



HIGH SCHOOL GOLF PRO
Wins Western Mass Title
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GHOST STORIES
Haunted Lives, reviewed
Page 16

LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 6 - NO. 5

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

NOVEMBER 1, 2007

Veterans Memorials Restored on Avenue A

BY DAVID DETMOLD Memorial Day and Veterans Day have swelled in numbers as new conflicts have broken out in Afghanistan and Iraq. "I'm really proud of the fact that 95% of the money we raised [for the memorial] came from businesses, social clubs, and the people of Montague and surrounding towns," said Trustees of the veterans memorial on

see VETS pg 12

"Other People's Children"

ANNE DIEMAND ADDRESSES 10,000 IN BOSTON

at Anti-War Rally • Saturday, October 27th

SUSAN VON RANSON PHOTO

War Memorials Dedicated Sunday, November 11th

BY ART GILMORE Montague Soldiers Memorial invite the public to attend the dedication ceremony to be held on Veterans Day, Sunday, November 11th, from 10 to 11 a.m. see WAR pg 12

"Good afternoon friends. My name is Anne Diemand, and my only son Jacob is serving his second tour of duty in Iraq."

and he flies Black Hawks for the Army. Jacob grew up on the Diemand family farm in a small town in Western Massachusetts. You have probably never heard of this small town - Wendell. Like so many other small New England towns, Wendell has sent its sons and daughters to fight wars halfway around the world. In September, two days after my son Jacob and his new wife Cynthia, also Army, left on his second tour of duty, we learned of the death of Ari Brown-Weeks. Ari is the only child of my friend Karen from the neighboring village of Leyden. Ari was 23 years old. He was scheduled to return home next month on Veterans Day, also known as see DIEMAND pg 12

Soup's On! at the Roadhouse



Carol Cameron in the kitchen of the Route 63 Roadhouse, cooking up a storm on Wednesday.

JOANNA FRANKEL MILLERS FALLS - As if we needed another reason to love the Route 63 Roadhouse, in case the poker and pool tournaments, horseshoe matches, and friendly folks who all seem to know your name weren't enough, now they've added food to their list of attractions! The Roadhouse kitchen, which had been closed for the last few years, has coming roaring back into operation, serving from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. on Mondays, and 6:00 to 11:00 p.m. on Wednesdays through Sundays. (If those of us who make the Roadhouse our regular destination for poker night on Tuesdays have our way, perhaps we can persuade them to open the kitchen on Tuesdays as well.) see SOUP pg 10

Whassup with the Turners Skate Park?

BEN MILLER TURNERS FALLS - After a few initial years of success, the skate park located at the end of 2nd Street near Unity Park in Turners Falls has been closed for repair since June of 2003. Four years ago, the park was closed by the mutual consent of the Montague parks and recreation department and the kids who used it, when the plywood used for the original ramp construction had deteriorated to the point of being unsafe. After a meeting at the Great Hall of the Discovery Center between town officials, parents and teens in April of 2005 - and an anonymous gift to the Brick House Community Resource Center of \$5,000 for repairs to the skate park - it seemed everyone was in agreement to get the park up and running again. The necessary repairs were made to the ramps, and a new chain link was installed last winter, at a cost of \$5,075. However, a series of missteps followed, and the park remained closed all spring and summer. With no official word from the town, the police didn't begin regularly unlocking the gate in the morning. Recently, some unauthorized person took matters into their own hands and pulled down a section of the fence. What has followed is an absence of leadership, as frustrated town officials try to wash their hands of responsibility while the skate park waits on the verge of being open for legitimate use. Instead of teens performing wild and graceful variials, wall rides and tail whips, the park lies idle, strewn with trash bags. see PARK pg 10

Lake Pleasant Losing Longtime Postmaster



Lake Pleasant Postmaster Joyce Cote inside the post office. Cote is retiring after 24 years at her post.

BY KATHERINE MAYFIELD - It's the end of an era in Lake Pleasant. Joyce Cote, who has served the town as postmaster for 24 years, is retiring this week. She's looking forward to the free time and space that retirement brings, but village residents will greatly miss her lively, upbeat presence in the post office. Over the years, many of the residents visited the post office not only to pick up their mail, but also to spend a few enjoyable minutes chatting with Joyce. Always ready with a smile and a willing spirit, Joyce would stop whatever work she was involved in at the moment to arrange for a money order or conduct other postal business for customers. see COTE pg 11

PET OF THE WEEK

Loving Sisters



Koko & Oreo

Hello! We are Koko and Oreo, two lovely and beautiful spayed female sister cats. We are so sweet and calm, and enjoy cuddling up somewhere cozy. We can be a little shy, but once we come out of our shell, we are the most loving, playful girls around! For more information on adopting us please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at 413-548-9898 or via email at leverett@dpvhs.org.

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GFMS Students of the Week

Grade 6:
Katarina Sankova

Grade 7:
Hannah Whiteman
Jeremy Peffer

Grade 8:
Aimee Poirier

The Montague Reporter

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CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS

Mother Goose on the Loose

BY LINDA HICKMAN

TURNERS FALLS - Mother Goose on the Loose will be held weekly on Tuesday mornings at the Carnegie Library at 10 a.m., starting November 6th. The program is an interactive mix of live music, rhymes, stories, puppets, and other visuals. The sessions are designed for babies

through preschoolers and are run by Children's Librarian Linda Hickman. The programs are supported by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, administered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. For more information, call the Carnegie Library, 863-3214.

WENDELL LIBRARY NEWS

Volunteers Needed to Plant

Volunteers are needed to help plant the Wendell Library landscape on Saturday, Nov. 3rd from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

A committee of Wendell citizens has prepared a landscape design. The New England Wildflower Society is donating about 240 beautiful perennials and shrubs. Stewarts Nursery has also given design assistance

and a discount on plants. This week the planting areas will be prepared with top soil and composted manure.

A volunteer crew armed with shovels, garden forks and gloves is needed on Saturday for the actual planting.

Please join us if you are able. Many hands will make light work.

When the Dead Talk Back

BY FLORE WENDELL

If you measured the sound of applauding hands, last Friday at the Wendell Free Library, it would exceed the sound barrier. The reason? Five impressive storytellers carried the attentive audience beyond



Local playwright
Richard Ballon

all expectations, with thrilling effect! Each of them embodied totally their story's narrative.

The title of this timely Halloween gathering organized by Richard Ballon was:

"When The Dead Talk Back."

In the space of one short hour, the characters were brought before us in their totality,

awakened by each of their magnificent interpreters! So, beware, when Su Hoyle, Lyle Lampe, Deb Bix, Jean Koester and *Le Maitre d'Oeuvre*, local playwright Richard Ballon, propose such intimate storytelling evenings. Run there!

Band Booster Can and Bottle Drive

The Band Booster organization of Turners Falls High School and Great Falls Middle School will be holding a can and bottle drive this Saturday, November 3rd, from 9 a.m. to noon in the parking lot of Food City in Turners Falls.

Kids, along with their parents, will be scouring neighbor-

hoods in Montague and Gill asking for can and bottle donations. We will also welcome donations at our site in the Food City parking lot.

The proceeds will go into our general fund, which helps subsidize events, the high school band trip, band camp, and other expenses that come up for band

and chorus students. Please save your cans and bottles for us. Any questions, please call Stacey at 413-367-9418. We can also arrange to pick up your cans and bottles if you are unable to deliver them yourself, or if we don't knock on your door. Thank you!

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES November 5th - 9th

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

Monday, 5th
10 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11 a.m. Easy Aerobics
Tuesday, 6th
9:30 a.m. T'ai Chi

Wednesday, 7th
10 a.m. Senior Aerobics
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, 8th
1:00 p.m. Pitch
Friday, 9th
10 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11 a.m. Easy Aerobics

A suggested donation of \$1.00 per exercise is appreciated.

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

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

Monday, 5th
9:30 a.m. Exercise
9:45 a.m. Library
12 Noon Pitch
Tuesday, 6th
9 a.m. Aerobics
12:30 p.m. Painting
Wednesday, 7th
9:00 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Weight Loss Group
12 Noon Bingo
Thursday, 8th
9 a.m. Aerobics
10:15 a.m. Pool
12:30 p.m. Shopping

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

FACES & PLACES



DAVOL PHOTO

Town Hall Staff at Your Service!
(We always knew their was something odd about that place.)

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Empowering Businesses on the World Wide Web

BY KATHY LITCHFIELD

TURNERS FALLS - Patrick Davis and Michael Muller think every business should have a website.

"Absolutely, there's no excuse," said Davis, 30-year-old managing partner of Montague WebWorks. "A website is a dynamic communications tool. Today, if you're not locatable on the Web, you're out of the loop."

Davis and Muller are making the process of creating and updating a website faster and easier than ever before, with the founding of their new company, Montague WebWorks, on October 1st.

Muller, who has worked as a coding engineer since 1993, was frustrated about the extensive time he spent helping clients design, create and update their individual websites; he was custom coding systems for each one.

To streamline this process, Muller wrote one powerful, multi-faceted program to serve as the template for running the "behind the scenes" creation of many individualized sites.

This proprietary management and content software is called "WebWorks 1.0," and it has the capacity to drive literally millions of completely distinctive, individualized websites.

"Now, I can focus on helping clients find a look that works for them from existing templates on the Web, or come up with a custom design," said Muller. "Instead of spending \$3,000 on a process that used to take three months or more, now people can have a website within a number of days, or even hours."

WebWorks 1.0 allows the website owner to make significant textual and image changes with a few mouse clicks, from his or her own office, without having to call a designer for each specific change or update their website requires, Davis explained. The engine includes coding for news pages, contact info, a library of images, even PayPal purchasing power.

So far their customers - 10 new clients in the last month alone - have been novices at using the World Wide Web as a marketing and communications tool, Davis said. But they can also add the versatile WebWorks 1.0 to existing websites, increasing their functionality.

Lennie Weeks, owner of the Tire Warehouse at 291 Federal Street in Greenfield, couldn't be happier with his website, www.tirewarehouseonline.com.

"I'm not very computer savvy. This is making me do that and I'm really thrilled," he said, adding that Muller and Davis helped him to create more than just a website.

"We see it as sending goodwill to our customers. It's who we are and what we do, more than just business," said Weeks, whose website details the company's history, features tire safety tips, employment opportunities and an interactive "contact us" page which archives and personalizes customer information so that Weeks can contact his customers with the information they request, by the method they specify.

"It's a powerful client management and contact tool," said Davis.

And, it's easy, according to Tire Warehouse assistant manager Shannon Waterman, who maintains the website. She said she quickly learned how to update text, input customer testimonials and manage the site from her own desk.

"It's so easy, easier than I thought it would be," she said. "You log in, you click on the little pencil, you put in what you want to put in, you save it and you're done. You choose to display it or not - so I can write



Michael Muller, left, and Patrick Davis in their renovated office at 24 3rd Street in Turners Falls, home of Montague WebWorks.

something this week when I have the time, and display it next week."

Davis said he and Muller are trying to redefine how business is done by training and empowering their customers.

"We're not processing websites by looking at numbers. We want to have a personal relationship with our clients to create what they are looking for, facilitating their needs," said Davis.

Muller said the people who will benefit most are those with "small or mid-size companies, sole proprietors and do-it-yourselfers, without a lot of money and without a lot of time."

"They just need to get something up quick, that they can work with easily. We can get it done fast, inexpensively, painlessly, and put them in charge of their own website. They buy the car; they drive the car," said Muller, who offers free lifetime on- and off-site technical customer assistance.

Muller, 43, has lived in Montague Center since July of 1999 and eight years ago, created MontagueMA.net. He also owns Muller Technologies, through which he offers web technology and customer support. Previously, he worked as a consultant to a company that built electronic signs for banks and casinos, including Foxwoods Resort & Casino in Ledyard, CT, performed technical support for a Manhattan law firm and created

TreeBranch, a community online service. He later donated TreeBranch to an environmental company when he left the City and moved to Montague.

Davis, who also works full time as the operations manager for McCarthy Funeral Home in Greenfield, owned by his parents, has lived in Turners Falls all of his 30 years. He's been

involved in designing websites since 1996 and previously served as vice president of sales for Bulbs.com, an e-commerce company. Two years ago, he founded "DavisWeb and Creative," through which he has 30 to 35 Franklin County customers utilizing his services in website design, implementation, custom ads and marketing assistance.

The fact that Muller and Davis are local residents was important to Greenfield attorney Barry Auskern, who is in the process of creating his first-ever website with Montague WebWorks.

"I picked Montague WebWorks in part because, all things being equal, I think it's important to support a local economy as opposed to having this done by some company based in California, where I'd never get to

meet with them personally. Also, Patrick has taken the time to get to know me, my business, and my practice, and I think he'll do a better job designing my website with that knowledge."

Auskern wants his practice to have a website presence.

"When young people, especially, are looking for an attorney, they are not necessarily going to go to the yellow pages. They may not even ask their friends - they'll go right to the Internet as their primary resource."

Davis and Muller can be reached at Montague WebWorks, at 24 3rd Street in Turners Falls, at (413) 522-4808.



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The Montague Reporter

58 4th Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376

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Founded by

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For a New Cop Shop

Five million, six hundred thousand dollars is a lot of money. Let's say that right up top. And we wish the Montague police station building committee had chosen a more modest increase in square footage for the department's new headquarters. Jumping from 1,000 square feet of usable workspace to approximately 11,000 square feet seems like a big leap, especially as other municipal services are being downsized or slated for consolidation.

Having said that, which of us would be willing to trade our workplace for the dungeon the Montague police have called home for the last 50 years?

After at least three false starts to expand or move the police station from the basement of town hall since 1978, the present effort has been characterized by a great deal of hard, careful work, conducted with a high degree of openness and public outreach by a committee made up of some of the most competent appointees in town. They include a former state representative, the former police chief of Erving (who helped guide to completion the new police station in that community), the former administrator for Franklin County, the former town administrator for Montague, a Montague selectboard member, and a lawyer who also happens to be married to the Montague finance committee chair.

This time around, the effort to relocate the police station to Turnpike Road, next to the Turners Falls fire station, has also been marked by excellent cooperation between those two departments. That cooperation starts at the top. Fire chief Ray Godin and police chief Ray Zukowski share more than just first names: they share a commitment to realizing the vision of an expanded, modernized safety complex for the town, centrally located within speedy reach of all five villages, and planned to allow for joint training, shared dispatch services, and the possible future inclusion of a town-

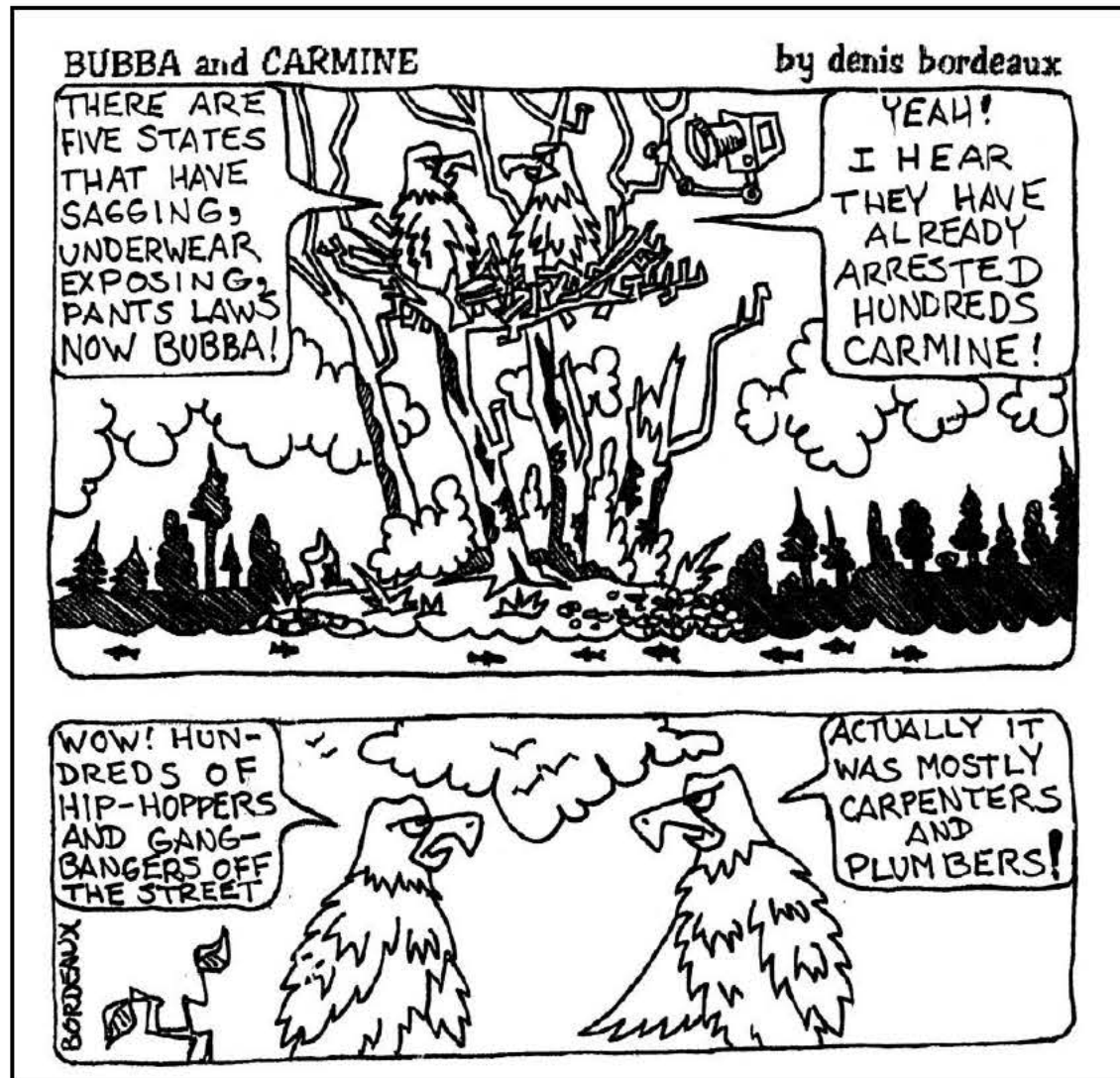
owned ambulance service. That's something Orange has found to be a reliable municipal money maker, to say nothing of its advantage in critical response time for residents.

We would be hard pressed to imagine a better constituted committee to pore through the applications and choose the best architect for a new safety complex. They chose one, Jacunski Humes, that specializes in police stations, that has a track record for bringing in their projects on time and on budget. Nonetheless, the committee chose to ignore the architect's recommendations on the size of the new building Montague would need. Based on the police department's current call volume and the town's population, the architect recommended an 18,000-square-foot building; the committee reduced that footprint by a third.

They also opted for a building that incorporates green energy features, including a geo-thermal heating and cooling system which will save the town a good deal in energy costs in years to come, while reducing Montague's municipal carbon footprint and serving as a model for other towns, and other town departments. The adjacent fire station will also be able to take advantage of utility cost savings by hooking up to the new building's geo-thermal system. This is smart planning in an age when fuel costs are spiraling inexorably up, while our planet is rapidly melting down from carbon emissions.

All the materials chosen for the building's design, from the masonry block exterior to the interior floors and walls, were picked to reduce long-term maintenance costs. This is a building we can be proud to build.

Yes, it will be expensive. It's nearly impossible to build a municipal building in Massachusetts any other way, with prevailing wage laws, and regulations in this case dictating most aspects of construction for



the safety and access of the public, staff and detainees. And yes, the property taxpayers will be voting themselves an average increase of between \$80 and \$100 a year for the next \$20 years, if they vote to approve the debt exclusion for the new police station on Tuesday, November 6th. (Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.) But with reserves tapped out to meet operating budgets for the town and schools, there is no other pocket of money to turn to for this project but our own.

Let's not forget the debt exclusion for \$2.2 million the voters approved for sewer repairs in August of 2005. Those charges have not even begun to affect our tax bills. The first hit on that project - about \$35 a year for the average homeowner - will not begin to show up on our bills until fiscal '09, and as the second phase of the sewer project draws to completion, that amount will rise to at least \$50 a year, for 38 years, until those repairs are paid off. Sewer users (who are, of course, also homeowners) will take an additional hit, as the \$3.5 million of that capital project that will fall on their shoulders begins to appear on their sewer bills. Estimates at the outset of the combined sewer overflow work projected a rise of more than \$2 per thousand gallons on sewer user rates over the period of amortization. So residents will be juggling a number of cost factors as they go to the polls on Tuesday.

But police station proponents have been careful to point out that income eligible senior citizens qualify for a \$500 rebate on their property tax bills, something only a few have come into the assessors office to apply for. And for the rest of us, is eight or ten bucks a month really too much to pay for a modern police station, so that our officers will not have to share their workplace

with rodents, periodic floods, juveniles handcuffed to benches in the halls, with no locker rooms for female officers and no jail cells for female detainees, evidence stored helter skelter, and no way to safely separate victims from offenders?

Sure, the floor plan for the new station could have been cut back further. We believe that. But we also believe the committee opted for a building that will meet our needs for years to come, without further addition or expansion as future requirements arise. We urge you to put your faith in this committee's judgment. Vote 'Yes' for the new Montague police station on Tuesday.

Finally, if this proposal passes - and even if it doesn't - we want to take this opportunity to urge the chief of police to do more for downtown Turners Falls, which stands to lose a very visible sign of law enforcement when the station and its cruisers and officers remove to the Hill.

The Montague police have been performing in an exemplary fashion under extremely trying conditions. They deserve high praise for their recent dramatic rescue of a suicidal subject who had *already jumped* from the Gill-Montague bridge. They grabbed him outside the railing, risking their own lives in the process, and held him until help arrived to haul him back to safety. They deserve high praise for safely disarming a mentally disturbed man who was firing live rounds from the back porch of a house on 4th Street last Friday. (We wonder what Article of the

Constitution grants deranged individuals the right to pack an arsenal like this man had in his possession, but that's another story.) Our officers deserve high praise for the work they do day in, day out, to keep our streets and alleys as safe as they are.

But they could be a lot safer - we know that - and the easiest, most cost effective way to make them safer would be for the Montague police to establish a regular foot patrol downtown. The same officer walking the beat, getting to know the kids who hang on the streets, or shoot our cats, the characters who populate the stoops and alleys, the people who may be feeling pressure and hoarding guns, or reaching the point of no return: this is the best way to get to know *everybody*, to gain the confidence of the community you serve, and to prevent calls before they come in.

A new police station will provide you with all the modern equipment, and adequate space to deal with people once they have fallen afoul of the law. But prevention is still worth a pound of cure. There is no substitute for one officer - using good old-fashioned shoe leather - walking the beat downtown to prevent crime.

American Dead in Iraq and Afghanistan as of 10/31/07

US FORCES
Casualties in Iraq
as of this date
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Afghanistan **451**
Wounded in Action **38,234**

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Support Public Safety Complex

Montague voters are being asked to go to the polls on Tuesday, November 6th, to vote on the question of debt exclusion for a proposed new public safety complex. The Montague police station building committee has done an excellent job recently educating Montague's citizens in a series of village meetings as to the process involved in planning and financing this facility.

The citizens and public safety officers deserve a state of the art facility such as the one that has been thoughtfully planned and proposed. It has been quite evident that the planning committee has gone to great lengths to keep down the costs of the project. However, as with other public projects in the

Commonwealth, strict regulatory requirements as well as requirements to pay prevailing wages have confronted taxpayers and voters with a daunting price tag. As a resident and business owner in Montague I feel this will be a wise investment for the future of our town.

Police chief Raymond Zukowski and his department are available to the citizens of Montague 24 hours a day, seven days a week and 365 days a year. On November 6th, Montague voters should show their support of this department as well as pride in their town by voting "Yes" on the debt exclusion for the proposed Montague Public Safety Complex.

- Joseph Viadoro
Montague

Greenfield Chief Weighs In

Montague residents, I encourage you to support the Montague Police Station project for the following reasons.

The design of the new station would increase the effectiveness of the police department in serving the community. It would enable better operations by creating a safer more secure environment for victims of crimes, the public conducting business and the employees of the department.

The building would also see long term cost savings for the community by consolidating police and fire services building in a central complex saving energy and enabling personnel to be utilized in a more efficient manner.

Critical to the citizens is a safe community. The current police facilities make it difficult to ensure efficient police operations. The small, cramped and overlapping spaces make it impossible to ensure successful criminal investigations for a number of reasons. These include space to conduct private victim interviews, secure locations to interview suspects of crimes and proper evidence storage. Under stringent new court

guidelines these issues can result in defense challenges increasing costs to the community and in some cases a not guilty verdict results. As a result people who should not be out in society are set free.

In Greenfield as in Montague many people tie community safety to the location of the building believing the downtown will suffer if the station moves. The building does nothing to protect the community. Police personnel perform that function and in these times of few resources, in a community with the geographic distance in Montague, resources are allocated by need and the availability of the officers. The building itself provides support to those few individuals currently dealing with high volumes of work. It is a support service that can diminish or increase the ability of those few that provide the services to ensure your safety. It makes good operational and economic sense for a healthy safe community to pass the police station construction vote.

- David Guilbault
Chief of Police, Greenfield

Voting Yes

There was broad-based support at Montague's special town meeting for the proposed new police station, reflecting recognition of both the town's need and confidence in the building committee's planning and communication process. Now, we move from approving the project to authorizing the funding - and all Montague voters have a chance to do that on November 6th. I support the project, and the financing to pay for it. Here's why:

- The cost was estimated conservatively, by a professional cost estimator with extensive experience dealing with this architect's plans for police stations. This means deviations from the estimate are likely to be downward, not upward.

- In ten years, this architect-estimator combination has never come back to a town for more money. In the wake of our sewer improvement project's experience, I find this fact reassuring.

- The committee has actively identified, and applied for, a variety of grants and contributions to reduce the final cost to taxpayers.

- The project design makes use of emerging energy-saving technology for heating and cooling, and allows for additional incorporation of electricity-saving photovoltaics. Ongoing maintenance and repair or replacement expenses will be minimized by the choice of materials. I give this a lot of weight, as the finance committee approaches another tight budget cycle.

- The facilities and floor plan of the station make much better use of officer time than was possible in the old station, which will improve services and police presence in the community.

- Any further delay in this project will only increase the eventual cost, and distract the attention Montague must devote to its other needs.

- Debt exclusion financing does not divert the annual tax levy from annual budget needs; building the station will not compete with public works, the libraries, or the schools, and delaying it will not release any more money for their programs.

The building committee expects that in a couple of years, when the station is completed and the borrowing occurs, the use of grants will reduce the bond to \$4.5 million, or less, if estimating conservatism proves accurate.

The monthly cost to an average home-owner (\$200,000 value) will then be less than \$8, and will disappear in 20 years when the bond is retired.

This is responsible financing for a needed public facility, in support of an exciting town. Come out and support it!

- John Hanold
Turners Falls

Police Work in Disgraceful Conditions

Not many residents of the town of Montague remember the location of the old police stations that were located in the village of Turners Falls. All of them seemed to have been hidden from view from those of us who lived in town in those days, so that we did not have to observe the conditions that our local constabulary had to work in. They were no better than the conditions the police face today: unhealthy, unsanitary, crowded conditions considered a disgrace to any man or woman who must report for duty in this day and age.

As a long time resident, a voter and a taxpayer I am not only asking you, but begging you to support the chief and his men and women in voting for the new police building debt exclusion on November 6th, and provide the men and

women who protect us with the facilities they so badly need in order to provide us the security we need in an era where the local police don't just control traffic from the Gill-Montague Bridge to 7th Street as in years past, but must also contend with the I-91 drug corridor.

Our young men and women are constantly placing their lives on the line as was seen in the recent past when disarming a hostile individual. The least we can do is support them.

Again, please show your support by voting for the debt exclusion, which would probably amount to the equivalent of three gallons of gasoline a month at \$2.75 per gallon.

- Art Gilmore, Millers Falls

Support Those Who Protect Us

When I served on the GFMS/TFHS building committee, we developed hopes and dreams into a conceptual plan and a specific design, and then celebrated as the plan became reality.

Today, we have before us the work of the police station building committee, which has completed a thorough study for the most efficient and effective use of a new facility. They have made a fiscally responsible examination of the costs. As with the school, the initial investment costs will result in annual savings for heating, cooling and maintenance. The debt exclusion will result in a temporary increase in taxes until the bond is paid off. This means our community would allow itself a new Montague police station without

placing the taxpayers into a permanent tax increase.

We have all seen the horrendous conditions of the current police headquarters. The facts are clear. We need a police station that meets health, security, and safety regulations with adequate space for current and future needs of the community. The time is right for all citizens of the town of Montague to support their community and the men and women who put their lives on the line 24/7 to protect us every day.

Vote "YES" on November 6th, in support of the new Montague police station.

- Joyce A. Phillips
Turners Falls

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Rodney Beauchesne: Regrettable, but Unforgettable

Thank you so much for the piece on Rodney Beauchesne (*MR VI #5*). I was sorry to hear he died at such a young age, my own young and tender age. Rodney spent some of his childhood up on Chestnut Hill in Montague, where I spent all of mine. My older brother, Bruce, used to go over there and have a wild good time with the Beauchesnes. It sounded like a very intriguing household, but I was probably too young to venture over to the other side of the hill.

Later on, I ran into Rodney in school and I always got the impression he wasn't doing quite what was expected of him. But he was so charming and polite about it, what could anybody do? He had a real sparkle in his eye, a matter-of-factness to his manner, and he seemed to lack the usual teenage self-consciousness the rest of us labored under.

About six years ago, I went to visit a neighbor on Chestnut Hill, Mr. Politzio. He was

getting ready to sell his place and send a bunch of stuff from the barn and sheds off to auction. Apparently Rodney Beauchesne was the guy you called to haul away stuff the auction house wouldn't take. While my neighbor was giving me a final tour of the old place, we ended up in the attic where he pointed out a 'lolling' chair that was old, threadbare and had been used as a latrine for bats and a home for rodents.

Mr. Politzio said, "I can't get anyone to take that lovely old chair; look at all the beautiful carving on it." Well, it was apparent to me that no one wanted it because you could no longer actually sit in it. However, I had a little experience in reupholstering, and I knew 'good bones' when I saw them. I told Mr. Politzio I'd take the chair off his hands.

I had to come back to pick it up in a larger vehicle a couple

of days later. During that time, Mr. Politzio told Rodney Beauchesne, who was still hauling stuff away, that I was coming by for the chair. Well, Rodney told him he'd really like to come by at the same time and say hello to me. So when I went back to get the chair, Rodney was there too, same as I remembered him, with that indelible sparkle in his eye.

We had a nice little chat, reminiscing and catching up. I was surprised to hear Rodney say he'd had a crush on me back when we were in school together. When he said that to me six years ago I was flattered, but since reading your piece in the paper I see I was just one of many.

I have since restored the chair and now when I sit in it I will wonder from time to time

how the heck did I manage to end up with this rather unique chair when Rodney, the king of recycling, had been to Mr. Politzio's place ahead of me? I will also mull over the notion that our paths crossed that day because of our mutual flair for seeing potential in the discarded and orphaned objects that come our way.

I regret I only drove by Rodney's three-story creation in Montague, and never pulled in. I wish that instead of merely slowing down out of utter fascination and disbelief I had instead pulled into his driveway and begged for a tour.

His homesteading strategy exhibited such daring and defiance to a conformist like me. I certainly would have relished hearing his spontaneous thoughts and the observations that I know would have rolled off his tongue, accompanied by expansive

gestures.

After reading the piece in the *Reporter* about Rodney, it got me thinking back to that afternoon when we chanced to converse because of a dilapidated old chair. I really wish I'd had the gumption to tell him I was in the market for some used windows. I think it's the sort of white lie he wouldn't have objected to, and a tour of his place with him as 'docent unaware' would have been so worth the price of a few windows.

Once again I recycle the thought that we can recycle 'thing' to our heart's content, but our human experiences are a one-time shot. Rodney was clearly a one of a kind guy. He's a story, and an idea my imagination can expand on even though he's gone. He's a story and an idea that's too delightful to forget.

- Gini Brown
Berkeley, CA

Geothermal Heating and Cooling Proposed for New Police Station

BY CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUCANNO

TURNERS FALLS - If Montague voters approve the debt exclusion for the police station next Tuesday, construction should begin on the new facility some time next spring. The construction plan calls for the installation of a geothermal heating and cooling system, which will add about \$150,000 in up front costs to the project. While this may seem like a lot, the building committee has opted for geothermal installation mainly because it will bring significant cost savings down the road.

This is not an idle claim. The savings from geothermal over the cost of a conventional heating system are tremendous. The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that a geothermal system can

save up to 70% on a monthly utility bill. And while the initial price of a geothermal system is more expensive than a conventional furnace, if oil or natural gas prices remain close to what they are now, the system will likely pay for itself in five to seven years. And while ultimately economical, it's also clean and green. According to the EPA, a typical geothermal system reduces energy consumption - and corresponding emissions - up to 72%.

So how does all this work? Geothermal heat pumps (also known as earth-coupled, ground-source, or water-source heat pumps) can heat, cool, and even supply a building with hot water. Unlike a conventional furnace that requires a manufactured fuel source (gas, oil or electric),

geothermal heat pumps use the constant temperature of the earth for heat.

A geothermal system circulates water (or a water-based solution) through a buried loop system to take advantage of these constant underground temperatures. During the heating cycle, the heat pump uses the earth loop to extract heat from the ground. As the system pulls heat from the loop it distributes it through a conventional duct system as warm air. The same heat energy can also be used for hot water heating.

In the cooling mode, the geothermal system will air condition the station by reversing the heating process. Instead of extracting heat from the ground, it will be extracted from the facility and either moved back into the

earth loop, or used to preheat the water in the hot water tank.

While seasonal temperatures vary greatly in Montague, just a few feet below the earth's surface the ground remains at a fairly constant temperature--ranging from about 50°F to 60°F. This means that on a bitter cold January day, the heat pump is still capable of drawing in heat in the 50°F range, thus providing the building with a base temperature of at least 50°. To boost the heat further, a conventional system is used. All heating up to 50° or 55° will be done by the heat pump; the furnace only kicks in to provide extra heat above that temperature. No augmentation of any kind is needed for cooling. There is, of course, some electricity cost for both heating and cooling, but geothermal heat

pumps use, on average, 50% less electricity than is required to fire a fossil fuel furnace.

Heat pumps are also quite economical in terms of repair and maintenance. Most heat pumps are warranted for twenty years; the underground pipes often carry fifty-year warranties. And since there are few moving parts, repairs are few, and the average maintenance cost quite low.

Approximately 40,000 geothermal heat pumps were installed in the United States last year. And the trend is rising. Industry analysts predict that this year the number will increase by a third or more. If the voters say "Yes" on Tuesday, Montague will be the first town in Western Mass to opt for this form of clean, green energy in one of its public buildings.

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Fitzpatrick Places Third in State Golf Tournament

BY ALI URBAN

TURNERS FALLS - The summer before seventh grade, Wally Fitzpatrick started playing golf. "I thought it would be something fun to do with friends," he said. Little did he know that six years later he would be competing in the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association Division III State Finals.

"I had never golfed before seventh grade," said the Turners Falls High School senior and golf team captain. "I just started playing with (former TFHS golf team member) Adam Davies and really liked the game." Fitzpatrick began playing as an alternate in middle school and played to score beginning in ninth grade.

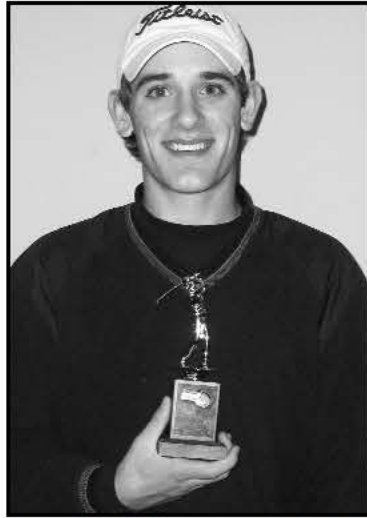
Fitzpatrick said his greatest golfing accomplishments were winning the Western Mass Division III individual fall golf

championship on October 22nd, and placing third in the Massachusetts Division III State Championship at Wentworth Hills Golf Club in Plainville.

He said this has been a really great season for him, especially when he made Western Mass and States. "It's tough to do, since only a handful of people in the league make it," he added.

"I was really happy when I found out I won (the Western Mass competition)," Fitzpatrick said. He said the Stockbridge Golf Course was a tough course. "I wasn't shooting as well as I had hoped, but I saw that others were struggling, too." Clearly his shooting was good enough, and brought him to a win.

The past four seasons have been successful for Fitzpatrick, and he has scored two holes-in-



Senior Wally Fitzpatrick poses with the first place trophy he won at the Western Mass. Division III individual fall golf championship Oct. 22nd. He also placed third in the Massachusetts Division III State Championship Oct. 29th.

one - one in 2005 and one last year at Thomas Memorial Golf and Country Club.

During the summer, Fitzpatrick golfs nearly every day. "I usually practice at Thomas' or Crumpin Fox, but mostly Crump," he said, adding that he generally plays 18 holes or more per day.

Crumpin Fox in Bernardston is his favorite course. "It's pretty much the most challenging course around, and conditions are good; it's really fun. The fairways are perfect - no dry spots or dead spots and the greens fast and smooth." He also has a net in his back yard, to practice driving.

Never having taken a lesson, he "pretty much learned from playing on the team." He said he learned a lot from watching other players and other teams. "I've learned a lot from playing in between seasons with other

team members," he added.

He likes golf because it gives him something to do. "Most of my friends play golf, so it's what we like to do in our free time."

Next year, Fitzpatrick hopes to go to college to play golf, and hopes to make a career out of something in the golf field. "I've looked at programs which focus on the different aspects (of golf)," he said. These include grounds keeping, course design and learning to be a head golf professional. "Obviously I'd love to play pro, but if I don't do that, I definitely want to do something in the golf field," he said.

He said the best part of golfing is that challenge. "It's really one of the most difficult things that I've ever tried," he explained. "You're never necessarily perfect, and there's always room for improvement."

NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Back and Forth on Zelinski Field Tennis Courts

BY NICHOLE CLAYTON - The Erving selectboard opened their Monday meeting with a double agenda and a community development strategy public hearing. The board had to cancel last week's meeting because they were unable to reach a quorum, due to illness. The meeting began with the news that the Usher Plant demolition scheduled for last week has been pushed forward to a date unknown, for reasons that remain unclear.

The board set a date of Monday, November 19th to open bids on a used fire truck the town is selling 'as is.'

The town has received two bids for resurfacing the tennis courts at Zelinski Field in Erving Center. The bids will now be compared to the bid request to make sure they match, before a

bid can be accepted. This topic prompted a great deal of debate among the board members.

Chair Andy Tessier was upset with the \$11,000 figure the recreation committee was able to put toward, as he put it, "a tennis court the town does not need, in order to get a grant that may wind up costing the town more money in the end." Tessier continued, "It rubs me wrong that when we were looking for money to cut, the recreation committee claimed they did not have any money to cut. And now they have \$11,000 to redo a tennis court."

Board member Linda Downs-Bembury defended the committee's attempt to get the playing courts back into good repair.

Municipal clerk Betsy Sicard requested an addition of hours to

her job description, in order to meet the increased demands of her job. The board decided this was something the townspeople would need to decide at a future special town meeting. The board was supportive of Sicard's request. As well, the board announced that Sicard was offered and has accepted the position of assistant tax collector, as of October 29th. This position will require approximately seven hours of work a week. The board approved Sicard for the new position, and she was duly sworn in.

In the public hearing, the board went over the community development strategy the town adopted in February, 2007. The board reviewed the project list, reprioritized the projects and eliminated ones that are now

completed, or are in process. This review was necessary in order to continue to be eligible to receive block grant funds for housing redevelopment grants. A few of the top projects remaining on the town's list are redeveloping and maintaining affordable housing for persons of all ages with low to moderate incomes, and constructing a new senior housing complex at a town-owned site near the Erving Elementary School.

The board also met with the tax assessors in order to set the split rate tax percentage for fiscal year 2008. The assessors recommended a 65% shift toward the commercial and industrial base (which really equals about a 9% shift in tax burden, according to assessor's assistant Jacquie Boyden, since

the value of the Northfield Mountain pumped storage power plant is so huge in comparison to the rest of the town's real estate). The board reduced the percentage shift a little, to a 63% shift, in order to keep everyone's tax bills at about last year's levels, since the value of residential property increased last year, while the value of commercial and industrial property did not. The board voted to set the shift at 63%, pegging residential tax rates at \$6.68 per thousand dollars of valuation, (down from \$6.77 from last year) and commercial/industrial rates at \$11.59 per thousand, up from \$11.30 last year.

The finance committee will meet with the selectboard on November 5th, to begin looking at the '09 budget.

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NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

CDBG & Community Development Strategy Hearings Held

BY DAVID DETMOLD

On Monday, October 29th the Montague selectboard held a public hearing on the community development block grant application for 2008. As expected, the police station building committee turned out in force to make a pitch for including funding for the new police station as the main target of the state disbursed federal grant funds for the coming year. Town officials have informally agreed to request \$700,000 from next year's CDBG funding to pay down the cost of the new \$5.6 million police facility.

Donna Cote, director of community development for the Franklin County Regional Development Authority, spoke in favor of earmarking some of the grant funds for interest free housing rehab loans for the 12 to 15 income eligible applicants currently on the housing authority's waiting list in Montague. And the outgoing

director of the Montague Catholic Social Ministries, (MCSM), Maria Rodman, advocated for some of the block grant to be allocated to fund a half day after school program for children, a program she said would be of great benefit to working parents. She also favored funding a drop-in child care facility, for families that needed to make doctor appointments, court appointments, or transitional assistance interviews, where "the company of children is not to the best benefit of the children." Rodman said seeding such a program with CDBG funds would allow for a one day a week pilot program to get started, while MCSM sought other funding partners.

Rodman also introduced her successor, Sharon Denman, who began work as MCSM's director this week.

Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio said the town may

seek some of the CDBG funds for a planning component to prepare a "slums and blight" designation for Millers Falls, to pave the way for the town to apply for more CDBG funds in a future grant cycle for that village, to "address some constraints [for redevelopment in Millers], particularly ownership issues. Unfortunately, we keep running into a wall."

This hearing was followed and supported by a community development strategy hearing, with town planner Dan Laroche. This hearing was necessary to update the town's community development plan, in preparation for next year's CDBG application. The town's top priority, according to Laroche's spread sheet, was the new police station, followed by the clean-up and stabilization of the Strathmore Mill. Running third, (while the county awaits the release of \$48 million in

state funds to accomplish the needed repairs), was the reconstruction of the Gill-Montague bridge.

Deb Radway said she would like to see the identification of a safe swimming area for town residents added to the list in the future, as well as a priority for use of the permitted landfill acreage off Turnpike Road, where the town has already invested (or "sunk," as she put it) \$1 million in preliminary funds.

In other news, Abbondanzio said the town had received approval from the state architectural access board for work completed to bring Peskeomskut Park into compliance with handicap accessibility codes. He said the town hall may be eligible for a state program that performs energy conservation upgrades, financed by the municipalities' energy savings over twenty years. And he said the town's title hearing for the Strathmore Mill in Boston land court had been postponed, due to objections raised to the tax taking by the Montague Energy Group (MEG). Due to MEG's objections, the date for the hearing has been pushed back again, to November 8th.

John Reynolds asked if there was any way the town could act in the interim to replace the roofs of two fire-damaged buildings, and convert the sprinklers at the mill from a wet to dry system, to prevent the sprinklers from freezing. Abbondanzio said the town could legally take administrative control of the Strathmore, since the tax taking had proceeded to its final stage.

In fact, the town had already taken administrative control of the Strathmore that day, by posting no trespassing signs and prohibiting the removal of metal plating from two floors of the mill by an unnamed party who walked into town hall claiming former mill owner Jerry Jones

had sold the mill, and its contents, to him. On Tuesday, amid reports that MEG, owners of the abutting Indeck property, had hired a crane to place Jersey barriers in front of the Strathmore's east loading dock, which has been the subject of an ongoing dispute between MEG and the Strathmore's owner, building inspector David Jensen said the town called police to prevent MEG from barricading access to that loading dock. MEG halted their attempt to barricade the property, on threat of imminent arrest, Jensen said.

"The issue is the property line runs diagonally through the end of the loading dock. Most of the pavement is on MEG property," said Jensen. "But there's a permanent easement with the Strathmore for use of the loading dock, and the area around the loading dock."

Jensen said a lengthy meeting of town officials on Tuesday led to establishing a procedure whereby access to the Strathmore is limited to individuals permitted for entry by the town administrator. Abbondanzio is inquiring of the state inspector general whether the town can proceed with repairs to the mill's sprinkler system on an emergency basis, without going through the normal bidding process. Jensen said Jones has removed his personal items from the mill, and is effectively banned from the mill now. Jones, who also removed all accessible copper wiring from the mill for salvage during the course of his three year tenure as mill owner, never paid a dime in property taxes on the Strathmore, and wound up owing nearly \$190,000 in taxes and fees to the town, leading to the current tax title proceedings.

He also left between 20 and 40 tractor trailer loads of paper products from his abandoned paper recycling business on various floors of the mill, for the town to deal with.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Vandalism at TFHS

Thursday 10-25

10:11 a.m. Report of a larceny at an 11th Street address. Found to be a dispute with contractor. Worked out between both parties.

12:45 p.m. Walk-in to station reported a disturbance in front of an Avenue A address. Reporting party states an older man is hanging out with youths that should be in school. The youths were found to be beyond mandatory school age.

Friday 10-26

1:45 a.m. Report of a disturbance at on 4th Street. [redacted] was arrested and charged with discharging a firearm within 500 feet of a building, disorderly conduct, assault with a dangerous weapon, resisting arrest, improper storage of a firearm (3 counts), unlawful possession of ammunition, disturbing the peace, and vandalizing property.

11:32 p.m. Report of a disturbance at a Montague City Road address. Caller reports a large party. Officer found a large party with 30 cars. Cars being moved upon arrival. Subject spoken to.

Saturday 10-27

11:46 a.m. Report of a fight behind the Pizza House. Officer found an argument between two women; several men were yelling, egging it on. Everyone who didn't live there was moved along.

5:50 p.m. Request for an officer at a 4th Street address. A 16-year-old juvenile male was arrested and charged with 2 counts of domestic assault and battery and disorderly conduct.

Sunday 10-28

12:09 a.m. Report of an assault at a Woodland Drive address. Caller phoning from Chicopee states that an unknown man had slapped her

when she was in Montague. Officer tried to return call; unable to make contact.

Monday 10-29

3:42 p.m. While assisting another agency at an 11th Street address, [redacted] was arrested on a straight warrant.

Tuesday 10-30

1:58 a.m. Report of a disturbance at a West Chestnut Hill address. Caller states she heard a crash in the house. Officer checked it out and nothing was found.

5:01 p.m. Report of a motor vehicle accident on Bridge Street by the Millers Pub involving a car and a motorcycle. One driver given verbal warning for failure to use care in starting.

Wednesday 10-31

12:49 a.m. Report of vandalism at Unity Park. Tire marks were left all over the grass. Report taken.

5:33 a.m. Report of vandalism at TFHS. Someone broke the windows in the door that leads into the school. Under investigation.

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NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Gill asks NMH to Help Buy a \$450,000 Fire Truck

BY DAVID DETMOLD - "The NMH campus has been the scene of Franklin County's worst fire disasters," said Stuart Elliott, following a meeting between NMH chief financial officer Rick Wood and the Gill selectboard and fire department on Tuesday, October 30th. "They happen pretty much every ten years. It's unfortunate, but true."

Elliott, a member of Gill's call fire department, said he grew up on the NMH campus, the child of a faculty family, and he vividly recalls the Silliman Hall fire of 1965, during which the school football team continued to play in the field in front of the blazing building, while the stands between were filled with spectators placidly watching the game. Ten years later, Recitation Hall burned, Elliot recalled. A power plant fire in 1987 was followed in March of 2000 by the conflagration that destroyed two barns in active use by the private school's farm program. "The hay barn burned very quickly," Elliot added.

The subject arose following a request for help from NMH in

replacing the town's 1978 pumper truck, nearing the end of its useful service.

The 127-year-old private school, now located entirely in the town of Gill, since the consolidation of the Northfield campus to Mount Hermon last year, has an enrolment of 613 students, 500 of whom board at the campus, Wood said. The school now has an endowment in excess of \$165 million.

The town of Gill is seeking a \$90,000 override this year to help pay for the operation of town departments and the Gill-Montague schools, selectboard member Ann Banash pointed out. "If we don't get it, we're going to have to cut. That's the equivalent of three positions," Banash noted. "We only have seven employees."

Banash also made the point that the 500 boarding students at NMH equaled one third of the town's population.

When Elliott walked in late to the meeting, Wood greeted him familiarly, saying, "It's nice to see you when you're not responding to a false alarm."

Elliott and fire chief Gene Beaubien had responded to a fire at NMH that very morning, for an overheating ice cream machine. Beaubien said that call would not be chalked up as a false alarm, since the machine actually was smoking.

In addition to the 1978 truck, Gill also owns a 1985 pumper, and a 1995 pumper tanker, for which NMH provided half the \$225,000 purchase price.

"We paid that on an annual basis," Wood recalled.

"Over five years," Banash said.

"Would your suggestion be a similar situation as last time?" to meet the projected \$450,000 sticker price for a new pumper tanker, Wood inquired.

"We need more than that," said Banash. Beaubien said the school could buy the new truck outright and lease it to the town for a dollar.

Wood promised to speak with school head Tom Sturtevant and the board of trustees and respond to the town's request for help. "We're glad you're on the job," he said. "We need you."

Beaubien asked Wood to relay a request for more NMH staff or faculty to join the town's fire department. Elliott added that the town needed to sign off on permitting for replacing rotted standpipes at the manmade fire pond at Mount Hermon known as Shadow Lake, to make it available for tankers to easily access in the event of another major fire at the school.

Wood said the school was undertaking an upgrade of its water system in conjunction with its ongoing building campaign at Mount Hermon, which includes \$75 million for a new admissions building and residence hall improvements, in addition to the new \$29 million arts center under construction now.

In Monday's regular selectboard meeting, board member Nancy Griswold talked about a discussion at a recent Mass Municipal Association breakfast, where the subject of tax exempt private educational institutions came up. "When you consider the amount of payments [the private schools] make to the towns, it's nothing," Griswold said.

NMH donates \$10,000 to the town of Gill each year, which the

town uses for public safety purposes.

In other selectboard news, the board heard from town treasurer Ronnie LaChance that it was time to renew the loan the town used to acquire the Mariamante property. Since the town paid down \$13,000 of the loan at the requirement of the state Department of Revenue this year, the new note will be for \$232,000, LaChance said. She said if the town does not set a tax rate soon, and send out '08 tax bills, she may have to ask for an extension on the three-month loan for \$650,000 the town took out to keep cash flow current with departmental expenses. That load expires at the end of December.

The town has declined to set a date for an override to meet operating budgets until the DOR certifies values from this year's triennial revaluation of all town property, so that a tax rate can be set, and the impact of an override positively determined. Griswold, who doubles as a member of the assessors board, expressed considerable frustration at the delay.

see **OVERRIDE** pg 11

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE GILL POLICE LOG

Stolen Signs and Mailbox Damage

Wednesday 10-24

3:54 p.m. Checked on subject matching a BOLO description for a subject wanted out of Sunderland. Subject located on Main Road, however was not the wanted party.

Thursday 10-25

2:55 p.m. 911 mis-dial from Oak Street residence, all o.k.

Friday 10-26

10:00 a.m. Juvenile officer at Gill Elementary School regarding Halloween safety tips.

5:55 p.m. Report of erratic operator on French King Highway near French King Bridge. Checked area; unable to locate.

6:31 p.m. Assisted Montague Police with car vs. pedestrian accident.

9:32 p.m. Checked suspicious vehicle at French King Highway

business. Subjects advised to move along.

11:10 p.m. Report of a fight at Mountain Road residence, responded and investigated incident.

Saturday 10-27

12:10 a.m. Alarm sounding at Main Road business, all secure.

7:35 a.m. Report of past mailbox damage at residence on West Gill Road.

8:42 a.m. More reports of mailboxes being damage on West Gill Road.

12:34 p.m. Report of numerous street signs and stop sign stolen from various locations in town.

5:05 p.m. Investigated possible stalker / suspicious incidents at Oak Street residence.

Sunday 10-28

3:51 a.m. Called to Oak Street residence for a reported subject on top of a roof, attempting to gain entry. Checked area unable to locate anyone.

1:40 p.m. Alarm sounding at Mount Hermon post office, cancelled enroute.

Monday 10-29

10:40 a.m. Report of an intoxicated driver enroute to North Cross Road residence. Checked area; unable to locate subject.

10:50 a.m. Contacted by Franklin County Technical School regarding past incident with students.

11:15 a.m. Report of an elderly subject operating in wrong lane of travel on French King Highway. Checked area; unable to locate.

8:14 p.m. Report of subjects shining spotlights into fields off of Ben Hale Road. Checked area; unable to locate anyone. Incident referred to Environmental Police.

THE WENDELL POLICE LOG

Attempted Motor Vehicle Theft

Wednesday 10-3

Motor vehicle accident on New Salem Road. No injuries.

Road. Nothing found. All okay.

Sunday 10-14

Possible attempted theft of motor vehicle on Center Street. Car not locked, nothing taken.

Saturday 10-13

House alarm on Jennison

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PARK from pg 1

Ruth Nervig, an Americorps member who began work at the Brickhouse this fall, said, "I think everyone just got burned out," on the project. Nervig said she began hearing about the skate park at her first staff meeting. After a few weeks of hearing talk, but seeing little action, Nervig decided to take the initiative.

"No one wants to say they have the final OK, so it's hard just knowing what to do," she added.

Outside the Brick House one day last week, two local boys, Matthew Brunette and Rodney Terounzo rode up to comment, "We just came over to say we hope the skate park opens, and that's all we wanted to say."

Zach Holmes, a GCC student and BMX rider, spoke at length about how he hated to see the hard work that had gone into the park wasted. Of the success of the Greenfield skate park, Holmes said, while that park is larger, "People who come always ask if there are other parks in the area."

Even the teens and twentysomethings who hang out in front of the VFW on Avenue A

pointed at what fellow skateboarder Kurtis Swindell described as "disrespect" con-

the summer." DeChristopher is beginning to see the skate park, "as a mixed bag, because it has



SHAWN WOOLSEY PHOTO

A coalition of teens, parents, and town officials came together in April of 2006 to get the Turners skate park up and running again. But the park has remained closed ever since; the new fence, vandalized.

A work day is scheduled for this Sunday at noon.

rally to this cause. Gathered at the Avenue A Café on a recent afternoon, several young men expressed their desire that the skate park would finally reopen. Jeff Regish, who helped repaint ramps this summer, was disap-

cerning the torn down fence. That sentiment is shared by the landowner, Tim de Christopher, who said, "With the fence being torn down it seems almost further (from reopening) than it was at the beginning of

plates not fully attached, back boards in need of a second bolt." To Jensen, the park is simply in need of "a little diligent maintenance." But who's in charge? With all the chatter on the www.montaguema.net website

this summer about loitering teens on the Avenue, a community effort to make the last repairs and get the skate park up and running as a place to direct youthful energy would seem like a logical next step. However, without leadership from some quarter, the future of the park remains in doubt. The original ten-year lease on the skate park runs out this month, and unless landlord Tim de Christopher agrees to renew it, the oft-delayed reopening of the park could be postponed again, permanently.

Nervig is putting out a call for a workday at the skate park this coming Sunday, November 4th at 12 noon. Anyone interested in helping should contact her at the Brickhouse: (413) 863-9559 or mervig@thebrickhouse.org.

If all goes as planned, the workday may double as a grand re-opening. Otherwise, the hopes of town skateboarders and BMX riders may lie beneath the fall leaves covering the ramps and pavement until next spring, or longer.



SOUP from pg 1

Carol Cameron, who owns the Roadhouse with her partner Jamie Snyder, took time out from behind the ovens to talk with me about the renovated kitchen and new menu. She explained that when she and Snyder first bought the bar in 2003, the kitchen was in full operation. Their cook at the time was interested in turning dinner at the Roadhouse into a fine dining experience, offering dishes like prime rib. Cameron and Snyder found this to be a

challenge, and changed courses again, creating more of a pub-style menu with hamburgers and the like.

The kitchen closed completely in 2005, in need of renovation. When the pair decided to start serving food again, they completely upgraded the kitchen. I was able to take a tour, and, being in the restaurant business myself, was impressed with things any food geek would find fascinating - new refrigeration, roomy counter space, pizza stones, and a meat slicer!

The amenities of the kitchen are perfectly suited to the type of menu the owners have created: no fried food, so no need for a fryer; clean and streamlined spaces for the kind of fresh, made-to-order menu choices they envisioned. The two months they took to renovate the kitchen (they did most of the work themselves) was well worth it.

In order to keep overhead low, Cameron and Snyder are running the kitchen themselves; both take turns cooking. Cameron loves to cook, and

though she never did it professionally before, she's a natural. She grew up in North Jersey where good pizza abounds, and it was important to her to bring a little slice of home to Millers Falls. Not only does she create personal-sized pizzas, but also strombolis modeled after her Aunt Bobbi's recipe and shaped like Roadhouse horseshoes, and calzones filled with soft, rich ricotta cheese. In addition, the menu includes nachos, stuffed potato skins, chili and special soups, and paninis (grilled sandwiches): everything that goes

perfectly with a freshly poured pint of BBC beer.

Cameron is excited to have the kitchen open again, and folks who frequent the Roadhouse are thrilled as well. The food is tasty, the portions generous, and with no deep-fried food, you won't get Fat. Unless you show up Friday night to hear that legendary Valley band when they rock the Roadhouse once again.

Be sure to order up a personal pizza, then dance the night away!



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COTE from pg 1

Christmastime, in particular, was always an extremely busy time, with mounds of packages and cards coming and going, filling the shelves as customers warmed themselves for a few minutes while purchasing Christmas stamps. Personally, I always wondered how she did it - I've noticed that when I get a little too busy, I get cranky pretty quickly. But even at her busiest, Joyce always offered a smile and a kind word.

Some of the residents made the post office a daily stop on their travels to work and errands, as much to connect with Joyce as to post and pick up their mail. Kay Otto, a friend and neighbor who often stopped by as Joyce was sorting the morning mail, says that Joyce will be sorely missed. "It's bittersweet," she muses. "I'm glad for her, but she will be missed. She really cared about people."

In fact, Joyce often went out of her way to treat customers with care, which has earned for

her the deep respect and grateful appreciation of Lake Pleasant residents. She occasionally delivered mail on her way home to Louise Shattuck, co-author of *Spirit and Spa* - the definitive book on the history of Lake Pleasant - when Louise had become too ill to walk next door to the post office. When other customers needed special delivery of the mail to their car windows for a while after surgery or illness, Joyce was happy to oblige.

Joyce sees the high level of service as a Lake Pleasant tradition: "When I was working for Freda (the previous postmaster), I saw her taking special care of postal customers, and I just followed in her footsteps," she said. It's a good thing she did. Over the years, the children who have grown up in the village have seen an excellent role model of someone who is very dedicated to her work and to her customers. They don't often get to see that in the rest of the world.

I remember asking numerous questions of Joyce myself when I first moved here, and she patiently answered all of them, even the one about what that amazing noise was coming from the lake. Turns out that it sings its own special song some years when ice forms on the surface.

Joyce began working in the post office in the '60s, selling ice cream and other goods in the post office store, and became postmaster when Freda Casey, the previous postmaster, retired. She has also served as treasurer of the Lake Pleasant Water Department for over 20 years - a position which will cease to exist when the Turners Falls Water Department takes over the village department sometime next year - and she currently serves as treasurer of the Lake Pleasant Women's Club. She has served Lake Pleasant in countless ways over a period of many years, and the village is fortunate she chose to make her home here.

"We couldn't have asked for

anyone better to run the post office," states Doris Farnum, a longtime Lake Pleasant resident. "She deserves to have some rest, and we wish her all the best." Joyce certainly does deserve it. She has been the heart of Lake Pleasant for many years, and we all wish her well.

The future of the post office is uncertain at this point. The new postal clerk, Ron Croteau, who is taking Joyce's position, comes to Lake Pleasant from the Turners Falls post office. But there has been some talk over the last few years of closing the office here in Lake Pleasant.


"I'd like to see the post office continue - it's the center of Lake Pleasant," said Dottie Zellman, another longtime resident of the village. If the government decides at some point to close the office and deliver mail to the houses, Lake Pleasant's central meeting place will cease to exist, and one more important piece of the village's way of life will be consigned to the history books

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OVERRIDE from pg 9

LaChance said Tony Matthews for the conservation commission had expressed interest in a piece of town-owned surplus property at the southwest end of Barney Hale Road, known as the Fisher property. An abutter has also expressed interest in purchasing the swampy 8.8-acre lot. The board said if the conservation commission were interested in buying the land, it would need town meeting's approval.

Board chair Lee Stevens met with Mass Highway's Mark Banasieski and a representative of the engineering firm for the Main Road reconstruction project, Greenman Pederson, on Tuesday to discuss complaints

levelled by residents of Main Road during the course of the three-mile, \$3.7 million rebuild, now nearing completion. Town administrative assistant Tracy Rogers, who attended the meeting at Mass Highway's Main Road field office, said the engineers agreed to look at widening the intersection of North Cross Road, and to cut into the berm on the hill north from Renaissance Excavators to allow for drainage there. She said most other complaints had been addressed.

The meeting had originally been planned as an open meeting, but was rescheduled with only one member of the selectboard attending, and therefore not posted. Residents and press were

unable to attend.

The board commended Sergeant Chris Redmond for his valiant effort of October 7th, 2007, coming to the assistance of Montague police to save the life of a suicidal man held in the act of jumping from the Gill-Montague bridge. "The bravery, quick thinking, and level of cooperation you showed that day exemplifies the degree of dedication and service you provide to the community - particularly to the citizens of Gill - every day," the selectboard wrote, in their letter of commendation to Redmond. They presented him with a certificate of appreciation. Ronnie LaChance baked some brownies, and chief David

Hastings and highway superintendent Mick LaClaire dropped by to join in the congratulations.

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DIEMAND from pg 1

Armistice Day. Instead, last week we placed his picture and ID in empty boots at the 'Eyes Wide Open' remembrance of New England soldiers fallen in Iraq and Afghanistan. Can you imagine his parents' anguish as the date for their only child's promised return approaches? Please remember them on Veterans Day.

Yesterday we held services for the second casualty of the war from Belchertown, Kenneth Iwasinski, 22 years old. He had served a year in Iraq, was scheduled to return home soon, but his tour was extended. In death, Kenneth joins Jeff Lucey, also of Belchertown, a different kind of casualty of the war. *

The year of Jacob's first tour

of duty in Iraq was the loneliest year of my life. I knew no one else whose beloved child had been sent to fight this bloody war. Now, sadly, I know many such families. And still the American public is somehow able to look away, because the children we are sending to fight and die are "other people's children." This is willful, chosen blindness.

When my daughter went to the drug store and bought a dozen tubes of chapstick to send to her brother, the clerk asked her, 'Why so many?'

'I'm sending them to my brother in the war,' she said. The clerk answered, 'What war?'

What War? WHAT WAR!? Over 3,837 U.S. soldiers, men and women, dead - two to four more each day. Over 28,000

U.S. soldiers wounded. Uncounted tens of thousands of Iraqis killed and maimed, their villages and livelihoods destroyed, many of them civilians. *What War??* A single day of this endless war costs the US Treasury \$720 million dollars. That's 'M' for 'million,' as in 'Minefield'. Total costs since 2001: over 800 billion dollars. That's 'B' for billion - as in 'Body Bags'. *What War??* By the end of this decade, a projected war cost of 2.4 Trillion - that's 'T' for trillion, as in 'Travesty'.

The War in Iraq is also the war at home. Its ripple effects tear through individuals, families, and communities. Speaking for myself, I am not able to be here for my siblings, my daughter, my friends, my work and my

small town as I want to be. I can't listen to the TV news or read the daily paper. When I look at the clock in the middle of the night, I see Iraq time. It's 8 a.m. in Iraq; I hope Jacob is OK. My son and his wife will not be home for a year and a half. Not until March, 2009. He tells me, "It's my job, Ma."

Well, this is *my* job: to tell you, "It's your war, too."

What can you do? Support military families. Less than 1% of the American population is fighting this war for the other 99%.

Protest the backdoor draft. Seventy thousand soldiers have had their tours of duty extended. Currently, one out of three soldiers come home with brain injury or Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome. With each additional

tour of duty the chance of PTSD goes up incrementally.

Hold your elected officials accountable, vote the war-machine out.

Call, email and write, especially handwritten letters, to those in power. Tell them to: bring the troops home, fund health care for children and help for returning veterans, not dollars for death. Take to the streets! And most importantly, please know in your hearts that 'other people's children,' American and Iraqi children, are your children, too."

* (Editor's Note: Corporal Jeff Lucey, a Marine reservist home from his tour of duty in Iraq, where he said he followed orders to execute two unarmed prisoners at point blank range, took his own life in his family's basement on June 22nd, 2004.)

**VETS** from pg 1

of the Soldiers Memorial chair Art Gilmore. "The state only gave us \$5,000; all the rest came from the community."

Five years ago, Montague's war monuments were cracked and deteriorating. The World War I memorial, in particularly poor condition, was located on land across from town hall soon to be taken over by the state Department of Environmental Management (now Department of Conservation Resources) for the Great Falls Discovery Center. That monument had to be moved and restored. Since there were no markers for Montague's Revolutionary War or Civil War veterans, and since the stones and plaques honoring the veterans of more recent wars needed refurbishing, the trustees embarked on a fund drive to create a new memorial park, to appropriately honor all Montague citizens who have served in America's wars.

On Tuesday, a six-man crew from Warner Brothers, under the direction of Ken Morin, was busy re-installing the World War I monument, which had just been delivered from Swenson's Granite in Barre,

VT. Weighing in at 6,000 pounds, the granite marker with its gleaming bronze plaque balanced on the end of Eric Overgaard's carry deck crane, as Morin, Wayne Allen, Curt Cromack, Keith Wall, and John Brooks eased it down onto the stainless steel dowels, plumbed it with small triangular stone wedges, and laid down a smooth seal of grout to secure it in its place. They repeated the process for the 3100-pound markers for the Revolutionary War and Civil War, the modern conflicts, and a 5500-pound podium positioned in the center of the rectangular plaza, with the names of the Trustees emblazoned in bronze on its front. Slabs cut from the original World War I memorial now form benches to the left and right of the podium.

The plaque on the first stone reads: "Dedicated to the heroic valor and patriotic spirit of the men and women from the Town of Montague who served on the armed forces of the United States of America during these wars: Revolutionary War (1775 - 1783); War of 1812 (1812 - 1815); Mexican-American War (1846 - 1848); Civil War (1861 - 1865); Spanish American War

(1898 - 1902); Mexican War (1916 - 1917). The plaque for the final stone has the same superscription, honoring Montague veterans "who served in the armed forces of the United States of America during these wars" including Iraq, Afghanistan, the Persian Gulf War, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Somalia, Panama, and Grenada.

There are no veterans' names inscribed on the first plaque, because historical records from those wars are too sketchy to make a complete list. There are no veterans names inscribed on the last plaque, because some of those wars are still ongoing.

In the course of the memorial renovation, Gilmore said, an attempt was made to add the names of any Montague veterans who may have been omitted from the World War II, Korean, or Vietnam War monuments. Small plaques were added this week to each of these stones. Added to the World War II plaque were the names: William Devino, Lawrence Gagnon, Louis Milonas, and Henry Noga. Added to the Korean War plaque were the names Stanley Bak, Ernest Defazio, John Raymond, and the chair of the Soldiers Memorial Trustees himself, Art Gilmore. Gilmore's name was also added to the Vietnam Veterans' plaque, along with Ronald Croteau, Stephen Davis, Francis Dobosz, Henry Dymerski, Brian Letourneau, John Meyer, Doris Morin, Joseph Oleksiewicz, Donald Palmer, Lawrence Parker, and Michael Thomas.

Asked how his own name happened to be omitted from the plaques for Korea and Vietnam, Gilmore said, "I was in the service for 25 years. My residence was always Hillcrest Homes in Turners

Falls, the veterans project at the top of the Hill. I served in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam." But he was overseas when the plaques were erected for Korea and Vietnam, and so his name was unintentionally omitted from them, until now.

Another name that appears on the Vietnam War memorial is that of Ken Morin, the Warner Brothers crew boss who was supervising the installations of the markers on Tuesday (Morin's crew was able to do the work at considerable savings to the town, according to Don Girard, a member of the Trustees who was looking on.) Morin's family name is well represented on stones honoring Montague vets in Korea and Vietnam: his brothers Wilfred and George served in both those wars. His brothers Edward J., Richard L. and Richard R. also served during the Vietnam conflict, as did his sister Doris, whose name was added to the list this week.

Morin took particular care in setting the memorial stones,

guiding Overgaard's operation of the boom and cable with hand gestures and short, emphatic commands. He had the crane operator hoist the final stone a second time, so an insignificant pebble could be removed from underneath that was threatening to cant the 3100-pound marker slightly off plumb.

Morin will be among the speakers at the dedication of the new veterans memorial on Veterans Day, Sunday, November 11th, with a procession from the nearby Carnegie Library stepping off at 10:15 a.m. In the event of rain, the ceremony will take place at the Great Falls Discovery Center instead.

Gilmore called the new memorial, "an overwhelming testimony to the spirit of the community in honoring these veterans." He said the flags representing the casualties of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars will return to their place behind the memorials by Memorial Day, 2008. Assuming those wars are still going on by that date.



DETMOLD PHOTO

Supervisor Ken Morin, (standing, right) keeps both hands on the belt as Eric Overgaard (not pictured) lowers the new Revolutionary War and Civil War monument carefully into position with a 17-ton carry deck crane. Overgaard's work was impressive: his crane was located such that he was facing away from the monument as he lowered it. The rest of the Warner Brothers' crew (left to right) on hand to complete work on the new Veterans Monument on Avenue A on Tuesday were: Curt Cromack, John Brooks, Wayne Allen and Keith Wall

WAR from pg 1

The ceremony will begin at approximately 10:15 a.m. with a procession of participants led by Bagpiper Eric Goodchild from the Carnegie Library, proceeding to the nearby memorial for the dedication.

The main speaker is Col. Michael Boulanger, a former Montague resident, past commander, 104th Fighter Wing, Air Guard, Barnes Airfield, and the 387th Air Expeditionary Wing, Iraq.

Also participating will be the newly organized Womens Barbership Quartet, "Friends," of Greenfield: Carol Benoit, Sharon Fontaine, Patty Gardner and Sue Lahoski.

Kenneth Morin, a Vietnam Veteran who is one of seven siblings that all served in the military during the Vietnam era will speak, as well as selectboard chairperson Patricia Allen.

The opening and closing

prayers will be read by Teresa Miner of the Montague Lodge of Elks; the cutting of the ribbon will be performed by Trustees Chris Boutwell and John Murphy; "Taps" will be performed by Donald Girard; and the Eleventh Hour Ceremony will be performed by Montague Lodge of Elks Exalted Ruler Pamela Lester.

The Sheffield School grade five chorus, under the direction of Nan Sadoski, will sing "America the Beautiful."

The Oak Ridge Marine Corps Detachment will provide the Color Guard.

The renovation of the memorial has been an ongoing project for the past number of years and the trustees are requesting the support of everyone within the community, and outside of the community, to attend and observe what your donations have accomplished in honoring our veterans.



THE HEALTHY GEEZER

Fainting Spells Trouble



JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - Q. Do older people faint more than younger people?

Yes. When you pass 70 years, you double the chances of fainting. And the odds triple after 80. Fainting is common. About one in three people faint at least once in a lifetime.

Syncope (SINK-o-pea) is the medical word for fainting, or a temporary - a few second - loss of consciousness. Fainting happens when your brain isn't getting enough oxygen from your blood supply.

Syncope is often foreshadowed by "premonitory symptoms" that include nausea, feeling lightheaded and irregular heartbeats.

[Personal note: I have what doctors call "presyncope." My knees buckle and I get very

close to passing out but never quite make it. This happens only when I see my own blood in a clear bag or syringe. I've been kicked out of blood banks.]

Syncope is a symptom, not a medical condition. Syncope can be an indicator of a serious problem, so it should not be taken lightly. If you have a fainting spell, get checked out by a doctor. It's sometimes difficult to diagnose syncope in seniors because there can be multiple causes.

Here's a typical fainting scenario:

You stand up. There's blood in the legs that has to be redistributed so there's enough going to your brain. Your nervous system starts sending rapid signals to the heart and blood vessels to correct the imbalance. Older people's bodies simply don't respond as well as they used to; they tend to faint more often because of their reduced capacity.

In another common syncope scenario, you feel faint after a meal because blood has poured into your digestive system.

There are many causes for fainting. Some are benign; some aren't. The causes include abnormalities of the blood, brain, arteries and veins, heart, medications and low blood pressure. Passing out can be the only symptom of heart attack in older people.

Low blood pressure is commonly caused by drugs for high blood pressure, surgical medications, anti-anxiety agents, diuretics, heart medicines, anti-depressants, narcotic painkillers and alcohol. Other causes of low blood pressure include dehydration, heart failure, heart arrhythmias, shock from infection, stroke, severe allergic reaction, major trauma, heart attack and advanced diabetes.

Even after extensive testing, the cause of syncope is not found in almost half of the cases.

There are names for categories of syncope. These include:

Vasovagal, the common variety, which happens when blood pressure drops suddenly; Situational, a form of vaso-

vagal syncope that is triggered by events such as anxiety, hunger, pain, coughing, wearing a tight collar or urinating;

Postural, which occurs when the blood pressure drops suddenly because you got up too fast;

Cardiac, which strikes when heart or blood-vessel problems interfere with blood flow;

Neurologic, which is caused by seizure or stroke.

Treatment for syncope depends upon the cause.

Treatment may include: diet changes, support garments to improve circulation, changing medications, avoiding situations that cause syncope, rising slowly from a sitting or lying position, and installing devices to control your heart rate.

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

MCTV Schedule Channel 17: Nov. 2nd - Nov. 8th

<p>Friday, November 2 8:00 am Carlos W. Anderson: "Shekinah" 9:00 am Discovery Center: Open Mic. Night 2006 10:30 am Chronicles of Czestochowa: Paul Menchaca 11:30 am On The Ridge: Beavers 12:00 pm Montague Update: Ted Graveline 12:30 pm Block Party: Part Three 6:30 pm NASA Destination Tomorrow: Program 1 7:00 pm GMRSD Meeting (10/23/07) 10:00 pm Montague Update: John Hanold 11:00 pm Independent Voices #38</p>	<p>6:00 pm Montague Update: David Detmold 7:00 pm Montague Select Board: (Live) 8:30 pm Physician Focus: Weight-Loss Surgery: The Answer to Obesity? 9:00 pm Road to Recovery: "Improving the Bottom Line" 10:00 pm Discovery Center: Birds of Prey</p>
<p>Saturday, November 3 8:00 am NASA Destination Tomorrow: Program 1 8:30 am GMRSD Meeting (10/23/07) 11:30 am Montague Update: John Hanold 12:00 pm Independent Voices #38 6:30 pm The Well Being: "Helping Men Who Abuse The Ones They Love" 7:30 pm GED Connection #24: Earth & Space Science 8:00 pm Power Canal Cleanup 2007 9:00 pm Chronicles of Czestochowa: Tridentine Latin Mass 10:00 pm Montague Update: Ted Graveline 10:30 pm Block Party: Part Four</p>	<p>Tuesday, November 6 8:00 am Montague Update: David Detmold 9:00 am Physician Focus - Weight-Loss Surgery: The Answer to Obesity? 9:30 am Road to Recovery: "Improving the Bottom Line" 10:30 am Discovery Center: Birds of Prey 6:00 pm The GED Connection #24: Earth & Space Science 6:30 pm Independent Voices #38 7:00 pm GMRSD (10/23/07) 10:00 pm Seabrook 1977</p>
<p>Sunday, November 4 8:00 am The Well Being: "Helping Men Who Abuse The Ones They Love" 9:00 am GED Connection #24: Earth & Space Science 9:30 am Power Canal Cleanup 2007 10:30 am Chronicles of Czestochowa: Special Tridentine Latin Mass 11:00 am Montague Update: Ted Graveline 11:30 am Block Party: Part Four 6:30 pm Great Falls Middle School: Football (10/30/07) 8:30 pm Carlos W. Anderson: A House Divided 9:30 pm Coffee House Series: Katie Clark Band</p>	<p>Wednesday, November 7 8:00 am GED Connection #24: Earth & Space Science 8:30 am Independent Voices #38 9:00 am GMRSD (10/23/07) 12:00 pm Seabrook 1977 6:00 pm NASA Destination Tomorrow: Program 1 6:30 pm GED Connection #25: Chemistry 7:00 pm Great Falls Middle School: Football (10/30/07) 9:00 pm Chronicles of Czestochowa: Special Tridentine Latin Mass 10:00 pm The Well Being: "Helping Men Who Abuse The Ones They Love" 11:00 pm Montague Update: Andrew Vamon</p>
<p>Monday, November 5 8:00 am Great Falls Middle School: Football (10/30/07) 10:00 am Carlos W. Anderson: A House Divided 11:00 am Coffee House Series: Katie Clark Band</p>	<p>Thursday, November 8 8:00 am NASA Destination Tomorrow: Program 1 8:30 am GED Connection #25: Chemistry 9:00 am Great Falls Middle School: Football (10/30/07) 11:00 am Chronicles of Czestochowa: Special Tridentine Latin Mass 12:00 pm The Well Being: "Helping Men Who Abuse The Ones They Love" 1:00 pm Montague Update: Andrew Vamon 6:00 pm Carlos W. Anderson: A House Divided 7:00 pm Montague Select Board: (11/5/07) 8:30 pm Power Canal Cleanup 2007 9:30 pm Montague Update: David Detmold 10:00 pm Block Party: Part Four</p>

Operation Touch of Home Seeking Donations and Volunteers

ORANGE - The North Orange Grange and Diemand Farm have joined forces to bring some comfort and joy to local soldiers serving overseas this holiday season. The groups are sponsoring Operation Touch of Home, an event meant to bring the community together to show support for our local troops. Operation Touch of Home will take place on Saturday, November 3rd at the Community Church of North Orange and Tully from 1 p.m.-5 p.m. During this time, volunteers will be able to make 'Stampin' Up!' handmade cards for the troops to send home to


their loved ones, write letters to the troops, and fill care packages with supplies.

Operation Touch of Home is currently seeking donations from area businesses, organizations, and community members. Monetary donations will be used to purchase supplies to fill the care packages, supplies to make the cards, and postage for the packages. Donations of supplies such as travel-sized toiletries, individual sized snacks, disposable cameras, sunblock, and chapstick, are also being accepted. Supplies can be dropped off at the Athol Area YMCA, the Diemand Farm, or

on November 3rd at the Community Church of North Orange and Tully between the hours of 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. A project member can also pick up donations if needed.

Anyone interested in volunteering or donating to this project, or who has a local soldier stationed overseas is encouraged to contact Jessica Gale-Tanner at (978) 249-9425 or emai@galetannerdesign@gmail.com for more information. Donations can be sent to: North Orange Grange #86, c/o Jessica Gale-Tanner, 93 Royalston Road, Orange, MA 01364.

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JEP'S PLACE: Faith, Hope and Other Disasters Part XIXII

The Raleigh Man

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH GILL

- Our farmhouse was infested with bedbugs when the family moved there. They looked like little flat brown ladybugs. After feeding on your scalp, they'd swell up with blood and take on a reddish color. They secreted a substance that numbed the skin so that it didn't hurt when they bit, similar to what leeches do when they suck blood. But in the morning, the sore would hurt and itch when the effects of the secretion worn off. Those miserable bugs came back to feed on our scalps, night after night. We hated those bedbugs and were afraid

someone would find out we had an infestation of them. Having bedbugs was a major disgrace.

From time to time, Ma tore the beds apart and rubbed the crevices of the mattress with a rag soaked in kerosene. To get bedbugs hiding in the coils of the bedsprings, Ma held a rag under the springs and poured kerosene onto the springs from the spout of a small kerosene can. Bedbugs would come running out. They'd fall to the floor and wave their legs for a few seconds before they died. She'd stamp them dead, giving a little grunt, as if to say, "There, you little bastards, die," even though they were dying, or

dead, already. Sometimes their bellies popped with a little splotch of blood. I didn't feel very sorry for the bugs, seeing it was my blood that made their bellies bulge.

Our beds stunk of kerosene for weeks, and fumes stung our eyes until the kerosene evaporated. It kept the bugs away for a while, but soon, more came out from under the wallpaper to chew spots on our scalps as we slept, making sores that never seemed to heal. We tore off the wallpaper, but they hid behind the plaster laths where the horsehair plaster had fallen away, or from between the cracks on walls covered with boards.

In the end it was the Raleigh man who saved us from the bedbugs. He sold Ma some insecticide. And by spraying every crack and crevice we could find, the hated bedbugs were, at long last, gone for good.

The Raleigh man came by the farm about once a month peddling patent medicines,

household supplies, spices and miscellaneous extracts. Ma was not supposed to have any money. Pa doled it out when she went into a store to shop, and he'd have his hand out for the change when she got back to the car. But she'd short-change him, secretly holding back a little change so she'd have a stash of spending money. When she was short of cash, the Raleigh man took eggs in payment.

Ma always bought a squat round bottle of orange drink concentrate and root beer flavoring. One day, the Raleigh man held out a big bottle of vanilla. "This is a very good vanilla," he said with a knowing look. "It's very popular, 90 proof."

I told Ma we still had a small bottle full of vanilla in the cupboard. She got red in the face and tried to suppress a smile. The Raleigh man smiled, broadly. Ma bought the big bottle, but I never saw it in the cupboard.

After the Raleigh Man left, she packed us a lunch with

orange drink and told us to go out into the woods for a picnic, or at least out behind the garage in the shade of some trees. When we got back she seemed calm and rested, with the smell of vanilla about her.

Sometimes when we pestered her to make root beer, she'd tell us she had to get the house clean and the barn chores done first. We worked like driven slaves in our hurry to make the root beer. I rounded up all the bottles I could find, filled them with soapy water and added a few pebbles, and shook the mixture to scour the bottle clean. After filling them with root beer, the worst part was waiting for the fermenting yeast to give the root beer some fizz. It seemed to take forever. Sometimes we just could not wait, and Ma would let us open a bottle when it was still flat. We really appreciated Ma taking the time and energy to make that delicious treat, and it made us feel good to know that she loved us.

-Continued Next Week

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TUTOR AVAILABLE - Emphasis on reading, writing and verbal skills. Steady clients only. Must be motivated. (413) 863-5149.

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When the Dead Talk Back

BY FLORE WENDELL - If you measured the sound of applauding hands, last Friday at the Wendell Free Library, it would exceed the sound barrier. The reason? Five impressive storytellers carried the attentive audience beyond all expectations, with thrilling effect! Each of them embodied totally their story's



Local playwright Richard Ballon

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Local playwright Richard Ballon narrative.
 The title of this timely Halloween gathering organized by Richard Ballon was:
 "When The Dead Talk Back."
 In the space of one short hour, the characters were brought before us in their totality, awakened by each of their magnificent interpreters!
 So, beware, when Su Hoyle, Lyle Lampe, Deb Bix, Jean Koester and "Le Maitre d'Oeuvre," local playwright Richard Ballon, propose such intimate storytelling evenings. Run there!

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND
Moonlight & Morningstar at the Smokin' Hippo restaurant, 20 French King Highway (Rt. 2), Erving. (413) 423-3220, www.thesmokinhippo.com.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND & 3RD
 The Country Players presents: Haunted Lives, three short plays by John Pielmeier. At the Shea Theater, Turners Falls. Reserve tickets 863-2281.

FRIDAY TO SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND TO 4TH
 Northampton Independent Film Festival, Northampton Center For The Arts and various locations in Northampton. Continues November 9th & 10th. www.niff.org for complete listing.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD
 The Echo Lake Coffee House, Town Hall, Leverett, CD Release Party for Peter Siegel's album, *Living in Rome*. Ethan Hazzard-Watkins accompanies on fiddle. Admission \$12/\$10 seniors, 7:30 p.m. info: 548-9394.

Our Lady of Peace Christmas *Bazaar*, 80 7th St., Turners Falls. Santa's workshop, raffles, crafts, knitted goods, breakfast and lunch. 9 to 2 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Usquabe Jazz*, 9 - 11 p.m.

Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Catamount* - Classic & Southern rock & roll covers. Come to dance! 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH
 Museum of Our Industrial Heritage Open House. The museum located

at 77 Petty Plane Road, Greenfield, highlights the industrial history of Franklin County. Tool demonstrations throughout the day, all ages welcome, refreshments, 10 to 4 p.m. Info call Al Shane at (413) 548-9435.

At The Rendezvous: Harrison Whistler Hobbs and Julia Read. Instruments and singing songs, 9 p.m. \$4.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH
 Live jazz at Ristorante DiPaolo, Turners Falls, *Interplay Jazz Band*. 6 - 9 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH
 Reel World Film Documentary Series presents: *Iran, Veiled Appearances*, 7 p.m. 50 years after US and British agents engineered a coup to place Shah Pahlevi in power and 28 years after an Islamic revolution took the Shah down, Iran is revealed to be a prosperous country exhibiting deep, at times fanatical religious fervor alongside expressions of frustration and acts of rebellion by youth. 90 minutes (2003) at the Arms Library, Shelburne Falls.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH
 The Northfield Mount Hermon School Dance Companies present their fall concert, *Begging to Differ*, at 7:30 p.m. in the Grandin Auditorium. Tickets are \$5 general admission; \$2 for students, children, and seniors. Call 498-3017 for ticket reservations. Proceeds benefit nonprofit: Invisible Children.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Free Range*, Rock, 8 - 10 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH
 Great Falls Coffeehouse 2nd Friday Series. The Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center are excited to present an evening with the spirited rabble known as Skin-N-Bonz a junkyard brass band that features funky horns, wacky percussion and gritty grooves of Dixieland and other swinging music. Doors open at 6:30 pm - coffee & homemade baked goods will be served. Concert at 7 p.m. Suggested sliding scale donation of \$6 - \$12 (kids free), proceeds to benefit the work of the Discovery Center & the musicians.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Mother Turtle*, Soul Rock, 9 - 11 p.m.



Skin-N-Bones core members Don Macaulay, J.D. Keating and Kevin Smith never know who will join them onstage, and in fact, they invite folks to play along! Bring your own instrument or make one at the concert with stuff that will be on hand. At The Great Falls Coffee House, Friday, November 9th, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH
 Locally Grown Harvest Dinner and Film Screening on two ongoing struggles for just access to land, Montague Grange, Montague Center, 6 p.m. Contributions of any size welcome, struggle info www.takebacktheland.net. Event info gillgarden@riseup.net, 863-9197.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Richard Chase Group*, Folk/Rock, 9 - 11 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH
 Veterans Day Ceremony, the Trustees of the Town of Montague Soldiers Memorial invite the public to attend the dedication ceremony of the new memorials held at the War Memorial on Avenue A, Turners Falls. The ceremony will commence at 10:15 a.m. with a procession led by bagpiper Eric Goodchild from in front of the Carnegie Library to the Memorial. The Trustees have planned a beautiful ceremony honoring our veterans with music, and speeches by local veterans.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Steve Crow & Peter Kim*, Acoustic Duo 9 - 11 p.m.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH
 Live jazz at Ristorante DiPaolo, Turners Falls, *Joe Belmont*, solo guitar. 6 - 9 p.m.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH
 Athol Bird and Nature Club and Millers River Environmental Center. Accessible Birding with Joe Superchi. Join Joe in visiting local sites for bird watching and whatever else shows up. Open to birders of all abilities. Accessible van takes birders to local sites. Meet at 7a.m. at the Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main Street, Athol. Call for wheelchair access - 978-248-9491

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14TH
Tracks in Time: The Story of Dinosaurs in Turners Falls Join the Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center at 7 p.m. in the Great Hall as they tell the

story of an ancient Jurassic New England 200 million years ago that was home to these amazing reptiles. You'll also hear the story of today as we seek to protect and conserve a local fossil heritage that is unique in Western Massachusetts. Free. 863-3221 for information.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH
Where is Away? A Travel Diary of Franklin County Trash with Amy Donovan, followed by a Dessert Potluck. 7 to 8:30 p.m. For ages 12 and older. Free, pre-register 800-859-2960. Program meets at Visitor Center, Northfield Mountain.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17TH
 Comedy Show: Paul D'Angelo w/Jon

HOT SPOT TEEN CENTER

MONDAYS - Drop-in, 3 - 6 p.m.
TUES & WEDS - Ongoing Music Project, 3 - 6 p.m.
THURS - Drop-in, 3 - 6 p.m. & Movie Night, 6 - 8 p.m.
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THEATER REVIEW

Ghost Stories for Grown Ups

REVIEWED BY
DAVID DETMOLD

TURNERS FALLS - Everyone who ever told ghost stories around the campfire at night can remember the visceral chill, the night, the sense that something evil is listening just beyond the fitful glow of the fire. Those sensations will come back to haunt you during the first of three one-act plays by John Pielmeier in this weekend's production of *Haunted Lives*, presented by the Country Players, at the Shea Theater, Friday and Saturday, November 2nd and 3rd, at 8 p.m.

A Witch's Brew, the first play, under the direction of Erin Richman, takes place entirely in the dark, or the near dark, lit from behind by a single muted spot. Three characters sit together in a farmhouse base-

ment, get drunk, tell tales, and consume fruits and vegetables that feel like body parts: a peeled grape eyeball, vermicelli veins, dried apricot ears, and so on. Jule (Jacquelyn Marie McDunnah) is bright and buoyant, and gets nicely sloshed. Her fiancé, Tucker (Adam Mori) seems like a stockbroker who got off on the wrong exit, and wound up with a partner he should have had more sense than get hitched to, while Daed (Clayton Girouard), Jule's brother, acts like a character who wandered onto the set from some Appalachian backwater in Deliverance. He's got a bone to pick with sis, and Tucker would be wise to get out of the way while the getting's still good.

This brief snippet of regurgitated Fright Night acts as an appetizer for play number two,

A Ghost Story, directed by Clayton Girouard. Here we have fully formed characters emerging into the plain light of a bare stage. Or not quite bare: there is a knapsack flung in one corner. Who left it there, in a cabin in the woods of Maine in the middle of a blizzard? And where could the knapsack's owner have gone? Among its contents, a straight razor, and like Chekhov's loaded gun you know someone's going to use it before the curtain falls.

Here, there are three characters presented for our enjoyment: Oswald (Dave Grout), Hackett (Brian Campbell) and Soma (Keagen Wells). They are all excellent,



AMY CONNELLY PHOTO

Starving for Love: Dave Grout faces Hannah Chase in *A Gothic Tale*, one of three one-acts at the Shea

and the play is a taut little spell-binder, all the more excruciating because the audience can see sooner than the main characters what the gruesome outcome will be.

Most of the interplay is between Grout and Campbell, who look like they could have been plucked from the pack of wild young men who hang out 24/7 in front of the VFW and thrust onto the stage. Their conversation is that natural, and yet there is clearly something supernatural going on in this weird little space. The frisson creeps up a notch when Wells sashays out from the closet to make frothy hot chocolate with the boys. She looks hot, but inside, baby, she's cold as a Foreigner song.

Let's say a special word in praise of Campbell. He's got that existential Dean Moriarty thing going on, and that chiseled, burnt-out Harry Dean Stanton image down pat. He knows how to let the tension in his character wind up tight before he spills his guts. It would be fun to watch him work in a more extended piece, but he packs a punch in this little one-act, worth the price of admission for his performance alone.

Now let's talk about Grout. He has the advantage of taking center stage in the last play, *A Gothic Tale*, directed by Amy Connelly, and thereby doubles the impression of his forceful characterizations. His natural comedic tendency is suppressed in the third play, and choked off

in the second. Instead, as Isaac, the imprisoned love interest in *A Gothic Tale*, we see his - dare we say it - vulnerable side. It's not apparent immediately, you have to watch him peel away his every defense and pretense first, but after a while, as this longest of the evening's three short plays unwinds, he brings you right down to the human core.

Grout's diamond in the rough performance is offset beautifully by that of his counterpart, the delicately wrought Eliza (Hannah Chase), who looks thirteen and acts like thirty. This is a play of arrested development, the things we starve for love, and chained passion, and she's all that and more. By the end of the night, there were few men in the audience who wouldn't trade their comfortable parlors for a chance to spend the rest of their hellish lives locked in a prison with her.

Hovering on the sidelines is the acerbic ringmaster of this finely scripted drama, Morten (Kip Fonsh), who wields his two dozen lines like a lion tamer wields his whip, expertly.

Thanks to the Country Players for bringing adult drama to the Shea's stage. These little plays extend the spirit of Hallowe'en, and bring it home to roost. Leave the kids at the baby-sitters, if you dare!

OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

Montague Center Halloween Frolic!

BY FLORE - In truth, each year the festivities surpass the preceding one. Is it because each year the village shivers at the thought the school might close? Just as much as the parents, teachers, and all the residents concerned about its fate? "Touch wood and hold your breath," as the old saying goes, and again, here we all were walking the Montague Center streets, meeting the children's happy faces, reassuring everyone.

Yes, this great little red brick schoolhouse was back for Halloween. The Festival started officially last Friday with a parade touring the village. Colorful costumes shone, as early nightfall descended upon the joyful crowd. Then hayrides followed just as gently falling rain, too, joined the party.

As you entered the dim lighted doors, you saw each teacher had partially switched off the lighting, their classrooms thus made even more

"goblin spooky" to the young crowd.

Imagine, even the main multi-purpose room had changed, becoming a gaming

place! I don't mean, roulette, blackjack, or poker gambling. No, the games offered appropriately included beanbag toss and hoops, as well as an inventive baseball game, confronting the chest of an amicable father. Ingenious ones also, like using strategy instead of hands for eating hanging doughnuts. Decal tattooing; guessing the number of candies in jars; finding the center heart of a drawn pumpkin, blind folded.

The PTA, for sure, joined forces to create this magical night of fun and games. The result? *Epoustoufflant!*

Would you believe Montague observes two festivities each Halloween? As if one frolic was not enough, did I not see you on the common last night, echoing all, "Trick or Treat!"



FLORE PHOTO

Sleeping Tiger - Jakob D. Lavin, 2, of Montague shows off his costume while taking a break from the Hallowe'en parade

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