



BOX CAR SOLD
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MONTAGUE VETERAN
at Arms Library / page 10

LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 5 - NO. 8

also serving Gill, Erving and Wendell

50¢

REPORTER@MONTAGUEMA.NET

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

NOVEMBER 23, 2006

Town Buildings Rise in Wendell

JOSH HEINEMANN - The electrical and plumbing contractors are working now inside the new town office building, at the north end of the common. Over on Wendell Depot Road, the walls are up in the front of the new library. A crane arrived Friday, November 17th, to lift the library's roof trusses into place. This is more progress than Wendell has seen in years.

Selectboard chair Ted Lewis said some of the plywood sheathing is already in place and some of the white insulation panels being stored in back of the town office building are beginning to delaminate in the recent wet weather. He is concerned the roof shingles are not on yet, with only a limited number of days remaining this year warm enough to install them.

The town office com-

pletion date is set for February 15th, 2007, and the library completion date is March 31st. Lewis praised the cost saving efforts of John Flemming, clerk of the works for both projects.

Meanwhile, town business continued in the temporary office trailer set up near the highway garage. Against the onset of winter, selectboard member Dan Keller met Lewis there on Saturday,

November 18th, to build a roof and shelter around the trailer stairs to the selectboard and tax collectors' offices. They got paid prevailing (Wendell) wage, which is zilch.

At its November 15th meeting

see **WENDELL** pg 16



A crane lifts one of the library roof trusses into place on Friday, November 17th.

PHOTO BY JOSH HEINEMANN

ARTISTS' DREAM



DETMOLD PHOTOS

Artist Jack Nelson is among a group of local entrepreneurs and town officials eyeing a derelict multi-unit apartment block on J Street for possible conversion to artists' lofts.

BY BETSY CALVERT
TURNERS FALLS - All it took was 14 years in state Housing Court, and a historic building on J Street could now become available for development as artists' lofts and work space.

A late 19th century brick building located behind Aubuchon's Hardware and The Salvation Army store has been vacant since 1991, town administrator Frank Abbondanzio said recently. The three-story build-

ing was most likely built as housing for workers of the Griswold cotton mill, now known as the Railroad Salvage building, which is suffering its own structural problems these days.

Following the success of two commercial home-steading projects in town, Abbondanzio said the town wants to try again, this time with artists. The previous two projects are now Ristorante DiPaolo and a conference center for Northeast Foundation

for Children. Both involved run-down old buildings in downtown that the town sold to private parties for \$1. Those two parties then invested a total of about \$900,000 to rehabilitate those buildings, Abbondanzio said. Today, DiPaolo's is a successful upscale restaurant and the foundation is a growing institution regularly bringing in groups from out of town to its conference facility.

see **ARTIST** pg 5

BREAD & PUPPET COMES TO TURNERS FALLS HIGH

BY DAVID DETMOLD
TURNERS FALLS - Seven members of the Bread and Puppet Theater touring company piled out of their elaborately painted blue school bus and took their places on the stage of the Turners Falls High School on Thursday, November 16th.

They were there to give workshops to two of Heather Batchelor's U.S. Government classes. These Puppeteers, who hail from the Northeast Kingdom of

Vermont, do not work with hand puppets, or with marionette strings, generally. More commonly, they don life-size *papier-mache* masks and become puppets themselves.

"We're going to teach you a street theater show," said Justin Lander, one of the puppeteers. The news seemed to take the government students a little bit off guard.

But first, a lively tune, played on washboards, bass drum and cymbals, French horn, sax and trumpet: *Hold that Tiger!* That brushed the sleep seeds out their eyes.

"The best thing you can do for yourself in life is learn to play an instrument," advised Lander.

With that, the 'Rotten Idea Theater Company' took the stage, with three puppeteers dressed as oversized baked potatoes, representing the Workforce,

Management and the Economy, demonstrating the underlying dynamics of capitalism, replete with fist fights and pratfalls.

"Work see **BREAD** pg 11



DETMOLD PHOTOS

Students from Heather Batchelor's government class at TFHS rehearse with members of the Bread & Puppet Theater troupe on Nov. 16th.



PET OF THE WEEK

Early Present



Christmas

Christmas is a beautiful brown tiger with white patches of fur. She's in need of a good home. Christmas is a stray, about two and a half years old, and has the most adorable batch of fluffy babies in her cage with her right now who are also up for adoption. Good luck choosing! She's a playful and curious mom who likes to be held and loves to be talked to. One thing she doesn't love, though, is other animals (besides her kitties, that is).

For more info on adopting Christmas, please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society in Leverett at 413-548-9898 or via email at info@dakinshelter.org.

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CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS

Gingerbread House Making Workshop

BY LINDA HICKMAN

TURNERS FALLS - Children of all ages and their families are invited to make easy gingerbread houses at the Carnegie Library on Saturday, December 2nd at 2 p.m. Bev Whitbeck will

run the free program and all of the materials, which include graham crackers, candy, and frosting, will be provided.

For more information, please contact the Carnegie Library, at 863-3214.

Meeting a Flower Fairy



PHOTO: LINDA HICKMAN

TURNERS FALLS - Ashley Levasseur of Gill got to meet a flower fairy after the No String Marionette Company puppet show on Saturday, November 18th, at the Carnegie Library.

Over 60 people attended the show, made possible by the Family Literacy Project of the Montague Catholic Social Ministries, which is funded by the Montague Community Block Grant.

Home Care for the Holidays

What better gift for the holidays than peace of mind and free time to unwind? In-Home Care from Franklin County Home Care helps elders stay independent in their own homes and gives caregivers a much needed break. Franklin County Home Care is helping elders and caregivers live better lives. Call: 413-773-5555 or 978-544-2259 for more info.

GILL NOTES

Gill town offices will close at noon on Wednesday, November 22nd for the Thanksgiving holiday. Town hall will reopen on Monday, Nov. 27th at 9:30 a.m. for business.

Rubbish and recycling pickup will move to Saturday, November 26th as a result of the Thanksgiving holiday.

Happy Holidays!



PHOTO DEB ROUSSEL

The Gill sixth grade class visited the Gill Town Hall as part of a community civics essay contest.

Wendell Holiday Fair
December 9th & 10th
Saturday: 10am-5pm • Sunday: 11am-4pm
Wendell Town Hall
 Come holiday shop with local crafters, artists and business folks! Exceptional handmade, quality gifts including artwork, jewelry, hand blown glass and much, much more!
 Musical entertainment:
 Saturday 1-3 Kevin Skorpua • Sunday 1-3 Kellianna

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES November 27th - Dec. 1st

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

Monday, 27th
 10:15 a.m. Aerobics
 11:00 a.m. PACE Aerobics
 1:00 p.m. Canasta
Tuesday, 28th

9:30 a.m. T'ai Chi
Wednesday, 29th
 10:15 a.m. Senior Aerobics
 12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, 30th
 1 p.m. Pitch
Friday, 31st
 10:15 a.m. Senior Aerobics
 11 a.m. PACE Aerobics

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

Monday, 27th
 9:30 a.m. Exercise
 9:45 a.m. Library
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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



DETMOLD PHOTO

During last Sunday's final turkey shoot of the season, Paul Hardy, (right) president of the Millers Falls Rod & Gun Club, presented a check for \$500 to K-9 Officer John Dempsey (left) to help maintain the Montague police department's K-9 program. K-9 Kyra is shown at center, getting a scratch on the chin from Hardy. Dempsey said "It's because of the Rod & Gun Club and organizations like it that I've been able to keep working the dogs. So I just want to say, thank you to all the members here."

HAPPY Thanksgiving
 from all of us at
The Montague Reporter

Great Falls Middle School
 Students of the Week:

Grade 7
 Jessica Keene
 Breanna Miller
Grade 8
 Joshua Lander

NANCY L. DOLE BOOKS & EPHEMERA

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The Gill Store

Want to Please a Crowd?
Holiday Wine Tasting at the Gill Store Saturday 11/25/06

326 Main Road, Gill 863-9006

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Arts & Icicles

Tibetan Rugs and Sacred Object Sale

BY KAREN STINCHFIELD
TURNERS FALLS - The *Arts and Icicles Turners Falls Open Studio & Downtown Walking Tour*, featuring twelve downtown Turners Falls studios, galleries, cultural centers, and eateries will take place December 2nd and 3rd along Avenue A, Third Street, and Canal Street.

This season's tour offers a myriad of visual feasts as well as wonderful opportunities to purchase locally created art for holiday gifts. Studio walk favorites will again be opening their doors, including Jack Nelson, Peterman's Baskets and Bowls, Great Lighting, Books & More, Hallmark Museum of Contemporary Photography, Suzee's Third Street Laundry, Great Falls Discovery Center, and Tim de Christopher. The Brick House Community Resource Center will again be opening the doors of The Brick House Gallery, a consignment gift shop highlighting locally made art and music which will feature

"affordable art at reasonable prices" in a relaxed atmosphere. Suzee's Third Street Laundry, which has become known for its Studio Walk offerings, will have live music, fashion, and the opportunity for "kids and other weirdos" to make their own "strange books." Visitors can also enjoy an up-close look at the new public art installations. Ristorante DiPaolo, Cup O' Joe, and Jay K's Liquors will be satisfying walkers' palates, with Ristorante DiPaolo opening earlier than usual in order to meet their patrons' needs for coffee rinks and delectable desserts. Light Amber Brass and other musicians will be wandering the village and playing throughout the downtown area during the weekend.

For more information regarding the walk or its participants, please feel free to call Karen at The Brick House (863-9576) or Eileen at Carriage House Designs (863-9499).

BY PAM HANOLD
MONTAGUE CENTER - Due to the efforts of local resident Judy Marz, Montague has enjoyed a special relationship with the Tibetan Bon religious community in exile in India, having had numerous visits and teaching seminars from the abbot of that community, His Holiness Menri Trizan Lungtok Nyima, and from Bon monks. On Sunday, December 3rd the Montague Grange will be the scene of a special sale, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., of authentic Tibetan carpets, singing bowls, silk and cotton scarves, *thangkas*, statues, and religious artifacts to benefit the Bon community.

Stop in and learn more about the ancient Bon tradition, the indigenous religion of Tibet, which extends back 18,000 years. The major attraction will be the large array of Tibetan carpets, made from the wool of Himalayan sheep, which produce wool that is unusually silky, yet strong enough for carpets.

As for centuries, entire families participate in the carpet making. The wool is washed and carded by hand to produce a stronger yarn and more durable carpet than machine made. The cream-colored spun yarn is dyed

using traditional vegetable colors from walnuts, pomegranates, indigo and the like, mixed in varying combinations to yield a palette of hues. Dyed in copper pots, the yarn is washed, dried, and rolled into balls, ready for weaving.

perhaps in contrast to the broad windswept landscape of the high Tibetan plateau. They incorporate the sacred symbols and stories of the religion and provide a method of teaching for a non-literate population. Traditionally, families made two kinds of carpets, for the temple and for the home, where they are also used on walls and, in stacks, as sleeping platforms.

Tiger carpets reflect the historical path of Bon. For centuries the lamas sat on tiger skins in the temple. In the 700s, a Tibetan ruler married a foreigner who brought in the precepts of Buddhism, leading to a prolonged theological battle. One result of the fusion of beliefs was the end of the use of animal skins. Since then, some carpets have been woven in the shape of tiger skins for the lamas, and tiger shapes are woven into the rectangular carpets used in the home.

All proceeds from the Grange sale go to support the work of the Bon monastery caring for Tibetan orphans and providing schooling for the children of the exiled Tibetan community in northern India. Purchased by the monastery from Tibetan families, the carpets provide an important means of income.



Judy Marz

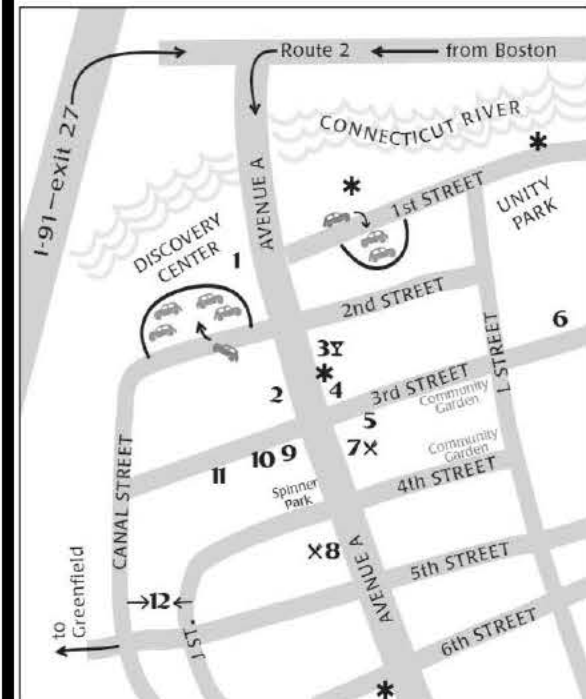
The Bon use a continuous two-weave process on their looms, across the entire width of the carpet. The knots are beaten down tightly and cut with a sharp knife across the top of a guide rod. The carpets on view at the Grange will average 100 knots per square inch.

Tibetan carpets are colorful,

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ARTS & ICICLES TURNERS FALLS OPEN STUDIO & DOWNTOWN WALKING TOUR

DECEMBER 2ND & 3RD 2006, 10AM-5PM



ARTS & ICICLES PARTICIPANTS

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|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1 GREAT FALLS DISCOVERY CENTER | 7 CUP O' JOE |
| 2 BOOKS & MORE | 8 RISTORANTE DIPAOLO |
| 3 JAY K'S LIQUORS | 9 GREAT LIGHTING |
| 4 HALLMARK MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY PHOTOGRAPHY | 10 THE BRICK HOUSE GALLERY |
| 5 SUZEE'S THIRD STREET LAUNDRY | 11 PETERMAN BASKETS AND BOWLS |
| 6 TIM DE CHRISTOPHER | 12 JACK NELSON, CARRIAGE HOUSE DESIGN |

WANDERING MUSICIANS
 Light Amber Brass, Saturday 11:30 am - 1:00 pm and 1:30 - 3:00 pm
 More Music on Sunday, 11:30 am - 1:00 pm and 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm

FOR GENERAL INFORMATION CALL EILEEN (413) 863-9499 OR KAREN (413) 863-9576

TURNERS FALLS PUBLIC ART INSTALLATIONS

- * Powertown; by James Rourke - End of 1st Street by the bike path parking area
 - * Rock, Paper, Knife; by Gary Orlinsky - 1st Street by bike path and Fish Viewing Facility
 - * Doosel; by Stephen Cahill - Avenue A + 3rd Street in front of Hallmark Museum of Contemporary Photography
 - * Atlantic Salmon Mosaic; by Cynthia Fisher - Peskeomskut Park Avenue A + 6th Street
- These public art pieces will be on view for three years

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 1 George Ave, Turners Falls
 863-4348
- THE WAGON WHEEL RESTAURANT**
 39 French King Highway, Gill
 863-8210

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- Rugg Lumber, Greenfield,
- New England Extrusion, Turners Falls
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A Family to Be Thankful For

BY MARVIN SHEDD

ERVING - Most people in their 50s are, if not finished raising their children, at least approaching the end of the daily activities associated with the process. People with kids never really stop being parents, but things like changing diapers, little league baseball games and band

when they got a phone call advising that their eighteen-month-old granddaughter was about to be taken from her home by the Department of Social Services. There was a possibility she might be put up for adoption. For the Clarks, who place great importance on family, this was unacceptable. The thought of

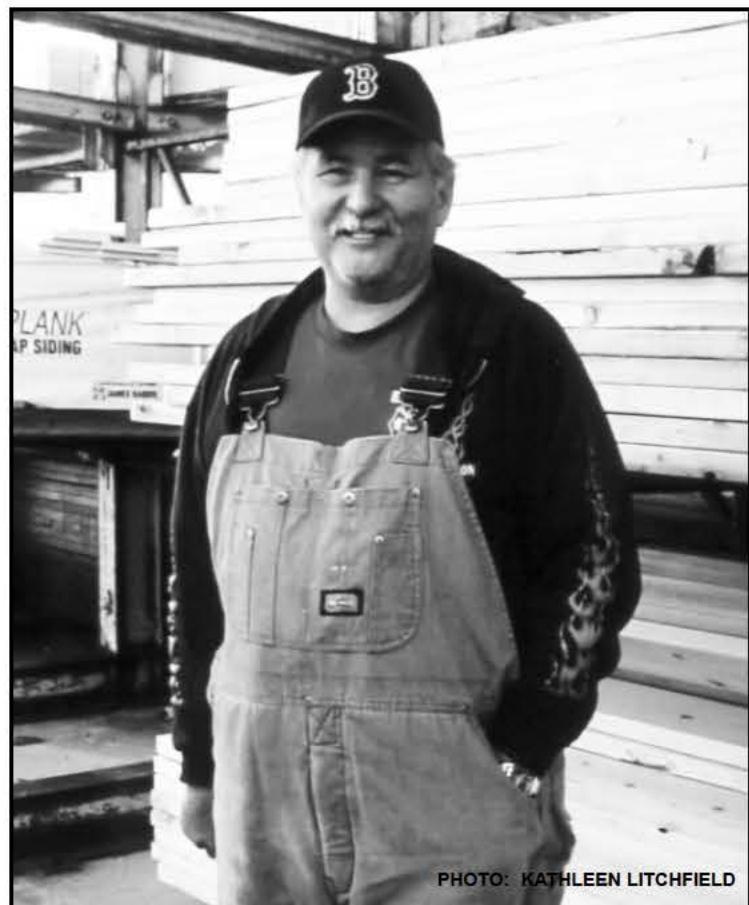


PHOTO: KATHLEEN LITCHFIELD

Lenny Clark, yardman at Rugg Lumber and foster dad

concerts eventually come to a halt. When it happens, most parents are left with a huge sense of relief that their children turned out okay, and that they survived! Instead of thinking about when the kids need to be picked up from school, or searching for that misplaced baseball glove, people begin to think about the books they've wanted to read, or a quiet dinner for two.

Lenny and Cyndi Clark of Erving felt that way. Having raised five kids between them, they were ready to relax, have some time with each other and enjoy life. Everything changed

never seeing their granddaughter again was devastating. They advised DSS that they would adopt their grandchild. It was a decision that would change their lives forever.

This brief exposure to the world of DSS got Cyndi thinking. If her granddaughter could be in a situation like this, how many other kids were in the same situation? What could she do to help? After much thought, she told Lenny she'd like to become a foster parent. This isn't something that happens overnight. The state needs to know that you are qualified, that

your intentions are clear. For eight weeks the Clarks took part in classes sponsored by the Massachusetts Association of Parenting Partners. They learned about the challenges they would face; they participated in role-playing, all of it designed to prove to the state, and themselves, that they were up for the commitment of being foster parents.

A thorough home inspection by DSS followed the eight-week course, after which, Lenny and Cyndi were officially certified as foster parents.

When you're a foster parent, you never know when that phone call is going to come, or what age, sex or type of child will appear at your doorstep. The Clarks learned early on that there was only one thing they could be certain of: the child who appeared at their doorstep would be carrying two things - bags and baggage. Some of the kids come from broken families, some are victims of physical or sexual abuse, some are orphans; all of them need love. Lenny and Cyndi do their best to provide that.

I recently spent an evening with the Clarks. Cyndi wasn't around the night I went to visit, just Lenny and five of the seven kids currently living with them. As Lenny and I sat down for a visit, a confident, self-assured girl with a pretty smile entered the room. Lenny introduced her as Katarina, his biological grandchild, the one who had started the Clarks on this journey. We hit it off immediately, as she proceeded to introduce me to the family pets. In rapid succession, I met the two resident house cats, Marmalade and Whisper, and Bandit a short-haired collie, whose masked appearance was reminiscent of the Lone Ranger.

As Lenny told tales of foster parenting, the other four kids moved in and out of the room. I was struck by the obvious bond that existed between these chil-

dren and Lenny, who they all called Dad. Each time they needed something, the interview stopped so Lenny could help with homework, give them their medicine, or help make some chocolate milk. I found the exchanges delightful and authentic, each one offering a glimpse into the abundant love in this house. At times the kids would sit at the table and take in the conversation between us, exhorting Lenny to tell their story.

It is clear the Clarks make each of these children feel special. They have no magic formula or special tools; they simply offer these kids something they've never had - a normal family life. Each child has the opportunity to play baseball, soccer or whatever sport is currently in season. If they want to play in the school band, or take dance lessons, they can. When they have vacation, the whole family goes, to places like Water Country USA in Virginia, where the parents have as much fun as the kids. This coming week, Lenny and Cyndi and all seven kids will attend a Boston Celtics game. Next winter, a trip to Disney World is in the works.

Three of the children currently living with the Clarks have been adopted, Katarina, and two young brothers, Jacob and Kaleb. It's possible that another two will be adopted - a young boy who delighted in telling me of his prowess on the football

field and a young girl who greeted me with a handshake. The twinkle in her eye told me she was up to something, I wasn't sure what. The rest of the room understood I was about to be on the receiving end of the old buzzer-in-the-hand trick and erupted with laughter when I played along with the gag. As we all calmed down, I asked her if she was happy living with the Clarks. As she laid her head on the shoulder of the man she calls Dad, her eyes answered the question.

Over the years, Lenny and Cyndi have housed 140 foster kids. When I asked him why they do this work, his answer was simple, direct, and required no thought. "If we can make a difference in these kids' lives, we figure we've really accomplished something."

On my way home, I thought of the popular song by Martina McBride: "Love's the only house big enough for all the pain in the world." The Clarks aren't taking care of all the pain in the world, but they're sure doing a good job in their own little corner.

In this season of Thanksgiving, let us be thankful for people like Lenny and Cyndi Clark. By opening their hearts and their home, they're making a difference.

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A meeting of the Trustees of the Soldiers Memorial will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the town hall on December 6th. The public is invited to attend.

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GUEST EDITORIAL

Dressing a Turkey Naked

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH
GILL - One Thanksgiving an employee of a neighboring turkey farm came to our door with a freshly killed turkey. My mother and sister Irene were working for the farmer that holiday to get a rush order ready for market. It was not uncommon for him to present us with a turkey.

Whenever a turkey appeared ailing or a bit droopy, the farmer would curse and kill it, immediately, to prevent any suspected illness from spreading. He did not market these suspect birds, not wanting to risk having a customer get sick. Knowing that, I always had mixed feelings about the farmer presenting us with this bounty, even though we never suffered any ill effects from eating the suspect turkeys.

The large feathers on our Thanksgiving gift were removed, but the tiny pinfeathers remained - loads of them. Pulling out pinfeathers is an art that neither I, nor my father, ever mastered. It is tedious time-consuming work. We were each using a paring

knife to help get a grip on the pinfeather, taking care not to cut or break off the pinfeather. That makes a mess and the pinfeather stub is extremely difficult to remove. We had more than a few of those disasters.

We worked together in silence with little progress. The only sounds were sighs of impatience and boredom. My father began tugging at the still elastic skin. It stretched out like the rubber of a deflated balloon. He smiled, deftly slit the skin of the turkey up the middle, and slipped off the skin like he was taking off a coat. In minutes the turkey lay on the table, stark naked.

We slathered the bare bird with butter and basted it often as it roasted in the wood stove. By the time my mother and Irene came home for supper, the turkey was nicely browned, cooked to perfection, crisp and tasty on the outside but moist and juicy inside. I was most thankful that Thanksgiving that I did not have to endure any more pinfeathering.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE GILL POLICE LOG

Illegal Dumping on Hoe Shop Road

<p>Wednesday 11-15 4:45 p.m. Report of lost cellular phone on Main Road near South Cross Road; party's info logged at station.</p> <p>Thursday 11-16 9:15 p.m. 911 misdial from a French King Highway residence, all OK.</p> <p>Friday 11-17 8:20 a.m. Assisted Erving police with traffic control on Old State Road.</p> <p>11:15 a.m. Loud noise complaint on West Gill Road. Parties spoken to about incident.</p> <p>12:45 p.m. Assisted with medical emergency on Main Road, from a previous accident that occurred in Northfield.</p> <p>9:31 p.m. Minor motor vehicle crash observed by on duty officer at Gill lights. Report taken.</p>	<p>Saturday 11-18 12:45 p.m. Report of an unwanted intoxicated subject on the Mount Hermon campus. Responded, subject removed without incident.</p> <p>4:33 p.m. Responded to Center Road for a car vs. guy wire accident, report taken.</p> <p>Sunday 11-19 5:10 p.m. Assisted with rabid raccoon on Main Road.</p> <p>5:20 p.m. Report of illegal trash dumping on Hoe Shop Road. Officer responded and identified subjects responsible. Under investigation.</p> <p>9:25 p.m. Assisted Bernardston police with motor vehicle stop on Bald Mountain Road extension.</p> <p>Tuesday 11-21 12:35 a.m. Assisted landlord with check of rental property on Oak Street.</p>
--	--



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SLATE ROOF POETS at the CARNEGIE

Jim Bell and Susie Patlove and guest poet Candice Curran will read from their work at 6:30 p.m., Monday, December 4th at the Carnegie Public Library in Turners Falls. The work of poets Trish Crapo and Art Stein will also be featured. There will be time to discuss various aspects of the small press publishing process, chapbook design and promotion. The reading is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

This project is supported, in part, by a grant from the Montague Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

For more information, call 413-773-5070.

ARTIST continued from pg 1

DiPaolo's pays property taxes and the foundation, which is non-profit, makes similar payments in lieu of taxes.

Back in the late 80s, The J Street property was bought by three men from eastern Massachusetts, who were never able to rehabilitate it, according to Montague tax collector Patti Dion.

Chuck Collins lived in an apartment in the building in 1988, as the building changed hands. He recalled seeing one of his three absentee landlords on a television show touting his "Get Rich Quick" schemes in real estate. "He came out once to see the property, driving a sports car. Then he moved to the Bahamas. It took me three years, using a top flight lawyer, to get my security deposit back, with triple fees and damages," Collins said.

In the 1990s, the Franklin County Regional Housing Authority was asked by the state

Department of Mental Retardation to buy the building and renovate it for housing, authority director Paul Douglas said. The town, however, could not get possession of the building, as the owners one-by-one, went through bankruptcy. So the Authority moved on.

Douglas said he would be thrilled to see housing and work space for artists move into that space.

"They're the force behind what's driving the redevelopment of Turners Falls," Douglas said.

The town has already invested in programs to develop cultural tourism in Turners. The planned completion of a three mile bike path along the power canal along with the Discovery Center museum of river ecology mean the town is poised for expansion from its recent history as the site of low income housing.

"That's our niche," Abbonanzio said of art and ecotourism. "This is a very visual place," he said of the 19th century mill town on the scenic river

bend. "We're already getting interest from outside the area."

Commercial homesteading is a spin-off concept of urban homesteading, in which cities sell buildings for \$1 to people who want to rehabilitate them for their own residences. The process allows municipalities to put buildings back on the tax rolls.

Turners Falls, however, has large amounts of subsidized housing, so town officials want to bring in commercial development, rather than more strictly residential units.

The process requires the town to request proposals for redevelopment, and then pick a developer, if a proposal appears feasible.

Jack Nelson is a local artist who is considering taking on the project. He has already redeveloped two buildings in Turners Falls - one for his own live-work space.

"We're trying to accommodate this interest we've come across from artists, both local and from the cities." In the J Street building, he said, "We're thinking

along the lines of two large studios, two medium, and two very small ones for writers or poets."

Studio space for artists is sorely lacking in Turners, Nelson said. He regularly gets calls from artists hoping to move here and artists seeking space. While he now has his own sculpture and ceramics studio, Nelson said he would like to help the town bring in more artists.

Precinct 5 town meeting member Christopher Sawyer-Laucanno, a multi-media artist and writer who has lived in town since 1991, had similar thoughts.

"There are few spaces for artists to live and work here. We really see that Turners is becoming a real artists' community. We'd like to foster that as a vision. It used to be that you thought you had to be in a mecca for the arts. You had to live in New York, in Paris. That's where the money was, that's where the galleries were."

But Laucanno said Turners "just keeps getting better and better."

Nelson admitted he has yet to see the interior of the J Street building. Once inside, he said, "It might scare the hell out of me."

The building was designed as townhouse apartments with brick fire walls every 18-20 feet, said building inspector David Jensen. That might make it difficult if not impossible to develop as large, horizontal lofts traditionally popular with artists.

The town will not likely take ownership of the building until early January, Dion said. The final phases of legal work are underway now, and the building will come to the town with back taxes and fees of about \$75,000, she said. Whether the town recovers that money depends on how local officials decide to sell or use the building, she said.

Nelson said, "In a town with this much affordable and subsidized housing, if the state wants to see if the arts can really be an economic engine, let's belly up to the bar and make something available for artists."



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NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Taking Care of Business

On Monday, November 20th, the selectboard:

- Authorized the new town planner, Dan LaRoche, to receive a salary of \$50,432 for 35 hours a week, beginning November 27th.

- Approved \$150,000 from Chapter 90 funds for Greenman Petersen, Inc. for further design work on the north end of Greenfield Road, which is approaching the 75% design phase. The design of that section of the road should reach 100% by fall of next year, and be ready for construction in either '08 or '09, according to town administrator Frank Abbondanzio.

- Approved the top choice of the police station design committee: the architectural firm of Jacunski Howes, and invited them to present a financial proposal for the design of the safe-

ty complex / new police station. The firm must meet the requested spending cap of \$35,000 for design work on that project, which should be ready for town meeting action next June.

- Authorized spending the first installment of the \$2,868,500 in low interest loans provided by the state revolving loan program for the combined sewer overflow remediation work in progress in Turners Falls

- Approved sending a "white paper" to Congressman Olver's office seeking \$3 million in additional funding to restore projects cut from the wastewater treatment upgrades as part of the sewer overhaul. The items are: sludge dewatering equipment, and an enlarged septage storage facility, two items that would help reduce the sewer rates if constructed.

NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Route 2 Bypass Open; Selectboard Goes on the Road

BY DAVID DETMOLD - The long awaited Route 2 bypass around the Erving Paper Mill has finally opened, and it is one smooth ride. ET&L Corporation, contractors for the project, must have heaved a sigh of relief. The multi-million dollar bypass had been stalled for want of a good dowser for well over a year, as various parties tried to determine how to replace the drinking water supply at the mill. That problem was finally solved when the town of Erving deeded over a land-locked parcel of land containing a potable well to the paper mill, so employees could once again use a drinking fountain. Motorists are the big winners as holiday driving gets underway in earnest. "We're finally looking down at the roof of the mill, rather than watching out for trucks backing into traffic," said Erving town administrator Tom Sharp.

In other town news, Sharp said, "The town will take their show on the road on Monday, November 27th," when the selectboard comes to hear neigh-

borhood concerns and meet with library trustees at the Erving library, 17 Moore Street. The meeting starts at 7 p.m.; Erving residents are encouraged to attend.

One block away on Pleasant Street, the Senior Center will hold a flu clinic on Wednesday, December 6th from 10 a.m. to noon. For more info: call 423-3308.

Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association representative Chuck Winn met with the board on November 20th to review town worker compensation policy, and to present a check for \$5618 for storm damage to the Erving wastewater treatment plant, hit by lightning in July.

That treatment plant was the focus of discussion by a representative of Tighe and Bond, who are exploring the costs associated with upgrading systems there. A report, with draft figures, will be presented next month, but board chair Andy Tessier warned the bill could run as high as \$5 million. Sharp said the town

would seek to borrow at favorable rates for the treatment plant upgrade from the state's revolving loan fund.

Recreation commissioner Bill Bembury told the board no residents had come forward to serve on a committee appointed by town meeting in 2005 to look into the future use - if any - of the so-called Boy Scout building on Route 63, next to Veterans Park. The Recreation Commission used to use the cinderblock structure for programs, but it has fallen into serious disrepair. Bembury said the recreation commission will take it upon themselves to make a recommendation about the building, but town meeting needs to dissolve the standing committee first.

The first meeting of the town's cable advisory committee - consisting of chair George Bohrer, Pete Kavanaugh, Eileen Lavin, Don Mailloux, and Linda Downs-Bembury will meet at town hall on December 12th at 7 p.m. The town's contract with ComCast is up for renewal in 2008.

MCTV Schedule

Channel 17: Friday, November 24th through Thursday, November 30th

Friday, November 24

8:00 am Steve Alves Western Mass. Film Collection
9:00 am Montague Update-Andrew Varnon
10:00 am Montague Selectboard 11/20
11:00am School Forum-Montague Center School 10/30
6:00 pm NASA Destination Tomorrow #19
6:30 pm GMRSD Meeting 11/14
9:30 pm This is Montague-Millers Falls Rod & Gun
10:30 pm Mass. Parks: Access for All

7:00 pm Montague Selectboard 11/20

8:00 pm Steve Alves Western Mass. Film Collection
9:00 pm Women and HIV
10:00 pm Massachusetts Parks-Access for All

Tuesday, November 28

8:00 am Over the Falls-Home Schooling
9:00 am Montague Selectboard 11/20
10:00 am Steve Alves Western Mass. Film Collection
11:00 am Women and HIV
12:00 pm Massachusetts Parks-Access for All
6:00 pm This is Montague-Millers Falls Rod & Gun
7:00 pm GMRSD Meeting LIVE
10:00 pm Montague Update-Lisa Davol
11:00 pm Diagnosed with Hepatitis C?

Saturday, November 25

8:00 am NASA Destination Tomorrow #19
8:30 am GMRSD Meeting 11/14
11:30 am This is Montague-Millers Falls Rod & Gun
12:30 pm Mass. Parks: Access for All
6:00 pm Over the Falls: Home Schooling
7:00 pm NASA: Kids Science News Network
8:00 pm The Well Being: Men Overcoming Violence
9:00 pm Montague Historical Society Annual Meeting
10:00 pm Mass Access

Wednesday, November 29

8:00 am This is Montague-Millers Falls Rod & Gun
9:00 am Montague Update-Lisa Davol
10:00 am Diagnosed with Hepatitis C?
6:30 pm NASA Destination Tomorrow #19
7:00 pm GED Connection #16
7:30 pm The Well Being: Men Overcoming Violence
8:30 pm Montague Historical Society Annual Meeting
9:30 pm Discovery Center: Animal Tracking

Sunday, November 26

8:00 am Over the Falls: Home Schooling
9:00 am NASA: Kids Science Network
10:00 am The Well Being: Men Overcoming Violence
11:00am Montague Historical Society Annual Meeting
12:00 pm Mass Access
6:00 pm Montague Update-Lisa Davol
7:00 pm School Forum-Hillcrest
9:00 pm School Forum-Sheffield

Thursday, November 30

8:00 am NASA Destination Tomorrow #19
8:30 am GED Connection #16
9:00am The Well Being: Men Overcoming Violence
10:00 am Montague Historical Society Annual Meeting
11:00 am Discovery Center: Animal Tracking
6:00 pm Montague Update-Lisa Davol
7:00 pm GMRSD Meeting 11/28
10:00 pm Family Friends
10:30 pm There and Back with Karen Adams

Monday, November 27

8:00 am Montague Update-Lisa Davol
9:00 am School Forum-Hillcrest
11:00 am School Forum-Sheffield
6:00 pm Over the Falls-Home Schooling

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Numerous Larcenies in Turners Falls

Wednesday 11-15

11:30 p.m. Report of a larceny at TFHS.

_____ was arrested and charged with larceny over \$250.

7:45 p.m. Walk-in to station reported vandalism at an L Street address. A 15-year-old juvenile male was arrested and charged with malicious destruction of property and larceny under \$ 250.

Thursday 11-16

9:55 a.m. Walk-in to station reported breaking and entering at a Warner Street address. Items missing. Report taken.

1:12 p.m. Report of a larceny in front of Amie's on Avenue A. Caller said a wallet was taken from vehicle. Report taken.

Friday 11-17

8:37 a.m. Report of a larceny from the Carnegie Library. DVDs stolen. Report taken.

Saturday 11-18

2:31 a.m. After a motor vehicle stop on Millers Falls Road, _____ was arrested and charged with operating an uninsured motor vehicle and operating under the influence.

9:04 a.m. Report of a breaking and entering at an L Street address. After an investigation found not to be a breaking and entering, but a cat was missing.

1:41 p.m. Report of a breaking and entering at a Montague City Road address. Bulkhead door open, but no entry was made into main residence. Report taken.

Sunday 11-19

2:46 p.m. Report of a larceny from a 5th Street address. An ATM card and an EBT card was missing. Report taken.

4:47 p.m. Report of a larceny from an Avenue A address. A social security card has been missing for 5 months. Report taken.

Monday 11-20

6:35 p.m. Report of a larceny from a Turners Falls Road address. A rifle was stolen from the residence. Report taken.

Tuesday 11-21

7:38 a.m. Report of a larceny at Food City. Caller lost a \$100 bill somewhere in store. Witness reported seeing someone pick it up, but it was not turned in. Under investigation.

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Box Car Restaurant Has New Owner

KATHLEEN LITCHFIELD ERVING - Maintaining the quality of the neighborhood is important to Edward Faneuf, who purchased the Box Car Restaurant on Main Street on Oct. 17th.

Faneuf is at an early planning stage with the property. He envisions maintaining the present Box Car Restaurant building as close to its original condition as possible, and running it as a restaurant or coffee shop.

Additionally, Faneuf would like to build a gas station and a branch bank, or an ATM machine, in the empty lot adjacent to the restaurant. He'd like to design this building to resemble a train depot, to preserve the feel of the center of Erving, he said.

"We haven't found a suitor for it yet and we need to do a site study, but I think people in town would like to have a gas station," said Faneuf.

Erving planning board clerk Jacquie Boyden said she thinks a gas station is an "excellent idea."

"You have to drive between eight and ten miles to get gas if you live in Erving, and about six miles if you live in Erving side," Boyden said, noting the nearest stations are in Northfield, Gill and Athol.

Faneuf has met with the planning board several times, said Boyden, to discuss potential scenarios for the property. Boyden said Faneuf has asked what the town needs and what its residents would like to see, and he has also talked to local residents.

Town administrator Tom Sharp said he is excited about the possibility of re-establishing the Box Car as a local gathering spot.

"We're excited. It's sad when you have an old time, established small business like the Box Car that sits for two years with a "For Sale" sign on it. We're anxious to see a



The Box Car Restaurant in downtown Erving has been purchased by Edward Faneuf of East Templeton.

viable business re-established there. Personally, I hope it does incorporate some kind of food service. It was a popular spot for locals to have their morning coffee and take their afternoon break, a place for people to get together. I think the community has missed not having that gathering spot. So we're excited, and we're wishing Ed the best of luck," Sharp said.

A 25-year resident of East Templeton, Faneuf is a general contractor and owner of Templeton Land Development. He has eight children and "a dozen grandchildren," some of whom live in Orange and Athol.

He noticed the "For Sale" sign on the Box Car Restaurant while driving by one day.

"There are many hoops to go through before we can do anything," Faneuf said, including talking to the CSX railroad company, (owner of the tracks behind the property) the Environmental Protection Agency, the fire marshal, town boards and permitting agents, but he expects to begin construction "sometime in the next year, depending how

quickly things go." Sharp recalled in the days before the Box Car closed, the freight trains used to pull up behind the restaurant, the engi-

neer would leave the diesel running, come in the back door, fill his coffee cup, and depart from the old train depot, refreshed.

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the poetry page

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

- William Carlos Williams

Poetry Page edited by Christopher Sawyer-Laucanno & Chris Janke

design by Boysen Hodgson

Readers are invited to send poems to the Montague Reporter at 24 3rd Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376; or email us your poetry at reporter-poems@montaguema.net

Talking Stick

At the gathering we pull into a circle of chairs and pass the talking stick, the feathers of a hawk and eagle adorn its tip.

We embrace the ways of the Native Americans, though not one of us has Indian blood that flows through our veins,

no - ours is new blood, mixed-European, the kind of blood that soaks up some ideas and purges away others - leaves everything stained red,

because this present and our past are stained with blood and reek of iron - smell in our hair and clothes and veins - the coyotes know the smell,

so do the old ones, and as we pass our stick around, hand to hand, idea to idea, the old ones listen and laugh,

because we stink of the smell - it pervades our breath as we talk.

The old ones have seen many circles come and go before, and the coyotes are sniffing the air.

--R.J. DiDonato Wendell



Yesterday I walked the old town road

Yesterday I walked the old town road past what was once the inn was once the spot where the schoolhouse stood was once a young sugar maple one hundred years ago and spring was the rumble of a distant storm gathering in her roots and ten thousand robins lighting in her topmost branches.

I passed the graveyard of what passes for antiquity around these parts all two hundred years of it and everyone was settled in the earth underfoot with its dips and swells just like walking on water friends from a previous lifetime lying just beneath the surface.

I passed the field with the pond the wooden fence to corral the invisible cows while overhead a very real flock of starlings circled and turned as one orchestrated by some force I yearned to comprehend.

I walked the old town road where horses once passed pulling wagons heavy with manure heavy with grain and coaches carrying passengers all the way from Providence and points south not a one of them on a cell phone not a one of them running late.

The old town road is paved with asphalt now crumbling stuff that always seems dirty and weather-worn and it doesn't really lead to town not anymore.

All of those souls who walked this road before me or rode upon it on horseback or built that school that is no longer there or tapped that brawny sugar maple the one I can nearly see clear through today that ghost of a tree the ones who lead the wagons filled with manure the innkeepers the farmers the ones who mowed that field with only a scythe and a knotty arm the grave diggers the horse-shoers the weavers of cloth who rode into town intent on commerce all of those souls were hovering around me yesterday morning above the old town road.

And I whispered to them as if they could hear me as if they were listening to me and not to the bells I could not hear I whispered I am here and today this is my road for a little while it is mine and though it no longer leads to town it still leads me home.

-- Paul Kaufman Montague Center

Indictment

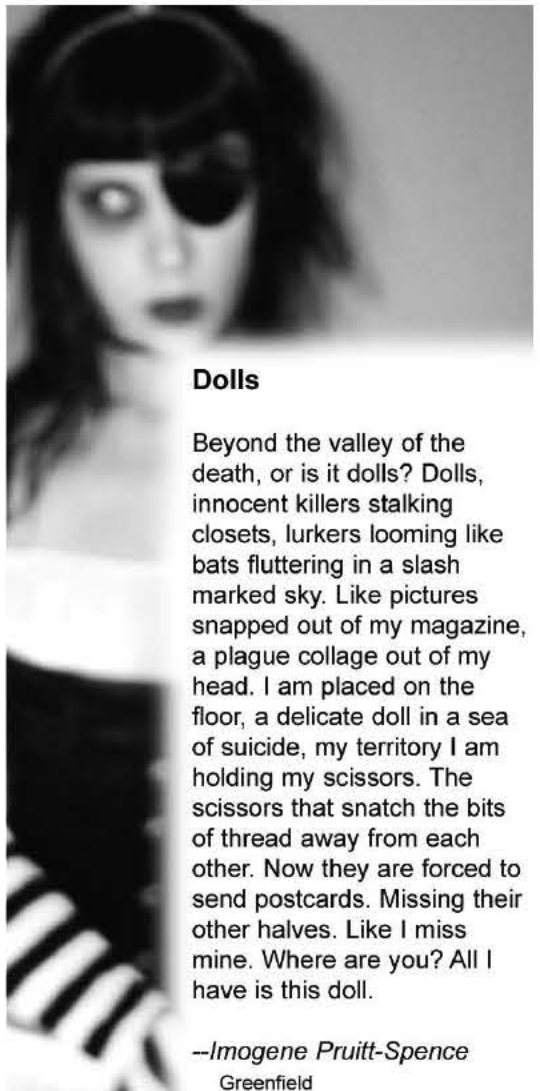
He snarls at the multiplicity of the world He dissembles He wishes to drink up the sea

He has the combined wealth of ten men, twenty men, a small island.

The devil is in him, il diavolo, he is possessed, bewitched, zombified, be careful, he becomes quarrelsome on bad wine and cheap mood-stabilizers, is apt to harm anyone throws things around compasses, atlases, refuses truth

He has planted a dire crop in the barren ground. He is a crippled helmsman.

--Simon Pettet New York City



Dolls

Beyond the valley of the death, or is it dolls? Dolls, innocent killers stalking closets, lurkers looming like bats fluttering in a slash marked sky. Like pictures snapped out of my magazine, a plague collage out of my head. I am placed on the floor, a delicate doll in a sea of suicide, my territory I am holding my scissors. The scissors that snatch the bits of thread away from each other. Now they are forced to send postcards. Missing their other halves. Like I miss mine. Where are you? All I have is this doll.

--Imogene Pruitt-Spence Greenfield

POEM ("What matters..")

What matters what "matter" is, what this scarred flesh and tissue! what this body All immaterial!

--Simon Pettet New York City

POEM (The diseased body)

The diseased body (which is) recognized to be a vehicle of pathos, is up again, late again chanting to the cats!

--Simon Pettet New York City

Kerry O'Keefe was a professional singer of blues, pop and jazz before turning solely to writing. Her work has appeared in numerous literary journals, and her chapbook

From a Burning Building, was published this year by March Street Press. She works for the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages, and lives in

Northampton with her two teenage children. She has since begun to sing again, and can be heard at various Northampton nightclubs.

Raymond DiDonato resides in Wendell with his wife and children.

Patricia Tierney lives in Erving eagerly awaiting the return of her son from the war in Iraq.

Doug Turner, 53, married to Sue, father of two, recently a granddad, Housepainter, reporter, writer, poet, navy veteran, resident of New Salem since 1987. The poems in this issue are from his new Haiku collection, A Bright Sunday Morning.

Virginia Brown, daughter of Woody Brown, is a multi-talented woman raising two boys in Berkeley, California

CONTRIBUTOR'S NOTES:

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Dear Editor,

I found a few more
in need of guidance,
they're a little out of touch
but still within reach.
Let's lure them in
and edify what's familiar.
If you could train your wide-angle lens
on their frame of reference...
surely, even well tended paths
can hold new expectation.
These wanderers look hungry
so feed them with lore
and recipes of their neighbors.
Remind them, they too,
can scratch the soil,
hold up its virtues,
contemplate the silence,
unearth a new thought
or an old sewer pipe.
It's all there between the pages.
How their taxes are spent,
what the villagers think.
The gossip is weak, thank God
but politics evident.
Is a community more
than the voices we hear
and the sewer pipes we share?
Invite them to subscribe—
and they'll soon find out.

Yours truly,
Gini Brown

--Virginia Brown
Berkeley, CA

From A Bright Sunday Morning

Slept outside with Nate,
to catch the lunar eclipse,
while we have the chance.

The moon was copper,
and we heard coyotes yip
in the savage night.

Dropping one by one,
the common grackles gather,
combing the dry ground.

--Doug Turner
New Salem

From A Bright Sunday Morning

The light is fading
and the woodcock's song begins
at the forest's edge.

His repeated calls,
precede a circular flight,
and a mad plummet.

Rock doves in the road,
basking in the summer sun,
bathing in the sand.

Once there was a mill,
and once there was a village
along the twisting brook.

Mantis on a rock
Prays to a merciful lord
while I mow the lawn.

--Doug Turner
New Salem

POEM ("I don't think")

I don't think
I kiss
this
(Norwegian hallucination)
put more wood on
Is it possible to be too hard?
to concentrate?
for the test?
Did you get
the picture question?
I am drawing
from the rich fertile
imaginary marshes
of my own sweat

--Simon Pettet
New York City

Guardian

She lives in a state of perpetual invention.
Listens to the unknown child that she creates.
Feels her hips start to shift, Registers
the darkening nipples, the modulation in desire.
Later the widening of her feet as a slowness begins
to link her in his mind to something great. She moves
in the world aware of another importance.
The small needs now suddenly large. Her husband,
a witness to the ferocities of hunger and sleep. Mystified,
watching her chest rise and fall in the dark.
He is guardian now of this new shared body.

--Kerry O'Keefe
Northampton

Friends

What can be said of the afternoon the man I went on
to marry tried to convince me we should stay "just friends."
In his wisdom and weakness, shifting back and forth
between logic and charm. Like a city kid trying to dissuade
the muggers before handing over his wallet. Hoping
the beating wouldn't be too bad. How did he know
what would be lost in that bed? A love that could have grown
like a fine spring lamb if simply plumped and protected
from the way sex brings down the gate and lets
the wolves in to feed. He must have given in to my will
because he knew about the children we would make,
who would love and give us strength, patting our faces
with chubby, tender hands. Their gleaming childhood
need driven into the ground between us
like an ancient warrior's shield. Holding us apart
yet together those years as we readied ourselves
to say goodbye. After that, with the furor and sorrow
of opposing generals, smoking in their separate camps,
secretly missing the enemy, the irreplaceable friend.

--Kerry O'Keefe
Northampton

My Son

He comes to me, 17
Papers in hand, with the man.
No, I say
You have one, I won't give two.

He comes to me, 18
Papers in hand, signed and done.
Why, I ask
Promises of travel and money.

He comes to me, 19
Orders in hand, going to Iraq.
Safe, I hope
Tears flow daily, thoughts of loss.

He comes to me, my son
Bags in hand, tears in our eyes.
How, I ask
How do I protect, so far away.

He comes to me in dreams
Young, sweet, innocent.
Peace, I wish
My arms encircle you, and keep you safe.

My heart is no longer here.
It is with you my son.

--Pamela Tierney
Erving

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Imogene Pruitt-Spence is
an eighth-grader at
Greenfield Center School.

numerous books of poems,
most recently, *More
Winnowed Fragments*
(Talisman House). He lives
in New York.

Paul Kaufman lives in
Montague Center. His poetry
has been published in
various journals no one has
ever heard of.

Simon Pettet, a frequent
visitor to Greenfield and
Montague, is the author of

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Your Pace at Your Place



Vietnam Vet Speaks of War Experience

BY DAVID DETMOLD
MONTAGUE CENTER - Al Miller is a poet, a furniture maker, and a farmer. He and his partner, Suzanne Webber recently bought a farm on Old Sunderland Road in Montague Center. They call it River Bend Farm. It's a peaceful place, above the banks of a stream, with shaggy cattle grazing by the side of the road. Quiet.

Thirty-seven years ago, Miller was a sergeant in the U.S. Army

in Vietnam. That was 1969, one of the worst years of the war, when U.S. casualties more than doubled from 500 to well above 1000 a month. In April of 1969, the U.S. casualty count in Vietnam climbed above the U.S. death toll from the Korean War: 33,629. It kept climbing until the U.S. evacuated Saigon in 1975, when the figure stood at 58,209.

Miller was stationed near the 17th parallel, the dividing line between North and South

Vietnam in those days. "We were just walking around patrolling an area in the Central Highlands, and we would be called in as an emergency reaction force as needed." On one of those patrols, Miller found himself leading a squad of men - including some fairly green recruits - near Hiep Duc, by the Cambodian border.

"We came under intense ground conflict for several days. Towards the end of that week, we were moving toward a machine

gun position with a couple of guys who were brand new in the field. I was trying to clear the machine gun, but the new guys froze. Trying to get them moving, I gave myself away to the position," and got shot.

Miller lost a chunk of his right ear and a portion of his collarbone, but he made it home alive. "In that period of time, our company took about 45% casualties," he recalled.

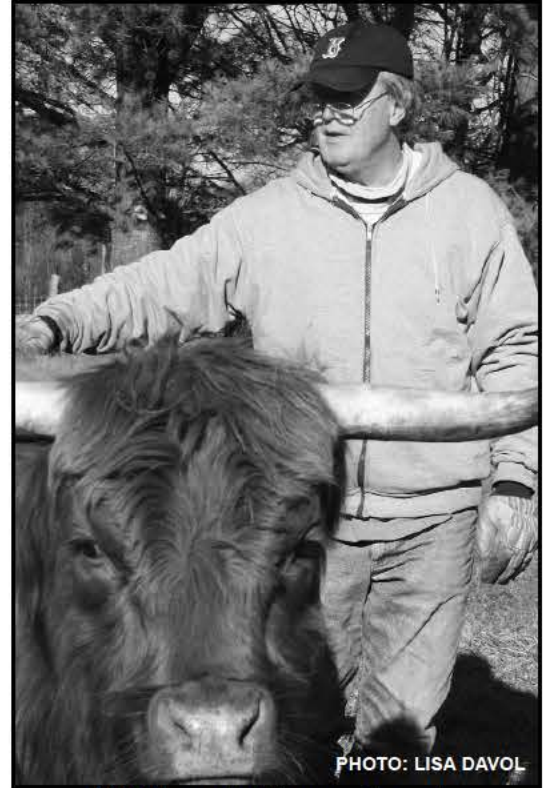


PHOTO: LISA DAVOL

Al Miller, on his Montague Center farm.

Vietnam Documentary at Arms Library

BY RANDY KEHLER
SHELBURNE FALLS - On Wednesday evening, November 29th, at 7:00 p.m., in the basement of the Arms Library in Shelburne Falls, there will be a showing of *Sir! No, Sir!* the powerful, recently released documentary film about G.I. resistance to the Vietnam War. Free and open to the public, this is the eighth and final film in the Reel World series on "Active Nonviolence."

The film will be followed by comments and discussion led by three area Vietnam veterans:

Al Miller, a poet and farmer who lives in Montague, served with the U.S. Army's Americal Division as an infantry squad leader in Vietnam, where he was badly wounded. He was awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart. Cherie Rankin of Shelburne Falls joined the American Red Cross and went to Vietnam as part of a group known as the

'Doughnut Dollies,' civilian women who were flown into fire bases and other dangerous locations where they risked enemy fire to entertain U.S. troops. Rankin's husband Chris Myers, also of Shelburne Falls, went to Vietnam during the war years as a U.S.A.I.D. interpreter and 'advisor' to Vietnamese provincial officials. After a year in Vietnam, Myers became profoundly disillusioned with the war and returned to Boston where he counseled anti-War G.I.'s.

Sir! No, Sir! provides an eye-opening chronicle of what became massive resistance to the Vietnam War by active duty U.S. soldiers. G.I.'s by the tens of thousands who thought they were serving their country decided the war was wrong, stopped following orders, and faced the often brutal consequences. The film, which lasts 85 minutes, offers a number of inescapable parallels between the Vietnam War and the cur-

rent war in Iraq. According to the *San Francisco Chronicle* (4/7/06), "*Sir! No, Sir!* is far from a dry rehashing of what may seem for some like ancient history. Driving guitar rock and lively editing add to the film's urgency. The voices of the veterans alone, however, make this an important and poignant film that can speak to any generation."

The film series on "Active Nonviolence" is part of an ongoing program of documentary films organized by Reel World, a group of concerned Franklin County citizens dedicated to the proposition that our democracy is dependent on an informed public. Previous Reel World series have provided perspectives and information about U.S. domestic and foreign policies not found in the mainstream media. While the Arms Library provides space for Reel World films, it is not a sponsor.

He bore deeper scars.

"I had dreams until 1991 that my soul was fragmented. I'm not sure it can be healed. I'm still working on it."

Miller returned twice to Vietnam on reconciliation tours organized by Vietnam veterans, Buddhist monks, and the Asia Resource Center. On his second trip back, in 1991, he traveled with a delegation that helped to establish an orphanage in Hanoi, still in operation.

Nowadays, in addition to raising sheep, chickens, turkeys and a few cows, Miller talks to church groups and school classrooms with the Veterans Education Project.

"I always felt the difference between what I experienced in combat, and what our elders

taught us about armed conflict. I didn't feel I could go through the rest of my life and not tell people about war, and the Vietnam War in particular, and not tell people what it means to kill people and then live with it.

"I try to tell people my own story. Here's what I did. Here's how I experienced the war. Here's how long it took me to heal."

Miller will join Cherie Rankin, of Shelburne Falls, who entertained troops at firebases in Vietnam, to speak after a showing of *Sir! No, Sir!* at the Arms Library in Shelburne Falls on November 29th at 7 p.m. The recently released film documents G.I. resistance during the Vietnam War. The showing is free and open to the public.

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BREAD
continued from pg 1

hard to make Money!" cheered Rose Friedman, M.C. "Invest it wisely and watch it Grow!" Then, "Watch the Economy crash and the Money Shrink!" Pratfalls, fisticuffs.

Next rotten idea: "Work hard to make Money! Hide it under your Mattress, then get Robbed in the Night." More pratfalls.

Final idea (at last, a pure one): "Forget about the Money! Get a Cow. Learn how to Milk her, and Produce your own Happiness!"

The students' faces were blank.

The puppeteers continued with a workshop on the Five Faces of Justice: Old Testament Justice (slow motion poke in the eye, followed by a return poke in the eye). Followed in short order by several other forms of Justice, including Cowboy Justice, where everyone else on the stage falls down but the primary assailant.

Next, the Puppeteers demonstrated a *cantastoria* (picture story) performance, about the Creation of Everything, during which "Hunters became Shopkeepers, Farmers became Tourists on Rollerskates," and so forth. The students laughed appreciatively, which caused the puppeteers to remark, "No one ever thought that was funny before."

At that, they called the students up on the stage *en masse* to perform the next *cantastoria*

with them. The method is a remarkably simple but effective one. Two puppeteers hold the poles of a giant storyboard, with painted canvas murals flipped backwards to reveal successive panels as the story progresses. A narrator stands by and tells the story, loudly. A pointing stick is helpful, but not necessary. Ditto for the band and chorus. This method of performing works equally well on a hillside in Vermont or at a massive peace rally in New York City, such as the Stop the Nuclear Arms Race rally at the U.N. in 1982, where the "Fight Against the End of the World" was first performed. "Thousands of puppets stretched down 5th Avenue as far as the eye could see," recalled Friedman. "We performed this cantastoria on street corners," all the way to Central Park.

"... Out of Nothing, (*High women's voices*)
With a Lot of Hard Work, (*Low men's voices*)
With the Help of our Grandparents, (*Go older*)
Our Great Grandparents, (*Bend lower*)
Our Great, Great, Great, Great, Great, Great Grandparents, (*Lower still*)
And you ask, (*Everyone straightens*)
And you say, 'Yes!' (*Yes!*)
A house? (*Yes! A house!*)
And we Cook Soup (*Yes! Chicken Soup!*)
(*Chanting*) Mushroom Barley Salt and Pepper

Chicken Liver Chicken Heart Potatoes and Carrots (*Four Part Harmony*)
And we make Children (*Women turn their Backs*) Or Not!
And... We Produce Light (*Make a Chord out of the word Light*)
(*Repeat! in Harmony*): Light!
(*Hands in the Air*)
And We Eat and We Drink and We Eat and We Drink!
(*Faster, Faster, Over and Over*)
Then we say, (*all Together*)
And when we are done Eating and Drinking, we Sing (*Delightfully and Joyfully*) a song about Farmers:

'A Health Unto the Farmer
Who Lives Among the Hills
Where Every Man's a Sovereign
And Owns the Land He Tills
Where all the Guys are Beautiful
And all the Girls are Strong
'Tis Our Delight on Summer's Night
To Sing a Farmer's Song!'"

Much hilarity in the Chorus as the Bread & Puppet troupe scatters among the students, the boys blush and the girls beam. By the third attempt, they have their lines.
(*Weary from a day's labor and merriment they sleep*)
"...But then (*Oh No!*)
The Big Foot steps Over us (*It's about to Crush us!*)
(*They crouch lower*)

(*Everyone raises a Finger of Warning*)
Oh, NO! Don't let the Big Foot Crush you! (*All Point to Audience*)
Protest! & Survive!

This appeared to be a lesson the students of Ms. Batchelder's

U.S. Government class thoroughly enjoyed.



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The Bread and Puppet bus, parked at the Turners Falls High School last Thursday. To see the photo in full color go to www.montaguema.net/montague_reporter

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Postal Carrier Bitten by Rottweiler

Wednesday 11-15

11:20 p.m. After a motor vehicle stop, a criminal application was issued to [redacted] for unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

Thursday 11-16

3:30 p.m. 911 hang up call from a Wells Street address. Subject stated she meant to dial 411.

Friday 11-17

8:00 a.m. Report of a large tree down on Old State Road. Tree was cut up and moved.

Monday 11-20

9:48 a.m. Report of a postal carrier being bitten by a Rottweiler at a Central Street location on 11-16. Caller requested registration and sought information on the dog.

12:50 p.m. Report of a tractor trailer loaded with heavy

equipment struck the bridge on Moore Street and caused minor damage.

10:57 p.m. Report of loud noise at a North Street address. Spoke with resident. Found to be ongoing tenant landlord dispute. While speaking with resident, officer observed an unlocked rifle. [redacted]

[redacted] was arrested and charged with unlawful possession of a firearm.

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Comedy a Hit at the Shea

BY DAVID DETMOLD

TURNERS FALLS - A well-oiled crowd filled the Shea Theater on Saturday night: men with too much bear grease in their hair, women with too much perfume, and a gaggle of blue-haired dames who looked like they might have arrived direct from "Queer Eye for the Straight Theater" to cheer the cold interior with their gaudy red boas, plumes and *chapeaux*. They sat together mid-orchestra, two dozen strong: the Red Hat Ladies from Orange - quite a color clash - warming the arena while the crowd waited.

A lonesome microphone stood center stage, bathed in light.

On the bill for the evening: comedy, direct from Boston, rated R. (So stop reading here if you dislike a little strong language.) Three men from Beantown and one young lady from Bear Country would soon be up on stage with nothing but their considerable personas to work with - no backing band,

no lighting cues, no sidekicks - nothing but their own shticks and enough chutzpah to try to get the crowd laughing by insulting their mothers' hygiene, their provincialism, their kids, the lack of cultural amenities in the area and anything else they could think of to belittle Turners Falls. This turned out to be music to the crowd's ears.

The show was ably hosted by Baratunde Rafik Thurston, a Harvard grad with gold Chuck Taylors and a 1000-megawatt smile. After complimenting the locals for their courtesy, "No one has ever said 'Hello' to me in Boston," and determining their preference in the 2008 presidential election ("Anyone but fucking Mitt Romney!") he got the entire crowd working with him on a spoken word piece called, "What Up?"

The answer to that came quickly. First up was Jennifer Myszkowski, from Holyoke by way of Springfield, the Saturday morning host of Bear Swaps on Bear Country 95.3.



Tony V is a funny guy.

She mainly poked fun at herself, and her amplitudinous figure, (OK, she used the word fat, which at least has the advantage of being a real word) and her own family heritage. "When they hear my last name, they say, 'Myszkowski... is that Polish?'" She had a good routine about self-help books, rearranging her underwear drawer, and the embarrassing inability of her father to throw away any of his emulsion experiments.

She was followed onstage by Greg Rodrigues, a giant of a man who towered above his predecessor. A pharmacist by day, Rodrigues drew on his experience as a druggist in his material. "I'm thrilled to be here in Turner Falls (sic). I was in Gardner and Fitchburg two weeks ago... sort of a Route 2 Tour of Shame. On Friday, I showed up in Gardner early because I needed to buy some furniture. The next day, I showed up early in Fitchburg because I needed to buy some crack, so it worked out perfectly."

He seemed serious. He followed with a joke about eating Preparation H suppositories that borked the audience up. He followed that with a routine about scabs and lesions and boils and the kind of questions he gets at the druggist's. "Excuse me sir, what do you think this thing is?"

"I think it's disgusting."
"What should I do?"

"Oh, dump her..."

Some comedians work from a place of internalized anger, and their routine excels in direct ratio to their ability to externalize their rage, rapid fire, in front of the crowd. Or at the crowd. But another kind of comic works from a place of complete satori with their inner fuck-up. Tony V. is one of these.

Just to see him standing on the stage caused widespread hilarity to sweep the hall. He looked like Jackie Gleason and talked like Moe Howard, from the North End. Even the way he held the microphone, like a sex-starved reject from the Blues Brothers, goaded otherwise staid members of local society to uncontrolled laughter. He's a funny guy.

"Please excuse my appearance this evening," he began. "But this is what I look like."

He cautioned the crowd that if he fell over on stage, it would not be part of his act, but instead a genuine heart attack. "Don't say, 'Boy. He's committed to this particular bit of physical comedy.' No. I'm checking out." If that occurred, he wanted audience members to disregard earlier orders to turn off their cell phones, and begin dialing 911 immediately.

"If in fact you get a signal out here. I don't know. Is there an ambulance? Or some sort of medical building?"

"You have to go to Boston!" yelled an audience member, happily.

"Then I'm dead," responded Tony.

He came back to cell phones later in the act, calling them the "poor man's GPS." He bought one for his elderly father, and calls him on it frequently when his dad is out for a walk. "Dad, you know where you are?"

"Nah."

Tony V. maintained a nihilistic stance on world affairs. "We're in a world now where spinach can kill you. Since time immemorial we've been

trying to get kids to eat vegetables. Even if it kills you, don't tell 'em. You'll never get a kid to eat vegetables again."

He speculated on the source of the E. coli contamination in the California spinach crop.

"I think the migrant workers are trying to get back at us. 'Hey, Juan... Got any paper?' 'No. Here's a leaf...'"

The British fared no better.

"You ever hear British people speak? They all sound like they're smart. It takes a while to realize they're just assholes with good vocabularies."

But he returned frequently to his favorite topic: himself.

"I am 53 years old. I know I look good. No. I do. You can't tell, 'cuz this is the first time you've ever seen me. Most of this is just shirt fat." He claimed to have authored articles like "101 Things to Put Frosting On," for *Unhealthy Men Magazine*. Also: "Gravy, It's not Just for Breakfast Anymore."

Occasionally, he turned on his audience, who were by now weeping helplessly. "Do you people have jobs?" he demanded. Few admitted it, if they did. "It's a complex world. How many of you feel your brains are full?" Roars from the crowd. "I knew it. If I came out here far enough I'd find you. They won't cop to it in Leominster."

Before taking a bow, or hitting the stage, Tony wrapped up his set with these immortal words. "I know you've heard the statement, 'Live everyday as if it's the last day of your life.' I tried that. But drinking for two weeks straight, trying to make love to every woman you see, and telling various people to fuck off, it wears thin..."

So please keep supporting comedy.

He left them laughing, and crying for more. They will get their wish on New Year's Eve, when Comedy from Boston returns to the Shea.

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FINDING BALANCE

Caffeinated Kids

BY JENNY CHAPIN
MONTAGUE CENTER - Newspapers and TV have been focusing recently on the relatively new phenomenon of teenage coffee consumption. With more than 300 million cups of coffee consumed a day, this is a heavily caffeinated nation, and kids as young as age eleven are increasing those numbers.

Why are kids turning to coffee? The overwhelming reason seems to be they're tired, and need help getting through their overloaded schedules and doing their homework.

Some coffee shops have seen a doubling of teenage customers in the last three years, and some high schools now serve coffee to students. Parents and school administrators seem to be taking in stride the fact that kids are getting addicted to caffeine, condoning its use because they're glad to have a safe place where their kids con-

gregate, not looking at the detrimental effects.

Caffeine raises blood sugar, which enhances mood, cognition, and short-term memory, helps alleviate fatigue, increases energy, and keeps you awake so you can finish your schoolwork. On the other hand:

Short term effects of caffeine include heartburn, headaches, stomach and intestinal troubles, and a jump in blood pressure and heart rate. The acid in coffee eats away at the lining of the small intestine, reducing its effectiveness in assimilating nutrients. Too much caffeine can increase anxiety, irritability, and nervousness, cause a decline in motor skills, and lead to poor sleep, insomnia, hyperactivity, muscle twitching, and jitters.

Caffeine intake is related to calcium depletion and bone fractures, from increased excretion of calcium as well as magnesium



through urine. Because coffee is a diuretic, it dehydrates your system. And it affects your smile: the tannic acid which gives coffee its dark color can stain teeth a nasty dark brown.

Caffeine overburdens the liver, the main detoxifier for the body. The liver is the source of your get-up-and-go energy; when caffeine is used instead as a morning stimulant, it depletes the liver's natural stores of energy and eventually affects the health of the liver.

Coffee drinkers are at risk of developing specific diseases. Women who consume coffee on top of a high-fat diet have a larger risk of mammary and bladder cancer. Coffee consumption during pregnancy increases the rate of

miscarriages and birth defects. Coffee intake is directly related to pancreatic cancer and heart attack; the more coffee consumed, the greater the likelihood of these conditions. Two cups or more daily raises cholesterol. Caffeine throws the whole body out of whack, creating huge stress on individual organ systems and weakening the whole body.

Since it is an addictive drug, when caffeine consumption is reduced there are withdrawal symptoms: nausea, headaches, muscle aches, anxiety, irritability, restlessness, and overtiredness.

One 14-year-old girl says, "I can't get the day started without it; I need that fix - and sometimes I need that extra push in the afternoon just to get everything done." Lots of teenagers say they're always tired (as do most adults these days), and that they need coffee to wake up and to keep going. But caffeine creates sleep

problems for today's already sleep-deprived teens, and sleep difficulties that result from too much caffeine can lead to troubles in the classroom and elsewhere.

Fortunately, people are beginning to understand the majority of teens actually run on a different internal rhythm, making them more inclined to stay up late and sleep late. Changing school starting times to later in the morning helps teenagers get the sleep they need so they can function better in school and after-school activities. Rather than using a substance that ravages their adrenals, liver, heart, stomach, and intestines, doesn't it make more sense to figure out how to help kids function in healthier ways?

Jenny Chapin is an acupuncturist, bodyworker, and yoga teacher in Greenfield. Suggest a topic or question for her column at jgchapin@crocker.com.

THE HEALTHY GEEZER

Broken Bones and What to Do About Them

BY FRED CICETTI
LEONIA, NJ - Q. *Isn't a fractured bone less serious than a broken bone?*

This is a common misconception. A fracture and a break are the same thing.

For several reasons, seniors are in danger of breaking a bone. As we age, the power of our senses, reflexes and coordination diminishes.

Maladies and the medicines we take for them can contribute to balance problems, which can lead to falls. Then there's osteoporosis - a disease that makes bones more likely to snap.

You may be in danger of having weak bones and should check with a doctor if you: smoke, are in poor health, are over 65, fractured a bone after age 50, have a close relative with osteoporosis, are underweight, started menopause before age 45, never got enough calcium,

have more than two drinks of alcohol several times a week, or if you are inactive.

The following are medical conditions that can weaken your bones: hyperthyroidism, chronic lung disease, cancer, inflammatory bowel disease, chronic liver or kidney disease, hyperparathyroidism, vitamin D deficiency, Cushing's disease, multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis.

The following also put your bones at risk: oral glucocorticoids (steroids), radiation, chemotherapy, thyroid medicine, antiepileptic drugs, gonadal hormone suppression, and immunosuppressive agents.

There are various types of fractures.

Simple: the bone is broken, but the skin is not.

Open or compound: the skin is broken and may be pierced by the bone.



ILLUSTRATION: JESSICA HARMON

Transverse: the break is at a right angle to the long axis of the bone.

Greenstick: a fracture on one side of the bone with a bend on the other side. The name comes from the appearance of a broken, young tree branch.

Comminuted: a fracture with three or more bone fragments.

Undisplaced: a break that leaves the bone pieces aligned.

Displaced: a break that leaves the bone pieces out of line.

Most broken bones can heal successfully. Fractured bones usually need at least four weeks to heal, but casts may be removed before that to prevent stiffness, especially for hand or elbow fractures.

The following treatments are used for various types of fractures:

Cast immobilization is the most common treatment. A plaster or fiberglass cast is made to keep the fractured bone in place.

A functional cast or brace permits nearby joints to move.

Gentle traction is usually used to get a broken bone into position.

Open reduction and internal fixation is a type of orthopaedic surgery in which bone fragments are repositioned (reduced) and then held together with screws, by metal plates or rods.

An orthopaedic surgeon can

place pins or screws into a bone above and below the fracture. After the bone pieces are positioned correctly, the pins or screws are connected to a metal bar or bars outside the skin.

This type of treatment is called external fixation. Eventually, the external fixation device is removed.

Because of the way bones are made, they also get stronger with regular but not excessive exercise. If a person is active, bones will become stronger and denser. The bones of an inactive person are often not as strong and may fracture more easily than those of an active person.

For this reason, older people should try to remain physically active.

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

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Jep's Place: Faith, Hope and Other Disasters Part XI

Five Dollar Prayer

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH

GILL - Late that night, I crept downstairs. Julia looked lonely in her little coffin. It seemed all very mysterious to see her lying there so peaceful, and I wondered why she had to die. The candles flickered and scary shadows leaped on the wall. I worried that the candles would fall against the curtains and set the house on fire. I went back to bed, wondering what was going to happen next.

In the morning, a lot of people came to the farm, including my sister Helen and her husband, Ludovico Magrini. They lived in

another state.

His right arm was blown off when he was a boy. His wooden right arm just hung there, covered by his white shirt sleeve buttoned at the wrist. The hand had a glove covering it. People tried not to stare, but it never bothered him. I looked up to Magrini because he could do anything he wanted with his good left arm.

The undertaker set up Julia's coffin out on the lawn. Everyone passed by to have a last look at her, and say goodbye. Ma started crying like her heart would break. She kissed Julia, over and over, sobbing, and wailing, not letting

the undertaker close the cover until someone took her away. Cars lined up behind the hearse for the ride to the cemetery. At the cemetery gate, the caretaker held up his hand like a cop. The undertaker talked to him for a while, then walked back to our car.

"The priest isn't here. He wants five dollars before he comes to say the prayer," the undertaker said, "and we can't bury the baby until he gets \$16 for the burial plot."

The muscles in Pa's jaw bulged and jumped. He swore, calling the priest a bad name.

"You stay here. I'll take the Missus to the church to see the priest."

Everyone sat waiting in the cars. No one in our car talked. We just waited and waited. The sun beat down; it got hotter and hotter. The only sound was that of the caretaker's push mower as he trimmed the grass. My sisters fanned their faces with their hankies. My shirt was sticking to my back. Just when I thought the

undertaker was never coming back and we'd all die of the heat, he drove up and said something to the caretaker, who was still acting very important. The undertaker showed him a paper. Their voices got loud. The undertaker pointed at the sky and said.

"We don't need the priest to come to say a prayer. I'll say a prayer that God will hear just as well as the priest's five dollar prayer."

The cars moved along past neatly mowed grass. When Pa saw the hearse going through the brush way out to the back of the cemetery, he looked like he was going to say a bad word again. I really didn't know what that meant, but it didn't sound good, the way Pa said it.

Someone had dug a hole in the brush. A big pile of dirt stood next to it. The undertaker said a prayer about Julia going to heaven.

Everything got real quiet. Women began sniffing and wiping their eyes. When the men lowered

the coffin down into the hole, tears ran down Mama's face. She threw a handful of dirt down on Julia's coffin.

My sisters and Pa cried. A lump stuck in my throat. I couldn't cry and my stomach hurt. The men took off their jackets and bent to shovel dirt down over the coffin until the hole was full. They mounded up the leftover dirt on the grave and patted it smooth. It didn't look at all like the holy picture. I began to worry. How was Julia ever going to get out of that hole and go up to heaven with all that dirt heaped on top of her?

The undertaker poked two holes in the mound to hold the flowers people brought. He took the wild flowers from Irene and scattered them over the dirt. Everyone stood around for a little while before driving off.

I wanted to go to sleep and wake up to see Julia smiling and kicking her feet. I wanted everything to be the same again. But it never was. *- Continued*

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SUZEE'S TO HOLD FASHION SHOW, BOOK BINDING, LIVE BANDS, WEIRD ART

**IMA WANKLER
TURNERS FALLS** - If all goes as planned, a doubtful proposition, a select coterie of art fashionistas will once again be able to view weird scenes behind the laundromat as Suzee's Third Street hosts a

completely depraved rave up featuring four of PowerTown's up and coming couturiers and their winter line of castaways, four live bands including Ben George 7, dressed entirely in red and blue except their noses, absurdist

music, performance art in the garage with skate punks on Detergent High, some amplification, Lower D.J. Music, noise meters, the Metro Gnomes, and perhaps a return of the much heralded Sir Leaking Cloud. Neil Young is rumored.

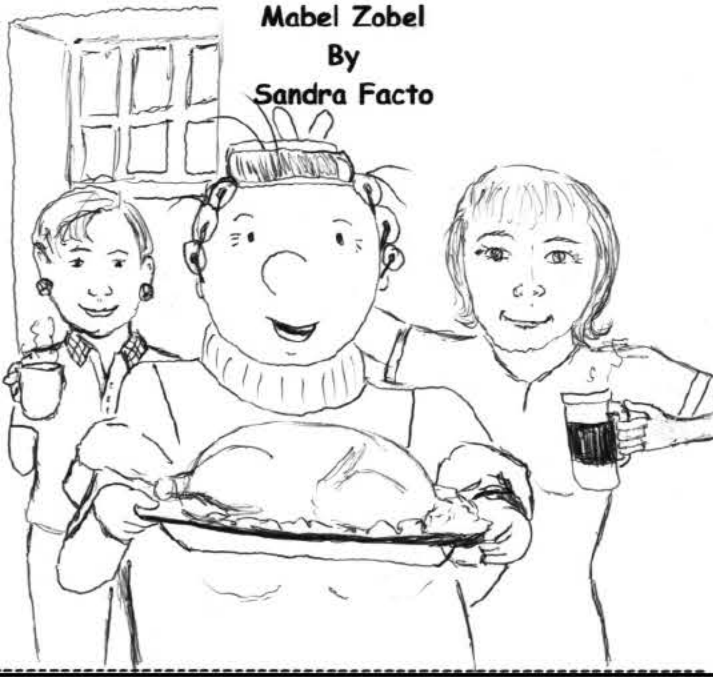
The event is timed to coincide with the Arts and Icicles Walk and Laundry Day, Saturday, December 3rd. The selectboard granted impresario Chris Janke a one-day liquor license for the event, and advised him to speak to police chief Ray Zukowski about what he had in mind.

Tickets go on sale (payable in quarters) Monday, November 27th at 5 p.m. at the laundromat, but Janke said there would be very few left by then.

Patrons are welcome to tear up books, or configure their pages to conform to their own alternate realities. Book binders will be on hand to help rebuild the pages, or pour molten carmel over them, or otherwise bring Dada back to the folding table.

Last year, models strutted a catwalk above the dryers wearing nothing but

Mabel Zobel
By
Sandra Facto



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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24TH
Rt. 63 Road House, Millers Falls, *Free Radicals* rock & roll. 9:30 p.m. Come to dance!

A Bouquet of Music Concert: Held in Franklin Medical Center's main lobby or weather-permitting in the Ethel Lemay Healing Arts Garden. Noon to 1 p.m. For info: 773-2573

Made-by-hand Holiday Gift Workshop and Live Open Hearth Cooking demonstrations will offer visitors a welcome respite on this – the busiest shopping day of the year – with simple pleasures and savory smells at Historic Deerfield. Families will enjoy making a present of hot chocolate mix and a decorative gift box that they can give in this season of sharing. From 12 noon- 4 p.m. at the History Workshop. Also visit with talented cooks while soaking up the delightful warmth of an open hearth and learning about Colonial foods and diet from 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. in the Hall Tavern kitchen. Free with paid admission. Each ticketed visitor can make one gift. Please call 775-7214 or www.historic-deerfield.org

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25TH
Rt. 63 Road House, Millers Falls, *The Drunk Stuntment*, the ultimate rocken party band! 9:30 p.m. Come to dance!

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26TH
Family Dance at the Montague Grange with caller Jeff Petrovich. Family-style Contra Dancing with easy instruction geared for little feet. 4-5:30 p.m. \$7-\$12 per family, includes a light snack

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH
Documentary Film Series on "Active Nonviolence" at the Arms Library, Shelburne Falls. thru November. *Sir! No Sir!* A powerful, recently released documentary that provides an eye-opening chronicle of what became massive resistance to the Vietnam War from within the U.S. military. Soldiers by the tens of thousands who thought they were serving their country decided the war was wrong and stopped following orders. Many parallels with Iraq War. 85 min. This is the last in an eight-week series of films. 7 p.m. Free

Friends of Great Falls



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH
Friends Coffeehouse in the Great Hall. Barry White Crow Higgins \$5-\$10/family, 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Discovery Center Coffeehouse in the historic Great Hall. Barry White Crow Higgins \$5-\$10/family, 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Rt. 63 Road House, Millers Falls, *Ottomatic Slim*, rockin' blues, great harp: 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. - no cover!

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH
Rt. 63 Road House, Millers Falls, *Open Mic hosted by Peter Kim and Jimmy Arnold*, all welcome to play. 8:30 p.m. - no cover!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2ND
The Montague Community Band annual Holiday Concert held at Our Lady of Peace at 80 7th Street in Turners Falls. Special guests will be the MacDonald Family Singers. Admission is free; donations are appreciated. 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2ND & 3RD
Mill Street Art Works Studio Tour Visit Artspace and neighborhood artists' studios to see what is being created in the Mill Street Neighborhood. A gift basket sale and refreshments will

be available at Artspace. Furniture maker Julie Godfrey will give a lecture and slide presentation on marquetry, the age old tradition of piecing together pictorial designs on wood. Artspace is located at 15 Mill Street in Greenfield. Noon to 4:00 p.m. Info. 772-6811.

THROUGH DECEMBER 3RD

The Green Trees Gallery featuring work by artist Jennifer Dorgan. Traditional to impressionistic paintings. Subjects are derived from the natural world, rendered in acrylics. Gallery hours: Thurs - Sun. 11 - 5 p.m. Main St, Northfield, 498-0283.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3RD
Special Event noon to 4 p.m.- At Historic Deerfield. Create handmade gifts of a beeswax candle and stenciled wrapping paper. Listen to local choirs performing songs of the season (2 to 4 p.m.). Held in Hall Tavern located at Historic Deerfield 774-5581

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4TH
Speakers Series "50 Great Native Plants for the Northeast" with Bill Cullina Award-winning

author Bill Cullina is Director of the New England Wild Flower Society. He is currently working on his fourth volume on grasses, ferns, and mosses due to be published in 2007. Held at Conway Grammar School located at 24 Fournier Road in Conway. 7 to 9 p.m. 413-369-4044 x3 for information.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7TH

An Evening with Starhawk. "Holding the Vision of Global Justice: Keeping our Spirit and Courage Alive" Helen Hills Chapel, Smith College, Northampton. \$12 general admission/\$6 student or low-income. 7:30 p.m. For more information jazzli@crocker.com Proceeds benefit the Men's Resource Center for Change, The Everywomen's Center and The Five Rivers Council.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8TH TO DECEMBER 10TH

Welcome Yule! at The Shea.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9TH

The Montague Elks Lodge #2521 Annual Hoop Shoot at the Turners Falls High School Gymnasium. Registration is at 9:30 a.m., contest 10 a.m. The Hoop Shoot is free and available to all boys and girls ages 8-13 as of 4/01/06.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9TH & 10TH

Wendell Holiday Fair at the Wendell Town Hall. Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Holiday shopping with local artists, crafters and businesses. Live music with Kevin Skorupa Saturday and Kellianna Sunday, both 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Food sales to benefit the Wendell Women's Club.

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.
Free (except some trips), open to local teens. Some require permission slips.
Info: Jared at 863-9559.
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MATINEE FRI, SAT, SUN 12:00 2:15 4:30
- 4. FLUSHED AWAY PG**
DAILY 6:45 8:45
MATINEE FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 2:15 4:15
- 5. SANTA CLAUSE 3: THE ESCAPE CLAUSE G**
DAILY 6:45 8:45
MATINEE FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 2:15 4:15
- 6. DEJA VU PG13 DTS sound**
DAILY 6:30 9:30
MATINEE FRI, SAT, SUN, 12:30 3:30
- 7. CASINO ROYALE PG13 DTS sound**
DAILY 6:30 9:30
MATINEE FRI, SAT, SUN, 12:30 3:30

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SATURDAYS IN NOVEMBER

Animal Preparedness Winter Survival. Focus on animal adaptations and behavior that allow them to survive through winter. 11/25 Birds: Migratory & Non-migratory. 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

ON DISPLAY

Junior Duck Stamp artwork from Massachusetts students grades K - 12. The first place design from the national contest is used to create a Junior Duck Stamp for the following year. Proceeds from the sale of Junior Duck Stamp support conservation education, and provide awards and scholarships for students, teachers, and schools.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24TH

Connecting Creatures Explore an in-depth journey through the Connecticut River Watershed and connect certain species to their habitat through our scavenger hunt activities. Program will be led by Silvio O. Conte National Fish & Wildlife Refuge staff. Program is free and universally accessible

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH

Friends Coffeehouse in the Great Hall. Barry White Crow Higgins \$5-\$10/family, 7 - 8:30 p.m.

NOVEMBER 30TH

Science Night-Special Appearance by Tom Richardi with Birds of Prey 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

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WENDELL

continued from pg 1

the board tentatively chose December 6th at 7:00 p.m. as the date for the next special town meeting. The warrant was posted November 22nd.

On November 15th, as the selectboard meeting opened, Donna Horn was in the trailer office requesting to rent the town hall on March 17th from 4:00 to 9:00 p.m. for a family gathering. She is expecting fewer than 50 people to attend, so rent was set at \$50, with the standard \$25 fee held in case the town hall needs cleaning afterward.

The Wendell Women's Club sent in a written request to use the town hall on Sunday, December 3rd from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. for a children's Christmas party.

Selectboard member Dan Keller asked town coordinator Nancy Aldrich to speak with the finance committee and find out if the town can use the reserve account to pay for new furnaces in the town office building. Aldrich suggested the foundation reserve (Pothole) money might also be used for new furnaces. The warrant article will call for the money to be appropriated "from available funds."

The fire department budget for this fiscal year is already 80% spent. A large part of the budget went for payroll during the tornado cleanup. Aldrich will ask fire chief Everett Ricketts to come to the next selectboard meeting, November 29th, to discuss means of paying fire department expenses for the rest of the fiscal year, which ends June 30th, '07.

Keller said town clerk Anna

Hartjens told him town elections will need to have a full time constable at the polling place in future. Lewis said at the November 7th election there was a problem when one person was told they could not vote. The person proceeded to get loud and offensive. Lewis suggested the town could have an assistant constable, or two, so that Annie Diemand and Dan Keller do not have to stay all day at the town hall.

Speaking of assistants, Lewis said the dog officer also needs an assistant with the legal authority to enter private property. Selectboard member Christine Heard said that Ray Ducharme is willing to take on the task, but he will not keep a dog for over ten days before he puts it down. Heard suggested asking Maggie Houghton, the dog officer, for her thoughts.

The town also needs a field driver to take responsibility for other stray animals. Lewis said that position used to be filled, but over time it has been overlooked. Heard said she would ask her daughter, Johanna Fitzgerald if she might be interested.

Town accountant Janet Swem told the board that Wendell's community policing money has built up to \$19,000. Restrictions on the use of these funds are fairly lenient, and Lewis suggested that some might be used to move the veterans memorial over to the gazebo.

Heard asked, "What is happening with the [new town center] water supply system?" Lewis said the contractor for that project, Whitney Trucking, is on the clock, has the paperwork in order, but has yet to break ground. He thought they

should be able to complete the project in two weeks; the contracted finish date is December 15th. The water line will run along the west side of the common, have a T connection for the town hall, the current library, and for the new town office building. Whitney's responsibility will end at the shutoff valve for each building.

Lewis and Heard and Aldrich will attend a STAR (Stand Together Act Responsibly, but formerly Small Towns Against Repression) meeting at the Erving town hall on Tuesday, November 28th at 2:00 p.m. Princeton town administrator Dennis Rindone is spearheading STAR's ongoing effort to have the state honor its commitment to make fair and consistent PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) payments to towns with state owned land within their borders.

Town assessors Paul Sullivan and Tom Mangan met with the board. Lewis asked if the tax rate is set yet. Sullivan said the assessors' goal is to get bills back on a semi-annual basis, but said he does not want to send '07 bills out too soon after the '06 bills, which only came out this past August. The assessors face a tradeoff between setting the rate based on an accurate assessment of all new construction, and being prompt. They voted to hire a consultant to work on revaluation. Sullivan said he thought getting the bills out in January was a possibility.

Heard said delaying for accuracy will cost the town. Sullivan said in a year tax bills should be back on schedule, October and April, but he cannot do the '07 taxes before '06

abatements are finished. There are six or eight of those remaining.

Lewis asked Mangan when he expected to take the course and become certified as an assessor. He has been on the board for a year. Mangan said his understanding from the state is that Wendell's board of assessors is in reasonable shape. The course is offered twice a

year, and one course is just over; the next one will be offered in the summer. He is planning to take it then.

Mangan requested a clarification on whether the hours for the part time clerk, part time professional assessor should be added together or considered separately for consideration of her benefits.

**HOME COOKIN'****Turkey Soup**

Readers are always encouraged to send in recipes for this occasional column. Below is a seasonal favorite from Sandy Miner, in Erving side.

This recipe tastes (and smells) like Thanksgiving dinner in a mug!

In large crockpot or stockpot put:

2 large cans chicken broth (48 oz. each).

I prefer to use College Inn Light and Fat Free 50% less sodium.

Add:

2 medium onions, chopped
5 large carrots, peeled and sliced
4 celery stalks, sliced
6 parsnips, peeled and sliced
4 medium sweet potatoes, peeled and cut into bite-sized pieces
3 or 4 tsp poultry seasoning
2 cups dried cranberries
4 cups cooked, diced turkey
Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste

Heat on high to just before a boil, turn down to simmer low and let it simmer for about three hours or until all the veggies are soft. Enjoy!



MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK

clip and save



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Cooking oil bottles
Syrup, ketchup, other condiments
Peanut butter jars
Margarine and butter tubs
Yogurt containers

Household Cleaners

Liquid dish soap
Liquid household cleaner bottles

Bathroom

Liquid hand soap
Shampoo and conditioner
Mouthwash
Lotions
Pump hair sprays (non-aerosol)
Vitamin bottles

Laundry

Liquid laundry detergent
Bleach (rinse well)
Liquid fabric softener

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Plastic or Styrofoam egg cartons
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Berry cartons
Microwave trays or containers
Packing peanuts or blocks
Plastic bags, wrap, packaging, or film ("cling wrap")

Yard and Garden

Plastic swimming pools
Lawn furniture
Flower or plant pots
Black plastic

Household

Toys
Plastic coat hangers
Decorative light holders
Plastics from electronics or appliances
Pails, buckets, clothes hampers, or recycling bins
CDs, video tapes, cassettes, or cases
Medical supplies

Other

Caps, lids, or pumps
Jugs/pails over 2 gallons in size
Small prescription pill bottles
Bottles that contained motor oil or other chemicals

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