

LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

YEAR 14 - NO. 8

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

DECEMBER 3, 2015

ERVING SELECTBOARD

Dangerous Dog Hearing Scheduled

By KATIE NOLAN

Arthur Johnson, selectboard member and Erving's animal control officer, presented his fellow board members with a complaint about Hudson, a mixed pit bull-labrador dog that killed chickens and ran loose on High Street on November 16.

Finding Hudson "really aggressive" and uncontrollable, Johnson had called for backup. Police chief Chris Blair joined Johnson in trying to get the dog back to the fenced property at 13 High Street, where he was visiting. Johnson reported that Hudson leaped at Blair, and Blair tasered him to keep from being harmed.

Once Hudson was confined at the property where he and owner Alan Gordon were visiting, Blair gave both Gordon and Anna Bacigalupo, the resident at 13 High Street, notices requiring Hudson to be leashed and muzzled when outdoors in Erving.

see ERVING page A4

Thanksgiving Fire on Dry Hill Road Displaces Seven



HUDYMA PHOTO

An early morning grease fire in the eight-unit apartment building brought out seventeen fire departments.

By MARK HUDYMA

MONTAGUE - "I've had better days," said David Frank, manager of the apartments at 9 Dry Hill Road, as we surveyed the front of the building. A tenant gathered some personal possessions - boxes and clothes - from a mostly intact first-floor apartment.

A fire tore through the roof and most of the second floor of the building in the early morning hours of November 26 - Thanksgiving -

displacing the seven residents and killing one dog.

A three a.m. 911 call reported a grease fire in one of the apartments, according to Montague Center assistant fire chief David Hansen. "We could tell when we got there that was the cause," he said, "just from the amount of damage."

First on the scene at the fire was Montague Police Department with officers Dobosz, Lapean, and Deery responding.

see FIRE page A3

Village Water Officials Address Concerns; Decline Meeting with Health Board

By JEFF SINGLETON

MONTAGUE CENTER - "What we really want to say is that as commissioners, we don't have any licenses... Water testing is not within our scope. DEP mandates that. DEP says where to test, when to test and how often to test.

"Our job basically is to pay bills. We set the rates as commissioners. We pay all the bills. We do any kind of loan, for the land here. We're in charge of that. But we don't have

anything to do with chemicals..."

Thus Gary Dion, one of three commissioners of the Montague Center Water District, began the organization's monthly meeting on December 1.

Dion seemed eager to challenge what he sees as myths and misconceptions about the role of the District in last month's water contamination scare. He was less eager to meet with the town's Board of Health, which has invited

see WATER page A6



MARK HUDYMA PHOTO

Montague Center water commissioners Donald Loveland, Gary Dion, and Ed Sabelawski noted that district residents have not historically shown interest in the workings of their board.

A GOOD SEASON FOR PITCHING IN

At right: Gloria Freyenbagen, treasurer of T.O.P.S. (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) of Greenfield, hands Andrea DeLullis of DLAL/SELF Youth & Community Services the turkey, and other donated ingredients on November 23 for a complete Thanksgiving dinner. For the past six years, the members of T.O.P.S. have provided the ingredients, and the residents and staff of the DLAL/SELF house in Turners Falls' Patch neighborhood have prepared, served and enjoyed a family-style meal for the holiday.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

At left: Dozens of Anne Harding's friends and neighbors decided to surprise her with a celebration of "Anne Harding Day" on November 6. Harding was interrupted in what she thought was a family meal at the Rendezvous by a band led by a tuba, a rendition of "For She's a Jolly Good Fellow," many handmade signs and cards, and a cake portraying her as a caped superhero. Harding, who writes from time to time for the Reporter, is well known in downtown Turners Falls as a frequent and cheerful community volunteer.



MIKE JACKSON PHOTO

At right: On November 21, we caught Montague selectboard chair Mike Nelson painting lampposts outside the town hall. The next day, one of our correspondents found him in Spinner Park, installing the new LED lights and replacing the globes on the lamps after cleaning them at home. The two locations are the only spots where the old lampposts will be preserved, as the rest are replaced in the Streetscape Improvement project. According to Nelson, fellow selectboard member Rich Kuklewicz, an electrician, would be wiring the new bulbs. Nelson also added a coat of paint to the Spinner statue while he was there.



MIKE JACKSON PHOTO

Fifth Straight Turkey Day Victory: Turners Falls 14 - Greenfield 13

By MATT ROBINSON

TURNERS FALLS - On November 26, 2015, Coach Chris Lapointe did what no other Turners Falls coach had ever done: He beat Greenfield for the fifth straight time.

Even in the glory years of Zywna and O'Riley, both of whom had undefeated seasons, Turners never won more than two Turkey Day victories in a row. But since 2011, Lapointe has had Greenfield's number.

None of these five games have been blowouts, but that doesn't matter, and like in 2011, Turners won by a single point.

Winning on Thanksgiving is nice, but it's not the most important thing. What is important is seeing old friends, catching up with family, and standing in the cold for hours as the next generation of Blue and Green play the game that we used to play.

You see, the annual Turners Falls-Greenfield Thanksgiving game transcends generations and geography. My nieces and nephews, none of whom ever lived in

Turners Falls, attended the game, as they have for most of their lives as part of their own Thanksgiving tradition. When I asked my nephew how the game was, he said, "It was a good game. We won!"

I think I've attended 46 Turkey Day games, and I'm sure there are folks who've attended many more, but the most enjoyable part of the whole Thanksgiving holiday is being at Thee Game and reconnecting with my roots.

As in most of the games this season, Quinn Doyle was the workhorse of the Powertown offense, and he carried the ball four times on the opening possession. The drive stalled, however, and Blue was forced to punt.

When Greenfield got the ball on their own 42, the Blue D held them to 2 yards and Green had to punt themselves. The punt was a good one, and the roll was better. The ball was eventually downed on the 1-yard line and Blue started their next drive with their backs to the end zone.

Quinn got some breathing room on his next carry, giving Blue a

see FOOTBALL page A7



ROBINSON PHOTO

Owen Ortiz opens up space for Quinn Doyle during the season's final game.

The Montague Reporter

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An Exchange of Objects

The US retail economy pumps along like a merry old heart, with a spike each year each November and December, followed by a drop in January and February. In these parts, the holiday retail season is the season of bazaars and craft fairs -- so many that the *Reporter* is having trouble keeping up with listing them.

Reading an older town paper, the *Turners Falls Reporter*, from one hundred years ago this week, we see that this is a tradition of long local standing:

"The Ladies' Industrial society of Montague City will hold their annual sale on the afternoon and evening of Thursday, Dec 2d, at Library hall, Montague City. There will be fancy articles, aprons of all kinds and home made candy on sale, also attractions for the children. Supper will be served at 5:45, at 25 cents for adults and 15 cents for children under 12 years of age."

You may have already missed the Dove of Peace Christmas Bazaar, the Farren Festival, the Montague Congregational Church's Fete Noel, the Christmas Bazaar at the Gill/Montague Senior Center, or the Little Drummer Craft Fair hosted at Franklin County Tech, which all took place in November.

We would encourage you to check out the Wendell Craft Fair, the Holiday Bazaar at the Erving Senior Center, the Holiday Craft Fair at St. Kaz, the St. Nicholas Bazaar at Our Lady of Czestochowa, or the Montague Common Hall's Make and Take Craft Day -- details elsewhere in these pages.

There's also a Holiday Shop next Friday and Saturday at the Shutesbury Athletic Club.

"The Junior Christian Endeavor society of the Baptist church will hold a fair at the church vestry on Friday evening, Dec 3d. Fancy and useful articles will be for sale and attractions for all..."

"Valley Queen Rebekah lodge will hold their annual sale of fancy articles, aprons, food, etc., in the corner store of the Nevins block on Saturday afternoon, Dec. 4."

Another approach is taken this December 11, when a number of downtown merchants in Turners Falls partner with RiverCulture for a "Wonderful Night" that combines shopping and entertainment, and December 12, when the Northfield Area Tourism and Business Association sponsors a similar "Special Day".

All of these are admirable attempts to redirect some of the surge

of seasonal spending back into local businesses and organizations. At their best, they're fun, social events where the skills and efforts of local crafters are recognized.

At the opposite end of the spectrum, we hear that more than half of holiday shoppers plan to use their smartphones to purchase gifts this year, and that trending searches include drones, hoverboards, smart televisions, and adult onesies.

Needless to say, it's easier to make a quilt, wreath, or cutting board in the home or garage workshop than it is to craft a drone or smartphone. Objects that are the product of thousands of researchers, designers, engineers, and manufacturing workers scattered throughout the globe are reshaping our daily lives, and would be very difficult to piece together ourselves.

At one time, a revival of small-scale craft manufacturing was proposed as an alternative to industrial production, an idea that was taken seriously even if it didn't ever become a threat to the status quo in practice.

Over the next three weeks, we'll be publishing a history of the New Clairvaux Arts and Crafts Society, an experimental settlement at the turn of the last century in Montague Center. Its founder saw handicrafts -- candles, tables, printing -- as a vehicle both for spiritual betterment, and for the redemption of deteriorating and abandoned rural areas.

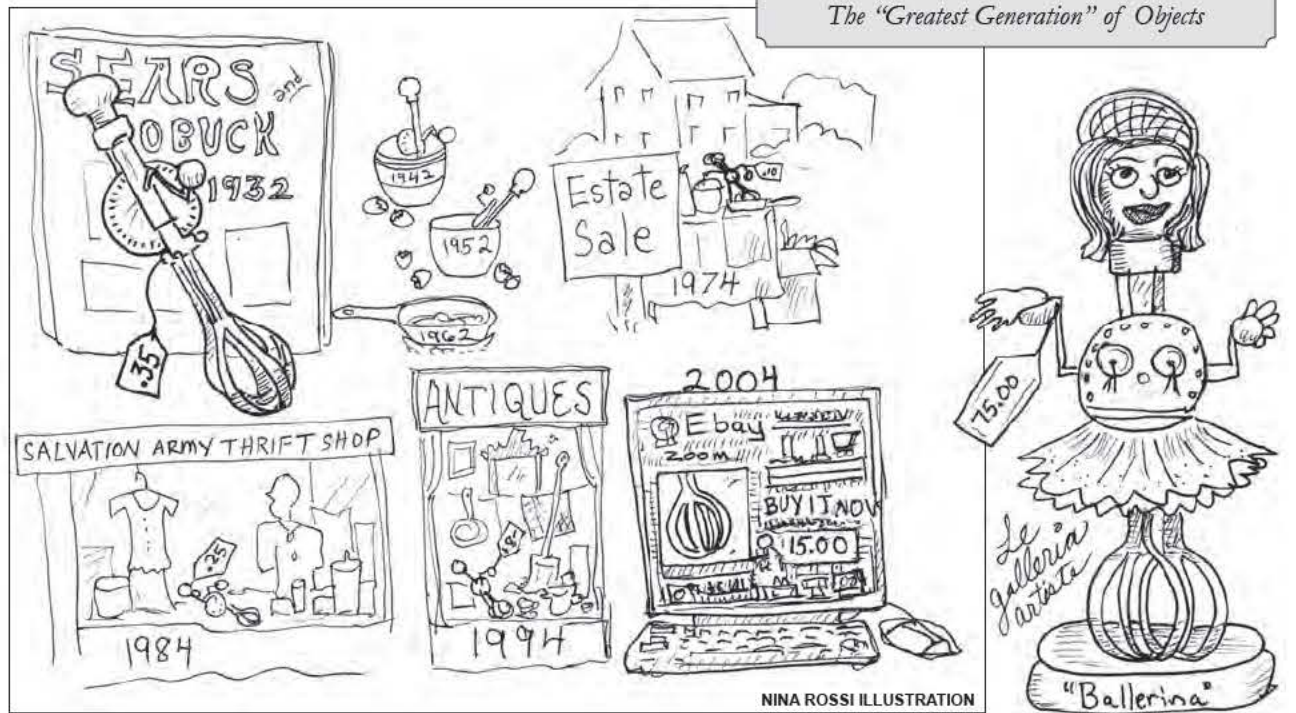
It's funny to realize that the focus on crafts so long ago was already a revival. Since New Clairvaux, and those fancy aprons sewn by the members of the local Rebekah lodge, the manufacture of most objects has accelerated its grim, wasteful race to the bottom.

It feels like we can only sit and watch as the market seeks out pockets of the displaced and dispossessed, concentrating them in miserable sweatshop villages and cities until they organize for higher wages, whereupon they're abandoned for poorer workers elsewhere.

Some people, in disapproving of such exploitation, have looked down their noses at its products. But the handy shortcut linking quality with morality has not proven durable: one can hardly sneer at a "cheap, Chinese" smartphone, for example.

What has outlasted that is the sense that locally made gifts bring a certain spiritual redemption.

And maybe that's all we really need, this time of year.



NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION

Letters to the Editors

Will the 2nd Amendment Protect Us Against ISIS?

Terror attacks are definitely on the rise, not just in Paris or Africa but in the United States also. Last Friday saw the latest in a series of terrorist shootings when middle-aged white guy Robert Dear, Jr. killed three and wounded nine at a Planned Parenthood office in Colorado Springs.

A week before, three young white guys wounded five people at a Black Lives Matter protest in Minneapolis. The list goes on: Roseburg, Oregon, Lafayette, Louisiana, and of course, Charleston.

So far, 266 mass shootings have taken place in the U.S. this year. And almost all of the shooters were young to middle-aged white guys. They weren't Muslims. They weren't Syrians. They weren't ISIS.

To be sure, ISIS is a real threat. But looking at the grim statistics on who's doing the killing in the U.S., it's pretty clear that homegrown terrorism needs to be combated far more aggressively than it has been.

Perhaps it's time to create a da-

tabase for white middle-aged guys with guns. Or if this seems too extreme, Congress could at least pass their pending bill -- defeated numerous times -- that would require comprehensive background checks on gun buyers, including those purchasing weapons online or at gun shows.

But while even the simplest of measures regarding gun control are opposed by the Republican candidates for the presidency, they are in favor of blocking Syrians from entering the country, creating databases to keep track of those here, and even shutting down mosques.

This Republican over-reaction to the potential influx of up to 10,000 Syrian refugees, all of whom are to be vetted extensively over a period of up to two years, seems totally contradictory to the Republican response to guns and homegrown terrorism.

What happened to the notion, articulated by Jeb Bush, that "stuff happens?" And then there's Ben Carson's view, which he presented after

the shooting at Umpqua Community College that he wouldn't just stand by if a shooter were in his midst: "I would say, 'Hey guys, everybody attack him. He may shoot me, but he can't get us all.'"

Ted Cruz, of course, wants no truck with gun control: "I'm pretty sure you all define gun control the same way we do in Texas -- hitting what you aim at."

If we follow this Republican logic, then Americans already have a solution to combat any imported terrorists. It's called their version of the Second Amendment, which is to say, allowing any and all to pack and shoot randomly.

I'd personally rather take my chances with a Syrian family next door than with some angry, deluded white guy who's got an arsenal stored in his house.

Christopher Sawyer-Lauçanno
Turners Falls

For That Powerfully Invasive Feeling

I'm writing to encourage people to consider watching the documentary film, which became available on DVD this past August, called *Citizenfour* (directed by Laura Poitras).

Citizenfour is arguably "the" most important film of our times. We've all heard of the Snowden leaks, a news story over two years old -- "old news," now buried under so many subsequent "news" events of the many weeks and months which followed, and overwhelm human memories.

This film revives the NSA surveillance story in more far-reaching detail, with an impact that is staggering, disturbing and difficult to fully comprehend.

Warning: Neo in the Matrix chose the red pill, and by taking it, the actual horrific reality of his world became manifest -- he saw "how deep the rabbit hole goes." By watching this film, you take the red pill -- this is our Matrix, our horror show, now revealed.

The revelations exposed and articulated in the film, *Citizenfour* is part and parcel of the story that the NSA, our government, GCHQ (Great Britain's NSA), and for that matter the major telephone companies, and the leadership of many internet firms in Silicon Valley, do not want you to know about, or to concern yourself with. And shamefully, many of them will say anything to deflect our fears, muddy the waters of our understanding, and assuage our justifiable worries.

And yet it is crucial for us to understand and to know that each of us (in the hundreds of millions) is being surveilled every day, multiple times a day.

The NSA is surveilling, recording, monitoring, and indexing virtually everyone, and very close to every-

thing we do, on any device plugged into the Internet, and on any telephone.

This film is more than a movie, it is like learning the rules of driving, or understanding the common civic laws of governance. In other words, it's required knowledge for adults.

The NSA is violating our privacy and liberty, and trampling our Fourth Amendment protection against unwarranted searches. In so doing, it has completely corrupted and perverted the internet (and every device plugged into it), as well as our erstwhile "private" telephone communications.

Once you viscerally comprehend what they are doing, you can't un-know it. And it is a powerfully invasive feeling.

You must see this film in order to more fully grasp that the Snowden leaks are not yesterday's old news, which surely the government would like us not to think about, or worry about. It is the on-going story which should be headlines every day, and should trouble us so very much.

Because the NSA is working very hard every second of every day, with incredibly powerful computers, sophisticated algorithms and software programs, skilled computer scientists, and probably the world's largest data memory capacity, to fulfill their frightening motto: "Collect It All".

But don't take my word for it, see the film and draw your own conclusions.

And actions.

Francis Doughty
Wendell

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by DON CLEGG

Santa is in Turners Falls on Friday, December 4, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the Greenfield Savings Bank. Free pictures will be taken with Santa during this time courtesy of GSB. To sign up for a photo shoot, please call 863-4316 and ask for the Turners Falls Branch.

The **Magic Mailbox** will be installed this week in Spinner Park, on the corner of Avenue A and 4th Street in Turners Falls. Kids and adults alike are encouraged to drop in a holiday wish for themselves, friends, family or the world!

The messages will be picked up by Santa during the RiverCulture event "It's A Wonderful Night," Friday, December 11. Santa will arrive at the park at 6:30 p.m.

The **11th Annual Wendell Craft Fair** is Friday, December 4, from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. and Saturday, December 5, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., in the Old Town Hall at 6 Center Street, Wendell.

The fair will feature exceptional handmade, quality gifts including paintings, soaps, jewelry, food items and lots more packs. On Friday, dinner is served 5 to 7 p.m.; and Saturday, lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. All profits from this Fair will be donated to the Swift River School Music & Art Departments, to benefit the children of New Salem and Wendell.

The fair is sponsored in part by the Wendell Cultural Council and Green Fields Market. Please contact Amanda at (978) 544-9715 for more information.

Dust off your boots, because the North County Line Dancers are back in Turners at the Greenfield Savings Bank on Saturday, December 5, starting at 10 a.m. Start the holiday season off with some good old Western fun!

The North County Line Dancers will get your feet a tapping as they demonstrate some new moves, as well as the old favorites that we all love. The Dancers wear traditional Western attire and have promised they will mix in some holiday favorites. Get out your boots and cowboy hat to show your moves.

This is an event for the entire family, so come and enjoy.

The Friends of the **Erving Senior Center** hosts their Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, December 5, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Senior Center, on Northfield Road (Route 63) in Erving. There will be select handmade crafts, great gift ideas, homemade pies, and lots of baked goods.

Nana's Café will be open for refreshments and snacks, there's a "Can Raffle," gift certificates, and many great and valuable prizes. Proceeds go to future programs and events at the Erving Senior Center.

The **Saint Nicholas Bazaar** is Saturday, December 5, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Our Lady of Czestochowa Church, at 84 K Street, Turners Falls. Enjoy some Polish foods along with a bake sale, Christmas crafts & gifts, religious goods, numerous vendors, raffles, and more.

And from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday the 5th, there will be a **Holiday Craft Fair** at Saint Kazimierz

Society, at 197 Avenue A in Turners Falls. All vendors are local crafters, including crochet items, paintings, baskets, and chainmaille, beaded, and wire wrapped jewelry.

There will be a bake sale, and a charity raffle for the benefit of the Franklin County Sheriff's Office Dog Shelter.

Montague Community Band, directed by Hannah Smeltz, will give a holiday concert on Saturday, December 5, at 3 p.m. at the Congregation of Grace Church, 148 L Street, Turners Falls.

This concert will feature music of the season, classic and contemporary arrangements of Christmas and Hanukkah favorites, and works by Handel, Leroy Anderson, Irving Berlin, and more. Donations accepted.

Join the Country Players for a night of **holiday-themed trivia** on Saturday, December 5, at the Montague Elks.

First prize \$200, second prize team gets \$100. Maximum 10 people per team. \$10 tickets available at the door. Bring your own snacks, cash bar available. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., trivia begins at 7.

To reserve a table, please call (413) 768-9126.

On Monday, December 7, from 5 to 7:30 p.m., the Montague Common Hall (once known as the Grange) will be the beneficiary of **Free Soup & Game Night** at Hope and Olive Restaurant in Greenfield. Free Soup & Game Night is a fundraiser held on the first Monday of each month.

The event features free soup and bread donated by area restaurants, along with a cash bar, bake sale and a raffle. Bring your own games or choose from those available. All proceeds from the evening will go to the Montague Common Hall, and there will be information that night about how to become more involved in the future of the Hall.

On December 7 there will be **free parking** in Greenfield.

Baystate Franklin Medical Cen-

ter will hold a **Cardiac Risk Cholesterol Screening** on Wednesday, December 9, from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. in Conference Room A. Participants must fast for 12 hours prior to being screened. Test results will be forwarded to participants and their primary care providers.

The cost for the screening is \$10; pre-registration is required. To register, please call Baystate Health Link at (413) 773-2454 or 1(800) 377-4325.

Head to the Leverett Library on Thursday, December 10 from 5 to 6:30 p.m. for **Holiday Card Making**. They will have stamps, markers, pencils, stickers and other materials to create your own gorgeous cards for the holidays.

All ages welcome, but please call, email or come in to register, www.leverettlibrary.org or (413) 548-9220. Oh, and there will be pizza!

Make and Take Craft Day at Montague Common Hall, is on Saturday, December 12, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. See the announcement on page A5 for more information.

Children of all ages and their families are invited to come make easy **gingerbread houses** at the Carnegie Library on Saturday, December 12, starting at 10:30 a.m. Candy, graham crackers, and icing will be provided for this fun free program.

Save the date for the second annual **Friends of the Wendell Meetinghouse Yule Concert** at 7 p.m., Saturday, December 12, at the Old Town Hall in Wendell.

The *Montague Reporter* is compiling a list of **Christmas Eve and Day services** for our December 17 publication. If you are aware of your church's holiday schedule then please pass that info, along with contact information for the church, along to us. Thank you!

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

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week ending 11/20/2015:

Grade 6
Devin Willor

Grade 7
Isabelle Farrick

Grade 8
Chantelle Monaghan
Elijah Forcier

FIRE from page A1

"When they determine there's an active fire, the first tone goes out through Shelburne Control," the region's dispatch center for emergency services, explained Hansen. He requested second, and later third, alarms as they quickly realized the need for additional resources.

Sixteen other local fire departments came to the assistance of the Montague Center department. "We're so lucky to have our mutual aid system," said Hansen. "Other chiefs helped: one became our safety officer, another helped our operations division, and of course, there was a department covering our station."

Additional help came from a regional incident command system, which helped with logistics, communicating with the news media, and deploying a rehab unit from the state's Department of Fire Services, which Hansen said "gives people, firefighters and residents, a warm place to go" during an emergency.

Hansen used Incident Command System (ICS) to manage and coordinate the response to the fire. He was the designated "incident commander," responsible for the big-picture job of delegating tasks and integrating incoming mutual aid. ICS allows crews who do not train together to work together on a scene, with clearly defined roles and modular leadership structure.

The fire was "mostly out by 6:30," he said. "Then we spent a lot of time helping residents, getting a list of things: computers, keys, passports." Because the building was considered unsafe, "with a lot of material still on the second floor," residents were not able to access their rooms and possessions directly.

The closest fire hydrant to 9 Dry Hill Road is over a half mile from the building. While



Deborah Savage says she hopes to move back in, if the building can be rebuilt.

firefighters assembled the hose needed to pump water down Swamp Road and up the hill to the building, the trucks formed a bucket brigade, filling up with water at the hydrant and trucking it to the scene. This allowed teams to start fighting the fire sooner, and maintain a continuous flow of water to the fire.

The Turners Falls Fire Department was among the first called to the scene. "Because of the height," Hansen said, "the Turners Falls ladder truck was requested.... It uses about a thousand gallons per minute. That's why we called so many tankers."

Nine firefighters responded from Turners, split between an engine and the ladder truck, according to Turners Falls fire chief John Zellmann.

"Three alarms is a lot," said Zellmann. They needed a lot of tankers - that's probably why. They have to dump water into bags."

"Bags" are small reservoirs, resembling inflatable swimming pools, that are filled from a rotation of tanker trucks and pumped up the hill

to the building.

At the same time, other crews worked "laying lines from the hydrant for something called relay," he added, in which engines are used to pump water directly up the ladder truck to the fire.

Deborah Savage, who escaped the building without injury to herself or two dogs, was placed in a hotel after the fire during the relief effort organized by the American Red Cross.

"If he rebuilds, I'm coming back," Savage said on Friday. "I love my field, my backyard, my trees. Two of my cats are still missing, though. They took off through the door and there were about twenty fire trucks here - they got scared off."

Savage was reunited with her cats by chance on Tuesday morning when she returned and saw them, dirty but unharmed.

"Our neighbors have been extraordinary," she said. "They're taking care of my birds, they've cooked us meals."

The exact extent of the damage, and whether the building will be rebuilt, is still unclear. "We'd like to rebuild," said Frank. "They don't have enough information to know yet, though."

Savage said she and others are looking for places to live in the meantime.

In an overwhelming show of support by the community, a massive stockpile of material donations was quickly collected and distributed to the displaced residents. We are told that no additional donations are requested for this relief effort.

As of publication time, a GoFundMe page for another of the displaced residents, Michelle Chaikin, had passed its initial fundraising goal but was still open for contributions.



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ERVING from page A1

Currently, Johnson said, Gordon and Hudson live in Athol, but Gordon is planning to move to Erving.

Abutter Debra Smith said, "I am fearful of this dog. My neighbors are good people, but I am shocked by what happened. This dog scares me."

At their November 30 meeting, Johnson recused himself from the board, because he is also the ACO. Selectboard member Jacob Smith said his property abuts 13 High Street, but he invoked the "rule of necessity" for continuing with the deliberation, as the board would lose a quorum if he also recused himself.

Gordon reported that, since November 16, he has bought and used a harness-type leash for Hudson, has not let the dog outside without adult control, and has used a muzzle provided by Johnson. He said he has ordered an outdoor kennel, which will have a roof to keep Hudson from leaping out.

Johnson said he contacted the Athol ACO, who told him there had been no reports of problems with Hudson in Athol. Johnson said he had checked at the residence twice over Thanksgiving weekend and found Gordon and Bacigalupo complying with the restrictions in Blair's letter.

"We've never seen him aggressive," Gordon said. He said he had saved Hudson from being drowned by its then-owner about six and a half years ago, when he was a puppy, and that Hudson plays well with Gordon's young children and a pet bunny.

Johnson recommended that the board classify Hudson as a nuisance dog and extend Blair's restrictions for one year. He provided the board with information from Montague police chief Charles Dodge about the procedures the Montague department has used for placing restrictions on dogs.

However, selectboard chair William Bembury and Smith felt that the sections of Massachusetts General Laws (MGL) dealing with nuisance and dangerous dogs did not give them authority to place restrictions for a year.

They decided instead to schedule a dangerous dog hearing for Hudson at 6:30 p.m. on December 21.

According to the MGL, at that hearing, the board can decide to dismiss the complaint, classify Hudson as a nuisance dog, or classify Hudson as a dangerous dog. If the classification is "nuisance" dog, the board can require the owner to take remedial action.

If the classification is "dangerous" dog, the board can require various actions, including restraining him, confining him on the keeper's premises, keeping him leashed and muzzled when off premises, obtaining at least \$100,000 in insurance, or euthanizing him.

Northeast Energy Direct

The board received a model bylaw drafted by Franklin Regional Council of Governments on "Noise, Earth Removal and Related Disturbance."

"I have a problem," Johnson remarked. "It's a way to beat up on the pipeline."

Bembury said, "It makes them follow rules, policies, procedures - it makes them responsible for impacts."

Johnson replied, "There are already regulations in place...they're finding anything they can to slow down the pipeline."

Jacob Smith observed that any bylaw concerning Kinder Morgan's proposed Northeast Energy Direct pipeline would need to be approved by town meeting, and suggested a longer discussion at the December 7 selectboard meeting.

The conservation commission provided a copy of their letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, stating the ConComm does not approve of the proposed pipeline. The ConComm wrote that pipeline construction would have an adverse effect on the Millers River.

It also noted that the proposed pipeline route is within one-half mile of a sludge dump perched on the riverbank, and the dump could be destabilized during construction.

Town Electricity Rate

Energy consultant Kenneth McCance of Yolon Energy presented the board with quotes for electricity rates from various suppliers based on the town's past usage. He recommended the board sign a 1-year contract for Direct Energy at \$0.0899 per kilowatt-hour.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Dogs Chase Poultry

Monday, 11/16

9:50 a.m. Report of two loose dogs chasing chickens at High Street residence. Dogs located, report taken.

Wednesday, 11/18

10:18 a.m. Suspicious person at Wheelock Street found to be National Grid worker. 12 p.m. Assisted with a medical emergency on Wells Street.

4:25 p.m. Report of fire on Route 2. Found

to be in Wendell.

Sunday, 11/22

10:15 a.m. Disabled motor vehicle on Mountain Road and Route 2.

12:15 p.m. Disabled motor vehicle on Route 2 bypass.

3:25 p.m. Assisted with a peaceful child custody exchange.

4:40 p.m. Report of two suspicious individuals walking in the area of East Main

Street asking for a ride to Greenfield. Gone on arrival.

9:05 p.m. Assisted with a medical emergency on the French King Highway.

Wednesday, 11/25

10:50 a.m. Motor vehicle lockout at Weatherheads.

Sunday, 11/29

5:45 p.m. Assisted with medical emergency on East Prospect Street.

Johnson said he was "happy with the way things are," and "worried that something may come back to bite us."

McCance said the contract included protection for the town, and a guarantee that the rate would not change during the term of the contract.

Johnson wondered why other towns had not signed up with Yolon.

McCance said he would be visiting other local towns, and noted that Bement School had signed on.

The board voted to sign the 1-year contract, with Bembury and Smith voting in favor and Johnson abstaining.

IP Mill Permit

Chief water and wastewater operator Peter Sanders told the board that Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection had called to let him know that a Water Management Permit, allowing withdrawal of water from the Millers River, was still owned by the former IP Mill owner David Marks of Tower Investments. If the permit is not renewed, it will lapse.

Sanders contacted Marks, hoping to have the permit assigned to the town, the current owner of the property, but Marks was unavailable and had not called him back.

"It's a permit we probably want to hold onto if we can," Sanders said. "It gives the ability to draw from the river in the future." He said he would continue to pursue obtain-

ing the permit for the town so the town can renew it.

Administrative Coordinator

The board worked on revising a draft administrative coordinator (AC) job description, a preliminary step before advertising and recruiting for the job. The town has been without an AC since July, when former AC Tom Sharp retired. Bembury has been working as the part-time volunteer AC since then.

The board decided that the AC would report directly to the full selectboard, striking draft language that would have the AC report to the board chair on a day-to-day basis. The board also decided that the AC would be the criminal offender records information (CORI) officer, and the chief procurement officer for the town.

The board discussed a possible residency requirement for the AC, or a requirement that the AC live within a 45-minute commute from town hall. It will revisit the job description at its December 7 selectboard meeting.

Cake for Bembury

At the November 23 meeting, treasurer Margaret Sullivan brought two cakes to share with the board and visitors - strawberry bar cake and strawberry and peaches cake - celebrating Bembury's birthday the previous weekend.



Tech Robotics: The "Squarebot" Challenge

By LESLIE BROWN

TURNERS FALLS - The mission: Design and produce a robot which will draw a precise 18" square.

The agents: nine teams of two senior students from a variety of technical programs at the Franklin County Technical School.

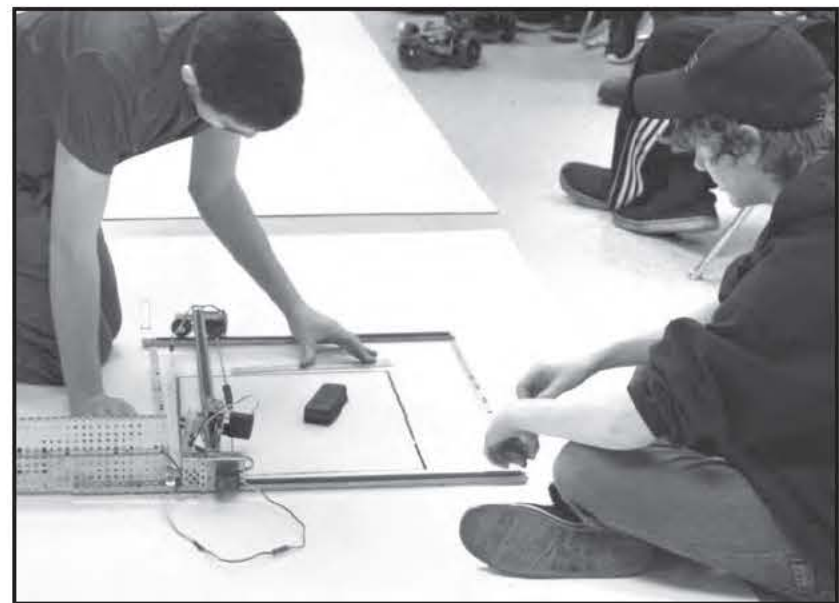
The result: nine different robots all elaborate to this non-technical eye. The final project day; the make it or break it moment.

Featured in the photo are **Jeremiah Gibson** and **Colton Tarbox**, whose marker runs on a square track. They were the sole team whose robot drew a precise square, albeit of 16 inches.

Close enough. This team will receive high marks for their unique design and for the effort they put in to make their initial robot make square rather than curved corner turns.

Other teams will also be well-compensated for the systematic approach they brought to robot design, or their sophistication in troubleshooting. All have worked hard.

Ironically, many teams produced robots which drew well in the dry runs, but which, like many real-life engineering projects, did not come up to snuff at the final hour.



Their instructor Bryna Diamond has created opportunities for students to improve their project grades. They have a voice in her assessment of their work, and may defend their troubleshooting and creativity despite less-than-perfect final robot performances.

She has also given them the opportunity to work out the bugs for a re-run in two after-school days after the holiday break.

These budding engineers have also received their next assignment: "Create a Transformer Bot," a robot which performs one task and then a different one or a robot which moves in more than one plane.

We non-scientific types can't even imagine it.

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Budget Crunch, Tax Strain Seen on the Horizon as Budget Sent to Town Meeting

By ANN TWEEDY

Leverett's November 24 selectboard meeting opened with a presentation by the financial committee on the Fiscal Year 2017 budget, seeking approval to present it to Town Meeting 2016.

The budget presents a difficult financial situation for the town's taxpayers. Taxes are slated to increase, due in part to a second tax abatement request for FY'17 by the Kittredge Land Trust property manager Barre Tozloski. The state appeals board has yet to reach a decision for his 2015 abatement request.

The bond for the municipal broadband project comes due next year, and changes in the funding formula for the regional school system may affect the town's budget.

The budget fits just under the 2-1/2 percent cap, and makes allowance for those contingent items, but homeowners may see rise in taxes of \$460 for houses valued at \$200,000 and \$700 rise for those valued at \$300,000. Selectboard member Julie Shively said she has heard from many homeowners who are already fed up with existing tax increases.

Much will hinge on the state Appellate Tax Board's decision about the Kittredge abatement. Town administrator Margie McGinnis clarified that once that body makes a decision, the amount decided will be permanent.

Peter d'Errico said that the town has already taken a hit by offering to decrease the tax amount, which Tozloski then rejected. The reduction in that property's taxes, as well as others who were offered reductions, are now spread to other homeowners.

The fin com and selectboard debated lowering the \$200,000 set aside for another year to wait out the state board's decision to a lower amount. Shively expressed that will work if the appeals board rule for a \$50,000 reduction, but if they rule for the full \$200,000 and the town doesn't set that much aside, there will be problems.

Fin com member Ann Delano opined, "It's one thing to say that this is our tax rate because this has happened, it's another thing to say this is our tax rate because it may happen. Maybe we should budget for the lower amount."

Her fellow member Tom Powers expressed that it would be better to be prudent and conservative, so the town would be best prepared for any scenario. It was also discussed that even if the theoretical worst-case-scenario of the Appellate Tax Board's deciding in favor of the whole \$200,000 is off the table, taxes will still increase substantially.

The school budget, out of the town's jurisdiction, features union-approved salary increases, built-in bonuses, retirement, and health insurance, and these were included in the murky pot of unknown variables that may affect FY'17.

The bond for the broadband was

discussed as a significant chunk. Although it was approved several years ago at town meeting, the impact will be felt in a year. Residents who did not have the money to pay for satellite services before realize no savings, only increased taxes.

Julie Shively expressed that her home was saving about \$50 a month compared to prior bills for internet service, but that those savings were wiped out with the tax increase.

Delano suggested a closer scrutiny of the budget to see where the money is moving around and evaluating what is truly needed. D'Errico commented that Leverett tends to ask for as much money as allowable at the levy limit, rather than what is truly needed.

The FY'17 budget was approved to go before town meeting in the spring.

Gas Plans

Next to meet with the selectboard was Portia Weiskel, representing the energy committee, who requested that Leverett officially join the Municipal Coalition Against the Pipeline, a group of Hampshire and Franklin County towns opposed to Kinder Morgan's gas pipeline plans.

Weiskel explained the symbolic importance of Leverett taking a stand with its neighbors, even though the pipeline would not come through town. She shared aspects of the negative environmental impact, including methane emissions and the potential for disaster at compressor stations – required every twenty miles of the pipeline's run – as well as potential spills or explosions.

Weiskel argued that the risks of transporting natural gas, along with the physical degradation of landscape, farmland, and resources – ultimately, she said, to sell overseas – was not worth it.

The selectboard unanimously agreed to join the Coalition. Weiskel wanted it known that the town's energy committee also unanimously agreed to support the multi-town effort.

Unsafe Intersection

The final item, brought by resident and firefighter Stewart Olson, was a request to expedite improvements to the unsafe intersection at Shutesbury and Cushman roads.

The intersection has been the site of numerous crashes, some fatal, and Olson submitted a proposal to selectboard members via email that asked the town to consider purchasing the house for sale at the bottom of the intersection with CPC funds, or taking it by eminent domain, in order to reconfigure the land so the road could be straightened, and a traffic circle constructed or a 3-way intersection developed.

The board acknowledged the dangerous problem, and discussed investigating effective measures like signage that the highway department could consider implementing.

Make and Take Craft Day



MONTAGUE CENTER – Make and take home lovely gifts, enjoy homemade breakfast and lunch and hang out by the outdoor fire pit (weather permitting) at the Montague Common Hall, Saturday, December 12, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Each craft is yours to make for a certain number of tickets which are \$1 each or 25 for \$20. Crafts

cost between 1 and 10 tickets to make. This is the perfect opportunity to create a variety of gifts for the holidays.

You may make things such as: colored beeswax candles, jewelry, lavender sachets, spin art, glass refrigerator magnets, Shrinky Dinks, votives, window charms and more. Have fun, get crafty and eat treats!

Proceeds from this annual Make-and-Take Craft Fair help maintain and restore this historic Hall. The Montague Common Hall, formerly the Grange, hosts yoga classes, dances, concerts, weddings, birthday parties, theater rehearsals, workshops, and much more. It is also the home of the Montague Historical Society.

The Hall is located at 34 Main Street in Montague Center, across from the town common. Visit montaguecommonhall.org for more information.

Admission is free. All ages are invited to this event.

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Board Backs 20-Year Assessment for Wendell Depot Road Solar Farm

By KATIE NOLAN

At its November 18 meeting, Wendell's selectboard was urged by Haskell Werlin of Solar Design Associates, Inc. to write a letter supporting construction of a 1- to 2-megawatt solar farm at 107 Wendell Depot Road. Board members were generally favorable toward the project, but wanted to learn more about how the town would tax the solar farm.

Werlin proposed providing the town with payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT), with a 20-year agreement similar to those signed by Amherst, Hadley and Williamsburg. The town could also develop an assessment value for the solar farm and assess it as real property.

Assessors Chris Wings and Stephen Broll told the board that valuing the solar project is beyond the expertise of the board of assessors, or its assistant assessor. They said that the state department of revenue (DOR) advised the town to hire a consultant to negotiate a contract with the company.

Werlin pressed the board to make a decision on taxation at the November 18 meeting, saying "the time frame is the most important thing, if we want this to happen." He explained that the amount of solar credits available is limited, with many projects in the queue, and asked the board to "use common sense" and model a PILOT agreement on the agreements signed with other towns, rather than use a time-consuming and expensive negotiating process.

He said that project investors want the certainty of a 20-year contract. Kareem El-Heneidi of Connectivity Services, Inc. and Sunnectivity LLC said that, if the project is delayed, "Business [investor] interest may disappear."

Werlin noted that, if the project is not built, "the town gets no benefit." He added that the solar power generated will be delivered in Wendell, and that the solar farm will require

no town services.

Selectboard chair Christine Heard said she was generally in favor of the project – "it's a win for the town and win for the environment, but we have this advice from DOR..."

The board decided to vote on the compensation method and the letter of support at its December 2 meeting.

At its December 2 meeting, on the recommendation from the board of assessors, the selectboard decided to approve a \$12,500 per megawatt per year assessment, with no escalator, for 20 years.

The board agreed to prepare a letter of support for the project, to inform potential investors in the project of the potential costs.

Broadband

The broadband committee provided answers to selectboard questions from previous meetings.

Committee co-chair Robert Heller told the board that, if the multi-town cooperative WiredWest develops the town broadband network, it would own it. He said that the Massachusetts Broadband Initiative (MBI), the state agency funding 40% of broadband build-out, was "comfortable" with the cooperative, rather than the individual towns, owning the network.

Robin Heubel of the committee said that, if WiredWest is selected to develop the town's fiber network and the town later withdraws from the coop, "they keep the equipment, they own the wire, the only thing you give up is being able to vote. There is no way for the town to withdraw and retain equipment."

Selectboard and broadband committee member Jeff Pooser said that MBI will do the engineering and physical building of the network, with WiredWest as a "middleman" that will outsource operations and internet service provider functions.

Selectboard member Daniel Keller asked about the committee's approach – "are you looking at al-

ternatives to fiber or WiredWest?"

Heller replied that "fiber is the only thing that makes any sense," since wireless transmission is limited by Wendell's trees and hills.

Committee co-chair Raymond DiDonato said that the group has talked with various providers, and will have a formal discussion about providers at its next meeting.

Wendell Meetinghouse

The board agreed to waive the fee for town hall rental for the Friends of the Meetinghouse, which will present a fundraiser concert on December 12, featuring the Wendell Community Chorus and Lady Moon.

The board considered writing a request for proposals (RFP) to sell the property where the Meetinghouse is located to a non-profit entity. Heard said that it has been determined that the town owns the property the Meetinghouse sits on, but there is anecdotal information that the building was given to the Wendell church at some time in the town's history.

In 2002, the Wendell church sold the building to the non-profit Friends of the Wendell Meetinghouse for \$1.

Administrative coordinator Nancy Aldrich told the board that transfer of land from the town to a non-profit would require town meeting approval.

Heard noted that the parcel where the building is located also includes a portion of the town common, and that a survey would be needed to split the town common portion from the meetinghouse portion.

Other Business

The board agreed to award the oldest citizen pin to Lillian Drozdowski of Montague Road in early December.

The plate with slices of cranberry bread and banana bread baked by Aldrich was empty by the end of the meeting.

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WATER from page A1

the commissioners to discuss the district's response to an *E. coli* finding.

He argued that the response to the finding of *E. coli* in the district's water tank was essentially under the control of the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

A number of residents appeared before the town's Board of Health the previous Wednesday asking why, if the tank had tested positive for the bacteria on Tuesday, November 3, many residents were not warned of the contamination until that Friday or even Saturday.

Dion said the water was sampled on that Monday, and the district was told the results, which indicated a presence of *E. coli*, the following day. The DEP then required a second test, since positive tests for bacteria can reflect contamination of the testing process.

That second test was conducted on Wednesday, November 4, and the results became available the next day. These did not show *E. coli* in the water, but tested positive for total coliform, the broader category of bacteria that includes *E. coli*. It should be noted that between the first and second tests, a substantial amount of chlorine had been added to the water.

Late Thursday morning, the water department activated a connection with the Turners Falls Water District supply, which bypassed the contaminated tank. Dion was unclear whether the DEP had ordered this action or whether the initiative had been taken by John Ritall, who serves as the district's engineer and is the liaison with the DEP.

Dion said Ritall owns his own consulting company, and does not have an official engineering degree. Ritall is listed as the owner/operator on the website of WaterWright Co.

At this point, the state issued a "boil order" for customers in the district, as well as a statement describing the contamination and the response to it. The three commissioners were required to distribute the document to local homeowners, which they did on Thursday evening, November 5. Some of these notices were placed in mailboxes, so residents may not have received the notice until the following day or later.

On Saturday, the order was lifted

but the district continued to receive Turners Falls Water Department water until November 20. Dion complained that the district had difficulty contacting the DEP for guidance during this period.

The source of the contamination has not been determined.

According to Dion, "On November 7, Saturday, [Ritall] drained the tank. On November 9, he inspected the tank. No dead animals, nothing in there."

"I was a little nervous about the screen, so that when I came back from vacation, I hired one of our fire-fighters to go there and inspect it. He took a video and I sent it to John. The screen was perfect. There's no way any animal could get into that tank."

When asked why the commissioners were unwilling to discuss these issues with the health board, Dion stated he feared such a discussion might turn into a "vendetta." He also feared that residents might ask technical questions about chemicals, which could make the commission "look bad."

He noted that the water commission had been holding public meetings for many years without any residents of the district showing any interest: "We have a district meeting the last Tuesday in May, and no one comes."

"Personally, I don't think it's very good public relations," said Montague health director Gina McNeely of the decision not to come before the health board. "I think the people at the [last health board] meeting had some questions they wanted answers to. I don't think anybody wants to bash them."

The water district board was more open to a request from several residents to encourage people to come to its next monthly meeting on January 5. Commissioner Ed Sabelawski stated that he had talked with one district resident, Emily Monosson, about having that meeting in a larger room at the Montague Center fire station.

"They're going to come [to ask questions], and that's OK," he said, asking his fellow commissioners to find out if the station meeting room was available.

"We're not trying to fool anybody," responded Dion. "If anybody wants this job, step right up."



NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Dog Hearing Dominates Pre-Holiday Meeting

By JEFF SINGLETON

The pre-Thanksgiving meeting of the Montague selectboard lasted just over one hour and forty-five minutes. Well over half of this time was devoted to a well-attended, and sometimes contentious, dog hearing.

Police chief Charles Dodge and animal control officer Calin Giurgiu sat at the front table to present the facts of the case. The facts proved to be long and somewhat confusing because Giurgiu's computer had gone "on the fritz," requiring Dodge to summarize the details from a large pile of diverse documents. This, in turn, led to problems sorting out the details of two instances where a pit bull named Petey, owned by Tia Marie Albert of Second Street, had allegedly attacked and bitten other dogs, as well as several humans.

The first case, and the topic of most of the hearing, involved an incident in Unity Park. Ms. Albert had initially called the police and reported that her dog had been attacked. But soon thereafter a Mark Fleury called the station to say his dog had been violently assaulted, causing serious wounds. Mr. Fleury reported that he himself had been bitten trying to separate the dogs.

The second case, also in Unity Park, involved a small dog who had been attacked after barking at Petey. When the owner picked up his dog, he was bitten in the hand by Albert's dog.

Giurgiu stated that after the first incident he went to see Albert and her dog but the owner could not find vaccination records. He subsequently discovered that the dog was not registered at town hall.

Giurgiu recommended that Albert keep the dog on a leash and muzzle when out for walks, but noted that the animal was neither leashed nor muzzled during the second incident. He recommended that the dog be "put down" as a dangerous animal.

"If she can't control it, this dog could snap any time at her house," he said. "She has a little baby, and if that dog gets hold of the baby, I'm sorry - I don't think that baby will live."

Albert spoke in defense of the dog, showing pictures of Petey with "many children." Her brother stood at the front table and showed the board bite marks on his arm produced by efforts to separate the dogs in the first incident.

Quite a few members of the audience also spoke in defense of Petey, claiming that he was friendly to children and other pets. A man

from Gill said his large cat could back Petey "into a corner," and suggested that the hearing was a "vendetta" against pit bulls.

Others at the meeting who had witnessed the first incident said the pit bull attack was unprovoked. Elma Kuklewicz, a distant cousin of selectboard member Richard Kuklewicz, said a group of older people sitting in chairs were chatting with Fleury when Petey attacked, putting Fleury's dog in a "death shake."

There were several dramatic accounts, including by Mr. Fleury, of efforts to pull the dogs apart. "We've been with Petey for a long time," said Ms. Kuklewicz. "But we all agree as a group that something happened, and he's snapping."

After a brief discussion, the board voted that Petey was a "dangerous dog," but decided not to have him put down at this time. Rather an elaborate set of rules were mandated on his owner, including the requirement that Albert obtain \$100,000 of insurance. Petey will need to be muzzled when off his home premises, and must obtain a "Canine Good Citizen" certificate within six months.

Signage and Planters

The meeting began with a "public comment" appeal from Matt MacMillan-Lego who complained about the signage, or lack thereof, at the corner of Third and Canal streets.

He noted that as you come up the hill from the "paper mills," signs that indicate that Canal becomes a one-way street in the opposite direction are virtually "illegible." Vehicles, including trucks, drive the wrong way down Canal, mainly to access the Discovery Center parking lot.

"Something's got to be done with those signs before we have a major accident on Canal Street," he said.

"Consider it done - Mr. Bergeron's on it," said selectboard chair Mike Nelson, who observed highway department chief Tom Bergeron taking copious notes in the back of the room.

"Okay, thank you," said the very pleased Turners Falls citizen.

A man named Owen Wormer sat down at the front table to discuss a potential proposal, still in the idea stage, to use Franklin County Technical School students to maintain some of the planters on Avenue A. Wormer is in the process of starting a private non-profit company to work with volunteers on gardening projects.

"The idea [for the planters] would be to present a plan, maybe starting small with a few planters...." Wormer said. He estimated the cost of the small project could be financed by fundraising, and said the purpose of coming before the board is to "let you know that this is being discussed."

Steering clear of the recent debate over "non-plant objects" in planters, Richard Kuklewicz suggested that Wormer approach the planter committee and familiarize himself with the newly approved "planter guidelines."

He also noted that some of the current planter sponsors might want to make use of Wormer's services.

Nelson agreed that Wormer should contact the planter committee, although it was noted that the committee had not yet chosen a "planter coordinator."

Other News

Suzanne LoManto, the director of Turners Falls RiverCulture, sought and obtained permission for the use of several public properties for the annual "It's A Wonderful Night" in Turners Falls Celebration. These included the use of Spinner Park, Avenue A, and Third Street for street musicians, and the same two streets for "luminaries." The event will take place on the evening of December 11.

The board then took up the issue of setting annual license fees, which had been put aside at a previous meeting pending more data from other towns.

Nelson stated he was not a "big fan" of increasing the fees much: "It's ridiculous that Deerfield charges \$2,300 for an all-alcohol restaurant license, and we're at \$950." He suggested that the fees be increased by 10%, rounded to the nearest 5% increment, as suggested by Richard Kuklewicz.

The board voted to approve the fee schedule.

At the end of the meeting, Bruce Hunter of the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority approached the board to ask them to request an extension from the State for the Fiscal Year 2014 Community Development Block grant.

Hunter said the extension might be needed to complete the housing rehabilitation portion of the grant. The board voted to execute a letter to the state and a program/budget revision form.

The board then retired to an executive session, to discuss litigation regarding the Millers Falls Road/Industrial Boulevard sewer replacement project.

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FOOTBALL from page A1

second-and-7 from the 4. And then he broke loose. The line opened a hole just big enough for him to squeeze through, and he broke through the secondary and was off to the races, sprinting behind his blockers into Green Wave territory with the defense in hot pursuit.

As he reached the 40, Green was closer and as he crossed the 20, they were right on his heels. He was finally stopped on the Green Wave 15, giving Powertown a first down in the Red Zone.

Turners banged ahead three times and got so close to the first down marker that no one was sure if they got it. When the sticks were brought on the field, Turners was short by mere inches: That brought up fourth and inches: a familiar position for Lapointe's Tribe. But as Quinn took the ball, the whistle blew and an illegal-procedure penalty was called. This put Blue in a passing situation, fourth and 6. And as Trevor Mankowsky faded back to pass, he was sacked and Green took over on the 18, spoiling Turners' opportunity to draw first blood.

The Green Wave went 3-and-0 on their next possession, and the Tribe took over on their own 43, but after getting 2 first downs, they

were again forced to punt.

Jalen Sanders' punt went far and deep, and bouncing into the end zone for a touchback.

The Wave took the ball at the 20, and on third and 3, their QB dropped back to pass. When no one was open, he ran the ball to the 31, and earned a fresh set of downs.

After another QB-keeper, Green got another first down on the Blue 43. And then they got 4 more yards and had a second-and-6 from the Blue 39.

That's when the game changed.

Although the Greenfield defense had been able to keep Quinn Doyle out of the end zone on offense, they couldn't stop him from scoring on D. The Greenfield quarterback faded back and passed the ball. Quinn got in the way of the throw, and the ball bounced off his chest. He reached out and grabbed it in his fingertips, reeled it in, reversed direction and began sprinting downfield.

The Green players who were on the other side of the scrimmage line, drew a bead on him. Doyle put on the jets and hugged the sideline as the Wave pursued him. They finally caught up to him in Greenfield territory, but Quinn came to a full stop and let the tackler run out of

bounds. Then he picked up speed and scored the first touchdown of the morning.

Tyler Lavin added the PAT, and the Tribe took the lead 7-0 with 2:15 left in the half.

No matter how good Turners is or much of a favorite they are, Greenfield always seems to play Powertown hard in Thee Game. 2015 was no exception. Greenfield ran a series of quarterback keepers, sneaks and bootlegs on their next possession, and marched down the entire field, knotting the score at 7 with 43 seconds left on the clock.

Second Half

After the Blue D stopped Greenfield on the first series of the second half, Turners fumbled the ball away, and Green took possession on the Blue 28. They ran more bootlegs and play-action-fakes, and at 3:04 of the third quarter, their quarterback crossed the goal line and Greenfield took their first lead of the game. But the kick failed and the gap remained 6 points.

Turners answered on their next possession. Down by 6, playing with a new determination, Powertown marched from their own 28 all the way into the Green end zone. Quinn Doyle got the touch and Ty-

ler Lavin added the extra point and the Tribe retook the lead, 14-13, going into the very last quarter of the year.

Not to be outdone, Greenfield put their own drive together in the fourth. Starting on their own 47, Green banged deep into Turners' territory. But in what would become the key play of the game, Powertown stopped them on fourth and 4 at the Blue 17. The Tribe took over on the 15 but were unable to chew enough of the clock and gave the ball back to Greenfield with a minute 9 left in the game.

With 53 seconds left, starting on their own 16, Greenfield was forced to pass. They managed to get some yardage, but an Owen Ortiz sack, a pass broken up by Jalen Sanders, and another Ortiz sack ended the game.

So the Turners Falls Football Indians won the 2015 Turkey Day Game. But in the long run, the victory's not that important. What is important is seeing people you haven't seen for years, and people you may never see again; eating a feast with loved ones; playing football in the street; and recounting the game with those who had to stay at home and listen to it on the radio while they prepared the feast.

Quinn Doyle had a career day

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and was named the MVP of the game. He gained 215 yards on the ground, 62 on his pick-six, and scored 2 touchdowns.

Jalen Sanders had 61 yards on the ground, and fielded 3 kickoffs for 42 more yards. Jack Darling rounded out the running game with 11 yards. Trevor Mankowsky was 1 for 3 under center for 10 yards and Tyler Lavin kicked two crucial extra points.

On the Defensive side of the ball, John Driscoll made 11 solo tackles. Tahner Castine had 8. Colby Dobias, Sanders and Doyle each had 4 solo tackles.

Tionne Brown, Darling, Will Roberge, Reilan Castine, Nick Croteau, Owen Ortiz, Mankowsky and Akeeva Forcier also had tackles for the Blue D. Sanders had a sack, Ortiz had 2 sacks, and Doyle had an interception for a touchdown.



NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

A 10% Sewer Rate Hike for Riverside

By AIDAN BELANGER

This Monday, the Gill selectboard held a hearing about proposed new sewer rates. A couple of Gill residents came to the selectboard meeting to voice their positions.

Linda Welcome of Riverside brought up the issue that she had a pool, and was worried her expenses would be jacked up by the new sewer rates. In past years, she said, she had filed for an abatement due to her pool water not being a part of the sewer system, but was rejected due to backwash.

Selectboard member Randy Crochier responded that there are special procedures for those with pools that do exempt them from the added expenses of those pools.

A solution to her dilemma was provided by Jeff Suprenant, a commissioner of the Riverside Water District. He said that by calling the water commission and having them check the meters before and after backwash, a pool owner could be eligible for an abatement.

Sewer bills in the district are calculated based on water meters, and Suprenant said that a few years ago, several properties with their own wells, including the Wagon Wheel, installed meters on those wells to make a more accurate calculation.

Town administrative assistant Ray Purington responded to this saying the increased revenue from that establishment had already gone into effect. With this, selectboard member John Ward said the numbers are not skewed by this new info.

The volume of wastewater pumped from Riverside to Montague has for some time far exceeded the amount of water coming in from Greenfield. Gill has been unable to locate the source of all the extra water. This was brought up at Monday's meeting, and selectboard chair Gregory Snedeker, Ward, and another community member voiced

skepticism toward the measurements, recorded in Riverside.

Ward said he believed that it was within Gill's bounds to call Montague and ask for a second meter on the other side of the river to verify the volume sent over, due to the seriousness of the rise in sewer rates. The board tasked Purington with calling Montague to propose this.

The board then asked the audience what they felt about the new sewer rates, and which of the proposed rates they thought should be used. Community members responded that they believed that what the board felt needed to be done would be the best option.

The board deliberated for some time.

Snedeker asked whether rates could "scale up" — meaning starting the increase at around 6%, then raising it more the next year. The board decided that would not be an effective solution.

Ward then proposed a 10% overall increase, and the board approved it.

Community Development Grants

Bruce Hunter from the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) visited the selectboard to review the board's draft of the town's Community Development Strategy, and explain criteria and benefits for certain possible projects.

Gill is the lead town for a three-town Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application, along with Bernardston and Rowe, submitted by the HRA. The two main projects discussed were housing assistance and rehabilitation.

Hunter went on to say that seven Gill homeowners are on the waiting list for housing rehabilitation funds, and that another 3 applicants could prequalify before the HRA submits an application for future rounds of CDBG funding. The HRA has sent

out a questionnaire in an effort to find eligible residents. To apply, call 863-9781 x133.

A public hearing will be held at the town hall on Monday, December 14 at 6 p.m. to solicit further input on Gill's CDBG application. There is a proposal to include a fuel assistance program in the upcoming application. The snow date is December 28.

Siren Passed On

As per government procedures, the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant will no longer need to test or maintain its emergency preparedness siren. The plant is offering to donate that siren to the town of Gill.

The selectboard decided that the siren would not be useful enough to justify its cost, and thus motioned to give it to Northfield Mount Hermon.

Other News

The hires of firefighter Jonathan Vega and junior firefighter Jonathan LaClaire were approved by the selectboard.

The safety complex roof currently has five roof drains. With so many, architects believe adding scupper drains won't improve the building.

The treatment system proposed for the Gill Elementary School's well was deliberated. The total cost of installing the system, which includes ultraviolet lights (for coliform bacteria), green sand filtration (for manganese), and a special septic system for handling the backwash from the sand filter, has now been estimated at \$182,000.

This figure was seen as large by the selectboard. The town has been planning to pay for the apparatus by a combination of a USDA grant and a USDA loan.

There is \$12,000 left in the Green Community Grant, and the selectboard is deliberating what to spend that money on.

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Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors and children, free age 4 and under, families of 4 or 5 pay \$40
Tickets available at Jones Library in Amherst, Broadside Books in Northampton, World Eye Bookshop in Greenfield or buy at the door.

For information and reservations
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By Accident?

GREENFIELD – The December 5 session of Racial Justice Rising's free program series will be a workshop on racism in public schools with Dr. Mulazimuddin Rasool.

This interactive presentation, *Education or Miseducation? By Accident or Design?*, will be held at the First Congregational Church, 43 Silver Street in Greenfield, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Doors open at 9:30. Admission is free; donations are welcome.

The program is organized by Racial Justice Rising. For more information or to reserve childcare: email@racialjusticerising.org or www.racialjusticerising.org.



MONTAGUE REPORTER

ON THE ROAD

Bucket, Yuk Mouth, and their service animal Spider are seen enjoying the Montague Reporter while on vacation recently in Avon, Indiana.

*Going somewhere? Take us with you!
Send your photos to editor@montaguereporter.org.*

TOWN OF MONTAGUE
NOTICE OF INFORMATIONAL MEETING:
FY 2016 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) APPLICATION

The Town of Montague will hold an informational meeting on **Monday, December 14, 2015 at 7:10 p.m.** in the Selectmen's Meeting Room, second floor, at the Montague Town Hall, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA.

The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss and solicit public response to the Town of Montague's FY 2016 Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant application to the Department of Housing and Community Development. **Local citizens are requested to attend and propose activities** which the Town should apply for in this application. The town is considering applying for the Ave A Phase Two pedestrian lighting, housing rehabilitation, and social service programs.

The Town of Montague will contract with the Franklin County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) to administer the Community Development Block Grant Program. The HRA will be available to discuss the application process. The Town wishes to encourage local citizens to attend the meeting where any person or organization wishing to be heard will be afforded the opportunity.
The Town of Montague is an equal opportunity provider.

Board of Selectmen, Town of Montague

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OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER

DECEMBER 3, 2015

DRIVE THE DARK AWAY AT WELCOME YULE

By NINA ROSSI

TURNERS FALLS – Enterprising community members have prepared “Welcome Yule” shows for thirty-one years in a row. This popular event, hosted by the Shea Theater in Turners Falls for the past 25 years, uses music and dance to “drive the dark away” and hail the return of gradually longer days after the solstice. The “Yule” is the longest night of the year, and is marked by fun,

dance, and storytelling in traditional Anglo-Saxon culture.

Three performances are scheduled: Friday and Saturday, December 11 and 12, at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, December 13 at 2 p.m.

Every rendition of this modified pagan celebration revolves around a different theme, one proposed by various members of the cast and crew, who then become artistic directors in charge of turning the idea into

see **YULE** page B5



NINA ROSSI PHOTO

Sailors rehearse their shanty songs under the direction of Bill Venman.

A Treasured Holiday Ritual

By CALEB WETHERBEE

NORTHFIELD – Each generation passes its treasured family traditions and rituals on to the next, and the December holidays offer up an abundance of these. This is the story of one of my own family’s treasured rituals.

First, some quick background: my dad was a “beat poet.” A real one. In Greenwich village in the late 1950s, he read his poems over the improvised noodlings of a jazz guitarist, and passed a basket through the audiences for whatever

er funds could be raised from the small crowds.

These ‘Beat’ venues featured short acts – poets like my dad, comedians, odd acts like the ukelele playing Larry Love (who later changed his name to Tiny Tim), and folk singers like the young Robert Zimmerman, who soon took a stage name borrowed from the Welsh poet Dylan Thomas and became Bob Dylan.

Bob Dylan liked Dylan Thomas. My dad LOVED Dylan Thomas, and thus, as I grew up

see **WALES** page B4

MONTAGUE’S NEW CLAIRVAUX ARTS AND CRAFTS SOCIETY

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### PART I: WHERE THERE IS NO VISION...

By JERI MORAN and MIKE JACKSON

**MONTAGUE** – Those who have lived in the area for some time know that it has been the site of attempts to create alternative communities of like-minded folks. In living memory, these include the Montague Farm commune, an anchor house for back-to-the-land radicals on the Leverett border, and the Renaissance Community, a roving society of hundreds of spiritual seekers who occupied much of downtown Turners Falls at their peak in membership.

To their neighbors in the 1960s and ‘70s, these groups seemed unusual and were sometimes alarming, though they always made good material for conversation. But while they may have seemed novel, their arrival should not have been surprising: rural New England and upstate New York have a deep history of utopian efforts. Idealists, or else weirdos, of every generation have seized on this or that patch of out-of-the-way land to incubate their alternative ideas in the practice of a simpler life.

In the early 1840s, Transcendentalists, Universalists, socialists and abolitionists established agrarian communes at places like Brook Farm (West Roxbury), Fruitlands (Harvard), and Hopedale.

In this era, a group calling itself the Northampton Association of Education and Industry raised silkworms on mulberry trees in Florence and spun them into silk in Leeds, hoping to provide a textile that could replace cotton

for those who would boycott the slave trade. Sojourner Truth joined this commune, which in its heyday boasted 120 members.

A generation later, different ideas permeated through to the countryside. America was beginning to recover from the traumas of the Civil War, and socialist utopians pinned their hopes for a better world on the restive working class of the Northern industrial cities.



E. P. Pressey

Right here at Lake Pleasant, starting in 1874, the New England Spiritualist Campmeeting Association held a summer camp for those who sought to communicate with the souls of the departed. The National Spiritual Alliance continues to carry its torch to this day.

But many readers may not be familiar with another attempt to create an alternative community, a generation later, in Montague Center: the New

Clairvaux Arts and Crafts Society.

New Clairvaux was the brainchild of Edward Pearson Pressey, who arrived in town in 1900 with a strong desire to create a community that integrated intellect, character, craft and culture with the “land.” A Harvard-educated Unitarian minister, Pressey was influenced by the works of the English writers John Ruskin and William Morris, social critics who sought to reform society around an aesthetic vision that rejected mass, industrial production.

In the decade or so that New Clairvaux existed in one form or another, its members produced, or encouraged others loosely connected to the movement to produce, furniture, candles, embroidery, baskets, weaving, thread dyes, and products from the farms, as well as a journal that documented their work and ideals.

In his 2008 dissertation “Transcendentalism and the Crisis of Self in American Art and Culture, 1830-1939,” Jonathan Clancy writes that “Pressey’s community stressed the redemptive powers of a connection to the land and the handicrafts. [It was] intended to be self-supporting but not necessarily profitable; the community was short-lived.”

As we will see, Pressey’s vision was unique, and sometimes in flux. Some people may recognize his name from his book; in 1910 he wrote the *History of Montague: A Typical Puritan Town*, which is still available. Unfortunately, he never wrote his own history, so it is with a patch-quilt of resources

see **CLAIRVAUX** page B5

## PAINTINGS BY MARI ROVANG AT THE WENDELL FREE LIBRARY

By RICHARD BALDWIN

**WENDELL** – Mari Rovang of Warwick exhibits nine oil paintings at the Wendell Free Library during the months of November and December. The paintings present a wide range of contrasting pictorial elements.

Edge treatment varies from sharp to soft, colors run the gamut from cool to warm, and there is a wide range of values from black to almost white. The medium size works are simply presented, with many beautifully framed by her husband, Howard Mathieson.

Mari has a long history of being involved in creative work. After majoring in art in college, she worked professionally in theater in Minneapolis. After moving to Massachusetts she worked at Main Street Millwork, Greenfield, and then worked in mediation services.

During this time she painted intermittently. Since retiring in 2011, Mari has been studying with Penne Krol at Greenfield Community College’s Art Department, and spending more time painting.

Though her primary theme has been landscapes she has recently begun doing figurative work as well.

In her artist statement, Mari writes about her process of making a painting. “I often use photographs as a reference point. I omit some aspects of a photo, or compact/expand sections

of photographs in order to make the composition work. I typically depart from the photograph once I get the basics on canvas, so that the painting becomes the point.”

One element all the paintings share is Mari’s painterly approach to image making. She applies paint in a loose manner, with brush strokes plainly visible. In some, the brush marks of underpainting show through.

Details often are only suggested, for example the buildings in the Norway painting “Sognefjord, Norway” and the trees and foliage in all the works. The edges of shapes are frequently softened, resulting in

cloud-like shapes that seem to move or vibrate.

This treatment results in lively images which mirror the vitality we experience in nature.

Compositions are quite varied. In the two Moore’s Pond paintings horizontal areas dominate, lighting and the sky takes up about one quarter of the space at the top with water forming a solid foreground. The November Pond painting is almost monochromatic except for subtle greens in the pine trees at the back of the pond. In the other the warmth

see **ROVANG** page B4



THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

## Giving Thanks

By LESLIE BROWN

**MONTAGUE CITY** – On Thanksgiving we head south to Rhode Island. About a hundred miles away, it is even warmer than here at home. In the late morning we take a walk to the local pond while the family assembles and the turkey finishes up.

There is a strong breeze there beside the pond, but it is from the south and brings no bite. The ducks and seagulls gather, as does a pair of mute swans.

Back at the house, appetites whetted, we help to set out the appetizers. I struggle to make the gravy at the already overcrowded corner of the stove. We set up the buffet table so that everyone can make their own plate of turkey and gravy, stuffing, turnip, green beans, potato, squash and several kinds of cranberry.

Ten of us sit at the long table of

special dishes, silverware and glasses. We range in age from eighty-nine to fifty, as the young ones are working.

One of my favorites is the last of Ken’s aunts. She is almost ninety and an amazing woman, full of energy and a wonderful, good humored attitude despite the fact that she sees most of us and everything else around her in a blurry form because of her advanced macular degeneration. Her laughter rings out often.

We take a breather before dessert, and a niece and I take on the dish washing. I breathe a silent thanks for being close with this family, although I am hardly a blood relation. Sure, like any family group there are those closer with some than others, but on this day which focuses on all that we have to be thankful for, any rifts are set aside.

When darkness begins to fall, it is still so balmy that someone lights

see **GARDENER’S** page B8



MARI ROVANG PHOTO

Moore’s Pond After the Storm.

# Pet of the Week



**“RUFUS”**

Rufus came to Dakin when his person became ill and was unable to care for him anymore.

He has a history of liking children; however, he has never lived with any, so we would like to have everyone meet each other first to get everyone started off on the right foot.

While he was not house-trained in his previous home, we have not seen any accidents here, and believe that he would learn very quickly. He loves to play fetch with a tennis ball.

He is relatively quiet and mellow for being as young as he is, as well as for a terrier.

Contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or at [info@dpvhs.org](mailto:info@dpvhs.org).

# Pet of the Week Success Story!

When we featured these long-haired siblings (right) in our October 15 edition, it turned out to be perfect timing for them to find Turners Falls reader Ken Lavelle.

Mr. Lavelle's cat Hobbes had recently disappeared, and a cat-owning family member had also just moved out, leaving his home suddenly short exactly two cats.

"We were starting to get nervous as most humans passed by us to ooobb and abbb over those damn kittens," the cats wrote in a letter the Reporter received during our Thanksgiving break. "Our human is turning out okay for a curmudgeon.... At a neighbor's suggestion he's even started brushing us!"

They also testify that they are being well fed.

It made us feel great to hear from Stella and Bella. We support

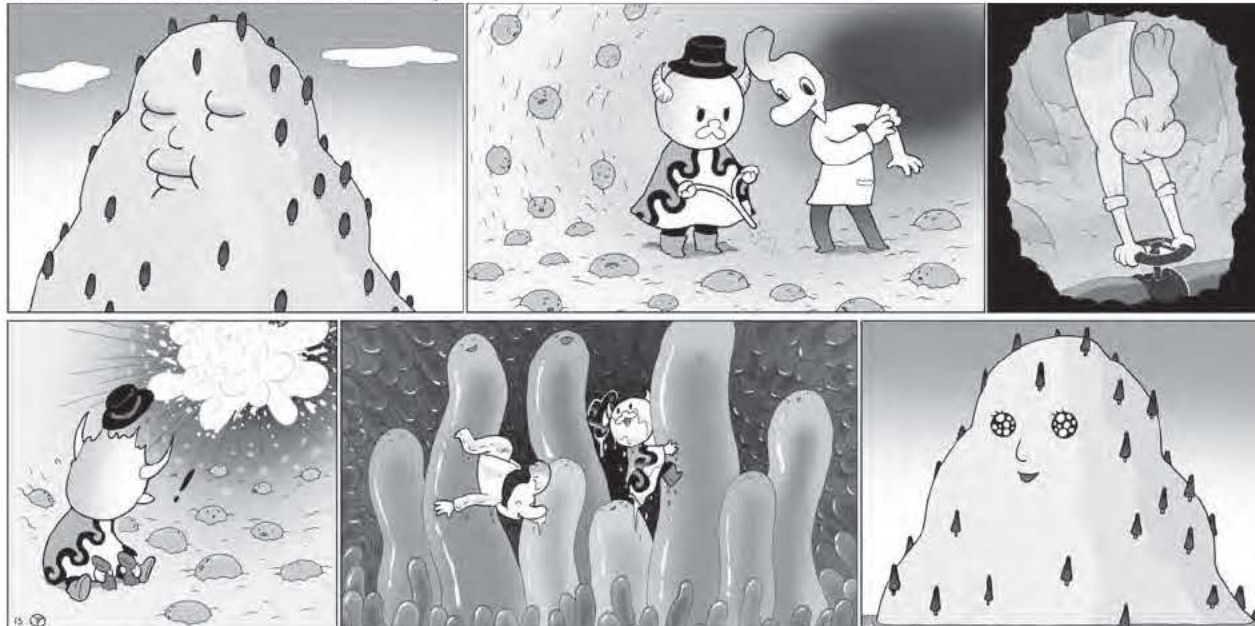
# “STELLA & BELLA”



the work of the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society and are always happy to feature a Pet of the Week, but sometimes we do wonder if any of them are finding their way into our readers' lives.

Do you have a Pet of the Week success story? Let us know! Write to us at 177 Avenue A in Turners Falls.

## WEIRD HEALING by OVERTURE



Overture is based in Shelburne Falls. Check out [opertura.org](http://opertura.org).



By FRED CICETTI

*Q. I had to have some minor surgery on my foot and I want to get a cane. What kind should I get?*

This is a question that opens up the whole subject of mobility aids, the icons of aging. We'll discuss canes in this column and save crutches, walkers, wheelchairs and scooters for the future.

First, get a cane that fits. Let your arm hang at your side. The top of your cane should line up with your wrist. You can get an adjustable cane that can be expanded from about 31 inches 40 inches in 1-inch increments. With your cane in your hand, the bend in your elbow should be about 30 degrees.

There are many styles of canes. The old reliable "Crook Cane" is still very popular. Offset canes put your weight more directly over the shaft and are usually adjustable. There are also folding canes that are easy to store. Broad-base canes with three or four legs have greater stabil-

## THE HEALTHY GEEZER

# Yes, We Cane.

ity and are good for people with balance problems. In addition, there are canes that come with folding seats.

Decide upon a material. Wood canes are light, resilient and inexpensive. Aluminum canes are durable, adjustable and foldable. Graphite and fiberglass are very light and exceptionally strong; they're also comparatively expensive.

Choose a handle that feels good in your hand. Try different ones. They come in many materials and shapes. You might like a foam grip or one that's molded to fit your hand. If you experience any numbness or pain in your hand, choose a different grip.

Check the weight limit. Typical canes can hold about 250 lbs. Some slimmer canes are limited to about 175 lbs. And there are canes made that will bear up to 500 lbs.

When you walk with a cane, hold it in the hand opposite the side that needs support.

The cane and your "bad" leg should hit the ground at the same time.

To climb stairs, step up on your good leg first. Then step up on the injured leg with the cane supporting you opposite the injured leg. To go down stairs, put your cane on the step first, then your injured leg, and finally the good leg.

The tip of your cane should have a tread that gives you traction wherever you go. You don't want one with a

tip (or tips) that is worn out. Walking with a cane that doesn't grip the road is like driving a car with bald tires.

If you begin to use a cane, here are some tips to prevent injuries around the house:

- Keep the items you need handy and everything else out of the way.
- Remove scatter rugs and tuck away electrical cords.
- Clear floors where you walk.
- In your bathroom, put down non-slip bath mats and install grab bars.
- Wear rubber-soled, low-heeled shoes.
- Always hold the handrails on stairways.
- Put night lights and light switches close to your bed.
- Insure that every room in your home has a light switch near the entrance.
- Use bright bulbs in your home.
- Keep your telephone near your bed. During the day, keep a portable phone with you so you won't have to walk to answer it.
- Use a shoulder bag, fanny pack, or backpack to leave hands free.
- Check curb heights before stepping down.
- When entering rooms, look for differences in floor levels.

If you would like to ask a question, write to [fred@healthygeezzer.com](mailto:fred@healthygeezzer.com).

## Senior Center Activities December 7 to 11

### GILL and MONTAGUE

Gill / Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at noon. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11 a.m.

All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted. Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. Kitchen Manager is Jeff Suprenant. For more information, to make meal reservations, or to sign up for programs call 863-9357. Messages can be left on our machine when the Center is closed.

**Tues, Wed & Thurs Noon Lunch**

**Monday 12/7**  
10:10 a.m. Aerobics  
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise  
1 p.m. Knitting Circle

**Tuesday 12/8**  
9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga  
Noon Lunch  
1 p.m. Cookies & Carols

**Wednesday 12/9**  
10:10 a.m. Aerobics  
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise  
11:15 a.m. Friends' Meeting

Noon Birthday Lunch  
12:45 p.m. Bingo

**Thursday 12/10**  
9 a.m. Tai Chi, Veterans Outreach  
10 a.m. Coffee & Conversation  
Noon Lunch

1 p.m. Cards & Games  
**Friday 12/11**

Reflexology by Appointment  
10:10 a.m. Aerobics  
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise  
1 p.m. Writing Group

### WENDELL

Wendell Senior Center is at 2 Lockes Village Road. Call Nancy Spittle, (978) 544-6760, for hours and upcoming programs. Call the Center for a ride.

### ERVING

Erving Senior Center, 1 Care Drive, Erving, is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for activities and congregational meals.

Lunch is at 11:30 a.m., with reservations required 24 hours in advance. Call the Mealsite Manager at 423-3308 for meal information and reservations.

For information, call Paula Beters, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3649. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity.

Call to confirm activities, schedule a ride, or find out about the next blood pressure clinic.

**Monday 12/7**  
9 a.m. Tai Chi  
10 a.m. Osteo Exercise

**Tuesday 12/8**  
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics  
9 a.m. Quilting

10 a.m. Stretching & Balance  
12:45 p.m. Jewelry Class

**Wednesday 12/9**  
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing  
10 a.m. Chair Yoga

Noon Bingo, Snacks  
**Thursday 12/10**  
8:45 Aerobics

10 a.m. Healthy Bones  
**Friday 12/11**  
9 a.m. Quilting Class

9:30 a.m. Bowling  
11:30 a.m. Pizza  
12:30 Painting Class (moved)

### LEVERETT

For information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022, ext. 5, or [coa@leverett.ma.us](mailto:coa@leverett.ma.us).

Flexibility and Balance Chair Yoga – Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$6 (first class free). Senior Lunch – Fridays at noon. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.

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moonandmiro.eventbrite.com

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Contact: mirosprague@gmail.com

## Would You Like Some Words With That?

**GILL** – Wagon Wheel Word Poetry open mic will feature Vermont Poet Laureate Chard deNiord next Monday, December 7. We had a smoking hot open mic last month and are sure to have another, so bring your own work and join in the show, and our featured reader is not to be missed!

Come hungry and feed your body and your yearning for art.

Chard deNiord is the new Vermont Poet Laureate. The author of five books of poetry: *Interstate*, *The Double Truth*, *Night Mowing*, *Sharp Golden Thorn* and *Asleep in the Fire*.

He teaches English and Creative Writing at Providence College, where he is Professor of English and Creative Writing.

He is also the author of a book

of essays and interviews with seven senior American poets: Lucille Clifton, Ruth Stone, Jack Gilbert, Maxine Kumin, Robert Bly, Galway Kinnell, Donald Hall titled *Sad Friends, Drowned Lovers, Stapled Songs, Conversations and Reflections on 20th Century American Poets*. In 2001, he cofounded the New England College MFA Program in Poetry, where he worked as the program director until 2007. He lives in Westminster West, Vermont with his wife Liz.

The Wagon Wheel is at 39 French King Highway (Route 2). Word Poetry takes place at 6 p.m. on Monday, December 7. Looking forward to seeing you then!

For more info please contact Eric Wasileski: [Ericwasileski@gmail.com](mailto:Ericwasileski@gmail.com).

## The "Angel Tree"

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

**GREENFIELD** – The Salvation Army does a program called the Angel Tree, which is called its "highest profile Christmas effort". The creation of the program happened in 1979 by a couple named Charles and Shirley White, who was working in a shopping mall in Lynchburg, Virginia, to provide toys and clothing for children.

It's called the Angel Tree because this couple along with working at the Army, asked local children to write their wishes for desired gifts on Hallmark greeting cards that had pictures of angels on them. These cards went on a tree, and then shoppers were able to pick who they wanted to get a gift for.

The first year this was done by the Whites, "more than 700 children had a brighter Christmas." Three years after that, the Whites were transferred by the Salvation Army to Nashville, Tennessee. There the tree got launched in what is called Music City. WSM Radio, which airs the Grand Ole Opry, became the first co-sponsor of the program in the U.S. An on-air promotion at the Nashville station, and national outlets like CNN and the Larry King covering the event led to the whole thing going across "the country like wildfire."

Salvation Army volunteers hand out the gifts and meals for families who have signed up for the Angel tree and the holiday meal program. People who have volunteered to do it in the past are employees of sponsoring organizations and their family members.

Each Paper Angel has on it the first name, age, and gender of a child in need of presents, whose families applied for help with celebrating Christmas through the Salvation Army's social services program. The sign-up for the Angel Tree also includes getting clothing's sizes. Each angel has a code number which matches the one on the paperwork for the sign up done for this program, and all the children in a family have the same code number.

I learned through a phone call to a Salvation Army Center in Greenfield that in Western Mass, "it's going on at the banks: two branches in Greenfield, one in South Deerfield, one in Northfield, and one in Turners Falls."

This program, which will be going on until December 11, has a lovely amount of appeal to it. A lady named Alice Cowan has done it. Even a volunteer (and "soldier" of the Salvation Army) named Julie has done the angel tree. She says "it's neat because it helps kids get what they want for Christmas."

"It's a good thing," said Russ Johnson, who said he would do it. "It gets some toys for families who can't otherwise afford it. Money might be a bit of an issue, but a young man named John said I would if I could, whatever I could afford."

The Angel Tree is entering its 36th Christmas season, and is likely going to go on for more Christmas seasons after this due to amount of time that it has been around. The children getting the gifts that come from the tree will definitely enjoy that!

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

## Stargazers Suspect; First Frost; Dogs, Drivers, Drugs and Downtown Crime

**Monday, 11/16**

2:54 a.m. Caller from Randall Road reporting what she believes was a small pack of wild dogs attacking a small domesticated dog. Caller describes hearing howling from 4-6 dogs, then describes hearing a dog fight a couple of houses down in the rear. Caller did not see any of the dogs or the fight. Copy of call left for animal control officer.

8:31 a.m. Caller from Hillcrest Elementary School reports that an elderly female was struck in the parking lot by a black SUV that left the scene. School nurse later called 911 to request EMS for female, who was having back pain and trouble breathing. Female transported to hospital. Officers located suspect vehicle and spoke to operator. Report taken.

11:05 a.m. DCF caseworker into station to request copies of calls related to dog issues on Second Street and also to speak to the animal control officer.

6:19 p.m. Party from Third Street into station to file stolen property report; believes several items were taken by an officer during the task force search warrant. Officer spoke with party and advised him where his belongings might be and how to go about getting them back.

6:24 p.m. Caller from Lake Pleasant Road advising that the animal control officer has asked her to call the police to document every time the neighbor's dog is on their property. The dog is currently on the caller's porch/deck and attempted to nip another female when she got out of her car to go inside. Copy of call left for animal control officer.

**Tuesday, 11/17**

10:19 a.m. Report of the dog from next door being loose in the caller's yard on Lake Pleasant Road. Animal control officer responding.

10:48 a.m. Caller from Fourth Street reports that a male just assaulted two women. Emergency medical services declined. Male party left on foot; caller advised he may go to the Third Street Laundry, as he hangs out there for wifi.

12 p.m. Caller from Lake Pleasant Road reporting that the neighbor's dog is in her yard. Animal control officer en route again; he did not find the dog on his last trip.

12:18 p.m. Caller from Goddard Avenue reports that he hired a company to do some work at his home, and there were two people who came: an owner and a "helper." Caller looked

out his window and saw the "helper" in the work truck "shooting up." He reported this to the owner, who reportedly fired the helper and kicked him out of the truck. Caller concerned as this party is now hanging around his house. Investigated.

9:50 p.m. Suspicious vehicle on South Ferry Road. Occupants were watching the meteor shower.

**Wednesday, 11/18**

9:09 a.m. Cordless drill reported stolen from an unlocked vehicle on H Street overnight. Report taken.

11:01 a.m. Caller from Lake Pleasant Road reporting that the dog she has been calling about was back in her yard again today and tried to bite her dog. Animal control officer will follow up.

8:07 p.m. [redacted] was arrested on two straight warrants and a default warrant.

**Friday, 11/20**

12 p.m. [redacted] was arrested on probable cause for an outside agency.

**Saturday, 11/21**

8:20 a.m. Officers on scene for helicopter landing and army maneuvers at the airport.

2:38 p.m. Caller reports that two boys, 9-10 years old, are playing in the muddy area of the river where the buoys normally are near Unity Park. Officer advised youths that this activity may not be safe. Both stated that their parents were aware and had given permission for them to be in this area.

5:16 p.m. [redacted] was arrested and charged with unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle and having an unregistered motor vehicle.

6:42 p.m. Caller reports that she has been receiving calls all day from an "unavailable" number. Caller tells her that there is something wrong with her computer. On the last call, she told the caller that she did not have a computer, and he started yelling things of a sexual nature at her. Advised of options.

**Sunday, 11/22**

12:58 p.m. Caller from Federal Street reports she has caught what she thinks is a 6 month old German Shorthair puppy; she advises it was attacking some of her chickens. Unsure if any chickens were injured or killed. Animal control officer retrieved dog and brought her to the kennel. Owner later called looking for dog. Animal control officer advised.

2:47 p.m. Caller reports that someone has left a "knife block full of knives" outside CT River Liquor and Wines. Officer notified.

**Monday, 11/23**

11:22 a.m. Caller reporting a suspicious vehicle in a driveway on Fifth Street; he believes the party is involved in drug activity in this location. Caller stated that he has been calling in various suspicious vehicles and people for a year and feels the situation is not being addressed. Caller advised that his concerns and this call would be forwarded to Detective Dempsey.

3:24 p.m. Caller from Turners Falls High School requests an officer to retrieve some "drugs and paraphernalia" from a student who is in the office with the principal and athletic director. Services rendered.

4:12 p.m. Caller from N Street reports that neighbor's dog is in her yard again; ongoing issue. Dog tends to growl at people and has jumped up on the caller's windows before. Referred to animal control officer.

4:37 p.m. Caller complaining of another female party driving the wrong way in the Food City parking lot; other driver did not follow arrows and almost caused an accident with the caller. Both parties spoken to; no further issues.

8:40 p.m. Report of two male parties fighting in Fifth Street alleyway. Gone on arrival.

**Tuesday, 11/24**

1:11 a.m. Caller reports constant loud noise emanating from area near intersection of Turners Falls Road and Dell Street. Officer located source of noise: a pickup truck horn sounding for no apparent reason. Situation rectified.

5:56 a.m. Vehicle pulled over for defective taillight; operator reported trouble with frost on windshield. Advises he just moved from California, where they do not have frost.

1:36 p.m. Several packages reported stolen from doorstep on Second Street. Advised of options.

4:05 p.m. Party into lobby to report that his shop on Third Street has been robbed twice recently. Report taken.

4:59 p.m. Caller from Central Street advises that her neighbor brought home a broken down truck which is now stalled and smoking in the middle of the street. Caller does not feel safe with this situation. Officer and TFFD advised. FD advised vehicle is not on fire but is leaking gasoline; they will be taking care of it.

**Wednesday, 11/25**

10:04 a.m. Report of a potentially injured goose on Montague City Road. Caller provided with number for environmental police dispatch.

11:24 a.m. Officer spoke

with panhandler in front of Rite Aid and explained the town laws regarding loitering and public nuisance. Subject was very cooperative.

12:19 p.m. Report of a vehicle speeding up and down Central Street. Caller yelled to driver to slow down, and driver responded "So noted." Officer advised.

9:10 p.m. Caller reporting on behalf of Ce Ce's delivery driver that a male party on Fourth Street took his food order without paying. Driver then chased party around before he ran up to the second floor apartment. Male threatened to stab the driver when chasing him. Officers advised and on lookout for male party.

**Thursday, 11/26**

1:57 a.m. Caller reports that his jacket, car keys, and cell phone were stolen from Between the Uprights earlier. Phone tracked to an address on Montague City Road. Report taken.

2:56 a.m. Report of a possible fire on Dry Hill Road; caller requesting to know how to put out "oil that is on fire." State police contacted to send MCFD; MedCare notified to stage. PD arrived on scene and advised flames showing from one window. Residents evacuated. Most area fire departments on scene; DPW, Eversource, and Board of Health requested. 6 tenants will need assistance. State fire marshal's office en route and investigating.

**Friday, 11/27**

12:06 p.m. Multiple reports of hunters shooting at geese close to the bike path. Hunters were not within 150' of a road or 500' of a dwelling; however, officers will be looking into the legality of hunting in this area due to the obvious potential hazard.

4:32 p.m. Caller, property manager of Dry Hill Road location damaged by fire, requesting to turn in a firearm that was recovered in one of the tenants' apartments. Also received additional information from tenants about events before fire.

8:22 p.m. Report of breaking and entering on Fourth Street. Report taken.

**Saturday, 11/28**

12:11 p.m. Report of suspicious vehicle and possible drug activity on Fifth Street. Referred to an officer.

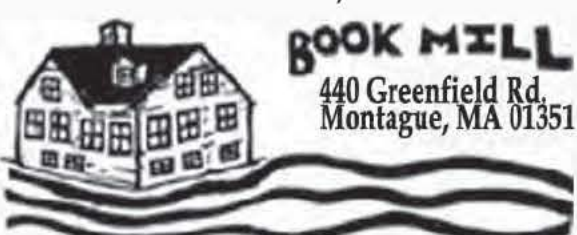
6:34 p.m. [redacted], 2, of Montague was arrested on a probation warrant.

**Sunday, 11/29**

11:40 a.m. Caller from North Street complaining of a skunk in her yard in the daytime, which she feels is unusual. Gone on arrival.

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**WALES** from page B1

through the 1960s and '70s, my family's annual Christmas rites required a reading of Thomas's *A Child's Christmas in Wales*.

All was merry with this ritual until the year 1970, when I was 8. At 8 years old, Santa Claus had been long outed as a cruel hoax, and sentimentality was for lesser third graders.

It was December 23, 1970 when I loudly declared that Dylan Thomas was stupid, and that I saw no reason to sit and listen to such childish nonsense. I was having none of it! There was the serious business of shaking presents and indulging in greedy, anticipatory speculation. Literature was for chumps.

There were stern adult tones followed by sniveling and grumbling, but eventually a deal was struck. We would forgo the Christmas chapters from *The Silver Skates* and *The Wind in the Willows...* but there would be a reading of *A Child's Christmas in Wales*. Sit and endure!

And so, with a heavy sigh along with an exasperated eye-roll, an 8-year-old boy in a tiny 4-room apartment in Jaffrey, New Hampshire sat to grudgingly tolerate yet another reading of Dylan Thomas's classic yarn. At its conclusion, dad went to his desk, picked up a pen and left the room.

Fast forward a few years. I'm a young adult living in sin with my girlfriend in San Francisco. We're broke — really broke. I've been busking on Beach Street but making just small change, working as a part time doorman and eventually landing a part-time job at McDonald's. But it's really meager. We manage to make rent, but not much else.

And now looms our first Christmas away from family — 3,000 miles away. There will be none of the usual rituals, we're sure. Christmas, we expect, will be token gifts for each other and a collect call home from a phone booth to offer our Merrys and optimistically exaggerate our prospects.

But to our delight, on December 23 of that year, a large box is delivered. It's packed with wrapped presents! Thank you dad!

That was the Christmas that Santa Claus came UPS. I remem-

ber none of the gifts from that year. None, that is, with the exception of the last one opened. A copy — no, THE copy of *A Child's Christmas in Wales*.

I opened the cover and there on the title page was a dated message. It read:

*12-23-1970. Caleb, Someday you will read this book and remember when you were 8 years old. Love, Dad.*

That was the first year I read that book aloud. I have read it aloud to somebody every year since.

You may hear it read aloud this year during a special holiday program presented by **Silverthorne Theater Company**. Along with the reading will be a performance of Celtic holiday harp music presented by Piper Pichette (The Pied Harpist), followed by a Holiday Story Slam, when audience members will vie for prizes for telling the best holiday tale as determined by audience vote.

Featured in the reading are David Rowland, co-founder of Silverthorne Theater and veteran Valley director and actor. Joining him is Marvin Shedd, actor and active member of the Fall Town String Band.

The event is scheduled for **7:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 12**, at the Centennial House Bed & Breakfast at 94 Main Street, Northfield. It will be repeated **Sunday, December 13, at 2 p.m.** in the Beehive parlor of The Deerfield Inn, 81 Old Main Street, Deerfield.

The Northfield performance is a featured event in the December 12 "A Special Day in Northfield," when the entire town becomes a festive holiday celebration. Silverthorne Theater actors in Victorian costume will stroll Main Street singing seasonal carols at 12 noon.

Tickets for this fundraiser for Silverthorne Theater's summer season are \$30 for the Northfield performance, and \$35 for the Deerfield event. The ticket price includes holiday treats and beverages.

Seating is limited. Reservations may be made online on the Special Events page at [silverthornetheater.org](http://silverthornetheater.org), or by calling (413) 768-7514.

This event is suitable for adults and children 12 and older.

**ROVANG** from page B1

the solidity of the water and dark tree line.

In the three paintings based on a trip to Norway, the diagonals of the mountain sides dominate the works. Large colored shapes feel like they are almost sliding down the mountains. They present a foil for the center sections which contain a field, buildings and part of a fjord spotlighted by sunlight.

The linear roads add delicate liveliness to these bold paintings. The power of the mountains and the light streaming into the valleys convey a strong sense of place and space. These are especially dramatic paintings.

Two figurative works in the exhibition are based on black and white photographs by Edward Weston (1886 – 1958). In "Blue Nude, Edward Weston" the X shaped composition made by the model's pose creates action in the

centrally placed figure.

The range of color is interesting. The left hand, leg and shoulders are a warm muted yellow; all other areas are a cool blue. A visual surprise is the darker shadowed areas which are painted a more intense blue. Usually this would tend to bring those areas forward but here the figure's pose keeps them back in space.

Mari Rovang has participated in numerous group shows in the area, particularly in the past two years. Please stop by the Wendell Free Library to see this lovely exhibition.

Join us at the artist's reception in the library, Saturday, December 5, 3 to 5 p.m. The exhibit is on view until December 31.

Winter library hours are Tuesdays from noon to 7 p.m., Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Thursdays from 3 to 7 p.m., Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and Sundays from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK**

*Here's the way it was November 23, 2005: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.*

**Montague Selectboard Votes for GCTV**

In a room packed to the rafters, the selectboard voted 2-1 on Monday to give the contract for the town's local cable access programming to Greenfield Community Television. Tension filled the air as those present listen patiently to presentations by the two applicants and to explanations from members of the board who painstakingly outlined the reasons for their individual decisions.

However, because GCTV was asked to agree to certain conditions before accepting the contract and because town meeting must vote to approve the board's decision at a special town meeting on December 7, the process is still ongoing.

Four years ago the selectboard first handed over responsibility for providing local cable ac-

cess to GCTV after deciding that MCCI/MCTV was no longer up to the job. That decision was made against the wishes of a majority of town meeting members, who voted to give the contract to MCCI for two years.

Since that time, MCCI has continued to actively produce programming, hoping the day would come when it could once again serve the town in an official capacity.

**Bringing the Music Back to New Orleans**

One might say that John "Klondike" Koehler is up to his ears in musical instruments — trombones, trumpets, guitars, a tuba, a banjo and even pianos are among the diverse collection he has recently sent south to New Orleans musicians after the devastation of Katrina.

As co-founder of the non-profit organization Katrina's Piano Fund, through which musical instruments are being donated, Koehler has spent the last 11 weeks

connecting instrument donors from around the country with musicians-in-need via the website [www.katrinaspianofund.org](http://www.katrinaspianofund.org).

After the hurricane struck the city, extensive flooding chased Koehler's long-time musician friend Juan LaBostrie from his home. LaBostrie came to Franklin County to regroup.

Their 20-year friendship and collaboration at the annual, seven-day New Orleans Jazz Festival, as well as the Green River Festival in Greenfield, fueled their mutual desire to help Big Easy musicians left bereft after the deluge.

"In our efforts to decide how to respond to the tragedy, we realized the Red Cross and FEMA and the Salvation Army would not be helping musicians get back to work.

"They'd hopefully come up with food, lodging and continued services, but the musicians had lost the tools of their trade and needed to get back to work, wherever they washed up," Koehler said.

**WAYYY BACK: 100 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK**

*Here's the way it was December 1, 1915: News from the Turners Falls Reporter's archive.*

**Auto Death**

Gustav Kohler of Canada Hill died at the North Adams hospital, Thursday, as the result of the injuries received in an automobile accident at North Adams Saturday evening before last. Mr. Kohler was 44 years of age and was an employee of the John Russell Cutlery Co.

He was a native of Switzerland and he had lived in this vicinity for the past 22 years, and in that time made many friends. He was a prominent Herman Son and Harugari and had filled many offices in both lodges. He was also a member of the Turners Falls aerie of Eagles and of the firemen's union.

He is survived by his widow and five sons and four daughters. A mother and 10 sisters who live in Switzerland also survive.

The funeral was held from St. Mary's church Sunday afternoon, Rev. L. J. Purcell officiating. The members of the different organizations of which he was a member attended the funeral.

**New Sluice**

The new dam and sluice for sluicing logs on the Gill side of the

Connecticut river has been completed and the old sluice has been removed. The contractors, the Fred T. Ley company, set the old sluice on fire and it burned until night before it went out. This was considered much the cheaper way to get rid of it as it would have taken a long time to tear it to pieces and then the lumber in it would not have brought much money.

The old sluice has been in use for many years. Many millions of feet of lumber have been sent through it and it has been the center of interest in the summer months, many spectators being always on hand to watch the log drivers at their work.

**Other News**

Leon C. Skinner of Davis street has exchanged his Maxwell automobile for a six-cylinder Hudson.

The Junior Christian Endeavor society of the Baptist church will hold a fair at the church vestry on Friday evening, Dec 3d. Fancy and useful articles will be for sale and attractions for all.

Valley Queen Rebekah lodge will hold their annual sale of fancy articles, aprons, food, etc., in the corner store of the Nevins block on Saturday afternoon, Dec. 4.

Anthony Thaler of Fourth street, while out hunting Thanksgiving day,

received the full charge of his gun in the right arm, when the weapon was accidentally discharged. The muscles of Mr. Thaler's arm were shot to pieces and the member will be useless for some time.

The Ladies' Industrial society of Montague City will hold their annual sale on the afternoon and evening of Thursday, Dec 2d, at Library hall, Montague City. There will be fancy articles, aprons of all kinds and home made candy on sale, also attractions for the children. Supper will be served at 5:45, at 25 cents for adults and 15 cents for children under 12 years of age.

The annual Thanksgiving day game of football between the Greenfield and Turners Falls teams, which was played in Greenfield, Thanksgiving day, was marred by an accident in which James Lonergan, the Turners Falls half-back, had the misfortune to break his leg. He was running with the ball and when tackled fell in such a way that his leg was broken. Greenfield won, 14 to 0.

A party of government engineers and accountants who are taking the inventory of the railroad systems of the United States have been at work in Millers Falls the past week.

Samosett tribe of Red Men will adopt seven palefaces at their regular meeting to-morrow night.

**MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS****High School Football and More**

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

It's the first week of December! Does it feel like it to you?

Next Wednesday, Dec. 11, Turners Falls River Culture will be hosting "It's a Wonderful Night In Turners Falls" — featuring holiday activities for the whole family from 3 to 10 p.m. throughout downtown Turners. More information can be found at [www.turnersfallsriverculture.org/its-a-wonderful-night-in-turners-falls/](http://www.turnersfallsriverculture.org/its-a-wonderful-night-in-turners-falls/).

In the mean time, check out the following videos on a TV near you:

- Turkey Day Football Game 2015: An annual tradition between Turners Falls High School and Greenfield High School. This year Turners Falls came out on top, for a final score of 14-13. Video co-produced with GCTV. 2 hrs, 5 min.
- Montague selectboard, 11/23/15: Agenda items from the selectboard last week included maintenance of downtown Turners by Franklin County Tech students, an extension

to the grant to complete housing rehab and infrastructure activities, and a dangerous dog hearing. 1 hr, 45 min.

Something going on you think others would like to see? Get in touch and learn how easy it is to use a camera and capture the moment!

Contact (413) 863-9200, [infomontaguev@gmail.com](mailto:infomontaguev@gmail.com), or stop by 34 Second Street in Turners between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. We'd love to work with you!

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# GREAT FALLS MIDDLE SCHOOL 1<sup>st</sup> QUARTER HONOR ROLL

## Grade 6:

### First Honors:

Willa Jane Beltrandi  
Jada Jurek  
Britney Lambert  
Jacob Lyons  
Lucy Postera  
Abigail Sanders  
Ivan Sankov  
Olivia Stafford  
Hannah Warnock  
Devin Willor  
Emily Young

### Second Honors:

Cameron Arsenault  
Joshua Brunelle  
Laura Cioclea  
Zebadiah Dodge  
Cassidy Douglas  
Brendan Driscoll  
Zachary Foster  
Caitlyn Jacobsen  
Amos Koyama  
Rebecca Lynn  
Kucenski  
Asha Lewandowski  
Kyle Messinger  
Isaiah Thompson

### Third Honors:

Adyson George  
Anthony Matos

## Grade 7:

### First Honors:

Haley Bastarache

Catherine Bezio

Gabriella Castagna

Dylan Demers

Emily Denison

Jacob Dodge

Isabelle Farrick

Kate Graves

Haleigh Greene

Abigail Hoynoski

Isabella Johnson

Natalie Kells

Mackenzie Martel

Mercedes Morales

Audrey O'Keefe

Karissa Olson

Catherine Reynolds

Lana Spera

Julie Sprankle

Amber Taylor

Brynn Tela

Taryn Thayer

Leah Timberlake

Luke Timberlake

Jade Tyler

Hailey Wheeler

Olivia Whittier

Maralee Wiles

### Second Honors:

Vincent Carme

Austin Demers

Sophia Gobeil

Derek Martin

Starr Morin

Taylor Murphy

Sonjai Rathore

James Robison

Jacob Sak

Emily Sevens

Kolby Watroba

### Third Honors:

Timothy Agapov

Isabella Allen

Ryan Bergmann

Kate Boulanger

Xavier Chagnon

Nicholas Lyons

Dylan McLaughlin

Dalver Perez

Yanle Robles

Hernandez

Juliana Rode

Kelli Schneider

Nicholas White

## Grade 8:

### First Honors:

Cameron Bradley

Jakob Burnett

Karissa Fleming

Joshua Gaulin

Josy Hunter

Eliza Johnson

Joseph Kochan

Madison McCassie

Tucker Millane

Chantelle Monaghan

Alyson Murphy

Dabney Rollins

Lucy Spera

Brody Trott

Abigail Waite

Connor Waitkus

Allison Wheeler

### Second Honors:

Jaeden Ausikaitis

Hailey Bogusz

Dominic Bowden-Smith

Kyle Brunelle

Carson Carlisle

Liam Driscoll

Hailey Jackson

Shelby Jordan

Colby Mailloux

Luke Mayrand

Kaitlyn Miner

Brian Murphy

Jorie Rivera

Hernandez

Kayani Rodriguez

Lucas Upham

Lindsay Whiteman

Lydia Wright

### Third Honors:

Spencer Blair

Julius Brewington

Mirela Cioclea

Ethan Courchesne

Alden Courtemanche

Tracey Johnson

Aspen Keel

Mason Kucenski

Korey Martineau

Brian Poirier

Edward Reipold

Marcus Sanders

Aidan Smith

Mailyn Torres-Benvenutty

Luis Vinton

Mackenna Whiteman

## YULE from page B1

a full fledged evening of entertainment. A large cast of children, teens and adults make costumes, props and sets, gathering together to rehearse for several months in advance.

This year the audience will join revelers in a seaside village as they celebrate the safe return of their fisher folk on the eve of the winter solstice. Nautical songs and a sailors' jig add to the revelries as villagers feast and welcome the return of the light. The setting is the 1820s, during the golden age of sailing ships, in a small village in the British Isles.

The artistic directors are Joan Deely and Jed Proujansky, a married couple who are veteran Welcome Yule participants. There will be ample opportunity to hear and sing along with various sea shanties, fun tunes that once coordinated sailors' labor at the ropes.

Welcome Yule's signature was-sailing songs, carols, puppets, stick dancing and mummers play will be included, along with the passing of the Yule log, the Abbots Bromley Horn Dance, and a retelling of the myth of Halcyon. The cast work on stories, song and dance under musical director Bill Venman, co-founder with wife Sally of the Amherst-based Valley Light Opera Amherst in 1975.

What is a Wassail anyways, one might want to know? The wassail is a drink, roughly equivalent to a beer or a wine but also usually cider-based, that is used to drink to the health of the apple trees. Cider-soaked toast was hung on the branches as a gift to tree spirits and to deter evil ones. Cider might be poured at the base of the tree as well, and chants, incantations, and songs were sung in what amounts to a fertility ritual for one's orchard.

Deely explained that the mummers play, which is a bit of traditional amateur British street theater

involving certain stock characters such as the Turkish Knight, the Doctor, Beelzebub, Saint George and so on, is a skit centered around good v. evil, duality, and resurrection, although the Welcome Yule company likes to put their own contemporary spin on these plays by relating them to current events.

There will also be a bit of what Deely called Molly Dancing, which she described as similar to Morris dancing, but historically performed by agricultural folks to raise food, drink, and money during the lean times of the year. Connected to this type of dance is Plow Monday, when such groups would travel with a plow and employ it on the lawns of those who gave them insufficient donations.

All this Anglo Saxon merrymaking – plus more: dances with elk horns, feasting on fish – can be enjoyed at the Shea Theater next weekend, starting on Friday night, which is also the "It's a Wonderful Night in Turners Falls" downtown holiday celebration.

Admission is \$12; seniors and children \$10; kids under 4 free. There's even a family rate: \$40 for families of four or five.



Joan Deely with catch of the day.

## CLAIRVAUX from page B1

that we try to capture Pressey and his New Clairvaux vision.

### Honest Misfits

Born in 1869, Edward Pearson Pressey had a spartan upbringing on a farm in Salem, New Hampshire. Unlike many of the well-heeled people he would later attract to his ideas, Pressey had to work for several years as a school teacher in Boston to finance his education at Harvard Divinity School, where he graduated in 1893.

While in Boston, Pressey was drawn into circles of social reformers, finding a mentor in Edward Everett Hale, an older Unitarian minister, influential author, and founder of a network of charitable clubs called the Lend-A-Hand society.

As the century drew to an end, America's progressive elites sought to alleviate conditions faced by recent immigrants in teeming urban slums. One model they advanced was "settlement houses," outposts of well-to-do reformers who would live alongside with the poor masses and lift them up. In Boston, the Lend-A-Hand society ran a public lunch room for working women, and collected books to send to schools in the South.

For his own part, Pressey felt he had found another piece of the puzzle. Agriculture had suffered a long decline throughout New England, and abandoned pastureland was reverting to forest. "With the congested city population has come the slum problem," he would later write. "And from the same cause has arisen the country problem of the abandoned farm, the opposite and counterpart of the slum problem."

Pressey worked as a Unitarian minister in rural Maine and Connecticut before landing in Franklin County at Rowe in 1896. He took long hikes through the region's hill towns, where he reflected on the decline of village

life into "decadence," and what he saw as the corruption of healthy living caused by a "compacting process" into industrial centers. He corresponded with Hale, who excited him about the example of Saint Bernard, a twelfth-century monk who established an abbey at Clairvaux, France.

Pressey became obsessed with the idea of "redeeming the waste places of earth" in the same way Bernard's contemporaries had "redeemed the wastes of Europe after the Gothic invasions of the Roman Empire," urging his peers to move to the countryside. He started scheming of a "New Clairvaux," a community which supported itself agriculturally but still had plenty of time to do other work that gratified its participants, particularly spiritually, without the need for factories.

According to Pressey, Hale advised him to recruit "honest misfits, artists, craftsmen, musicians, professional men, failures in business," and "retired merchants" to the cause. This vanguard, led by "young men who possessed the spirit of pioneers of a more fraternal and beautiful day," would lead a spiritual movement that would repopulate the countryside, relieving, in turn, the pressures and evils of the cities.

Pressey spent several unsuccessful years at Rowe, trying to find investors for his idea through the Lend-A-Hand newsletter. During that time, he married Grace Harriet Gibson, and the two had a daughter, Dorothea. He also represented the town at the Republican party caucus in 1899.

Perhaps Rowe was too inaccessible; or perhaps its inhabitants didn't appreciate their town and lives being described as "decadent" – but for whatever reason, Pressey drew no followers there.

In the spring of 1900, he moved to Montague, a valley town he described with "a pocketless" (meaning penniless) "church, a dilapidated meeting house". Initially people

here seemed to be more receptive to Pressey. He offered to physically rebuild the Unitarian church, which is the present Montague Center Common Hall.

That September, the *Turners Falls Reporter* noted that he had begun services, and had "been engaged to supply the pulpit for 10 months."

### A Home for a New Society

Life was looking up. Pressey's young family had little money, but he claimed this struggle was one of the virtues of this new life. He received a very small stipend from the Unitarian missionary fund, and was able to scrape together \$100 for a down payment on an abandoned 75-acre farm on East Taylor Hill Road, which he named Prospect Point.

The farm was a constant source of work, but was initially a stable center for him, where he hoped to start a school and have students and others come and work on the farm to learn his "new" ideas. As his plans for New Clairvaux developed, he increasingly turned toward the Arts and Crafts movement.

Arts and Crafts was originally a British movement that reacted to industrial capitalism by seeking to revive rural lifeways and handicrafts. Writers like John Ruskin and William Morris argued that automation not only degraded workers, but also the products of their work, and thereby the whole of society.

The movement was a wide-ranging and complex one in Britain, and the value it placed on small-craft production and medieval nostalgia led to several rural utopian experiments that would be of interest to Pressey.

Arts and Crafts reached the United States in earnest in the 1890s. In 1895, a soap salesman and self-identified anarchist named Elbert Hubbard founded a craft community outside Buffalo, New York, that would grow to number 500 within fifteen years.

In 1897, the first Arts and Crafts exhibi-

tion in the country was organized by a group at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. In the same year as the Boston group's founding, the Chicago Arts and Crafts Society was inaugurated, with close ties to that city's settlement house movement.

And in 1901, a Philadelphia architect named Will Price started an arts-and-crafts colony called the Rose Valley Association on a bankrupt 80-acre estate near Swarthmore College, and in the same year, Syracuse furniture manufacturer named Gustav Stickley launched *The Craftsman*, the movement's flagship journal.

The idea of small craft production, rather than farming and religion, gradually moved to the center of E. P. Pressey's vision for redeeming the waste places. But in his attempts to draw others – funders and settlers alike – he had a tendency to see, and to portray, Montague as an essentially rural and abandoned locale.

Three-quarters of Montague's residents at the time lived "compacted" into a corner of town – the 4,500 residents of Turners Falls – but Pressey's Montague was specifically the village of Montague Center.

While he emphasized the devastation that the 1889 fire at the Rugg Company factory, which made farming equipment, had wrought on the village, he didn't usually mention that an electric trolley line connected it to the rest of the town, or that improvements including modern streetlights and a drinking water system were being installed.

As Pressey's vision for the project that would become the "New Clairvaux Arts and Crafts Society" crystallized, the distance between that vision, and the somewhat more mundane realities in real-world Montague, would become a common theme.



To be continued.

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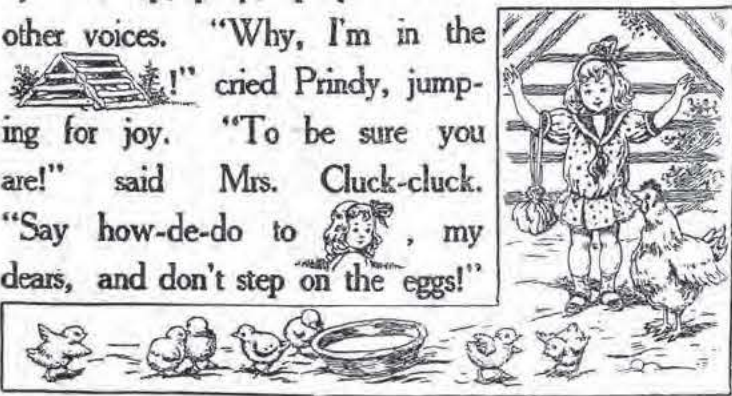
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# Children's Page

## Prindy and the Wishes

**P** RINDY was a little girl who lived in a big house with a stone around it and a garden and a pond and many flowers. Her whole name was Prindosia Delicia, but they called her Prindy for short. With her lived Father and Mother and Little Brother, and outside in the garden and the pond lived many beasts and birds and Prindy went to school in the morning and in the afternoon she played with her little brother and sewed for her mother with her little sister, and she went out driving and walking with Father and Mother and ate her dinner and many other nice things three times a day and slept sound in her little bed all night. She knew just how a happy little girl lives from the time she gets up in the morning till the sun come out at night. But she was always wondering how the others lived. "What do your children do, Mrs. Cluck-cluck?" she asked the big white hen who was pecking and picking in the barnyard. "Come and see!" said the hen. "What do your children do, Mrs. Brightwing?" she asked a yellow butterfly that fluttered by. "Come and see!" said the butterfly. Then Prindy ran to the garden. "I am going to visit the birds and the beasts and the Little Brother!" she cried, "that live in the garden and the pond and the house! Won't it be fun! I shall shut my eyes, and whirl around three times and wish." So she shut her eyes and whirled around three times and wished: "I wish, I wish, Beast, bird or fish, To live with you, Come, wish, come, true!" And pop! she was not standing in the garden any more, she was in a funny house with all around it! "Cluck, cluck!" said a busy voice close by. "Peep, peep, peep!" cried a whole lot of other voices. "Why, I'm in the house!" cried Prindy, jumping for joy. "To be sure you are!" said Mrs. Cluck-cluck. "Say how-de-do to my dears, and don't step on the eggs!"



Make a Newspaper Hat!



1. Fold a newspaper in half.



2. With the fold on top, fold the right and left sides toward the middle, to make a point.

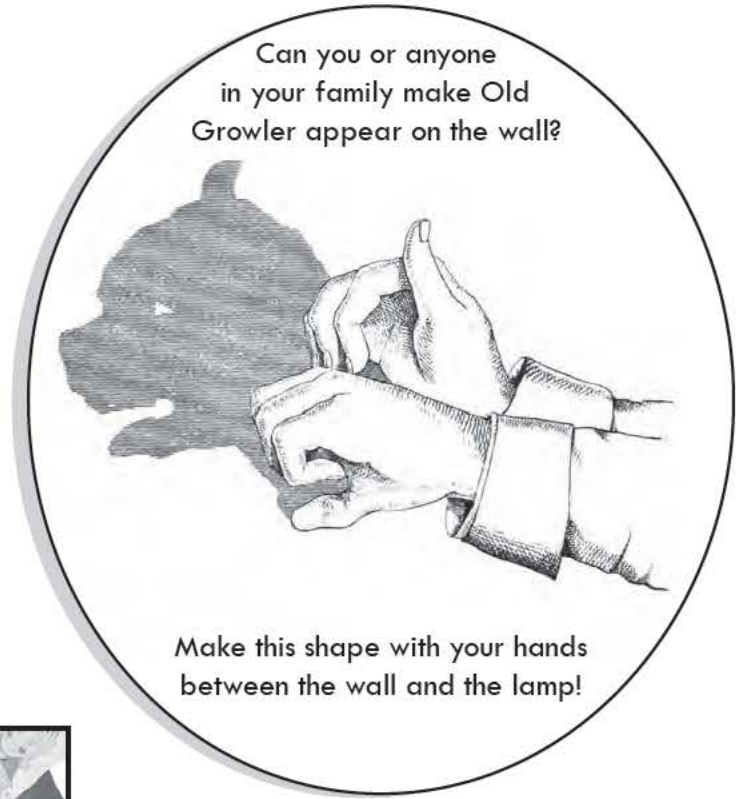


3. Fold up the lower part of the paper to create the brim in front and back!



You will look great in this hat!  
(If it falls apart, paper clips might help.)

edited by Beverly Ketch  
Readers are invited to send feedback and ideas to the Montague Reporter at: 177 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376 or to: [kids@montaguereporter.org](mailto:kids@montaguereporter.org)



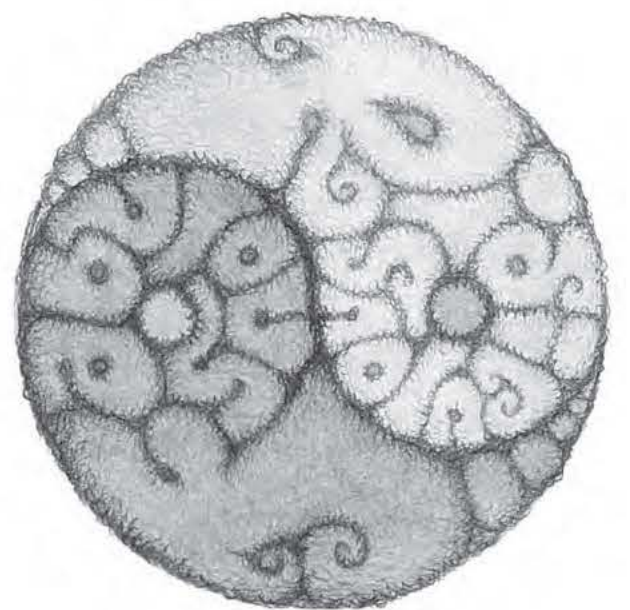
Can you or anyone in your family make Old Growler appear on the wall?

Make this shape with your hands between the wall and the lamp!

Draw your family totem pole! Submit your art to [kids@montaguereporter.org](mailto:kids@montaguereporter.org).



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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



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## ONGOING EVENTS:

### EVERY SUNDAY

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Celtic Sessions*. Musicians of all levels welcome to play traditional Irish music, 10:30 a.m.

### FIRST MONDAY EACH MONTH

Wagonwheel, Gill: *Wagon Wheel Word*. Monthly poetry reading, often with special guest poets. 6 p.m.

Montague Center Library: *Outside the Lines!* 1st Monday of each month. Adult Coloring Group. Supplies provided. 6:30 p.m.

People's Pint, Greenfield: *TNT Karaoke*. 9 p.m.

### EVERY WEDNESDAY

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Story Time*: Thematic stories, projects, and snacks for young children with Ruth, 10:15 to 11:30 a.m.

Leverett Library, Leverett: *Tales and Tunes Story Hour*. For ages 0 to 5 and their caregivers. 10:30 a.m. to noon.

### EVERY THURSDAY

Millers Falls Library: *Music and Movement with Tom Carroll & Laurie Davidson*. Children and their caregivers invited. 10 a.m.

The People's Pint, Greenfield: *Derek Bridges*. Live acoustic guitar. 7 p.m.

Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *Watchdog Open Mic*. All musicians, comedians, and magicians are welcome! 8 p.m.

### EVERY FRIDAY

Slate Memorial Library, Gill: *Story Hour*. Stories and hands-on arts & crafts. 10 a.m. to noon.

The Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *TNT Karaoke*, 8:30 p.m.

### EXHIBITS:

Artspace Gallery, Greenfield: *Grok This Art*. Exhibit of new works by current visual art students at GCC. Reception 12/4, 5-7 p.m. Through 12/31.

Deerfield Arts Bank, S. Deerfield: *Portraits: Revealing & Concealing*. 36 local artists explore the puzzle of the portrait. Portrait sketch session with Elizabeth Stone on 12/3, 6-8. Participants welcome. Exhibit through 1/14.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Junior Duck Stamp Exhibit*. 12/6 through 1/31. Hours for Discovery Center have been expanded (yay!) to Wednesday-Sunday for the winter, 10-4 p.m.

Leverett Crafts & Arts, Barnes Gallery, Leverett: *LCA Residents Group Show*.

Little Big House Gallery: Shelburne: *The Erection*. Ongoing exhibit chronicles the creation of Glenn Ridler's Little Big House. Photographs, printed text and video help tell the story. info@littlebighousegallery.com

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Little People*. Six local artists exhibit their smaller works in the smallest gallery in town. Through 12/31.

Salmon Falls Artisans Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Peggy Hart: Wool Gathering*. Collection of local wool and linsey woolsey blankets woven on antique industrial looms. Exhibit runs through 12/31.

Sawmill River Arts, Montague: "Cornucopia," a Fall Members' Show. Fine arts and crafts by member artists. Check website for seasonal hours: www.sawmillriverarts.com

Shelburne Falls Arts Co-op, Shelburne Falls.

Wendell Free Library, Wendell:

*Paintings by Mari Rovang*. Nine of Rovang's oil paintings, several of local scenes, are on exhibit at the library until 12/31. Artist's reception 12/5, 3-5 p.m.

UMASS Hampden Gallery, Amherst: *Contemporary Landscape/Two Views*. Karen Evans of Turners Falls, and Jenny Tibbets of Northfield have a painting exhibit featuring many local scenes as their subjects. Exhibit through 12/13.

### CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS:

Dickinson Memorial Library, Northfield: Seeking artwork for their Doug and Marty Jones Art Space. Artists of any age from Franklin County can submit application found at [bit.ly/1SfZt78](http://bit.ly/1SfZt78) or contact library.

Sawmill River Arts, Montague Center: Seeking artists for co-

Huston's classic noir crime. 7:30 p.m. \$ Live music at 7 p.m. Also on Saturday. See ad this page.

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Fancy Trash*. Indie folk rock. 8 p.m.

The Wheelhouse, Greenfield: *AT & the Birds of Paradise, Shea Mowat, Jeremy Harris*. \$, 9 p.m.

Ashfield Lakehouse, Ashfield: *Downtown Boys, Honeysuck*. All ages; \$, 9 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Equalites*. Reggae Fantastico. 9:30 p.m.

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5

Congregation of Grace Church, Turners Falls: *Holiday Concert of the Montague Community Band*. 3 p.m. Donations accepted.

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: *The Fearless Vampire Killers*.

Cheesy movie classic from 1967. Starts at 7:30 p.m. An episode of *Dark Shadows* will be shown at 7 p.m.

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Real Life Buildings, Pits, Greg McKillop*. All ages, \$, 7:30 p.m.

Arts Block, Greenfield: *the Nite Caps*. Country and Western swing. 8 p.m. \$ Dance lesson 7:30.

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Cassidy and the Music*. Indie acoustic rock, *Belle of the Fall*. Indie folk. 8 p.m.

Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *Groove Prophet*. 9 p.m. \$

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

Leverett Library, Leverett: *Warm Jazz for a Winter Day*. Great American Songs with piano, bass, and voice. 3 p.m.

UU Society, Amherst: *Downtown Boys, Alexander F, Wydyde*. All ages, \$, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Lazy Bones*. Old Time Jazz, Blues & More. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *TNT Karaoke*. 9 p.m.

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 7

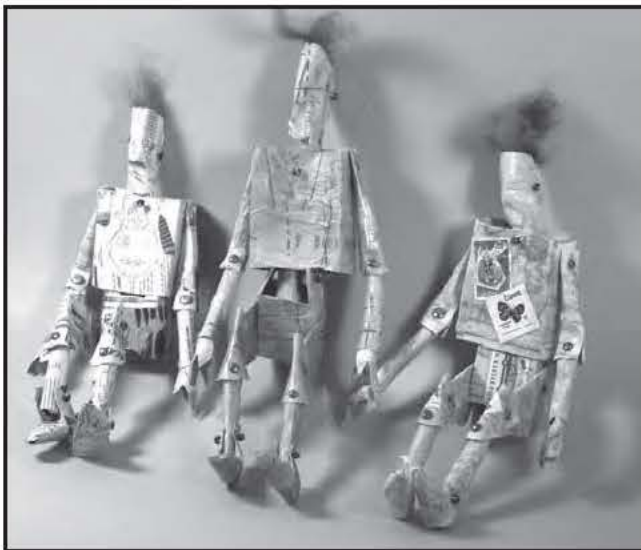
Wagon Wheel, Gill: *Wagon Wheel Word poetry reading*. This month features the new poet laureate of VT, Chard DeNiord. 6 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *QUIZNITE with quizmasters Michael and Heather*.

The Wheelhouse, Greenfield: *State Champion, Holy Vex, and Old Pam*. \$, 9 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Shout Lulu*. Southern String band. 8 p.m.



Described as "beautiful, creepy, funny, thought provoking," six local artists have fashioned "Little People" out of clay, metal, fabric, wood, and paper to show at Nina's Nook, the smallest gallery in town. Artists include Edite Cumba, Sue Huszar, Nina Rossi, Lalin Tseng, Belinda Lyons Zucker and N. S. Koenings. Exhibit runs through December 31.

operative gallery. For more information see [www.sawmillriverarts.com](http://www.sawmillriverarts.com).

Wendell Free Library invites artists to submit applications for exhibit in the Herrick Meeting Room gallery. See [www.wendellmass.us](http://www.wendellmass.us).

### EVENTS

#### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Eric Love*. 60's and 70's gold. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Falltown String Band*. 8 p.m.

Flywheel, Easthampton: *Parquet Courts, Pill, Longings, Kindling*. All ages; \$; doors at 7 p.m.

#### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4

GCC, Greenfield: *GCC Chorus Infomal Holiday Concert*. Lobby. 12:15-12:45.

John Doe Jr., Greenfield: *Cyrus Pireh, Girls and God*. \$, 6 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Drew Paton's 1940s Hit Parade*. 7 p.m.

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *The Asphalt Jungle*. John

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Surly Temple*. Jim Henry, Guy DeVito, and Doug Plavin. 9 p.m.

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Thursday, 12/10 9 p.m.  
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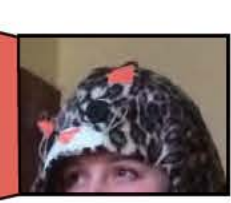
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**GARDENER'S** from page B1  
the fire pit outside and we all gather the chairs to sit around, swapping stories of the days when the grandparents lived on the farm in Colrain and the whole family traveled up the hill for Thanksgiving.

Once, someone recalls, there were so many that grandpa killed four roosters which were then cooked up by grandma in the wood fired stove. That night some of the children slept on the floor under the table when all the beds were filled.

We, too, sleep overnight, but hardly on the floor.

Friday night we are at home again, tending the cat who is complaining about our absence. We build a good fire in the stove and sit nearby. I share my lap with the cat, and each of us derives comfort from shared body heat and petting. We are grateful for the times with family and also glad to be back at home.

Over the weekend we chase a few leaves which still linger in the yard. Ken cuts some brush and takes down a couple of dying trees. After these chores, I treat myself to things which give more pleasure.

While the garden dirt is still soft, I dig out a bit for my bowl and plant three Narcissus bulbs to force for the Christmas season. I have also bought some solar-powered LED lights to decorate the pergola and a couple of the outside evergreens. Inevitably, the lights are made

in China, and we derive no small amusement from the charming phrasing of the manual: "To be connected the solar plug rod (cradle and spike) with control box, and using the plug to fixture the lamps and lanterns. Need to make sure the solar panel with a good face to get enough sunshine."

We resemble that last remark as the day is much cooler than over the holiday and there is a sharp North wind.

Although I don't expect the lights to work right away, as they are not in place until after mid-afternoon, we are very surprised to see them come on right after darkness falls. The colored flower lights on the pergola are charming, but the lights on the evergreens flash hyperactively. Clearly, the mode button needs to be changed to a steady tempo.

Still, the yard looks festive for the coming Yuletide season. Soon we will go to Ashfield to cut a tree to bring inside and decorate. Friends will gather for food and drink in the candlelight. Much more festivity awaits.

There is much to be thankful for: family, a warm hearth and home. There is a good supply of wood and the yard is cleaned up for the coming winter.

As the days continue to shorten there is much to be thankful for, and we are mindful.

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