

I placed third. Dennis placed second in front of me. By Sunday noon I was warm.

## THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

# Tomatoes and Peppers

BY LESLIE BROWN

**MONTAGUE CITY** - The tomatoes started in one-inch trays at the end of March are two-inch seedlings now, with true leaves. In the last two weeks of April they've been moved into three-inch pots. Earlier, they were fed a light solution of seaweed; now they're ready for more serious fertilizer. In the face of all that's organic, we've been using a mild solution of Miracle Grow, although we know that many gardeners do not choose this food. Whether it merits the Good Housekeeping stamp of approval or not, I know that it does work.

Last year I put the pepper plants too near the tomatoes. The tomato feedings leached into the peppers which, as should have been expected, produced huge foliar growth and late fruit production. So, the feeding worked although not as we might have wished for the pepper crop.

Right now the tomatoes are

in our sunroom. However, we plan to put these plants outside to harden up on any day the weatherman allows: days that is, which are mild and relatively balmy without blustery winds. The goal is to harden up the plants without overly challenging them.

In our perennial search for the perfect tomatoes, this year we are growing some familiar varieties and as always, a few new ones. A few standbys remain: Celebrity, a moderately acidic, mid-season tomato of moderate size but also of reliable production and disease resistance; Patio, a convenient container-happy small plant which yields medium sized blemish-free, tasty (if not outstanding) fruits over a good harvest length, and Delicious, a large beefsteak tomato, valued for its size, flavor and meatiness. I go back and forth every year about which cherry tomato to choose; I want strong flavor and large production. However, many



WOODBLOCK BY MARY AZARIAN

cherries are susceptible to cracking and spoiling on the vine if conditions are too damp, so with the vagaries of New England weather, I want a hardy yet tasty variety. Thus I am always sampling and re-testing. This year the choice is Gardener's Delight, a variety guaranteed to produce large volume and acid flavor, but susceptible to cracking if the season is too damp. Still, it's by far my favorite in taste comparisons, so we'll hope for the best.

As every year, we try to beat

our neighbors in producing the earliest fruit. This year we're trying First Lady - nothing political - just an early hybrid that should produce flavorful fruit on disease-resistant plants and show up the neighbors. We'll give you an end of season report. Finally, we are growing Hillbilly, a delicious and pretty heirloom variety that slices up red and yellow as well as sweet and fruity.

I hate weeding. Last year we laid out a lightweight red plastic purported to trigger increased fruit production by reflecting red wave lengths, and thus triggering a plant protein which stimulates fruit growth and development. I can't attest to that, but what I can promise is that laying down plastic meant few if any weeds. That made me a very happy gardener. This year I still have a stash of black plastic squares which allow for insertion of a plant and then direct rain or gardener watering to the plant only. I'm going

to try them if only because they'll cut down on weeding time. If everything goes as planned, our tomatoes will be in the garden over the long Memorial Day weekend.

Our sweet peppers are a little behind our tomatoes, but that's appropriate as they are both less cold hardy and more space finicky. However, like the tomatoes, they are ready for more leg room. We have: California Wonder, a large bell-type which ripens to deep red, Sunstation, which matures as a bright yellow, and my all time favorite, the "Chocolate" pepper which evolves into a dark brownish color and is deliciously sweet when cooked or grilled. Outdoor planting of these colorful wonders is tricky because they need a long growing season yet they are very chill-intolerant. If the Memorial Day weekend is cold, I'll wait a week to put them in.

Good luck, and as always, happy gardening.

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# Great Falls Middle School 3rd Quarter Honor Roll

## Grade 7

### First Honors

Zhanna Bocharnikova  
McKenna Brunell  
Erin Casey  
Sarah Crowell  
Kristy Dunbar  
Sarah Foster  
Nicole Fuller  
Brooke Hastings  
Julie Howard-Thompson  
Taylor Howe  
Jack Hubert  
Kelliann Humphrey  
Katherine Kuklewicz  
Joseph Lafleur  
Katarina Palso  
Daniel Skarzynski  
Andrew Turban  
Taylor Varilly  
Natasha Vaughn  
Savannah Yates

## Grade 7

### Second Honors:

Rachel Arial  
Katherine Burgin  
Jordan Charboneau  
Makayla Dolhenty  
Uriah Forest-Bulley  
Vance Herzig  
Kelsey O'Brien  
Derek Sicard  
Kelsey Waldron

## Grade 7

### Third Honors:

Anna Bocharnikova  
Jordan Bryant  
Rachael Dillenback  
Jacob Eugin  
David Garcia  
Tyler Howe  
Aubryanna Hyson  
Yirka Mercado  
Elysia Ollari  
Ryan Pelis  
Illyna Perkins  
Andrew Podlesny  
Emily Robertson  
Kenneth Rounds  
Comer Scott  
Meghan Smith  
Danielle Tardie  
Cody Wells  
Brittany Yolish

## Grade 8

### First Honors:

Ashley Bailey  
Jill Bernard  
Donna Lee Bettencourt  
Daniel Cruz  
Danielle Dolhenty  
Moriah Fahey  
Matthew Garber  
Ashley Gibson  
Olivia Nicotra  
Carlyn Perry  
Cayla Pollard  
Kathleen Rinaldi  
Dustin Rivard  
Ashley Sears  
Christopher Shattuck  
Alex Westfall

## Grade 8

### Second Honors:

Juliana Aprileo  
Eric Bastarache  
Daniel Bocharnikov  
Emma Butynski  
Megan Grimard  
Chanel Jones-Garrett  
Cassandra Kazar  
Jabes Mercado  
Justin Pacheco  
Sergiu Placinta  
Tam Roberts  
Elena Rushford  
Yaritz Torres  
Sarah Underwood  
Matthew Wozniak

## Grade 8

### Third Honors:

Chelsea Bailey  
Kayla Breor  
Nataliya Buhakova  
Jaryd Buzzell  
Amanda Carlisle  
Joshua Cruz  
Katelyn Flaherty  
Lucas Foley  
Tiffany Henry  
Abeni Hession-Davies  
Tyler Hobbs  
Zakary Korpita  
Joshua Lapachinski  
Jacob Lapean  
Evan Pleasant

# Patriots Fill Some Needs in Draft

BY LEE CARIGNAN

**TURNERS FALLS** - The New England Patriots used the 2006 NFL draft to fill some glaring needs on their roster.

The Patriots have had a tough off-season. After failing to reach the Super Bowl for only the second time in five years, they suffered what were far and away their worst free agency losses since Bill Belichick became head coach more than six years ago. They lost many key players, including wide receiver David Givins, linebacker Willie McGinest, and legendary place kicker Adam Vinatieri. The Pats only managed to retain a few of their starter level free agents with Troy Brown, Artrell Hawkins and Stephen Neal, despite being \$20 million under the salary cap at the beginning of free agency. This left the team with some gaping holes in their roster and left fans scratching their heads.

It's apparent the Patriots are trying to get younger through the draft and by re-signing their younger players to long-term deals. The Patriots hope they succeeded in filling some of the holes in their roster over last weekend's draft.

In the first round the Patriots selected Minnesota running back Laurence Maroney with the 21st pick. This is the first time the Pats have taken a running back in the first round since 1998. Maroney gives the Patriots a game-breaker with great speed and the kind of runner they haven't had in New England since Curtis Martin. Maroney has great vision in the hole and he gives the Patriots insurance behind Corey Dillon. Now, the Patriots have a viable back up for Dillon who can also be the feature back of the future. The addition of Maroney will also help Dillon this season by keeping the 32-year-old veteran fresh. Expect Maroney to get regular carries in the Patriots offense this season. He's a talented player at a position the Patriots needed to upgrade.

In the second round, the Patriots traded up to select Florida wide



receiver Chad Jackson with the 36th pick. Jackson was the second highest rated receiver in the draft. After losing wide receivers David Patton last year and David Givens this year the Patriots were desperate to get a talented receiver in this draft. Jackson has good size at 6'1" and is explosive with 4.3 speed in the 40-yard dash. He had 88 receptions for 900 yards and 9 touchdowns last season for the Gators. He should compete right away for the Patriots second wide receiver spot, behind Deion Branch.

The Patriots surprised many by selecting a couple of tight ends in the third and fourth rounds. But with Daniel Graham in the last year of his contract they decided to invest some high draft picks into the position. They took Dave Thomas of the national champion Texas Longhorns with the 86th pick and Garrett Mills of Tulsa with the 106th. Thomas had 40 receptions for 525 yards with five touchdowns last season, including ten catches for 88 yards in the national championship victory over USC.

Thomas is a very good special team player who will compete for the third tight end position for the Patriots this season. Mills had great production with 87 receptions for 1,235 yards last season. But he is bit undersized at 6'1" 231 lbs., and is projected to be used as a fullback/tight end with the Pats.

The Patriots may have found a long-term replacement for Adam Vinatieri. The Pats took kicker Steven Gostkowski with their second selection in the fourth round out of Memphis. Gostkowski made 22 of 25 field goals last season including 10 of 10 beyond 40

yards. He was a perfect 35 of 35 on extra points. He has scored over 100 points each of the last three seasons. Gostkowski has a very strong leg with 39 touchbacks on kickoffs last season. He will battle it out with veteran kicker Martin Gramatica for a roster spot next season.

The Patriots added some depth to their offensive line with the selections of Dan Stevenson of Notre Dame and Ryan O'Callaghan of California. Stevenson was selected in the sixth round with the 205th pick. He is a 6'5" 297-pound guard. O'Callaghan was taken in the fifth round with the 136th pick. He is a mammoth tackle at 6'7" 344 lbs. Both players will be competing for backup positions on the line this fall.

The Patriots finally selected some defensive players in the later rounds of the draft. They selected defensive lineman Jeremy Mincey of Florida and LeKevin Smith of Nebraska in the sixth round. The 6-1, 307-pound Smith helped the Cornhuskers record a nation-best 50 tackles for losses last season. Mincey will probably be moved to outside linebacker in the Patriots 3-4 defense. In the seventh and final round the Pats took safety Willie Andrews out of Baylor. Andrews will probably make his mark on special teams while adding depth at safety this season.

Overall the Patriots have received high praise for their draft. The Jackson pick in the second round was a steal. This is the first draft during the Belichick era in which the Patriots put their focus on offense. However, it was a little disappointing, with such a strong linebacker crop this year, the Patriots didn't come away with any in the earlier rounds, especially after the loss of Willie McGinest and with the age of their remaining starters. But they did add some much-needed speed to their offense with their first two picks, filled some needs, added some depth, and hopefully improved their roster.

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**FINDING BALANCE: HEALTH TIPS FOR A HAPPY LIFE**

# Finger on the Pulse

BY JENNY CHAPIN

**MONTAGUE CENTER** - Last week's article mentioned that the second pillar for diagnosing patterns of disharmony according to traditional Chinese medicine (the first pillar being the tongue) is the pulse. While observation of the tongue is relatively straightforward, interpreting the pulse is a subtle and complex art that takes extensive training, experience, and sensitivity.

When the nurse at your doctor's office takes your pulse, she's counting the beats per minute. When a practitioner of Chinese medicine takes your pulse, she's looking at a system of "wrist/organ" correspondences that reveal the health of the body organs - heart, lungs, stomach, liver, etc.

Pulse diagnosis is important because it not only gives detailed information on the state of specific organs, but also

reflects the composite of the whole system. However, it is an extremely subjective form of diagnosis - if the tongue is red, we can all see and agree upon its color, but pulse types must be described, and description is always open to interpretation. One can imagine a 'wiry' pulse as feeling like a 'taut guitar string' under the fingertip, but that's just the beginning. Skillful pulse diagnosis requires a tremendous amount of attentiveness, discernment, and practice.

Another reason that pulse-taking can be tricky is that the pulse is subject to external, short-term influences. For example, running up the stairs to get to the appointment would make the pulse rapid, but only because of the unusual burst of speed. Likewise, if someone has been working hard and not sleeping much for several days before the appointment, but is

otherwise reasonably healthy, their pulse may show as weak and deep but it will be restored with a good rest and thus is not an indication of something more serious.

The pulses change with the seasons, reflecting the larger environment. In winter, when our energy is more in hibernation mode and we're focused on keeping warm at the core, the pulses naturally are deeper. In summer, when there's so much outward energy - plants in full growing mode, and hot sun raising the temperatures and bringing sweat from the pores, the pulses naturally are more superficial, even overflowing.

Gender, age, and activity level also factor into pulse differences. Women's pulses are usually softer and quicker than men's; in women, the right pulse is usually stronger than the left, and opposite for men. Athletes often have a slow pulse; young

children have quick pulses; older folks may have deeper pulses - but that, too, depends more on overall health and strength than age.

Along with the quality of speed that the nurse is checking, other categories are depth, width, strength, overall shape and quality, rhythm, and length. There are about 28 basic pulses, which present in combinations, never just one by itself (which further complicates matters!). One also looks for 'spirit', or essential vitality, and 'root', strength at the baseline; these are indicators of how well someone will recover from illness.

Yin and yang pairs of organs are felt in three positions and depths on the wrists. The correspondences are because of connections from the meridians, or energy lines, and their specific organs to the wrist positions. Over the centuries, there have



been varying attributions of organs to wrist positions, but one of the most common is: on the left are the Heart/Small Intestine, Liver/Gall Bladder, and Kidney Yin/Bladder; on the right are Lung/Large Intestine, Spleen/Stomach, and Kidney Yang/Triple Burner (a system of temperature regulation throughout the body).

This explanation of pulse-taking is a very basic introduction to the subject. Since it is such a complex skill to master, it's good that there are other ways of gathering information from the body.

*Jenny Chapin is a certified acupuncturist, bodyworker, and yoga teacher. Suggest a topic or question for her column at [jjchapin@crocker.com](mailto:jjchapin@crocker.com)*

## THE HEALTHY GEEZER

# Hay, What About Allergy Shots?

BY FRED CICETTI

**LEONIA, NJ** - *Q. I've had allergies my whole life and I'm thinking of going in for the shots. What do you think?*

Immunotherapy, also known as allergy shots or vaccinations, can alleviate allergy symptoms. However, shots don't work on all allergies or all people.

Doctors advise against allergy shots if you take a beta blocker for high blood pressure or heart problems. If you're considering immunotherapy, seek the advice of a good allergist.

Allergy shots are a series of scheduled injections meant to desensitize you to specific allergens - the substances that trigger an allergic response. The usual schedule is a shot once or twice a week for about three to six months. After that, you'll

need a shot about once a month for three to five years.

Allergy shots are commonly used to treat allergic rhinitis (hay fever) and asthma. Allergy shots may also control allergic reactions to stinging insects, such as bees, yellow jackets, hornets and wasps. But the shots are not effective for food allergies.

If you have seasonal hay fever, you may be allergic to pollens from trees, grasses or weeds. If you have year-round discomfort, you may be sensitive to indoor allergens such as dust mites, cockroaches, mold or pet dander.

The common symptoms of allergic rhinitis are itchy eyes, nose, or throat; nasal congestion, runny nose, watery eyes, chest congestion or wheezing. If your eyes also become red and



ILLUSTRATION: JESSICA HARMON

swollen, you suffer from allergic conjunctivitis.

Before starting allergy shots, your doctor may use a skin test to confirm that you have allergies and determine which specific allergens cause your signs and symptoms. During the test, a small amount of the suspected allergen is scratched into your

skin and the area is then observed for about 20 minutes. Swelling and redness indicate an allergy to the substance.

The shots won't give you immediate relief. You'll probably see improvement in the first year of treatment. The most noticeable improvement often happens during the second year. By the third year, most people are desensitized to the allergens contained in the shots.

For some people, successful treatment leads to a life without allergy symptoms. For others, shots must continue on a long-term basis to keep allergy symptoms at bay.

An allergic reaction is a complex chain of events that involves many cells, chemicals and tissues throughout the body. While there is no cure for allergic disease, there are many

medications available to lessen symptoms. About 50 million Americans suffer from an allergy.

Major allergic diseases include: allergic rhinitis, allergic conjunctivitis, asthma, atopic dermatitis (eczema), hives (urticaria), and reactions to substances such as food, latex, medications, and insect stings.

We don't know why some substances trigger allergies and others do not. We also don't understand why every person does not react to allergens. A family history of allergies is the single most important factor that predisposes a person to develop allergies.

*If you have a question, please write to [fredcicetti@gmail.com](mailto:fredcicetti@gmail.com)*

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**Help Wanted**

**Montague Parks and Recreation Department Summer Playground Staff Director & Counselors**

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

**Help Wanted**

**Montague Parks & Recreation Department Certified Lifeguard**

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

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**'Valley Idol' at the Shea**

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

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

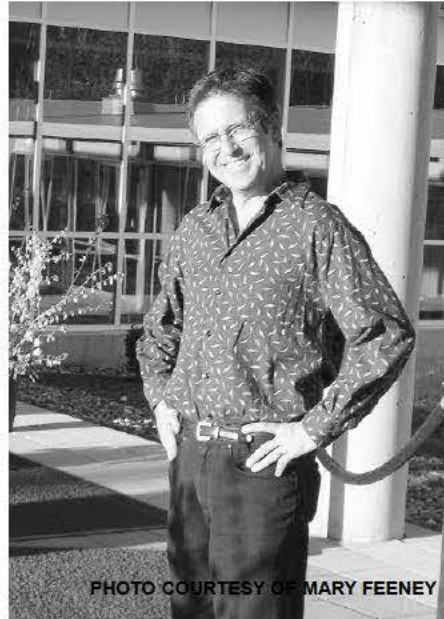
night cut will go to 25 singers. Go to [www.theshea.org](http://www.theshea.org) to download registration and to view contest information, or leave a message at 863-2281.

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

**DiPucchio Featured in Local Film**

**FREE TO FLY TO PREMIER MAY 12TH & 13TH**

NORTHFIELD - Montague Democratic Party chair Jay DiPucchio appears in the locally produced feature length film "Free to Fly," an independent film that premiered Saturday, April 29th. DiPucchio is pictured below on the 'red carpet' in front of the Pioneer Regional High School in Northfield, where the film was 'rolled out' in a sneak preview for cast and crew. (DiPucchio garnered rave reviews for his part as Mr. Richardson, the intense Math teacher, complete with Red Sox baseball cap and wide tie.)



Jay DiPucchio plays an intense math teacher in "Free to Fly."

Advance word from people who have seen the film has been positive. The wife of one of the cast members said, "To think it was that good and made by locals is amazing!"

"Free to Fly" will be shown at the Media Arts Cafe in Northfield, on May 12th and 13th, at 8 p.m., before a run at the Latchis Theater in Brattleboro, and also at the Pothole Pictures in Shelburne Falls. It features a screenplay

by a local writer, Kerry Kazokas, and direction by Northfield's Mike Schena, as it tells the story of Anna, a lost soul in a lost society. A drinking and driving accident leaves the young woman with a slight limp and a big question about who she wants to be. She drops out of college and moves back into her mother's house to

take up a job pumping gas at the local gas station.

All eyes watch with disappointment and pity in Anna's small, rural New England town. Mary, Anna's mother, is a waitress at the local diner, trying to hold her family together. Anna's dad left them and doesn't keep in close contact. Her brother, James, is serving in the Army in a war she doesn't believe in, and her teenaged sister is alienated and rebellious. All in all, an American family not unlike others -- full of

despair, blame and anger.

The many intricate personalities and humorous dialogue of true New England characters weave together in a tale about love, family, art, self-discovery and finding the freedom to fly.

For more information, call the Media Arts Cafe at 413-498-2100.

**TRAPP**

continued from pg 1

Joyce Phillips, Gala producer.

Phillips, a member of the GMEF, began the planning process for this event more than a year ago when vacationing at the Trapp Family Lodge in Stowe, VT. She attended a concert by von Trapp and was "moved by her music and her voice."

Von Trapp, who once played a nun in a Hyde Park, VT, production of the Sound of Music, writes songs that describe her world, her life and her thoughts. She shared several of these at the concert, which included several numbers performed with students from the Gill-Montague Regional School District under the direction of Steve Ciechowski

and Nan Sadoski.

"This certainly was an excellent concert," commented Bob Bissell of Montague City. "The students did a fantastic job."

In a telephone interview before the concert, von Trapp said, "I'm very excited for the outreach that this concert represents and the enrichment that you are working toward having. To me, it's just the beginning of people recognizing that they want a little bit more out of life."

That "little bit more" is made possible for Gill-Montague students through grants awarded by the GMEF. This non-profit, community-based organization makes funds available to enrich athletics, art and academics in the district. The GMEF awarded more than \$20,000 for such

projects in the past year.

GMEF member Rachel Kent noted the hard work Phillips put into making this event possible. "Although the Gala concert was seamless, it was Joyce Phillips who handled the stitching," she said. She added that Phillips' unwavering belief in the potential of this event and the many hours she dedicated to putting the program together could only mean success.

And a success it was. The 2nd Annual Gala raised an estimated \$18,800 to be awarded for enrichment programs in the Gill-Montague school district.

"I am very honored to be a part of this whole project," von Trapp said.



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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

## SATURDAY, MAY 6TH

Wings over the Watershed May Bird Programs at Great Falls Discovery Center, 1-2 pm Grapevines, Trees & Shrubs: What Do These Things Mean to Birds? Come join Center staff to learn how different migratory birds make their nests and the habitat they depend on to nest successfully. This program will include a hands-on activity and is geared towards the child in all of us. Held at Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA. Open to the public, free, and facilities are accessible. Call 43-863-3221 for additional information.

Leverett Crafts & Arts at 13 Montague Road in Leverett, 10 am-5 pm. Resident Artist Joy Friedman and Leverett potter Frank Edge. One day only For more information 548-9070 or [www.leverettcrafts.org](http://www.leverettcrafts.org).

## SUNDAY, MAY 7TH

Josh Ritter CD release party with HEM at Memorial Hall in Shelburne Falls on Saturday, at 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$18 in advance, \$20 at the door. Student tickets are \$10. Tickets are available at The Hempest, Boswell's Books, World Eye Bookshop, and on-line at [www.hilltownfolk.com](http://www.hilltownfolk.com). For more information, call (413) 625-6878.

May Carols singing practice: at 10:00 a.m., front porch of 2 North (Main)

St. This is your chance to learn the melody and words to "Hal-an-Tow", "Country Life" and other May Day songs traditionally sung at the annual May Day Celebration on the town common in Montague Center. Song books will be provided.

Co-op Power Sustainable Energy Summit at Smith College Campus Center in Northampton. Workshops include: Solar Hot Water, Solar Electric Systems, Geothermal, Biodiesel for Home Heating, Biodiesel for your Car, Wind & Small Hydro Power, Grease Cars & Biomass, Farm Wind & Biodiesel Machinery, Municipal Wind & Biodiesel, Recycled Oil Collection, Biomass, Conservation & Efficiency. RSVP (413) 425-6795 or email [info@cooppower.coop](mailto:info@cooppower.coop); [www.cooppower.coop](http://www.cooppower.coop). Walk-ins welcome! \$25 donation, 8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

The Pioneer Valley Symphony & Chorus, Paul Phillips, Music Director and Conductor, and Alexandra Ludwig, Chorus Director, together with Hampshire Choral Society, Allan Taylor, Chorus Director, presents Brahms Requiem. 3:00 p.m., Fine Arts Center, UMass Amherst. Advance tickets are \$18.00 general, \$14.00 senior, \$10.00 student and \$5.00 children, available online at [www.pvso.org](http://www.pvso.org) and at the UMass Fine Arts Center box office, 413-545-2511. Door prices are \$20.00 general, \$17.00 senior, \$10.00 student and \$5.00 children. Info: (413) 773-3664

Spring Pottery Sale- Frank Edge, Joy Friedman, Leverett Potters will present "Get Mugged and Bowled Over!" pottery sale at



Trailer Park appears at the Wendell Full Moon Coffee House on Saturday, May 13th

## SATURDAY, MAY 13TH

The Full Moon Coffee House, Wendell Town Hall. Bring your dancin' shoes for Trailer Park! A high energy, sax driven rock/groove dance band that won't let you down. Trailer Park has performed over 600 shows throughout New England. featuring six members: James Robinson (guitar and vocals), Tom Mahnken (bass and vocals), Greg Lauzon (saxophone and vocals), Rick Page (saxophone and vocals), Joe Fitzpatrick (drums), and Dave Meausky (congas and percussion). Wendell Full Moon shows always support a local beneficiary. Open Mike begins at 7:30 and the feature is on at 8:00. Open Mic sign-up and further information visit [www.wendellfullmoon.org](http://www.wendellfullmoon.org)

Annual Plant Sale 9 to noon, Leverett Town Hall in Leverett Center. All plant purchases and donations will continue to help restore and maintain the historic Moore's Corner Schoolhouse. Composted Horse Manure will be available for sale by Leverett's Stone Pony Farm: High School Polo Team! For more info. or how to donate plants for the sale call Dawn, 367-9562. Held Rain or Shine!

## SUNDAY, MAY 14

Free Admission for Mothers Mother's Day Celebration Families are invited to treat all

## Crabapple Blossom Festival IN TURNERS FALLS

**Friday 5/5** - Cinco de Mayo Children's Festival - 10 a.m. - noon at Peskeomskut Park, includes Bilingual Family Concert with Tom and Laurie - 10 a.m. (Discovery Center if rain).

Turners Falls Bike Path. Begins at trail start at Unity Park. Led by Dave Carr of Basically Bicycles.

**Saturday 5/6** - Grapevines, Trees and Shrubs: What Do These Things Mean for Birds? 1 - 2 p.m. at Discovery Center.

Community Poetry Reading - 4 p.m. at Brick House, with MC Micah.

**Sunday 5/7** - Fun Bike Rides - 1 p.m., 12 mile and 6 mile routes, featuring completed sections of the

On-going - Historical Walking Tour Booklets available at Discovery Center & Carnegie Library. Maps available featuring participants, restaurants, and crabapple tree locations. For information: Carnegie Library, 201 Ave. A, 863-3214.

Mothers and Grandmothers to a free visit at Historic Deerfield. Enjoy special gallery tours of "Embroidered History-Stitched Lives." Parents and kids alike can take part in regularly scheduled "Learn About Gardening" Family Activities from noon-4 p.m. at the Hands-on History Workshop.

## ONGOING

Jay Maisel at Hallmark Museum of Contemporary Photography, 85 Avenue A, Turners Falls. Hours, Thurs.-Sun. 1-5 p.m. Free. (413) 863-0009.

## UNTIL- JUNE 18TH

Botanic Garden of Smith College Church Exhibition Gallery, Lyman Plant House College Lane, Northampton. Garden exhibitions from Aztecs to WWII victory gardens. More information: <http://www.smith.edu/garden/exhibitions/upcoming-exhibitions.html>

## HOT SPOT TEEN CENTER

**MONDAYS** - Drop-in, 3-6 • **TUES & WEDS** - Ongoing Music Project, 3-6 • **THURS** - Drop-in, 3-6, Movie Night, 6-8  
\*Free (except some trips) and open to local teens.  
Some require permission slips.  
Info: Jared at 863-9559.  
Hot Spot Teen Center is in The Brick House  
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DAILY 6:30 9:30 PG 13 DTS sound
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DAILY 6:30 9:00 PG 13
4. THE SENTINEL PG13  
DAILY 6:45 9:15
4. AKEELAH AND THE BEE PG  
MAT SAT, SUN, WED 12:15 3:15
5. SCARY MOVIE 4 PG13  
DAILY 6:45 9:15
6. HOOT PG DTS sound  
DAILY 7:00 9:30
7. THANK YOU FOR SMOKING  
SAT, SUN, WED 12:00 3:00
7. THANK YOU FOR SMOKING  
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## VILLAGE SKETCHBOOK

## From Millers Falls to Fenway, 1912

**BY DAVID BRULE** - The sun filters through half-drawn shades in the quiet den in the house on Pleasant Street. An old man sits primly in the wooden rocker. The left arm that fired the most feared fastball in this part of the state now rests quietly on the arm of the chair, raised once in a while to make a point as he tells his stories. His two feet in old fashioned lace-up shoes, side by side, rarely moving. There's a lingering smell of cigar smoke in the air.

The desk and shelves are lined with mementos: various baseballs, a glove, team pictures of rock-jawed men in small baseball caps, family pictures, pictures of dogs long gone. The old man travels back in time to the turn of the century when he and the game of baseball were young. The other man in the room is one of the local reporters (was it Neil Perry, or Hugh Campbell...) who, from time to time, make the trip to Erving side to chat with a local baseball legend.

The old man in the rocker is Douglas Smith, born in our homestead down here on the Flat in 1893, when this was still a working farm along the Millers River. Doug was born and raised in this house, along with four brothers (one of whom was my grandfather Abe), his father Judah, and his mother Elizabeth recently emigrated from Aberdeen, Scotland.

Doug discovered early on that he loved baseball and that no one could hit his fastball. He went from playing ball in the pasture and neighborhood ballfield to town teams, unbeatable with his brothers making up most of the infield. Abe was his catcher, Clint was his third baseman, Butch played second, and Billy was the manager. By the time he

reached Turners Falls High School, he was striking out upwards of twenty batters a game, and rival high schools were trying to lure him to switch schools and pitch for them.

It's told in the family that his mother Elizabeth, a stern Calvinist, would allow no breaking of the Sabbath, keeping all family members sitting quietly in the kitchen on a Sunday with nothing but the ticking of the clock to break the silence of a hot summer day. However, she did make one exception: from out behind the barn you could hear a regular whoosh! and thwack! as Doug pitched hard to his younger brother Abe, that ball burning into the catcher's mitt and resounding as far as the silent Protestant kitchen.

Then at 18 years of age, he found himself on the pitcher's mound in the brand new Fenway Park, having been scouted and hired by the Boston Red Sox, who were into a pennant-winning season, with the World Series in sight. The trouble was that this day, the streaking Sox were being pushed around by the lowly St. Louis Browns, a second division team barely holding onto 7th place.

Doug's teammates included the likes of Hall of Famer Tris Speaker, Duffy Lewis, and Harry Hooper. The Sox manager was Jake Stahl, and he



PHOTO COURTESY OF DAVID BRULE

In this classic photo, Doug Smith, circa 1920, leaves the mound after a game in Millers Falls.

called this young Millers Falls boy Douglas Weldon Smith off the bench, fresh from TFHS with a two hundred dollar contract.

Over the next three innings, Doug stopped the Browns' romp and only gave up four hits, one run with one strike-out. "The Boston Herald sportswriter R.E. McMillan described Smith's performance this way: 'Young Smith did very commendable work, while he was on the hilltop. He had fine speed, a sharp breaking curve, and good control. After a year or two of seasoning, he should be heard from.'" (Hugh Campbell, Franklin Ledger, October, 1987).

Doug seemed to be on the right track, but Boston had a hefty pitching rotation that year: "Smokey" Joe Wood (34-5), Bediant (20-10), and Collins (14-8). Doug sat the bench and was farmed out to the Minors at the end of the

season. The Sox went on to win the pennant and four World Series by 1918.

Doug Smith's Major League career was destined to last only three innings.

In the Minors, he played in various lineups along the Eastern seaboard, winding up with the Syracuse Stars in 1916, when he faced the Red Sox in an exhibition game. The Sox manager had a choice: to send George Herman (Babe) Ruth out to the mound to duel with Doug Smith, or to send in Ernie Shore. He decided on Shore, luckily enough, because the Stars took the Sox 5-2, jumping all over Shore, while Doug held the mighty Sox to six hits. Again, when Doug was called on to pitch for the Stars against the Chicago Cubs and another Hall of Famer, Mordacai (Three-Finger) Brown, the game was called on account of rain, with Doug ahead.

During World War I, Doug was drafted and stationed at Camp Upton in New York, where he played ball for the Army team until war's end. He played on through 1922 with various Minor League and semi-pro teams. These were the rough and tumble days. He used to regale us with stories over Sunday dinner. Those were still the days of bare-knuckle baseball when he pitched with a plug of Slippery Elm chewing tobacco in his back pocket (for throwing the occasional spitball: he used to laugh in telling how the catcher or the ump would have to wipe off after he laid one of those over the plate).

He claimed most of the players kept a pint of whiskey in the dug-out, and how many's the time they had to fight their way out of Brattleboro or Keene ballparks with their fists, when from time to time

they rolled up the score on the local team, showing no mercy. Other memorable games were at the Park Villa Driving Park when Doug finished a game on Saturday night in upstate New York, and caught a train down to Turners Falls for a game there at 3 p.m. on Sunday! (\$75 a game was too good to pass up in those days.)

When his pro-ball days were over, Doug went to work for the Millers Falls Tool Company, where he worked for 40 years. He continued playing baseball locally, but an appendicitis operation slowed down his fastball. One of his last comeback games was against the Colored All-Stars that came to town in 1924. He pitched six innings, but couldn't get out of bed afterwards for days.

As fate would have it, one day in September 1973, the year he turned 80, it came time for him to leave his meticulous home on Pleasant Street. I was the only one in the family unemployed at the time, so it was up to me and my aunt Pete to drive him to the nursing home. As we wheeled him up the walk to the home, a number of the residents were out on the veranda taking the sun. Wouldn't you know, one of the old timers recognized him and called out, "Well, Doug Smith! What are you doing here?" Automatically, Doug's fingers went up to touch the visor of his cap, his face brightened in the old winning smile, much as the day he walked off the Field of Dreams for the last time.

Within three weeks he was gone, like a wisp of smoke. But these April days, when baseball fever takes over after the long winter months, there are stirrings out in the pasture and behind the barn, and you know what they are, if you listen carefully.

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