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

Year 3
No. 29
50¢

The Montague Reporter

REPORTER@MONTAGUEMA.NET

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MAY 5, 2005

Gill Declines to Call Home the Guard

BY PHILIPPE DEGUISE

A resolution calling for the immediate return of all Massachusetts National Guard units stationed in Iraq was defeated by town meeting in Gill Monday night, May 2nd. Included in a list of seven non-budgetary articles up for consideration, the resolution did not pass muster, failing on a 39 to 24 vote. In a small way, the vote highlighted the divisiveness the war has created among average Americans.

"We are Monday morning quarterbacking. Hussein was a vicious man. He was just like Hitler and Hirohito," said navy veteran Paul Seamens. "This is not a sensible proposal," he added.

Diane Miller, whose son currently serves in the Army and is soon debarking for Afghanistan, said her son told her the Guard was needed to help do the job in Iraq. "Have we

received any letters from National Guardsmen wanting to come home?" she asked. "Until we hear from those who don't want to be there, we don't have a right to make them break their contract," she said.

The resolution explicitly stated it was not against the men and women serving in combat. It stated that since there was no direct threat to the nation itself from Iraq, the calling up of the Guard to active duty was improper according to its mandate, that the Guard's purpose was to help out in national emergencies and not serve for indeterminate periods overseas, and that the loss of life and trauma as a consequence of serving in the war had been great. The resolution also called on the return of state control over the National Guard and for the legislature and governor to take immediate

see GILL pg 11

ARTS - AND - BLOOMS

Festival Creates a Splash Despite the Rain



BY PHILIPPE DEGUISE

TURNERS FALLS - Rainy skies failed to dampen the spirits of those attending the first annual Arts and Blooms festival last weekend in Turners

Falls. While cool temperatures chilled the air, the atmosphere was permeated with the creative energy of craftspeople, poets, artists and musicians who worked their magic before eager audiences. Local businesses served up a fine fare of heart-warming delicacies to satisfy those wandering the balloon and flower festooned blocks of the old mill village. It was a weekend to satisfy all the senses.

Part of the festival was given over to an arts and crafts fair on the lawn of the Great Falls Discovery Center, with two dozen vendors set up bravely under white tents beneath lowering skies on Saturday. The Great Falls

Art Fest event was organized as a fundraiser for the Artists in Residence program, a project of the Brick House aiming to bring together local artists and community members, young and old. According to Karen Stinchfield, Brick House outreach coordinator and one of the event organizers, the Brick House will dedicate the money raised at the festival toward a variety of classes taught by local artists. These might include a weekend of clowning for families, watercolor or oil painting for seniors, afterschool programs for youth and intensive one or two day classes for various audiences. According to Stinchfield, the



PHOTO BY PHILIPPE DEGUISE

Rainy skies failed to dampen the spirits of exhibitors and their guests at Saturday's arts and crafts festival.

Brick House will use supplemental grant funding to initiate the pilot program, along with the money raised during the festival.

Stinchfield said the Brick House serves as a conduit for social services, but is currently shifting towards community development as a more sustainable approach to meeting local needs. Towards that end, she believes the arts can play a vital role. "Give a person a fish and

see ARTS pg 14

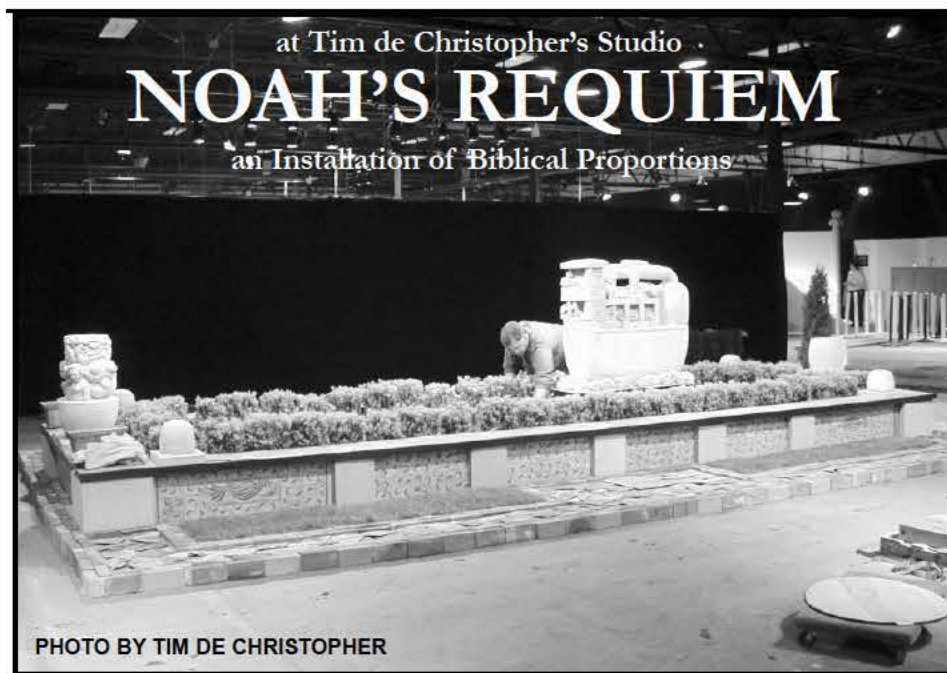


PHOTO BY TIM DE CHRISTOPHER

Eugene de Christopher sets up the Boxwood Fountain Mix of Noah's Requiem at the Boston Flower Show in March. Noah now resides in Turners Falls.

BY DAVID DETMOLD
TURNERS FALLS - Among the many works of art on view to the public during last weekend's Arts and Blooms tour, perhaps the most impressive and without doubt the largest was *Noah's*

Requiem, a 15 by 25 foot installation filling an entire bay of the former Chick's Garage on Third Street - part of stonecarver Tim de Christopher's expanding studio complex - with three major limestone sculptures,

fountains, and a bluestone and flagstone perimeter wall. *Noah's Requiem*, subtitled *A Fountain of Tears*, was commissioned for the New England Spring Flower Show at the Bayside Expo Center

see REQUIEM pg 15

Montague Authorizes Cable Access Proposals

BY PHILIPPE DEGUISE

Ever since the select board voted to name Greenfield Community Television (GCTV) as the town's local cable access provider three years ago, questions have lingered about the process used to make that decision. After months of hard work by the Cable Advisory Committee (CAC), and weeks spent awaiting town counsel's opinions, the selectboard voted to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) at Monday's meeting, May 2nd. Both GCTV and the town's former cable access provider, Montague Community Cable, Inc. (MCTV), will be invited to submit proposals, according to board

chair Pat Allen, along with "any other groups that might be out there." The proposals will be weighed against a set of criteria developed by the CAC at the request of the board in July of 2004.

"The problem we have is that the business was not done right to begin with," said Patricia Pruitt, selectboard member. "We have been trying as a board to do things better than they have been done in the recent past," she added, referring to the process of decision making three years ago. At that time, although a majority of town meeting members had requested that MCTV, then the town's local cable access provider, be granted a two

year extension of the cable access assignment, the selectboard voted by a 2-1 margin to award the assignment to GCTV instead.

Although the current selectboard had asked counsel to respond to questions about the legal standing of articles voted on by town meeting on this issue back in 2001, the response was not definitive. Nor was it entirely clear whether a legally binding contract between the town and GCTV had existed, or if it did, whether it still exists. This led to a great deal of discussion, though Pat Allen said she preferred to move on rather than return to town counsel for

see CABLE pg 3

PET OF THE WEEK

Mr. Personality



Onnie

Onnie is a four-year-old black and white cat in need of a good home. He's a spiffy looking gent, with a tuxedo and milk mustache and his fur is satiny soft. He's also got fabulous dark brown - gold eyes. He has a terrific personality, independent, playful and friendly.

To learn more about adopting Onnie, please contact the Dakin Animal Shelter in Leverett at 548-9898 or via email at info@dakinshelter.org.

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Carnegie Library News

Peskeompskut Park Concert

There will be a Family Concert with Donna Lee and Clark Honeywell in Peskeompskut Park in Turners Falls on Saturday, May 7th, from 1 - 2 p.m. In case of rain, the program will be held inside the Carnegie Library. The event is part of the Crabapple Blossom Festival and is sponsored by the Gill - Montague Council of the Family Network. For more information: 863-3214.



LINDA HICKMAN PHOTO

Some of the Frog Fun program participants show off the frog masks they made at the Carnegie Library on Saturday, April 30th. Over 30 people attended the program, which was sponsored by the Community Partnerships for Children.

I Stuck in a Plum...



LINDA HICKMAN PHOTO

Korey Martineau of Turners Falls and Esther Daube-Valois of Greenfield and other preschool story hour participants helped plant a flowering plum tree at the Carnegie Library in honor of Arbor Day. Bev Whitbeck, who runs the program, held the tree.

During a two-week period in April a total of 1,568 people visited the MontaguePublic Libraries.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES May 9th - May 13th

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

Monday, 9th
9 a.m. Foot Screening
9:45 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11 a.m. PACE Aerobics

Tuesday, 10th
9:30 a.m. Tai Chi
10 a.m. Writing Class at St. Anne's

Wednesday, 11th
9 a.m. Foot Screening
10:15 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11:15 a.m. Mealsite Meeting
12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday, 12th
1 p.m. Pitch

Friday, 13th
9:45 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 a.m. Transportation can be provided for meals, Thursday shopping, or medical necessity by calling Dana Moore at (978) 544-3898.

Monday, 9th
9:30 a.m. Exercise
9:45 a.m. Library
12:30 p.m. Pitch

Tuesday, 10th
9 a.m. Aerobics

9:30 a.m. COA Meeting
12:30 p.m. Oil Painting

Wednesday, 11th
10 a.m. Line Dancing
12 Noon Bingo

Thursday, 12th
9 a.m. Aerobics

LOBSTER BAKE DAY TRIP
On June 24th, the Erving Senior Center hosts a day trip to Capt'n Jack's Restaurant for the best Lobster Bake in New England. Included is clam chowder, clam cakes, shrimp cocktail or steamers, 1-1/4 lb. boiled lobster or prime rib, corn on the cob, dessert and beverage. Then it's off to Foxwoods Casino for three hours of trying lady luck. Trip leaves Erving Senior Center at 7 a.m. and Athol at 7:30 a.m. The cost is \$51. Trips are open to anyone. Call the center at 423-3308 for more information or reservations.

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



PARZYCH PHOTO

Penny Bernier and Nancy Koch have not vanished from the face of the Earth; they are alive and well, happily greeting old friends at the Four Leaf Clover Restaurant in Bernardston.

The First Congregational Church of Montague Sunday school will be having a plant, bake and tag sale on Saturday, May 7th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. rain or shine. Proceeds will benefit the Heifer Project.

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NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

School Budget Discussion to be Delayed Until June

BY DAVID DETMOLD

In the run-up to Saturday's annual town meeting, superintendent of schools Sue Gee asked the selectboard to consider delaying discussion of Montague's share of the Gill-Montague Regional School District (GMRSD) budget until a later date, to allow firmer figures on state aid to emerge from the legislature. The board agreed to move the school budget article to the end of the May 7th warrant, with the intention of recessing the meeting to a date specific in June, to be determined.

Also likely to be put over is the discussion of how to allocate costs for combined sewer overflow remediation and sewer treatment plant upgrades expected to cost \$5.7 million. Whether the sewer users should pay the entire cost of these repairs and improvements, or whether some portion of the cost should be shifted to taxation is likely to require lengthy discussion.

At the May 2nd meeting, Clark Edwards said if the town shifts costs for sewer upgrades to the tax levy, then "you have less reason not to extend the sewers." Many homes not presently on sewer lines are in rural areas. Edwards said it would cost approximately \$100 per foot to run new lines. Lynn

Reynolds said it cost septic tank owners approximately \$15,000 to \$20,000 every 20 years to replace septic systems, plus septage pumping and hauling, costs sewer users do not face.

Other items that may find their way to a later town meeting date in June are the RFP for the Turnpike Road landfill, and, possibly, the town's plans for redeveloping the Strathmore Mill.

In other business, the selectboard signed a letter to MassHighway "expressing its desire to expedite the final design and construction of the Greenfield Road Project." This includes, but is not limited to the replacement of the bridge over the B&M Railroad, a widening of Greenfield Road where it meets Randall Road and the addition of a bikeway south of the bridge. "We're moving, and they want to move," said board chair Pat Allen, optimistically. Allen resides on Greenfield Road, which has been cut in half by the collapse of the B&M Railroad overpass on April 1st, 1999. At the time, MassHighway spokesperson Jon Carlisle, acknowledging that the main artery between Montague Center and Montague City carried 1900 vehicles per day, said, "We certainly don't want it to be closed for a year."

Robin Sherman announced that the Strathmore Redevelopment Feasibility Study Committee would be meeting on Thursday, May 5th at 4 p.m. at the Great Falls Discovery Center. In addition, there will be a public forum on that project on Wednesday, May 25th at 7 p.m., at the Turners Falls High School.

Ericka Almeida was appointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals as an alternate member until June 30th, 2005.

Allen provided an overview of the quarterly meeting of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments. There was some conversation about the financial contributions made by the town towards that entity as well as the rewards. According to Abbondanzio, one benefit of membership in the COG was the training and workshops it has offered in town management issues. It was also pointed out that the COG helps small towns in the western part of the state by lobbying Boston on their behalf. Allen admitted the benefits and costs were difficult to quantify, but felt the former far outweighed the latter.

The board congratulated member Patricia Pruitt on the birth of her fourth grandchild, Aisha Yasmin, who arrived early Monday morning at 5 lbs., 15 oz.

POSTCARDS FROM THE PAST

Green Pond



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MONTAGUE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Actually, Green Pond is in the village of Lake Pleasant. This was a popular recreation spot when I was in high school in the 1930s. Most young people rode their bikes from the surrounding villages and spent the afternoon swimming and sunning. The cost of renting a changing room was ten cents. A short distance away was the Polish picnic grounds where clambakes, music and many other activities took place. Green Pond is now owned by the town Water Department and swimming is no longer allowed.

-Lillian Fiske

CABLE

continued from pg 1

further guidance.

"There are a lot of legal questions that can potentially lead to litigation," said board member Al Ross, who voted against issuing the RFP. "It is my responsibility to be aware of these," he added. Ross stated his concern that the discussion was taking place without GCTV representatives present in the room, although they had made a large showing on April 11th, when the issue was last discussed. Ross favored facilitating dialogue between the parties involved. He said he had asked that any concerns about GCTV's handling of the local cable access station be put in writing and addressed directly to that organization for a response.

Ross said he felt the discussion was not focused on the key issue. "I just don't think we're doing everything we can to create great television," he said. "I haven't heard any discussion about producing great television." Ross added he did not feel it was GCTV's responsibility to find producers in Montague. However, Pruitt responded that the onus was indeed on GCTV to do that since it currently was Montague's designated local cable access provider.

"There are a lot of talented people in Montague. There's a lot of great ideas in Montague. Why should talented people in Montague do all the work while Greenfield gets all the funding?" asked Jean Hebden. Hebden was referring to the annual budget for the local cable access station of between \$70,000 and \$90,000 annually, paid for by Montague cable subscribers. Added Michael

Mueller, chair of the board of MCCI and a video producer, "If you have a group of local people who have been fighting with no funding for nearly four years to have a chance to have their say, why would the town shy away?" Mueller referred to the video of the town's 250th anniversary parade, narrated by the parade committee, and the video of the town's Reconciliation Day ceremony with the Narragansetts as examples of MCTV productions.

"All you've heard in the last 20 minutes is a repeated story. It's not going to go away," said John Reynolds, chair of the CAC. "Let's not reinvent the wheel. Fix the RFP process and go through with it. Let's not waste any more time." After further discussion it was decided to avoid putting the issue directly to town meeting. "I don't see any reason to make anyone go through more emotional turmoil," said Allen. "My inclination would be to go to an RFP," she added. Pruitt then put a motion before the selectboard "to undertake an RFP to select a cable access provider for three years." Pruitt and Allen voted in favor of the motion.

Gill-Montague Teacher Contract Signed

On November 6th, 2004, a number of people from the Gill-Montague Regional School District administration, teachers, and selectpersons from Montague and Gill, along with residents who volunteered to serve as advisors to the negotiating teams, met at the Turners Falls High School for a day of training in Interest-Based Bargaining. This was the beginning of months of work that brought about a new three-year contractual agreement. The negotiating team addressed many goals to bring about an agreement designed to build a strong district that will provide

the best possible education to all of our children.

After more than four years of budget and staff cuts, this is a step forward in not only attracting but also retaining highly qualified staff for our district. The revised contract establishes a 3% cost of living raise for each of the three years; consolidates the salary scale to a total of twelve steps, reduced from sixteen, over a three year period; clarifies evaluation and lay-off language; updates language; moves nurses with a bachelor's degree or better to their degree appropriate placement on the scale; establishes a mentoring

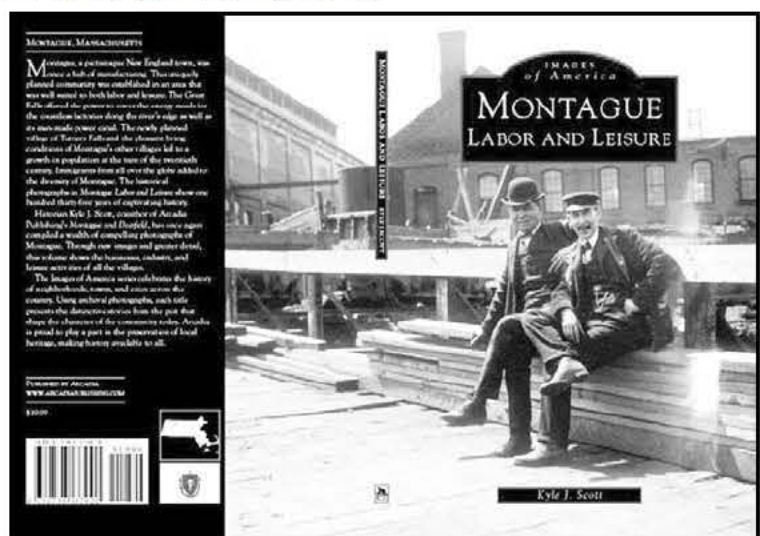
program for the district as required by the Department of Education, and a labor-management team to continue work on a variety of goals. In addition, after three contracts with no change, Schedule B positions (coaches, advisors, team and department chairs, etc.) will see an adjustment based on the requirements of these positions.

The GMRSD and the GMEA see this as progress in rebuilding our district and educational programs.

- A joint statement of the GMRSD and the Gill-Montague Education Association

CORRECTION

Due to a layout error in last week's paper, we failed to give credit for the photos of Montague industrialists John Keith and Alvah Crocker, supplied courtesy of local historian Kyle Scott. Scott is preparing a new book of photos of Montague history, titled *Montague: Labor and Leisure*, to appear in bookstores this summer, which will be an invaluable addition to the library of anyone interested in the history of our town. We apologize for the error.



Carriers Needed!

Three different paper routes are available for after school hours on Thursdays on the Hill section of Turners Falls. Contact the *Montague Reporter* at 863-8666 for more details.

The Montague Reporter

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"The Voice of the Villages"

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August, 2002

Beauty Amid the Bricks

The flowering crabs are coming into bloom on the Avenue; the Japanese cherries are brightening the park with clouds of pink, and the dogwoods lend a lovely backdrop to the graceful Spinner Statue holding up her distaff on the corner of 4th Street. The Avenue never looks as bright, the prospect never as cheerful as these few weeks in May. To celebrate, the children's librarian from the Carnegie Library, employees from Town Hall and residents and shopkeepers of the blocks between are throwing a weeklong party in recognition of the welcome breath of fragrance and beauty the blooming trees provide. The 2nd Annual Crabapple Blossom Festival, featuring spring plantings, a historical tour of the Avenue, a tree walk and a family concert in Peskeomskut Park on Saturday, May 7th, at 1 p.m. recognizes the beauty these trees offer us, amid the bricks and mortar of downtown.

As the farmers market stalls went up for another season on the corner of 6th Street, across the street the whine of chain saws spelled the end of the maples that graced the empty lot across from the post office, making way for the first new construction on the Avenue in

many a long year. Though we are hopeful the new storefronts and apartments planned there will contribute to the quickening economic pace downtown, still we are sad to see these old friends cut down. They were especially beautiful in autumn, when their leaves seemed unusually brilliant against the drab brick backdrops of surrounding buildings. Trees are necessary components of every urban streetscape, and we never note that more than when they are removed before their time.

Too many trees, young and old have died or been cut down along the Avenue and its side streets in the past few years, and very few have been replaced. Budget concerns trump the need of residents to enjoy their shade and beauty, of the birds to enjoy their berries and nesting arms, and of the dusty old town to breathe the fresh air and fragrance they bring to us each spring. Thank goodness for the newly formed Greening Montague committee, and the attention of town officials who may now encourage plantings. The best way to celebrate trees is to make sure new healthy saplings are planted to replace the old friends we have lost.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Committee's Position Not Unanimous

The letter published in last week's *Montague Reporter* (VIII #28, *What is Happening in Gill?*), from the Gill finance committee does not represent the view of the entire committee. My understanding is that there was only a misunderstanding over the wording of the warrant article in question. The tone of the published letter implies a disagreement between the selectboard and the finance

committee that I believe does not exist.

- Paul H. Nowill
Member,
Gill Finance Committee

Editor's note: When we published the letter in question as an open letter from the Gill finance committee, we did so on the instruction of the chair of that committee, Sandy Brown, fol-

lowing the committee's meeting of Tuesday, April 26th, at which the letter was discussed, and, she said, unanimously approved. We did call Mr. Nowill, the former chair of that committee, on the 26th to verify that the letter met with the entire committee's approval. We did not receive a reply from Mr. Nowill until May 4th. We regret any misrepresentation of the committee's position that we may have fostered.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Disorderly Conduct

Thursday 4-28

10:11 a.m. Report of a fist fight in the Shady Glen parking lot. Participants advised of their options.

2:04 p.m. Report of illegal dumping on Avenue A. Trash left beside a dumpster. Subject notified to pick it up.

Friday 4-29

12:52 a.m. [redacted] was arrested on four default warrants.

11:54 p.m. Report of a disturbance on Old Northfield Road. A large party underway by the pine groves. [redacted] was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct.

Saturday 4-30

8:00 p.m. Report of an assault at the VFW on

Avenue A. Unfounded.

Sunday 5-1

1:19 a.m. After a motor vehicle stop on Avenue A by the Gill Bridge, [redacted]

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

Monday 5-2

10:31 a.m. Report of trespassing at Food City. Three youths were told not to enter the store again.

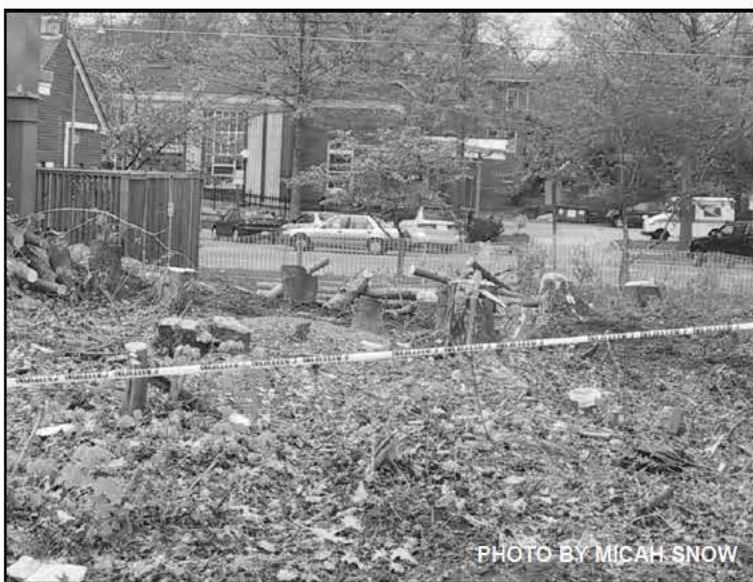
4:15 p.m. Report of a traffic hazard on Broadway in Lake Pleasant. A tree took wires down. Fire department and WMECO took care of it.

Tuesday 5-3

8:29 Report of a fight at the Tech School. All parties spoken to advised of options.

3:45 p.m. Report of a domestic disturbance at an Avenue A address. [redacted]

[redacted] was arrested and charged with domestic assault and battery.



Maple trees reduced to stumps on Wednesday make way for new construction

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US FORCES
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Wounded
in
Action
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6th Ridge Detachment
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

VIEW FROM THE STATE HOUSE

House Budget Increases Local Aid and School Money

BY REP. STEPHEN KULIK (D - WORTHINGTON)

The Massachusetts House of Representatives has approved its version of the FY06 state budget on April 29th, which includes increased spending for regional school transportation and Chapter 70 school funding. The increases followed the House's adoption of budget amendments I sponsored.

I am pleased the House unanimously adopted my amendments to increase funding for these two critically important local aid accounts. The rural and regional schools I represent, along with others across the state, will benefit from the additional money, which is an increase both from last year and from the Governor's proposed

budget. I know that schools and towns could use even more than these amounts, but this is a step in the right direction in a state budget situation that remains very lean.

The Chapter 70 increase totals \$28.4 million statewide, and represents a \$50 per pupil increase for school districts that spend above the so-called foundation level. For the Gill-Montague Regional School District, this represents an increase of \$61,300. The Mahar Regional District gets an additional \$40,850. New Salem - Wendell will receive \$6,900 more.

My amendment for regional school transportation proposed



fully funding this account with an increase of \$20 million. However, given the state's limited revenue, the House approved a \$4.5 million increase, from \$38 million to \$42.5 million. This represents a jump from the state paying 56% of transportation costs in FY05, to 70% in FY06. I will keep fighting to reach 100% state reimburse-

ment as quickly as possible.

Other local aid accounts were also increased through budget amendments I sponsored, including \$100 million in Lottery aid, \$2.6 million in payments in lieu of taxes (PILOT) for state owned land, and \$2.5 million for the so-called

"Pothole" funding for distressed schools.

The next step in the state budget process will occur when the Senate releases its proposed spending plan on May 18th, and begins debate the following week. I know that our area senators will also be working hard to increase funding for local aid, Chapter 70, and regional school

transportation. It is possible the Senate may adopt amounts higher than the House's increases, in which case any differences will be resolved by a House - Senate conference committee. The legislature's goal will be to send a final budget to the Governor by the end of the fiscal year, June 30th. Based on his own lower budget proposals for local aid, as well as his call this week for another state tax cut, I expect that Romney would veto the legislature's local aid and education increases. If he does, I anticipate the House and Senate will each vote to override his vetoes.

Local aid may not be a priority for Governor Romney, but it certainly is for your representatives and senators.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Access from the Other Side of the Public

BY SAM GILFORD

MONTAGUE - I wish to sincerely thank this newspaper for allowing me to share some of my feelings, facts and opinions on the issue of our public television access providership. There needs to be a balance of the voices heard in this most heated subject. I believe our town is faced with much more important everyday issues than local cable television, but it is a personal commitment of mine to see that the other side of this issue be heard equally.

I am very proud to be a part of the cable advisory committee that finally presented, on March 14th, the criteria we were asked to organize for the board. I feel confident this was a worthwhile venture that will serve our community well in judging a public access provider for our town. However, as I emphasized all along, the cable advisory committee was not given the charge of creating a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a new provider, and that there would be legal questions that have to be addressed if we did.

I believe we worked hard in coming up with what might be a fair process. I believe it should be up to the selectboard to decide what to do next. After all,

it is really their decision to choose whom they assign the public access providership to. They did this previously. It is time to do this again. I for one feel very strongly that this issue should be put behind us once and for all!

I think the selectboard needs their time and energy to concentrate on other more important issues. It is my feeling this has to do with the forthcoming elections. This panel of selectpersons is delaying the process. I feel they have passed the buck to the cable advisory committee. Be that as it may, the selectboard has not really moved on anything definitive regarding the local cable access issue, as they promised they would back in July of 2004.

GCTV signed a letter of intent with the selectboard over three years ago. If there are any serious violations of that agreement, then the selectboard should act immediately on it. This latest effort to discredit GCTV is part of the long line of this newspaper only wanting readers to see or believe what they want them to. If there have been no violations to the agreement, then I see no reason to change the assignment. GCTV has served our town very, very

well, as far as I am concerned. We now have a fully equipped, state-of-the-art facility in our studios in the Crocker Building in Turners Falls, with competent staff to assist. There has always been tremendous apathy and lack of involvement for years. This is not a good reason for MCCI to have the assignment given back to them. I hope any and all residents of Montague will take the training offered by GCTV and begin to create their own productions there. Any and all residents are also welcome and encouraged to attend GCTV meetings and apply for positions on the board there. There are regular openings. GCTV executive director Martin McGuane is a very helpful, friendly, knowledgeable man. He has a wonderful, receptive professional staff, Douglas Finn, always available to help anyone who needs it.

I feel it is disgraceful, shameful, cheap and transparent that this newspaper printed what they say are the current salaries of Marty McGuane, as well as his employees at GCTV recently. I think this will all be settled very soon. As I said when I came on the cable advisory committee, there has to be legal opinion on all the documents

that were signed and more research into the feasibility of an RFP.

I wish this newspaper would concentrate more on what our town has spent on this issue because of Pat Allen, one of our selectpersons, so far. Or to be fair, start printing the records and tax returns (also public record) of MCCI.

I think it is about time to just let this issue go. I hope it doesn't continue to cost our town any more money in the form of town member meetings and votes. I believe this is all because of petty politics and upset feelings of a very, very few, but very visible, loud, entitled Montague residents who wish to try and benefit from the money and power that would be made available to them if there was to be a reassignment. I also believe this has to do with the financial straits MCCI or its newspaper project may be experiencing.

I really believe these few people, if they are sincere about public access, should take part in what we have now and in three years or so, if they still feel the same way, then they would have more knowledge and experience in how these facilities can be operated. Greenfield is local enough for

me. At this time we basically have our own Montague feed for our interests, programs, events, meetings and a venue for our town resident producers. That is what we need and that is what we have. Please consider this when hearing from the very tiny minority of disgruntled, misguided MCCI board members and associates.

My perception, after years of being in the vortex of this conflict, is they do not represent anybody's interests but their own. They continue to declare and shout their own praises and boast of all their accomplishments. They have always maintained they represent the majority of our town or our community's best interest. I resent that and their attempt to hijack the assignment. I hope this reflects itself very strongly in our upcoming elections. I urge everyone in our town to stand up to the very few people who are trying so desperately to convince everyone how they deserve this public access providership! Let's not have anymore MCCI candidates, like Patricia Pruitt, till the year 2013, when the contract with GCTV is up. There are far more important issues facing our town.

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GUEST EDITORIAL

No Brakes at Annual Town Meeting

BY MIKE NAUGHTON - It looks as if Montague town meeting members will have their work cut out for them this Saturday, May 7th. With eleven articles on the special town meeting warrant and forty-six on the annual, I expect we'll be there all day. The moderator seems to be hoping to speed things up a bit by his proposed "consent agenda" on the annual warrant, which lumps the first fifteen articles together with the intent that they be voted as a block. However, town meeting members may put a hold on any or all of these articles, and I think that will happen with several of them.

The special meeting warrant looks pretty straightforward, although right now I have a few questions. I'm not sure how I feel about the proposal to set up a special "education stabilization fund" - it doesn't seem like a bad idea, exactly, but I'm not sure why it's necessary. The money could just as easily be put into the regular stabilization fund, and if the town wants to earmark it for school-related projects that could be done in the same informal way we've earmarked other sums in the past. Setting up a special fund seems to imply the school district doesn't really trust the town (or maybe the town doesn't trust

itself?) to treat the district fairly. But if that's what town officials really want to do, it's probably not worth arguing about.

Most of the requests for extra funds seem like the sorts of things that in the past might have been handled by reserve fund transfers. I suspect the problem this year is that they total a lot more than the reserve fund, so there's no choice but to go to town meeting. Still, I applaud the decision to do so. I think it can be very useful for town meeting members to see how well this year's budget estimates worked out just before deciding what to do for next year.

I hope we hear a little more about the used dump truck the DPW wants. I understand they have a lot of old equipment, but replacing a 1980 vehicle with a 1987 vehicle may not get us that far ahead. The Capital Improvements Committee has recommended a new dump truck with plow and sander on the annual warrant, so this request surprised me a little since it never came before us. If the town is really that much better off replacing a 25-year old dump truck with an 18-year old one, I think that just underscores the fact that we haven't had an adequate vehicle replacement plan for the highway department in a long time. We need to put one in place as soon as we can, and while the turmoil in the department in the recent past has made it difficult to do any long-range planning, I hope we now we can start turning that around.

On the annual warrant, I'll be surprised if the consent agenda sails through as proposed. I think there may well be questions about the compensation articles, as well as the airport fencing and computer equipment replacement. I actually think it would make more sense to take some of these articles - household hazardous waste, police cruiser, computer equipment, lease payments - and put them in with the departmental budgets. We might have to add a new category or two - "capital", or "special projects", maybe, so they can be easily separated on

the warrant - but I think it's worth looking into.

Unfortunately, the town meeting format doesn't lend itself to exploring complex subjects, so it may not be possible to delve too deeply into the implementation of the pay and classification study, as reflected in the compensation articles. I was curious to find that while the handout puts the total effect at \$115,000, adding up the various amounts listed therein totals about \$108,000 (unless I missed something). Also, there is no supporting data, either from the Bennett & Associates study or from the Benchmark Title Survey, so there is no way for the voters to evaluate for themselves how these recommendations were calculated. I don't begrudge anyone a pay increase, and I'm quite willing to believe that Montague has been lagging behind in this area, but I'd be more comfortable if we had been given more supporting evidence for the figures as presented.

I'd also be more comfortable if there were some discussion of the other aspects of the study - time off and benefits. As I remember, Montague ranked low in some areas but high in others, particularly health benefits, where the town paid 90% of the premiums while the average in comparable towns was closer to 75%. I don't really know, but on the surface this looks like a situation where town officials found a few extra dollars and decided to use them to boost salaries without fully thinking it through, using the pay and classification study as an excuse. Maybe that's unfair, and if so I apologize, but I think town meeting members deserve to have clear and complete explanations for what they are asked to vote on, and so far I don't see them for these articles.

Finally, I'd like to hear more about why it was decided that now is the time to implement these changes. There doesn't seem to be any indication in the rest of the warrant that the town's financial situation has improved from the past few years - in fact, the finance committee is recommending using

the stabilization fund to cover normal capital expenditures. Why we are now able to add more than \$100 thousand to the operating budget, and how this will affect our finances in the coming years, seem like questions that need to be answered.

On the rest of the articles, I have a number of questions, but there isn't space to go into them all. I expect the \$5.7 million project at the sewer plant will spark some discussion, especially if someone suggests that it should be partially funded from taxation instead of entirely from sewer user fees. I'm not on the sewer myself, but personally I can see a case being made that I should bear some of the cost of this. On the other hand, my septic system is entirely my responsibility, and if I have problems with it no one from the town is going to step in and offer to help. I think it's a complicated question, and I'm not sure it has received enough thought so far to be ready for a decision on Saturday.

My bigger concern is that the finance committee has recommended funding virtually all of the special articles from the stabilization fund. This seems to be because they expect that the special town meeting will have added \$300 thousand to that fund, but the implication is that the committee doesn't believe the town has the wherewithal in its operating budget to fund these items. Given the \$400 thousand requested increase in the town's operating budget and the \$500 thousand requested increase in the GMRSD assessment (excluding debt), they may well be right. But looking at the list - sidewalk repair, new dump truck for the highway department, repairs at Unity Park, etc. - I think it's clear these are ongoing expenses. We should be doing all of them - or things like them - every year, and we should be adding a little to the stabilization fund as well. The fact the finance committee doesn't believe we can do that seems like a bad sign. We may, metaphorically speaking, have built a house we can't afford to live in. The committee seems to say as much in its report, but I

don't see that they offer a way out.

The other thing that concerns me is that the GMRSD assessment request is still rising much faster than town revenues. Last year, in what seemed like a positive development, the total assessment (for both Montague and Gill, not counting debt) rose less than 1% -- by far the smallest increase since I've been keeping track. This year, it rose by over 10%. Montague's share alone rose by about \$650 thousand (the finance committee is only recommending \$500 thousand), despite the fact Montague's share of the total actually decreased.

I understand the school district has some special challenges, and I'm fully aware there are no easy solutions, but in my opinion it's necessary for the town - working with the district - to figure out a way to stop this trend. In my opinion, a major reason we can't buy police cruisers or dump trucks or fix our sidewalks - to say nothing of expanding our Parks and Recreation department or our libraries or hiring a community policing officer - is that the school assessment is taking a larger and larger share of our total revenues, and there is increasingly less and less left for everything else.

I feel as if we're in a car heading downhill towards a cliff, and all we're doing is argue over whether it's because the brakes don't work or the accelerator is stuck. The point is, we have to figure out some way to do something different. Unfortunately, I don't think that will happen at town meeting.

Mike Naughton has been a Montague resident since 1974, a Capital Improvements Committee member since fiscal 2002, and a Precinct 2 town meeting member before that. He can be reached at mjnaught@crocker.com or by looking in the telephone book. The views expressed here are his own and are not necessarily shared by anyone else in town government, or in Precinct 2 for that matter.

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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Erving to Purchase Mitzkovitz Land

BY IVAN USSACH

The selectboard is prepared to purchase 8.23 acres of land owned by Ken Mitzkovitz in Erving. The undeveloped parcel is contiguous to the Erving Elementary School, the Erving Police Station, and an additional 17 acres of town-owned property. The parcel is located in Zone 2 of the town's water recharge area, "very close" to the town's wellhead, according to papers to be submitted to the state under section 30B of the Mass General Laws. Under that section, the town is declaring the purchase to be exempt from real property acquisition advertising requirements. The intended purchase will be publicized in the state's Central Register, after which 30 days must pass before the purchase can occur.

The purchase price is \$165,000, and will be subject to approval at a future special town meeting, possibly in June. According to board chair Andy Tessier, the town tried to purchase the property a year ago, unsuccessfully. The site had also been considered as a possible site for a housing development within the past year. Presumably, the town's purchase of the site will give permanent protection to that por-

tion of its water recharge area.

Chief Blair Takes Leave of Absence

The board also made plans to deal with an unexpected leave from duty by police chief Chris Blair. The length of Blair's absence is uncertain, but might be on the order of one or two months, and was said to be related to an illness. It was not clear whether Blair himself is ill. While Blair is out, full-time police officer John Perreault will be officer-in-charge. The board transferred \$15,000 from the "full-time officer" budget: \$5,000 to part-time staffing, \$3,000 to full-time overtime, and \$7,000 to operational expenses.

In other news, the board received copies from the board of health of several new regulations concerning "shared wells and springs," swimming pool facilities, tanning facilities and food establishments. The "regulations for shared wells and springs" reads, in part: "Where wells or springs providing water are shared by more than two households or businesses, and NOT regulated by the Department of Environmental Protection, the Board of Health requires the homeowners OR any associations or operators to

test the water at the source, four times a year... The Board shall impose a Boil Order if the water is found to be non-potable." A shared private well in Farley was recently found to be contaminated, which may have prompted the board of health to promulgate the new regulation.

The selectboard also received a notice from the planning board concerning a scheduled public hearing on May 19th at 7 p.m., for "proposed revisions to the current zoning by-laws and the new ground-

water protection by-law." The planning board requested the selectboard to place the two "articles" on the next special town meeting warrant, by which point the articles are expected to be in final form.

Concerning a "Notice of Non-compliance" received by Waste Treatment Plant #2 from the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and dated April 19th, the board reviewed a draft letter from Benjamin Thompson, the plant's chief operator, responding to DEP. Thompson's letter, which was well received by the board, details the actions taken to achieve compliance. These actions include daily testing for pH, ongoing refinement and monitoring of the plant's phosphorus control measures, and several other items. The plant is operated by Erseco, Inc., on behalf of the town. The non-compliance notice was addressed to the town as owner of the facility.

The town's 2004 Annual Report has been released and is now available.

The board approved \$3,500 from the capital improvement budget to purchase a raw flow meter for water treatment plant #1. The old meter has calibration problems and is 15 years

old. The board also approved the purchase of three Nextel cell phones: two for water treatment plant employees, and one for the highway department. The existing cell phones must be plugged into the cigarette lighter, and so cannot be used away from the vehicle.

The board voted to renew its insurance contract with MIA for FY 06 for property, casualty, and workers compensation insurance. Because of its good history, the town was informed it will receive no more than a 6.8 percent rate increase.

After some discussion and negotiation, the board and administrative coordinator Tom Sharp worked out a revised agreement for Sharps' benefit hours. Sharp will be allowed to accumulate up to 300 hours per year of benefit time, up from 250.

With results of the May 4th town-wide election in, we can report there will still be a Dubay on the selectboard. The May 2nd selectboard meeting was the last for Bert Dubay, who chose not to run again. He will be succeeded by Jeffrey Dubay, who has been the chair of the town's planning board. The two men are brothers, but Jeff's flowing white beard make them easy to tell apart.



Jeff Dubay

Dubay Triumphs in 4-Way Race

BY IVAN USSACH - Jeffrey Dubay was elected to the Erving selectboard in the town's May 4th election. Dubay received 80 write-in votes, far ahead of Elizabeth Taft and Leonard Clark, both of whom received 28 write-in votes. Of the 41 votes cast for other write-ins, Eric Wasileski, a relative newcomer to town, received 13.

Dubay succeeds his brother F. Herbert (Bert) Dubay, who chose not to run again after completing a three-year term. Jeffrey Dubay has been serving as the chair of the town's planning board, a seat that was set to expire in 2007.

In other election day results: Debra Mathey won a three-year seat on the board of health,

defeating Gail Dubreuil by a vote of 112-78. Jacquelyn Boyden was re-elected to a three-year term on the planning board and a three-year term on the recreation commission.

Joann Taylor was also re-elected to the planning board.

William Bembury was also elected to the recreation committee.

Margaret Sullivan was re-elected as treasurer.

Richard Newton was re-elected as both town clerk and constable.

Arthur Kaczinski was also re-elected as constable.

Marcia Bernard was re-elected as library trustee.

William Lemieux was re-elected as tree warden.

Beth Palmquist was re-elected as an assessor.

203 of the town's 1,045 registered voters cast ballots. They defeated the single question on the ballot, "Shall the town vote to have its elected treasurer become an appointed treasurer eligible for benefits of the town?" by a vote of 105 to 71.

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WENDELL TOWN ELECTION

Senn Upsets Hamilton, Kegeles Bows to Williston in Board of Health Races

BY JOSH HEINEMANN
WENDELL - 309 of Wendell's 651 registered voters went to the polls Monday, May 2nd. In the only contested races, Harry Williston defeated Gloria Kegeles 169 to 133 for a two-year seat, and Martha Senn squeaked by incumbent Andy Hamilton 156 to 147 for a full three-year position on the board of health.

to be working fine." Also interviewed last week, Senn said she would need to do more research to determine whether she supports changes to Wendell's standards. In unopposed races, Dan Keller received 258 votes for selectboard, Mary McBride, 246 votes for board of assessors, Annie Hartjens, 261 votes for town clerk, Penny Delorey, 265 votes for tax collector, Carolyn Manley, 253 voted for treasurer, Christine Texiera, 234 votes for 5-year planning board, Ray DiDonato, 258 votes for 3-year planning board, Kathy Becker, 258 votes for town moderator. Write-in candidate Kevin Skorupa won a school committee seat with 59 votes.



Paula Barnes (at table) gives a ballot to Lisa Aubin in Monday's election.

MYSTERY PHOTO WINNER

Alaina Snipper of Gill called in the correct answer to last week's mystery photo. The billboard with strange beings holding hands and the single word "ONEIFY" that has been mystifying motorists on French King Highway, across from Lodge Tire in Greenfield, is not a message from extraterrestrials, or a preview of the next Star Wars installment, as some had thought. It's an ad for a new formulation of Pepsi, called Pepsi One. Alaina won a free gift subscription to the Montague Reporter, but she declined the offer of a free case of Pepsi, which is being donated to the Brick House instead.

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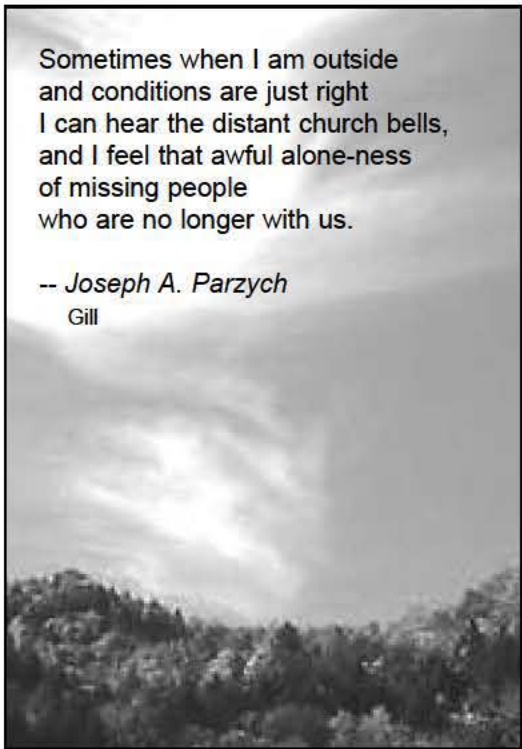
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ERVING ANNUAL TOWN MEETING



Rich Peabody, left, moderates the annual town meeting on Wednesday, May 4th as members of the Erving selectboard look on.

BY IVAN USSACH ERVING - Seventy-nine voters passed all 27 warrant articles at Wednesday night's annual town meeting. The \$1.7 million elementary school budget required the most discussion, but after presentations by school committee chair Bob Brown and the finance committee, voters accepted the warrant. Another contentious item was the purchase of an \$8,700 John Deere tractor to cut the grass for the parks and recreation department. The total operating budget for Fiscal '06 is \$6,078,508, about \$30,000 lower than the total '05 budget. The new moderator, Rich Peabody, dissolved the meeting at 9:28 p.m.



Sometimes when I am outside
and conditions are just right
I can hear the distant church bells,
and I feel that awful alone-ness
of missing people
who are no longer with us.

-- Joseph A. Parzych
Gill

Morning Walk

Naked trees, through the fog,
force
their haunting silhouettes.
They lift, bare like arms,
through the many folds of misty curtains.

Little by little, at a distance,
houses shine on their awakening salutes.
While our feet trample through
thick blankets of leftover leaves.

The road's dampness laces our shoes,
dusting
their morning murmurs
gliding us away, on this early hour,
off the wings of a day...

--Flore
Montague Center
dedicated to Richard

the poetry page

It is difficult
to get the news from poems
yet men die miserably every day
for lack
of what is found there.

- William Carlos Williams

Pynchon's Retreat

If I believed you
Came with all the great gifts of
Love and what else a man offers
To others and the world
If I believed you could change
In summer or winter
In the dark or the light days
In the company of others or alone
If I believed that good things are created
Between and for and by us
It would matter greatly.
But I will not be part of this entropy
Where leaves keep falling
--Summer always in aftertaste;
Winter forever impending-
And the temperature is resolutely 37 degrees.
Perched on this perimeter of light,
This slice of meridian, this present time
Of budding and dying and tides turning,
I feel the burning and quenching of the hours
And rejoice that you have gone.

--Nina Bander
Turners Falls



Illustration by
Nina Bander

Old Portland at Night

Walking down the wharf late at night I smell the Casco breeze,
as a foghorn remembers the day over and over in monotony.
Last call draws near and bodies fall out from barrooms
Their breath stretched out on the cold night air.

The water laps pilings, barnacled old men with seaweed beards,
Salty dogs who creak and groan one dirty limerick after another.
A gull lets out a call from somewhere beneath the fog.
Clumsy, tired figures stumble on the streets.

Shoes pound cobblestones, hit upon since who knows when -
I drum a beat with my shoes, a song meant to charm a girl
walking on the other side - our drums don't beat together.
The salty dogs laugh between their rhymes.

The streets are quiet, bodies retreat into doors and alleyways.
Fog rolls in from the harbor, gray molasses creeping uphill.
At the monument a group stands huddled at the base,
Shrouded heads bent in still conversation.

And across the street, the old poet's house, jigsaw of bricks,
Reclining behind an iron fence, forgotten, withdrawn with age,
A recluse stuck between gray buildings of the New City.
He tries to recall an unfinished verse.

On the Hill, the observatory keeps guard, suit worn by salty wind.
Rounding the top, I spot the sea between tattered apartments -
mariners' sweet, bitter affair, the city's eternal keeper.
No boats, but the senile buoy still tolls.

Across the Bay my eyes stop at the stacks of the bean factory,
White billows spill into the night, twisting in the fog.
The wind picks up, and on her lips, sweet words -
lovers still, we whisper and laugh 'til dawn.

-- Raymond DiDonato
New Salem

Patricia Pruitt is a member of the Montague Selectboard. Her most recent chapbook is *Windows*.
Irene Field, 1892 - 1980, Boston city girl married to Montague farm boy. Raised her family (including Fran Hemond) in Holyoke, with enthusiasm, wit, and compassion.
Mark Rosenberg is from Charlottesville, VA and has taught at the UVA Writers' Workshop and at UMass Amherst, where he is working towards an MFA. He lives in Leeds, MA.
Pat Carlisle, a nature lover and Eagle Cam project volunteer, lives on Carlisle Avenue in Turners, where her telescope and local access TV make her feel like one of the eagle nest family.
Raymond DiDonato lives in Wendell with his wife and two children. He is a researcher at UMass and enjoys writing.

CONTRIBUTOR'S NOTES:

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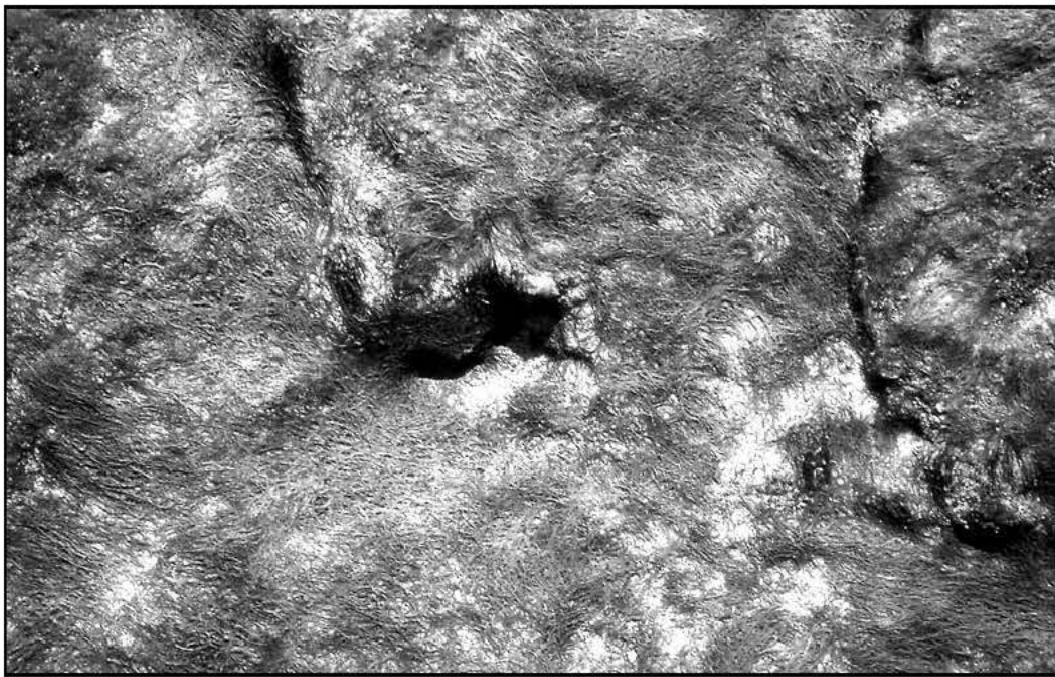
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Our Metaphor

In two and half hours
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Catch nothing
But the mist
My line loops through,

The murmuring water,
The trees' grief.

**
But then O
The fish

The line screaming
Faster than a voice.

**
No maybe

It pulls against what it didn't
know
Was there it's whole life

Until laying exhausted in my
hands
Pulsing in the brief light

**
All of autumn peaking
On the ridge behind me

In my hands

**
At any moment the eyes
Which never close

Could darken, glaze, go
Somewhere else

As I pull the lure
And tear the flesh
Of the lip

**
Held against the current
To return
To that other
**
Some say it has no memory
Some say we never forget

--Mark Rosenberg
Leeds

Eagles

I dwell above the river bank.
They nest in a tall tree.
I watch them soar and swoop around;
I think they must see me!

Connected to the ground, I stay,
They free to fly the sky.
I yearn to join them in their flight!
My wish is just a sigh.

An egg is laid, a parent sits
I wait for what will be-
A chick is born this Easter Day!
And all the world will see.

I marvel at what has become
For me a watching game;
For them the freedom to survive!
My world will never be the same.

--Patricia Carlisle
Montague
(Written on Easter Sunday, April 14, 1998, after
the first egg hatched at 4:00 p.m.)

Paunch Lines

Hey diddle diddle
I'm watching my middle,
I'm hoping to whittle it soon.
But eating's such fun,
I may not get done,
'Til my dish runs away
With my spoon

--Irene B. Field
Holyoke

(for Francis)

Hint of Autumn, early
longer thoughts replace
whatever dreams there
may have been

Around here things pile up-
what one meant to say
neatly folded with laundry
on the chair

And stacks of questions-
what really matters, where to
go from here, where to
trim the yew?

The too-much that is
the terrible lack it shows,
the stingy heart grown
fat on deprivation

Days ago-so like the Muse-
the unexpected rose
arrived. Its petals left
a wake of pink profusion.

--Patricia Pruitt
Turners Falls

Joseph A. Parzych, Gill resident, contributes regularly to *Yankee Magazine*, *Reader's Digest*, *Hardhat News*, *Farming*, and many other fine publications

Turners Falls, where Nina Bander has lived since 1987, is often the subject of her work in art and poetry.

*F comme... fascinant fantastique
I aile posee sur vitesse galopante
o eau ivre de courants assoiffes
r rebelle par naissance
e eblouie d'etre...*

The poetry page is edited by Chris Sawyer-Laucanno and Chris Janke. Submissions are welcome: Montague Reporter, 24 3rd Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376 or via email at: reporter-poems@montaguema.net.

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GILL

continued from pg 1

appropriate action to bring those serving abroad home.

Whether this resolution belonged on the agenda or not was raised as an issue. Sally Shaw, who proposed the resolution, said including it on the town meeting agenda was the right thing to do. "Part of the assignment in democracy is not to silence any voice, to speak of issues that affect our small town and larger issues that affect our nation." She outlined the cost of the Iraq war to the residents of Gill, based on calculations by the National Priorities Project, a Northampton based nonprofit research group. According to the figures cited by Shaw, the war has cost Gill residents \$1.2 million dollars so far. "There were no weapons of mass destruction, nor nukes," she said. "It is not our job to be the world's policeman," she added.

"In ordinary times, town meeting may not be the place to bring this subject up," said Daniel Botkin, a Gill farmer. "We tried every legal redress, but have nothing to show for it. The warrant is an important symbol. It raises consciousness. This is our last chance to express ourselves as citizens," he added.

Chris Demars did not oppose including the article on the warrant. Rather, he insisted, the premise on which it was based was false. "Soldiers know there are hardships. They accept to

take them on themselves so others don't have to bear them. If the National Guard is called back, there will have to be a draft," he said. "Ninety percent of soldiers in the National Guard would be mad if they read this," he added.

In other business, in a 57 to 2 vote, town meeting voted to authorize the selectboard to sell the Mariamante property on the corner of West Gill and Main Road, subject to town meeting approval. Ann Banash explained it was unlikely anything would happen with the 12 acre property before September, after one voter expressed concern a meeting might be convened during the quiet summer months.

Article III calling on residents to "hear and act upon the Annual Town Report" was withdrawn since the residents had not yet had time to read the report. The article will be placed on a future warrant for consideration. Article IV approved the election of officers for the positions of Field Drivers; Fence Viewers; Measurers of Wood, Bark and Surveyors of Lumber, for one year.

Article V asked town meeting to accept state and federal funds for roadwork, to authorize the selectboard to enter into contracts with the Mass Highway Department and to authorize the town treasurer to borrow as needed with the expectation of reimbursement. A similar article has been on the warrant for years and seemed to be heading for a rote passage.

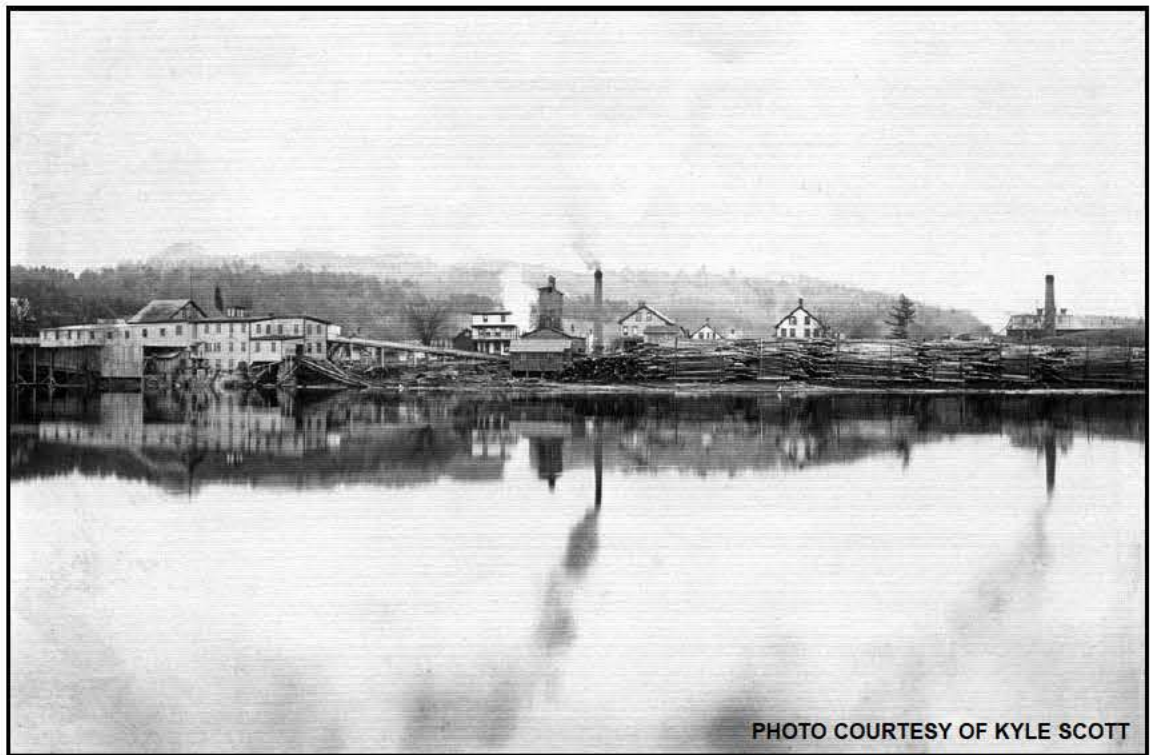


PHOTO COURTESY OF KYLE SCOTT

The Turners Falls Lumber Company in Riverside

However, Bart Bales requested a greater degree of specificity and clarity on the article and drafted an amendment that did not pass. In the end, the article passes in its original form unanimously.

Article VI asked residents to authorize a revolving fund for the revenue raised from trash sticker sales. Ann Banash explained the town's new accountant had recommended this to provide more flexibility in addressing the town's disposal costs. "This is a simple book-keeping issue. The revolving fund must be approved by town meeting each year," she said. The article passed unanimously.

Town meeting also unanimously approved Article VII asking for approval of an agreement with the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility and Recycle America Alliance for the "receipt and processing of the town's recyclable materials for ten years."

Before town meeting could adjourn, Sandy Brown, chair of the finance committee asked that a non-binding resolution regarding Northfield Mount Hermon's donations to the town be considered. The resolution seeks to make the annual finan-

cial contributions made by the school to the town open-ended in regard to how they are allocated. Currently these contributions are specifically earmarked for emergency services, such as fire and police. Brown's efforts to have town meeting consider the matter on May 2nd were unsuccessful. However, the selectboard agreed to place the resolution on a special town warrant scheduled for June 27th.



Gill Absentee Ballots Available

Absentee ballots are available for the annual Gill election at the town clerk's office.

Monday 9 a.m. - 12 Noon

Tuesday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Wednesday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

and 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Also by appointment (413) 863-8103. The Gill annual election is scheduled for May 16th, at the fire station from Noon to 8 p.m.

Montague absentee ballots are also available at the Montague Town Hall and may be returned until Friday, May 13th, in advance of the town election on Monday, the 16th.

Gill History Facts and Figures

BY ALLAN ADIE

In the last twelve years or so, Gill has seen many new residents move into town. Most are from a younger generation. Since they have chosen Gill as their home, I thought they might be interested in Gill's history. These excerpts are taken from one of the chapters I wrote in the History of Gill, Volume II, (copyrighted by the Town of Gill, reprinted by permission).

1793 - First schoolhouse in the center of Gill

1803 - Bounty on crows. Twelve cents for old birds, six cents for young.

1805 - Great Island (by the Connecticut River falls) became part of Gill. At one time the Turners Falls Lumber Company in Riverside employed 40 men

and produced 30,000 to 40,000 board feet of lumber daily.

1883 - Gill has 159 houses. Teachers' salaries totaled \$980.50. (They have gone up a tad since then).

1884 - Loan for original Riverside Schoolhouse: \$1700.

1885 - According to state law, the school committee shall purchase, at the town's expense, textbooks and other supplies. Riverside School discontinued because of too few pupils; pupils carried to Center District.

1886 - Morgan's Ferry, operated by E.R. Thornton, who received \$20.00 for the service. O.R. Towne received \$6.00 for painting boats. Grist mill assessed to James O. Bliss for \$100. Rate of tax different in each district.

1894 - To see if the town

would pay tuition of all scholars qualified and willing to enter high school. Rented Riverside Hall for November elections. The town has seven schools.

1895 - '96 - Paid tuition to Montague and Bernardston high schools.

1895 - '97 - Gill has only three pupils over the age of fifteen.

1898 - Acres assessed in Gill: 8126.

1899 - School terms: March 27 - June 23; August 27 - November 24; December - February 16. Town seal designed. Schoolhouse #5 rented for \$5.00.

1900 - Population of Gill: 1016. (The population today is 1530.)

More historical facts and figures next week.

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95 Years on the Avenue

BY KATHLEEN LITCHFIELD

TURNERS FALLS - Over the course of the last century, take five years, the Couture Bros. business ventures have included painting, a gas station, light mechanical work, sales of fire extinguishers and appliances, automotive, home and garden supplies, a pump and tank maintenance division and custom picture framing.

Changing with the times and responding to the ebbs and flows of the economy are what Samuel I. Couture and his son, present owner Christian Couture, attribute the third generation family business' success to as they celebrate their 95th year on Avenue A. That, and a healthy dose of determination, which seems to run in the family.

"This is just what we do. It's a necessity; you have to eat. You just do it, through the good years and bad years," chuckled Chris Couture, who at 46 has worked in the family business since he was a teenager at Turners Falls High School.

Today Couture Bros. focuses on commercial and residential, interior and exterior professional

In 1926, William Couture and his other brother Samuel H. Couture (father of Samuel I. Couture) assumed ownership of the business. In 1930, Samuel H. bought out his brother William and in 1931, in spite of the Depression, built a new 2,500-square-foot building at 187 Avenue A, where the store is presently located.

By 1941, according to an historical newspaper article the family has archived, Couture Bros. had expanded to include a workforce of 60 men during the busy season. The business consisted of the retail paint store and the contracting operation, responsible for painting residential and commercial businesses throughout New England including outlets of the Shell, Esso, Tidewater, American Oil, Texas and Standard Oil companies. At this time, Couture Bros. also operated a gas station at 193 Avenue A, which later became a branch office of the Greenfield Savings Bank in 1973.

Samuel I. Couture grew up on 4th Street and Central Street, attended Turners Falls High School and Worcester Academy before entering the U.S. Army.



This photograph was taken in 1926 at 168 Avenue A. From left to right: Samuel H. Couture, William Couture and Timothy Horrigan.



PHOTO COURTESY OF COUTURE BROS.

This photograph was taken in 1949 or 1950 at the Couture Bros.' 193 Avenue A location, when business ventures included a gas station. At that time, Samuel I. Couture, now retired from the business, was studying business management and accounting at UMass Amherst, commuting daily inside the two-door Chevrolet pictured in front of the building (above) and working after school in his father's paint store.

painting and decorating as well as its 187 Avenue A retail store, specializing in California Paints, specialty paint applications and industrial coatings, art supplies and custom picture framing.

"We've always been painters. It's always been a service industry, and it still is," said Chris Couture. "You have your big box stores that sell paint, but when you come in here, you're helped out every step of the way, even after you walk out the door."

Couture Bros. was founded in 1910 by brothers William and Raoul Couture, at the former Bartlett Building at 168 Avenue A, as a painting contracting business.

Following college at UMass Amherst, where he studied business management and accounting, he joined the business. The year was 1953.

"It wasn't my plan," said Samuel I. Couture, who is now retired from the business and lives in Gill, "but jobs were not plentiful then. I was married with two kids, so I took the job and never left."

"When I first came, the Turners Falls Chamber of Commerce had 60 to 70 members," he said.

"Anybody who's been downtown as long as we have has seen some changes," added Chris Couture.

"Back then, we had 10 gro-

cery stores, two jewelry stores, two shoe stores, the First National (grocery), 13 bar rooms, Crocker Bank, two drug stores, candy stores, the five and dime. Just on the corners of 4th Street, there were three groceries and a Polish co-op," said Samuel I. Couture, who served as a member and president of the Chamber in Turners as well as the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce, president of the Turners Falls Rotary Club, chairman of the Farren Care Center, as a member of the finance committee of the town of Montague for a decade, director of the Greenfield Country Club and director of the First National Bank of Greenfield, now the Bank of New England.

"In those days, I could do more because we had the help. Today, running a small business takes up so much of your time that it's harder," he said.

During the 1960's, Couture Bros. focused on public works projects, painting sewerage treatment plants and regional public and private schools, he said.

Chris Couture began "learning the business from soup to nuts, be it painting, hanging wallpaper, mechanical work, cutting the grass, dusting shelves

or sweeping the floor" when he was 13 years old.

Chris began working in the family business in 1973, after graduating from Turners Falls High School and Worcester Academy. He was a third generation Rotarian in Turners, and has served on the board of directors of the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce since 1992. He presently employs 13 people at Couture Bros., many of whom have worked for the business for over 25 years, he said.

"Most of the help that works for me is my age, and most of the help that worked for my father was my father's age," he said. "All the guys his age are the ones I learned from. I've always loved the business. The work changes every day."

At one time the Couture Bros. traveled throughout New England for commercial and residential projects, today they stick within a 25-mile radius, Chris said.



Couture Bros. Owner Christian Couture, center, stands with his son Corey Couture, 18, left and his father, Samuel I. Couture, right.

While in the 1940s paint was made from a mixture of white lead, linseed oil and mineral spirits, today 92 percent of paint produced is water- or latex-based.

And while he is hopeful that his son Corey Couture, 18, will take an interest in the business and expand its ownership to a fourth generation, he is uncertain of the future of the family legacy.

"It's not easy. Things are harder and everything is way more expensive. I don't really know what's going to happen," Chris said. "The success rate of passing on a business from the first to the second generation is less than 50 percent. From the second to the third is less than 20 percent and from the third to the fourth is like two percent or something like that."

"We've done anything we can do to make ends meet through the years, wallpaper, light mechanical work... now we're doing a lot of custom picture framing, including for the Hallmark School of Photography. That's our off-season stopgap. Right now is our busiest season for painting and today we do about 80 percent commercial - banks, hospitals, businesses - and 20 percent residential. We're a professional painting and decorating contractor and retailer today."

Chris' father said he thinks "the future is bright" although he knows the challenges of maintaining a small business will continue.

"Montague, I think, is improving quite a bit. Whether it helps the business or not, I don't know. You're definitely going to see some changes."

Chris Couture said one thing is certain: he and his father have taken pride in running the family business and feel a great deal of satisfaction recalling the tough times they have survived through, while other businesses have closed their doors.

"I've still got 20 good years left," chuckled Chris Couture, smiling at his father, who smiled right back.

WEST ALONG THE RIVER

Travel Notes from France

BY DAVID BRULE

MILLERS FALLS - "You can't stand in the same river twice," says the old adage. But this April I turned the saying around by standing in different rivers, just once.

Traveling far from the white-capped Millers, I found myself in southern France on the banks of the muddy Rhone. Free from my study group with a whole Saturday stretched out ahead of me, I headed through the village of St. Peray with the intention of hiking up to the pinnacle fortress that has looked out over the village and the river for at least the past two millenia.

I started up the gravelly path and headed to the Crussol, the ruined fortress, its old walls bleached the color of the limestone cliffs where it has perched since Gallo-Roman times. Reaching the ruined walls, hundreds of feet above the river, the view is strangely familiar. The Rhône is broad just here. It winds its way through the valley, moving south through tree-lined banks and vineyards. Côtes du Rhône, of course. Local legend has it that Napoleon, as a young artillery student living in the city of Valence, just across the river, scaled the sheer cliff up to the ruins to impress a young woman he fancied. Apparently he managed the climb without a problem, and she had to give in to his advances, Napoleon not one to take "non" for an answer.

On the far side of the valley lies the Vercors, rugged snow-covered plateaux and site of some of the fiercest guerrilla attacks on the Nazi forces by the

French Resistance, and of unspeakable massacre in retaliation

by the German occupiers. On the opposite side of the valley, behind me, is the Ardèche, more deserted and savage, where rocky terrain and lack of water have made life difficult for goat and shepherders since the time immemorial.

But all the harshness of those times seems far away on a day like this. A cool updraft brings the first cheery swallows kiting along the southern ridge, cherry and apricot trees bloom far below, blending with the pale haze of the first leaf buds of the willows on the banks of the Rhone.

A week later, my feet find their way to the shore of the Loire, which winds its way through the region known as the garden of France. My group is spending a night here in Amboise, exploring the history of several of the chateaux built along the Loire river by kings and nobles wishing to escape the intrigues and routine of 17th century Paris. For me, a solitary walk in the evening is a pleasant enough escape from the group, and fits nicely into my habit of evening walks back home. Standing on an arched bridge over the water, I watch swarms of swifts and swallows moving

upriver, headed north like all spring migrants. They swirl excitedly over and under the bridge, reappearing behind me, moving steadily over the relentless spring flood. The Loire is probably the last wild river left in France, broad and sweeping

dable domains of the French Middle Ages. By the 1500s, Charles VIII, Queen Anne of Brittany, and François I turned the castle from functional feudal to light-filled and airy Renaissance, launching the Italian style that would domi-



PHOTO BY FLORE

inate Europe for a century or more. Jean James Audubon spent formative years on the banks of this lovely river, exploring the Loire estuary near Nantes, before departing for the New World and his life's work capturing the birds of North America on canvas.

Farther north flows another river, quiet and sullen beneath the bridges of Paris. The Seine makes its way, channeled and constricted, through miles of stunning architecture, cultural treasures, and some of the most coveted living space on the face of the planet. Yet this urban river adds its romance to the heart of the city, assuring wide sweeps of sky with dra-

matic sunsets and cloud effects. On a quiet, rainy afternoon, I made my way to the Carnavalet Museum, dedicated to the history of Paris. I came upon a diorama of the Seine in its primitive state, when only the tribe called the Parisii lived here. By peeling away the centuries you can see the marshes and floodplains, the tributaries, the pirogue boats that were used for fishing and hunting where there are now cathedrals and museums, expressways and palaces. The Seine now squeezes itself through the city, winding past the Louvre, Napoleon's tomb, the Chamber of Representatives, the Eiffel Tower, and so on. Eventually, it gets free of the concrete channeling and resumes its meandering through more natural settings on the way to the English Channel. On the way out from Paris to our school near Versailles, our train crossed the Seine four times as it meanders towards Normandy and the sea!

Weeks later, I step off the back porch into the dusk gathering along the river. Here in Millers, we are almost a month behind the seasons in France. The sounds of this spring's freshet fill the woods mixing with the occasional nasal "peent!" of the woodcock and the soft evening warble of the robins. The river flows among the trees, turning little hills into islands perfect for wood ducks to paddle and preen. Now and then, a hint of greening grass spikes, a reddish hue around the maples. A green cloud hovers over the birch branches, and the white flowers of the shadbush glow like the ghosts of recently past snowfalls hanging in dark branches.

THE HEALTHY GEEZER

Low Vision

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - Q. At the recreation center in my development, I overheard some women talking about "low vision." Is that something like being near-sighted?

- **Confused in St. Petersburg**

A. No, low vision is very different. It is a significant reduction in visual function that can't be corrected by regular glasses, contact lenses, medicine or surgery. Low vision can range from moderate impairment - such as tunnel vision or blind spots - to almost total blindness.

One out of every 20 people has low vision. About 135 million people around the world suffer from this impairment.

Irreversible vision loss is most common among people

over age 65. However, losing vision is not just part of getting older. Some normal changes occur as we get older, but these changes usually don't lead to low vision.

Low vision can be caused by diseases, disorders, and injuries that affect the eye. Many people with low vision have age-related macular degeneration, cataracts or glaucoma. Almost 45 percent of all cases of low vision are caused by age-related macular degeneration, which progressively destroys the central retina (macula) at the back of your eye. The retina is to your eye what film is to a camera.



If you think you may have low vision, consult an eyecare professional who can tell the difference between normal changes in the aging eye and those caused by disease.

There are many signs that indicate possible vision loss. Under normal circumstances, do you have trouble recognizing faces of people you know? Is it difficult for you to read, sew, match the color of your clothes? Do lights seem dimmer than they used to?

Vision changes like these could be early warning signs

of eye disease. Usually, the earlier your problem is diagnosed, the better your chances are for successful treatment and maintaining your vision.

Regular eye exams should be part of your routine health care. However, if you think your vision has changed, you should see your eyecare professional as soon as possible.

A specialist in low vision is an optometrist or ophthalmologist who is trained to evaluate vision. This professional can prescribe visual devices and teach people how to use them.

Devices and rehabilitation programs can help you adapt to vision loss. They may help you maintain your lifestyle.

These devices include: adjustable lighting; large-print publications; magnifying devices; closed-circuit televisions; electronic reading

FREE CAR WASH

to benefit the afterschool programs of Great Falls Middle School and Sheffield Elementary School

Saturday, May 7th

10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

in Turners Falls, Food City parking lot or in Gill, Mobil gas station. Donations gratefully accepted. (rain date May 8th)

machines; computer systems with voice-recognition; telescopes; telephones and watches with large numbers.

Rehabilitation programs offer a wide range of services such as low-vision evaluations and special training to use adaptive devices. They also offer guidance for making changes in your home as well as group support from others with low vision.

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

ARTS

continued from pg 1

they will eat for a day. Teach a person how to fish and they will eat for a lifetime," she said, quoting the Chinese proverb.

Among those who came to lend their hands and handiwork to the weekend's celebration of the arts was Anne Harding, a Bernardston transplant who now happily resides in Turners Falls. Under one of the many white tents, she was selling her knitwear of wool, silk, and synthetic fibers - including ponchos and hats - as well as her jewelry made of recycled materials. Harding began making jewelry when she found a dead porcupine, and saved some of the quills to make earrings. Later, working for a computer company, she salvaged parts to provide raw material for her designs.

While she currently works full-time, she hopes to eventually be able to earn a living as a craftsperson. "I don't usually do craft fairs, but the Brick House does great work for the town," she said.

Patrick Booker, who works

out of a rented studio on Second Street, was another artist who did not let the weather deter him from participating in the festival. Struggling to keep his sculptures, t-shirts and artwork dry, Booker demonstrated his sculpting technique to a slow but constant stream of onlookers as the rain steadily dripped off the tent roof. Booker makes a clay model of an original sculpture, places it into silicone to make a form and fills the mold with hydrostone, a gypsum plaster which is easy to work with. He is able to produce more than one piece from each design, and markets his work locally. His sculptures include faces, masks, small statues of the Buddha and animals. While this was his first show, Booker hopes to continue expanding, and plans to eventually seek a bigger workshop to create his larger pieces.

Across from the Art Fest at the corner of Avenue A and Third, the Hallmark School was holding the first exhibition at their new Museum of Contemporary Photography. In the well-lit space with newly

varnished wood floors, visitors walking in from the rain-soaked street were met by a jazz trio and a table of appetizers and colorful spring flowers. People milled about discussing the stunning display of student prints on sale to raise money for victims of last year's devastating Indian Ocean tsunami.

According to Julie Brown,

Down Second Street, Tim de

Christopher

was busy talking about his sculptures to visitors in the converted Williams Garage. He said people had come from near and far, including Boston, to take part in the festival. In one corner stood a large sculpture above a water fountain depicting what de Christopher said is the beginning of a long-term project called The Cathedral Project. When it is complete, he said it "will tell the archetypal story of the human condition as it has manifested through time, in its own unique way, in the village of Turners Falls. From its difficult and tragic beginnings, to its agricultural and industrial underpinnings, its present state, and uncertain future." The piece will be located along the banks of the Connecticut River, he said, and will serve as a magnet for the continued development of the arts in the area.

Other pieces included a number of elephants, one with small people carved on its side, another with a trunk whose end resembled the holes in a sieve. Not to be missed was the stone Dachsund with metal wheels in place of back legs. The old garage was filled with the unexpected, the finely chiseled detail, the humorous and sublime carved in stone; not a place to glance quickly and move on.

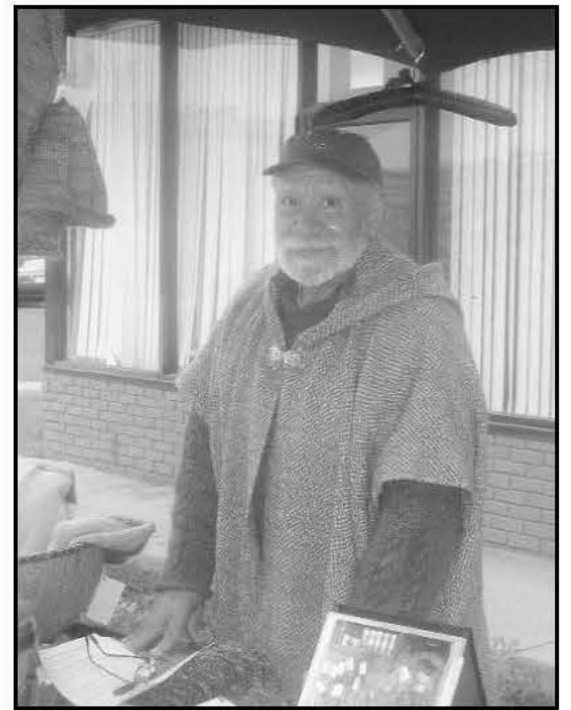
A block or two away, behind

Suzee's Third Street Laundry, a new performance space was opening in the rear of the building. While locals washed and

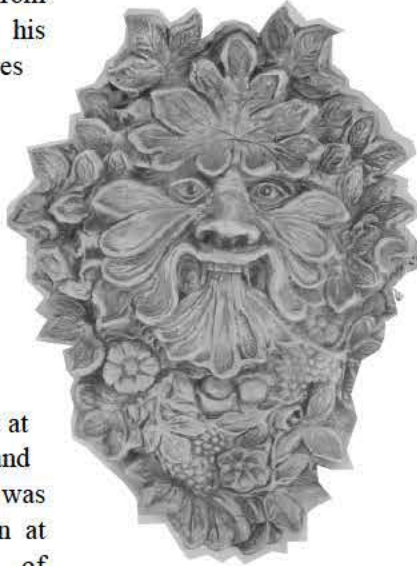
dried their clothes as they would on any rainy day, a blue arrow taped to the floor directed gallery walkers and hip hoppers to an intimate brick-arched stage bathed in warm lighting and the smell of fresh-cleaned clothes. There, Chris Janke and his wife Emily Brewster, laundrers and impresarios, had designed a day of DJ's, performance art, live music, and poetry to allow visitors to stretch out and unwind their minds. Throughout the day, Janke was busy welcoming guests and setting up musicians, showing videos on a large screen, keeping the spin cycle rotating smoothly, and MC'ing the smorgasbord of entertainment. As events elsewhere began to quiet down, the standing room only crowd could be heard repeating "What a great space!" and "When are you going to do this again?" Those same comments could be applied generally: studio walks, eateries, galleries, open air arts and crafts, bricks and flowers and poets. Turners Falls is a happening scene.

While locals washed and

dried their clothes as they would on any rainy day, a blue arrow taped to the floor directed gallery walkers and hip hoppers to an intimate brick-arched stage bathed in warm lighting and the smell of fresh-cleaned clothes. There, Chris Janke and his wife Emily Brewster, laundrers and impresarios, had designed a day of DJ's, performance art, live music, and poetry to allow visitors to stretch out and unwind their minds. Throughout the day, Janke was busy welcoming guests and setting up musicians, showing videos on a large screen, keeping the spin cycle rotating smoothly, and MC'ing the smorgasbord of entertainment. As events elsewhere began to quiet down, the standing room only crowd could be heard repeating "What a great space!" and "When are you going to do this again?" Those same comments could be applied generally: studio walks, eateries, galleries, open air arts and crafts, bricks and flowers and poets. Turners Falls is a happening scene.



Bob Ramirez of Keldaby Farm in Colrain, exhibits his wares, including warm mohair blend socks and hand-woven shawls at the Arts & Blooms Festival.



This sculpture was exhibited by Patrick Booker of Turners Falls at Arts & Blooms Festival.



PHOTOS BY PHILIPPE DEGUISE

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REQUIEM

continued from pg 1

in Boston on March 12th - 20th. As it was being installed there, the liner sprang a leak as the fountain's pool was filling with water, "making it more of a fountain of dry sobs," de Christopher said. But the fountain was on this weekend in Turners Falls, with four upright pipes plashing and viewers making wishes and tossing coins into the pool, while Noah's massive stone ark sailed proudly above.

De Christopher said the Biblical flood at the thematic center of the installation had taken on added poignancy after the late December tsunami in Southeast Asia. "I was going to have all the (wishing pool) money donated to tsunami relief," the sculptor said, "but because there was no water, there was no money."

Viewed from the side, Noah's Requiem reads as a Biblical allegory for the fall of humanity from spiritual grace. The limestone ark itself is facing backwards, towards a sculpture of Adam and Eve, while it sails blindly on toward a statue of Armageddon. The latter piece was finished in 1991, when de Christopher was working as a journeyman stonemason at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City.



PHOTO: PHILIPPE DEGUISE

Sculptor Tim de Christopher shows off one elephant that escaped from Noah's Ark.

The relief figures in Armageddon are carved in rough, angular planes, collapsing into a bowl-shaped hollow in a large, brazier-like vessel. It reveals fields and forests, farms, houses and sheep all falling down into the center of the crucible, as if the Earth had opened up to swallow all the works of nature and man. An upside down angel hangs on the side.

Approaching through the

plangent waves, the oversized ark is filled with the wit and whimsy of the artist, wrought in stone. Big birds stand on deck, while dancing dogs and lobsters

seen, like Bathsheeba, stepping from her shower. On the other side of the ship, one of his sons is opening up a dry goods store.

"The floodwaters are receding," said de Christopher. And the occupants are readying to bring their virtues and vices, their cares and labors, to solid

land again. But Noah himself, 609 years old when God commissioned him to build the boat, is seen gazing from an after-deck, playing a squeezebox, oblivious to the course. He is missing his old friends and neighbors, de Christopher surmises. Or perhaps his eyes are fixed on Paradise, in the form of de Christopher's most recent work, Adam and Eve.

The sculptor began this piece ten years ago, carving Eve *in flagrante delicto* handing the apple to Adam, and then put it

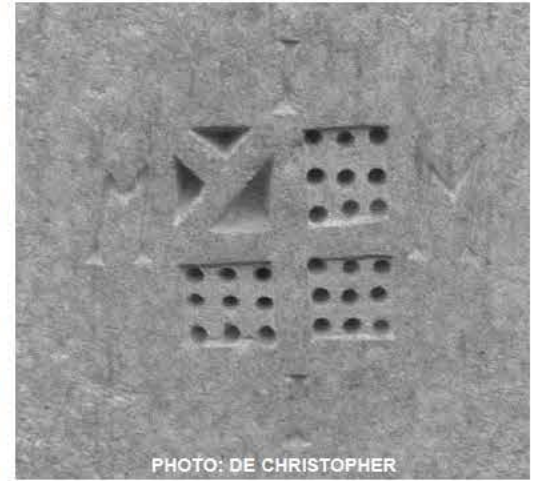


PHOTO: DE CHRISTOPHER

Tim de Christopher's signature

working in a long tradition that strives to capture the most ethereal essence in the most solid of forms. "Some of the most spiritually charged and evocative work through all civilization has always been in some of the densest materials," de Christopher affirmed, whether you look at the Western cathedrals, the Eastern temples, Stonehenge, the Druid dolmens and rockpiles... The sculptor muses on the meaning of Jesus telling Saint Peter "On this rock I will build my

Noah's Requiem: Reflecting on Life

I imagine Noah was a sensitive man, caring, responsible, just. I consider the flood, wondering just who was left behind. I presume Noah had friends; if not friends then surely acquaintances, people he did business with: the butcher, the baker, and so on, as do we all.

I imagine that it pained Noah to lose them. In some way he must have felt sorrow at their loss, grieved for them, and, despite God's assurances, I can not imagine he didn't fear for his family's fate, and even his own. He was only human after all.

In these days of ours it should give us pause; time to stop and reflect on our own lives, and the lives of others. Taking time to look deeply inward and ask the hard questions.

After all, who do we think we are, what are we doing here, and where on earth do we think we are going?

-Tim de Christopher
Turners Falls

Requiem

At the time of the first flood
there may have been another world
to flee to. If it is true
that two of everything remained
then there were mirror-boats,
the known one sailing high above the sea -
its mate below, although thought lost,
was every bit as destined to survive.
Circumstance decreed its navigation of
a different sea of wonders.
It was all so long ago -
before the bending of the world -
when science told another story altogether,
how the stone-weight of Noah's boat
caused the sudden curvature we now regard as
truth
and forced the lost ship in its last extreme of
grief
to loose its dove in the green lands under sea.
There she has lingered gladly all these
centuries.

- C.P. Jennings
January 2005

promenade on an upper gallery. Beneath, the hind ends of elephants hang out an open portal, relieving Noah of one more clean-up task. An odd, vented, tubular extension of the prow leads back to the engine room.

"Noah was experimenting with methane generation," de Christopher explained.

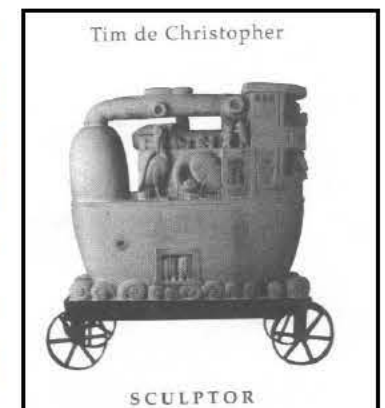
On the other side of the ark, "the darker side," hyenas do stand-up comedy in the lounge, a couple of toads sit at a booth "at the Shady Glen," and a "fat pig tries to pick up a little beaver," at one of the ark's night spots.

One of Noah's daughters is

aside, at an impasse that lasted years. After he received the commission for the Boston flower show in January, de Christopher dusted off the work and began carving madly. The tree of knowledge is fleshed out with the aspects of our busy modern lives prefigured in its branches. A bus departs from beneath the tree, the last exit from Eden, as the hand of God points outward, condemning the unhappy couple to the world of labor. Cain slays Abel; the story moves on.

"There is a spiritual sense that informs my work," said de Christopher. As a sculptor, he is

church.' "Peter is from the Greek *petra*, meaning stone. It may be stone, but what the stone is saying is totally ethereal."



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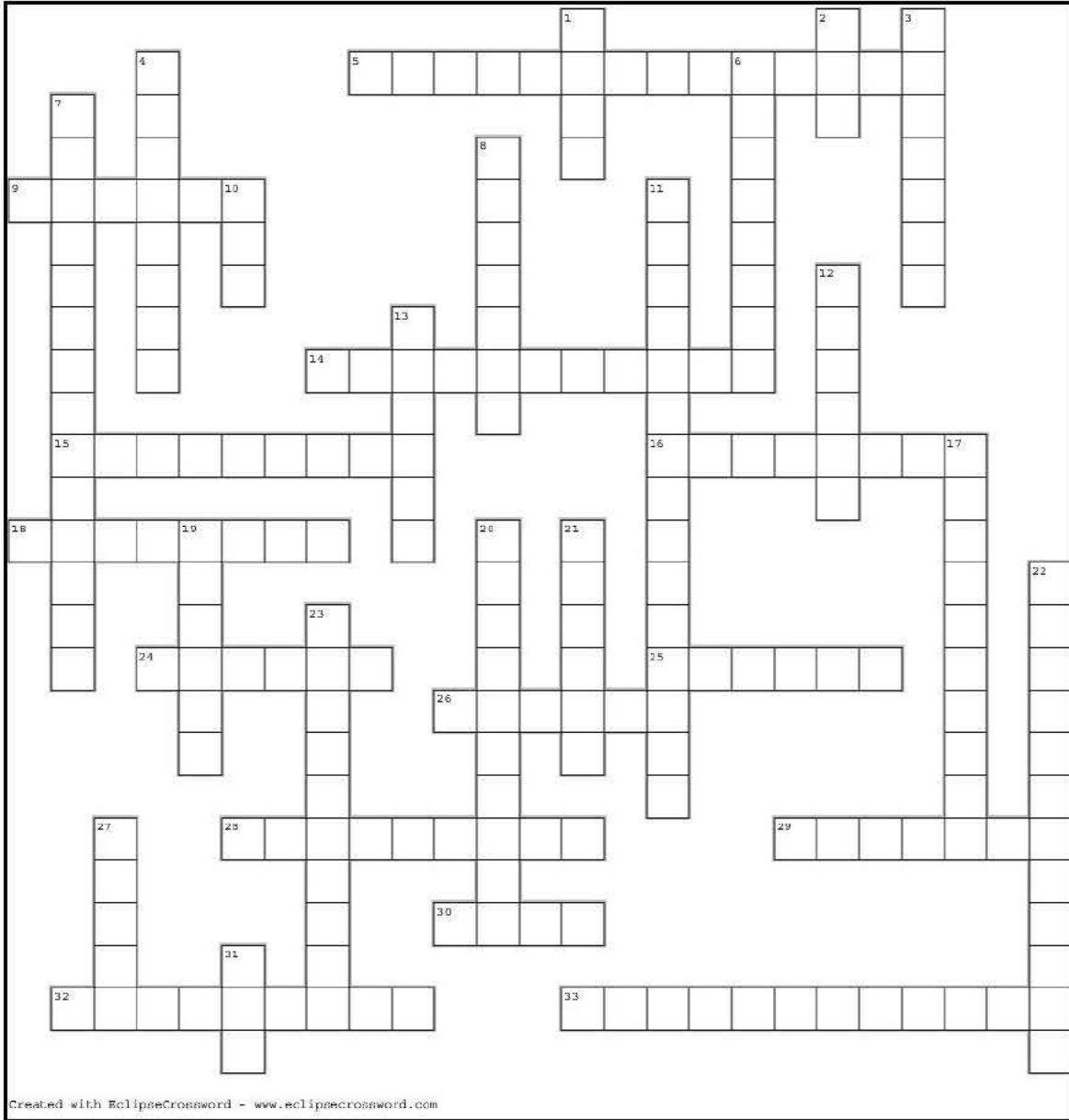
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Flora Lore

by Bette Black

I went to the woods
because I wished to live deliberately,
to front only the essential facts of life,
and see if I could not
learn what it had to teach,
and not,
when I came to die,
discover that I had not lived.

—THOREAU



Across

- 5. Wildflower known for white flat-topped flower clusters.
- 9. A spike-like inflorescence bearing unisexual flowers without petals, as in the willows.
- 14. Showy magenta-flowered perennial introduced from Europe that aggressively covers acres of wetlands and crowds out native aquatic plants.
- 15. Shedding leaves seasonally, as do many trees.
- 16. Wildflower known for its three leaves and three-petalled flowers, grows in moist woodland.
- 18. Showy fruiting body of fungi.
- 24. Wildflower with heart-shaped leaves rich in vitamins A and C. Blue-purple flowers used in candies and jellies.
- 25. Plant that is actually a combination of two other plants, fungus and alga. Often seen as gray-green ruffled growth on rock and bark surfaces.
- 26. Herb of the Mint family, genus Nepeta loved by the domestic feline very, very, very much.
- 28. Upright climbing or trailing shrub containing volatile oil that can cause severe skin inflammation.
- 29. A slender coiling structure that helps support climbing plants.
- 30. Flowerless, seedless plant known for fronds and fiddleheads.
- 32. Tall, leafy woodland plant with succulent translucent stems, its sap a scientifically proven fungicide; pendent golden-orange flowers.
- 33. Wetland plant that emerges very early in spring as tight rolled leaves that emit a fetid odor to lure pollinating insects.

- 2. Grasses like timothy and other plants such as alfalfa and clover cut and dried for animal fodder.
- 3. Condiment usually made from tomatoes.
- 4. Herb known for tufted seed-pods and white sticky sap.
- 6. Tree with white, mottled bark known as the "buttonball"; prefers to grow along streams and rivers.
- 7. Field plant with hairy foliage bearing showy golden-yellow daisy-like flowers with a dark brown central cone.
- 8. Course hairy-stemmed plant of the Sunflower family whose pollen is known as the primary cause of hayfever allergies.
- 10. Seed born within a fruit with a hard shell.
- 11. Woodland plant of the Arum family known for green or purple-striped hood concealing the flower-bearing spadix within.
- 12. Leafy herb covered with stinging hairs.
- 13. Ancient Japanese art of miniaturizing mature trees and landscapes.
- 17. Night blooming vine related to the morning glory.
- 19. Pungent root plant used in salads.
- 20. White plant devoid of chlorophyll with thick translucent stem and solitary nodding flower; gets its nourishment from decayed organic material through a mutually beneficial fungal relationship.
- 21. The study of plants.
- 22. Largest native orchid in New England; grows in dry forests like the Montague Plains.
- 23. Ground cover also known as myrtle, with lavender-blue star-shaped flowers.
- 27. Fragrant herb sometimes used by gardeners as a ground-cover or in rock gardens.
- 31. Tree with a vase-shaped form noted for its shade spread and having widely succumbed to diseases.

Down

- 1. Abnormal swelling of plant tissue caused by insects or microorganisms.

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Sox Struggle in April

BY LEE CARIGNAN

TURNERS FALLS - The Boston Red Sox (14-12) are off to a slow start this spring as they try to defend their world championship. Injuries, poor pitching and inconsistent hitting have combined to give Red Sox fans the blues. This is the first time since 1999 the Sox have seen double-digit losses in the month of April.

After starting off the season losing four of their first five road games to the Yankees and Blue Jays, things started looking up for the Sox. They had a good home stand, winning five of their next six, including the memorable world championship ring ceremony in their home opener with the Yankees watching from their dugout. The Red Sox moved into first place briefly in mid-April and their pitching looked like it might be improving. David Wells and Matt Clement, who had struggled in their early starts, pitched back-to-back shutouts against the red hot Orioles. Since then, the pitching stats started heading south. The Sox are now ranked 8th in the league in ERA. After his

shutout performance, Wells came up lame with a foot injury in his ensuing start. He allowed six runs in 3 ²/₃ innings before leaving the game in an 8-4 loss to the Orioles. He was diagnosed with a sprained foot and will be out for at least a month.

Clement followed Wells the next night giving up seven runs and 12 hits in 4 ²/₃ innings to the Orioles. He squandered an 8-3 lead to let Baltimore back in the game. The Red Sox eventually lost the game 11-8. Despite Clement's inconsistencies, he does have a 3-0 record on the season.

Twenty-four hours after the Red Sox said Wells would be out for a month, they announced Curt Schilling was on the 15-day disabled list with a mild bone bruise on his right ankle. This is the same ankle he had surgically repaired in the off-season. Makes you wonder if he came back too soon this spring. The doctors are denying it, but have said if he kept pitching on it he could break the bone and his season would be over. Schilling had been struggling with a 1-2 record and a 7.13 ERA. Don't be surprised if



Schilling is on the bench for more than two weeks.

Last season, the Red Sox starting rotation did not miss a single start due to injury during regular season play. Now they will have to find replacements for two of their starting pitchers. John Halama will pitch against the Tigers, filling in for Wells this week. Schilling's replacement will come from triple-A Pawtucket, where Wade Miller is rehabbing. Miller could provide a boost for the Sox pitching staff when and if he's ready. The Red Sox said they wouldn't rush him, despite their shortage of starting pitching.

The relief pitching has also struggled. Matt Mantei - who throws in the mid-90s - has

been a disappointment, struggling with his control. Alan Embree, who lost some velocity off his fastball, has been very hittable this spring. Also, the reliable Keith Foulke (1-3) has had a rough spring and has already lost more games this year than he did all last year. His ERA is at an unbelievable 7.20 this spring.

Surprisingly the Sox hitting has also been a disappointment. The Red Sox have led the league in runs scored each of the last two seasons, but can't seem to connect so far this spring. Johnny Damon (.356) and Jason Varitek (.324) have been solid, but Ramirez (.262) and Ortiz (.267) have yet to get going. Kevin Millar, who the Sox decided to keep at first base despite his defensive liabilities has yet to hit a home run. The biggest disappointments this spring are Bill Mueller (.241), Mark Bellhorn (.229), and Edgar Renteria (.230). Mueller won the batting title just two years ago, but has struggled with knee injuries the last two seasons. Bellhorn gave the Sox some power at the second base position last season but has yet

to hit a home run so far this year. Renteria, who was the Red Sox big free agent signing this past off-season, has struggled with his transition to the American League. The Red Sox committed \$40 million over four years to the shortstop, instead of resigning Orlando Cabrera at a lesser price.

Slow starts following pennant winning seasons have plagued the Boston Red Sox throughout their history. But it's still too early to start prophesying doom. Even the 2004 Red Sox played .500 ball for nearly three months before they turned things around and won the World Series. If there is a silver lining, it's that the Yankees (11-16) are floundering even more than the Sox. Also, the first place Orioles (17-9) may not have enough pitching to keep playing at the same level throughout the rest of the season. But if the Red Sox don't get their own pitching staff up to snuff, and get more hitting production from their lineup, it could be a long season. Stay tuned.

THE PERSISTENT GARDENER

Lime and Fertilizer

BY WOODY BROWN

MONTAGUE CITY - A reader asked if I would write an article explaining pH. I'll try.

First, let's define some terms. The symbol pH is a means of expressing the concentration of hydrogen (H⁺) ions or hydroxyl (OH⁻) ions. Gardeners use it to record the alkalinity or the acidity of our soil.

The scale states pH ranges from 0 to 14. A neutral solution such as distilled water has a pH of 7. An acid solution records a pH less than 7. An alkaline solution records a pH of more than 7.

Although there are differences in what plants desire in pH, generally speaking, I try to keep my overall garden at 6.5, just slightly acid. Shrubs prefer an even more acid environment, but even they will do well at 6.5.

I check the pH of my soil myself. It's very easy and you can do it too. If you wish, however, take a small sample of soil collected from various parts of your garden, mix it up and stop by the Master Gardeners' table at the Greenfield Farmers' Market some Saturday early in the season. Whoever is on duty will check it for you.

Soil pH is very important. My personal feeling is that it's more important to keep tabs on this aspect of your garden's soil than to worry about the fertilizer ratio. As I have said, the desirable pH for vegetable gardens is 6.5. Commonly, readings in New England are below 6.5, requiring the addition of lime. I use pulverized limestone instead of granules.

Once the pH of your soil is adjusted, you may want to con-



sider the question of fertilizer. For a very reasonable fee you can have your fertilizer needs checked out by the University of Massachusetts. Just call and tell the answering operator, (413) 545-0111, that you want the soil-testing lab, and ask them how to go about it.

The best way to develop fer-

tility health in the garden is with the regular annual addition of composted manure and compost of your own making. Bags of composted manure can be obtained at just about any garden supply store. Your own compost is derived by throwing all your vegetable remains and leftovers in a bin and allowing them to decompose.

Some people make a ritualistic process of this task. They put so much vegetable remains topped with dirt and then another layer of vegetable matter and so on. Our composting is just vegetable matter on top of vegetable matter. Please note that I said "vegetable matter". Do not try to compost meat. All you'll get is maggots!

Here in our garden we spread manure at the rate of four 80-pound bags per 100

square feet. We turn it under every fall. The compost is added to each row of seed plantings and every hole that gets a plant. I haven't used commercial fertilizer in such a long time that I can't remember when.

By way of summary then, the procedure for garden soil monitoring is try to get your soil's pH as close to 6.5 as you can. If you're a bit off it doesn't matter. Just get as close to 6.5 as you can. In the fall add composted cow manure to your plot. Spread it about and then turn it under. Your vegetables and flowers will do just fine. Happy gardening!

Send your gardening questions to the Persistent Gardener, care of the *Montague Reporter*, 24 3rd Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376, or via email at: reporter@montaguema.net.

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HOME COOKING

Here is a recipe Mitzi Koscinski of Turners Falls sent in for Stuffed Peppers. We encourage other readers to send in their favorite recipes, along with any introductory remarks they might like to share, to:

Montague Reporter, 24 3rd Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376, or via email to: reporter@Montaguema.net

Mitzi Koscinski's Stuffed Peppers

Ingredients:

- 6 large green peppers
- 1½ pounds pork sausage
- 2 cups seasoned mashed potato
- ½ teaspoon paprika
- 1/8 teaspoon pepper
- ¼ cup chopped onion
- 1 egg, beaten
- ¼ teaspoon sage
- 2 tablespoons grated parmesan cheese



WOODBLOCK BY MARY AZARIAN

Lightly brown sausage and onions. Pour off drippings. Combine with potatoes and rest of ingredients. Top and core peppers; remove seeds. (You may also cut peppers in half, to remove cores and seeds, and stuff them that way.) Parboil peppers two or three minutes. Spoon mixture into peppers. Bake in a 12 x 8 inch baking

Our 500th Subscriber!

ERVING - Mary Carner of Warner Street celebrated her 63rd birthday on Tuesday, May 3rd and in addition to presents from her family and friends, she received a \$50 gift certificate to bellybowl restaurant in Turners Falls, after she became the Montague Reporter's 500th subscriber.

The newspaper subscription was a gift from Carner's daughter, Tracy.

"My girlfriend used to read it and pass it along to me, and when she passed away my husband would pick it up at Carroll's," said Carner, a native of Millers Falls who has lived in Erving for 29 years.

"I really like the paper. It has different things that I remember about the area and sometimes it gives you more than the (local daily) gives you," she said. "So



Mary and George Carner

I really enjoy just the local news that you get. You can find out what's going on" Carner, a former certified nurse at the Franklin Nursing Home on Conway Street in Greenfield, now spends many days babysitting for some of her 15 grand-

children. She has seven children, four of whom still live locally. Her husband, George Carner, retired from Western Mass Electric Co. in Greenfield three years ago.

The Carners enjoy eating out at the Four Leaf Clover in Bernardston, Chinese restaurants and Applebee's in Greenfield, and used to enjoy the Starlite Diner and Box Car Restaurant in Erving as well as the Shady Glen in Turners Falls.

"We're looking forward to trying the new place in Turners, bellybowl," said Carner, who enjoys the quiet section of town where she lives and the friendly people who inhabit it.

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JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

FRIDAY, MAY 6TH

Hold 'Em for Hospice - Texas Hold 'Em Poker Tournament. All proceed to benefit Hospice of Franklin County, Inc. St. Kaziemerz Hall, 179 Avenue A, Turners Falls. Registration starts at 6:00 p.m., tournament at 7:00 p.m. sharp.

First Friday Contra Dance with *Moving Violations*, Guiding Star Grange Hall, 401 Chapman St., Greenfield. 8:00 to 11:30 p.m. (413) 549-1913.

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY MAY 6TH & 7TH

Arena Civic Theater presents *Arsenic and Old Lace*. Performances at the Shea Theatre, 71 Avenue A, Turners Falls. 8:00 p.m. Also Sunday matinee at 2 p.m. (413) 863-2281.

Media Arts Café features the film *The Philadelphia Story* (NR) at the new seasonal time of 8:30 p.m., one show each night. Katharine Hepburn, Cary Grant and James Stewart star in this classic, upper-crust comedy. Hepburn, a wealthy heiress, is in search of romance. Grant, plays her ex-husband, and Stewart won an Academy Award for his role as the reporter who falls in love with her. Media Arts Café is in the Green Trees Gallery, 105 Main St., Northfield. \$10 - general admission; \$8 - seniors; \$6.50 - students. Ticket price includes a complimentary beverage. Comfortable couches and café table seating. State-of-the-art audio/video system. Coming May 20th & 21st - *The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill!!!*

SATURDAY, MAY 7TH

Pamela Wyn Shannon performs live at *bellybowl* restaurant's dinner & music series, 104 4th St., Turners Falls. 7 - 9 p.m. 863-4064. According to Adam McGovern of Yahoo! Internet Life, "Shannon's Celtic-influenced folk displays that rare and sublime mix of virtuosity and brevity. She's seemingly capable of anything: emotive bravura vocals without flash; acrobatic guitar without bombast. You'll wonder where this brilliant new artist has been all your life." For

more on Pamela visit www.girl-henge.com.

Body Language: A Celebration is an original performance of drama and poetry written and performed by local women. These touching and humorous pieces are interspersed with taiko drumming to create a powerful and entertaining show. This is a benefit for NELCWIT's "Devorah's Door to Safety Fund," which pays for emergency safety needs of domestic violence victims. One performance only at 7 p.m. All Souls Church in Greenfield. Tickets are available on a sliding scale \$8 - \$30, and can be purchased at NELCWIT, 10 Park Street or at World Eye Bookshop in Greenfield or by calling (413) 773-1995 ext. 43.

First Saturday Contra Dance with *Wild Asparagus*. Guiding Star Grange Hall, 401 Chapman St., Greenfield. 8:00 to 11:30 p.m. (413) 772-6840.

FRIDAY, MAY 13TH

Live music and poetry at the Montague Bookmill in Montague Center - Multiple sound and spoken word artists appearing upstairs. *Schurt Kwitters* - sewing machine & electronics, will leave you in stitches; literally. *Brad Flis* - sound poetry. *Chris Cooper / Steven Zultanski* - tapes & voices, will blow your mind; literally. *Marie Buck* - it doesn't even sound like language. *Kurt Weisman* - pre-fab jazz-pop, brotherly love. *Lawrence Giffin* - poet laureate for the child war of 2076. *Bhob Rainey* - computers or saxes, tiny and otherwise. Autonomous Battleship Collective is a group of free-associators collaboratively promoting an agenda of radical aesthetics in real time / real space. A.B.C. operates in and around the Pioneer Valley, organizing affordable and accessible music performances, art events and other related happenings. For further information regarding performers or A.B.C.: autonomousbattleshipcollective@hotmail.com m. 8 p.m. \$7 at the door. For directions or venue info., contact the Montague Bookmill at (413) 367-9206 or www.montague-bookmill.com.

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

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY MAY 13TH & 14TH

Ja'Duke Productions presents *Wizard of Oz*. Performances at the Shea Theater, 71 Avenue A,



MARK RAE PHOTO

Airborne Comedians

Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse
Saturday, May 21st

Turners Falls. 8:00 p.m. Also May 20th and 22nd. (413) 863-2281.

SATURDAY, MAY 14TH

13th Annual Walkathon for Meals on Wheels! Sponsored by Franklin County Home Care Corporation. Walkers can start walking anytime between 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. - a 3-mile walk. Every penny of your pledge stays in the community and goes directly to feeding an elder. Franklin County Tech School Track, Industrial Blvd. in Turners Falls. (413) 773-5555 x278.

Relay Rock 2005 - Waves of Emotion, a Franklin County Relay for Life Team, will sponsor a dance featuring the *Curly Fingers Dupree Band* at St. Kaziemerz in Turners Falls. Doors open at 7:30 p.m.; music from 8:30 - midnight. Admission is \$5 at the door. The team will also hold a 50/50 raffle during the course of the evening. All proceeds donated to the Relay for Life 2005 campaign to benefit the American Cancer Society. The Relay for Life is a 24-hour track event held rain or shine at the Franklin County Fairgrounds, where teams must have one member on the track for the duration of the event. This year's Relay begins with the Survivor's Lap at 5:45 p.m. on June 3rd and concludes at 6 p.m. on June 4th.

Coffee and Soul presents the *Second Annual Celebration of Peace and Justice*. The concert is a triple bill with Jim Scott, Charlie King and Karen Brandow, and Peter Siegel. Also an opportunity to find out about the work of peace and justice groups from throughout the Pioneer Valley. All Souls Church, 399 Main St., Greenfield. 6:30 for table viewing. Concert at 7:30 p.m. (413) 773-5018.

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

The Quabbin Chapter of the Association of Traditional Hooking Artists will hold a Hooked Rug Show & Sale on at the Jones Library in Amherst

Hot Spot Teen Center

Monday - Ongoing Digital Arts Project, 3 to 5 p.m. except 5/30
Tue & Wed - Ongoing Music Project, 3 to 5 p.m.
Thursday - Technology Drop-in hours, 3 to 5 p.m. and Movie Night, 6 to 8 p.m.
Friday, May 6th - Skate Trip, 2 - 6 p.m.
Friday, May 13th - Open mic at bellybowl, 6 - 8:30 p.m.
Friday, May 20th - Film Festival, 6 - 8 p.m.
Friday, May 27th - Open mic, 6 - 9 and Avenue A Music Project CD Release Party
These programs are free (except some skate trips) and open to local teens. Some require permission slips. For more info about any of these events or programs please call
Jared at 863-9559.
Hot Spot Teen Center is in
The Brick House
Community Resource Center
24 Third St, Turners Falls

Memorial Hall Theater
POTHOLE PICTURES
May 6th & 7th
Postcards from the Edge
Drugged-out actress hits bottom, and, in rehab, suddenly has to compete for attention with her star mother, who has her own addiction demons. Michael Haley (assistant director of the film) speaks and answers questions after the film. Music before the movies: Friday - Abdul Baki & New Roots (reggae), Saturday - President's Pretzels (diverse tunes) - 7:00 p.m. Film at 7:30.
51 Bridge St., Shelburne Falls 625-2896

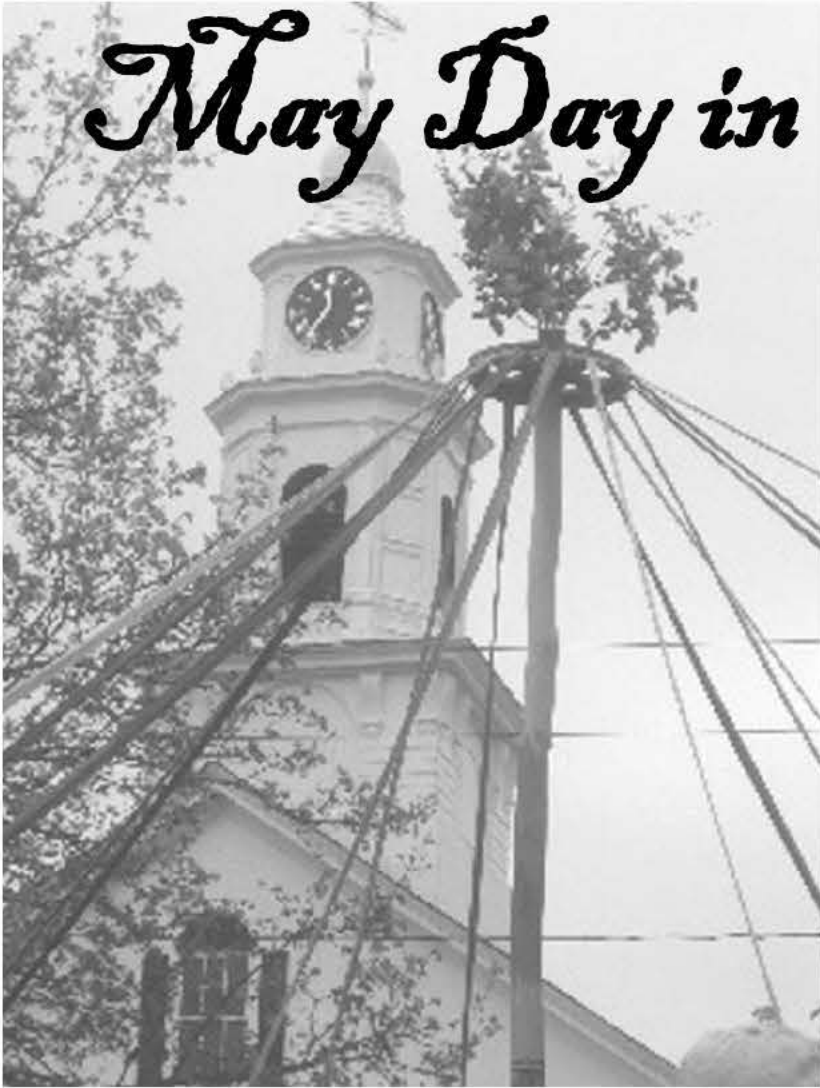
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4. FEVER PITCH PG13
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5. A LOT LIKE LOVE PG13
DAILY 615 915
MATINEE SAT,SUN,&WED 1215 315
6. HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY
PG in DTS sound
DAILY 630 930
MATINEE SAT,SUN,&WED 1230 330
6. BARRARELLA
FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT MIDNIGHT
7. KINGDOM OF HEAVEN R in DTS sound
DAILY 630 930
MATINEE SAT,SUN,&WED 1230 330

Answers to last week's crossword puzzle.
Haute Cuisine

Across	Down
1. BOKCHOY	2. KEBAB
3. DAIKON	3. DAL
8. TRUFFLE	4. KIELBASA
9. GAZPACHO	5. BROSE
11. SASHIMI	6. JULIENNE
12. TAMALE	7. BANNOCK
14. OOLONG	10. SCHNITZEL
15. TAMARI	13. SOUFFLE
17. NORI	15. TANDOOR
18. GHEE	16. FRICASSEE
21. FLAN	19. HARCOT
26. BORSCHT	20. HAGGIS
28. CHOWMEIN	21. FLAMBE
29. STRUDEL	22. SPAETZLE
31. WASABI	23. CHORIZO
32. JALAPENO	24. MATZO
33. KAPUSTA	25. ROUX
34. SPANAKOPITA	27. TEMPURA
	30. BASMATI

Mabel Zobel
By
Sandra Facto

"EANY MEANY MINY MOE, HEAVENS HOW I HATE
SPRING CLEANING!!!"



On the Common, church spire and Maypole crown reach skyward

May Day in Montague

Hal and Tow Helston May Processional

*Hal and tow, jolly rumbalow
We were up, long before the day-o
To welcome in the summer,
To welcome in the May-o
For summer is a-comin' in
And winter's gone away-o.*

*Since Man was first created, he's always celebrated
The coming of the summer at the coming of the May.*

*Take no scorn to wear the horn, it was the crest when
you were born
Your father's father wore it, and your father wore it too.*

*Robin Hood and Little John, they both went to the fair-o
And we will to the merry green wood to hunt the buck
and hare.*

PHOTOS BY
PHILIPPE DEGUISE



Flore and Richard Anderson, wearing green placemats, try teaching Brunhilde to sing for her supper



*What happened to the Spaniards
who made so great a boast-o
Well, they shall eat the feathered
goose, and we shall eat the roast-o.*

*God bless the merry muses,
with all their power and might-o
And send us peace to England,
send peace by day and night-o.*



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JOE GRAVELINE

The Montague Reporter is selling t-shirts

Right: Arthur Evans attempts to sell Veronica Phaneuf a hot-off-the-presses *Montague Reporter* t-shirt at the Arts and Blooms festival. The weather was a bit too damp and mild to persuade many to purchase the lightweight cotton shirts, with the cool black on gray logo, for just \$12, so we have plenty left for summer months.

Reporter T-shirts are available at Rau's Sunoco, the Montague Mini Mart in Montague Center, and Cup O'Joe or the newspaper office on 24 Third Street in Turners. Please support your community newspaper. Buy a *Montague Reporter* t-shirt and spread the news!




PHOTO: PHILIPPE DEGUISE

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