



LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 14 – NO. 10

also serving Irving, Gill, Everett and Wendell

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EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

DECEMBER 17, 2015

Wendell Bids Farewell to a Forest Monk

By JONATHAN von RANSON

A figure in fawn-colored robes and sandals had already passed our house in the center of town ... slow-moving, already distant, his face hard to make out.

By the second time he appeared, word had arrived of the new monk in town. Again, he'd gone a bit past, and, again, I was disappointed, but I didn't call or run after, imagining him to be in deep meditation, or whatever a monk might do while walking so gingerly.

Next, the grapevine brought news that Tan, this wandering "forest monk" of the Thai Buddhist tradition, accepts offerings of food from people during morning "alms walks." Soon he appeared again, this time moving in my direction.

He approached with a smile and ritually tentative movements that said, "You're safe." We spoke, and had such a fine introduction that, when we parted a few minutes later, I thought of it as the start of a friendship of sorts, and forgot to ask if I could go inside and get some food for him!

Early on, I marveled to him that he could cover as much of the Wendell environs as he mentioned exploring, given how slowly I'd seen him walk. "That's because I'm passing your house!" he explained. Moving

see FOREST MONK page A5



Tan, at Temenos Retreat Center in Shutesbury. Behind him is a Jizo carving by artisan and Buddhist practitioner Ellen Sidor.

Fire Chief to Town: "Somebody's Going to Die In These Buildings."

By JEFF SINGLETON

TURNERS FALLS – "Somebody's going to die in these buildings. ... We need to do something about it."

So stated Turners Falls fire chief Robert Escott at the Montague selectboard meeting of Monday, December 14. Escott was referring to the town-owned Strathmore complex, a former paper mill on the Connecticut River that has been the source of much frustration (and cost) to the town over the past decade.

Escott noted that almost two years ago, the fire department had issued an "order of notice" requiring the town to secure the buildings in the complex, make the structures safe, and restore basic utilities. "We came up with a sort of timeline when things would be

corrected," he reminded the board, "and the long and short of it is, two years later it's still not done, and the building's getting worse."

Escott stated that recently "my guys" were checking the sprinkler system in Building 11, a free-standing structure the town is in the process of marketing to private developers. Upon opening a big metal fire door on one of the upper floors, they encountered "open air, several stories to the ground." A few floors below they encountered a 15- to 20-foot hole where the floor had collapsed, a 15-foot drop to the floor below.

Escott added that over a few months, companies from other towns covered the Turners station

see STRATHMORE page A6

Specialty Motorcycles on Third Street



MARK HUDYMA PHOTO

Pete Chilton, left, and Sayre Anthony, right, plan to move Nova Motorcycles into the former Chick's Garage building.

By PETE WACKERNAGEL

TURNERS FALLS – This week, a new motorcycle shop is moving to town.

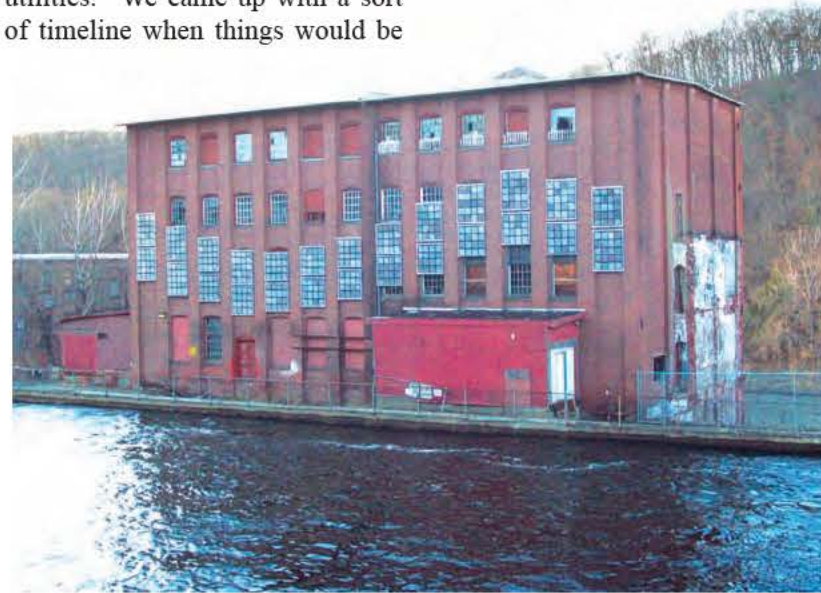
And by new, I mean Nova.

Nova Motorcycles is, according to its two owners, a "full-service repair and custom shop specializing in vintage bikes." After working out of a tiny shop with only a single, human-sized door in Millers Falls, they are moving into a much bigger space at 151 Third Street – the former Chick's Garage building, most recently known as River Station.

Sayre Anthony and Pete Chilton have plans to create a multi-functional space to promote motorcycle culture. Whether you're waiting for your motorcycle to be fixed, or just appreciating their collection like it's an art museum, the shop is designed for hanging out.

Anthony and Chilton want to use their space for public events – they plan to teach classes in motorcycle repair basics, want to screen movies (has everyone seen *Scorpio Rising* yet?), and will continue organizing group rides. Vintage rentals are another part of their business plan that the move will make possible. They

see MOTORCYCLES page A4



A section of the floor in Strathmore Building 11 has fallen through, according to Turners Falls fire chief Robert Escott.

Growing Pains: Lee 46, Turners Falls 16

By MATT ROBINSON

TURNERS FALLS – "We have a very young team," Coach Ted Wilcox told me before the December 15 girls basketball home game against Lee. "In fact, we have two 8th graders who are eligible to play."

But on the brighter side," he added, "the girls have one more year of experience under our belts."

The Lady Indians came out aggressively at the start of the game, especially Maddy Chmyzinski, Chloe Ellis and Aliyah Sanders. They fought for rebounds, chased loose balls, and went for steals.

Turners took an early 2-0 lead when Abigail Loynd came down with a defensive rebound, the ladies moved the ball up-court and Nadia Hasan put it in.

But the Tribe's aggressive style led to foul trouble, with Chloe Ellis getting 1 foul and Aliyah Sanders getting 2. This gave the Wildcats six free throws.

The prowess of the Wildcats became evident as they sunk all six shots and after another bucket, they increased the lead to 8-2.

Maddy Chmyzinski then went to the line herself and sank 1, making the score 8-3 midway through the first period. That's when the Wildcats began sinking 3-pointers



Turners' Aliyah Sanders (30) drives past a Lee Wildcat.

and by the end of the first, the score was 20-3.

In the second period, Lee's defense took over. Turners was unable to pass under the Wildcats' basket and were forced to shoot desperation attempts. When Lee didn't make a steal, they got the rebound.

Turners was only able to get two free throws and one buzzer-beating field goal in the quarter, and at the half the score was 32-7.

see BASKETBALL page A6

A Visitor From the North Pole

By EDITE CUNHA

TURNERS FALLS – The dining room at Hubie's Tavern was transformed into Santa's workshop last Sunday. In the front room, hundreds of colorfully wrapped presents were stacked up on every table and chair. In the back dining room, Santa waited with a bucket of candy canes for his young visitors.

One of these was three year old Allia Sheffield who came to meet Santa with her ten year old brother Jeremiah. Allia's eyes visibly rounded as she stepped around the corner to catch her first-ever glimpse of Santa.

She held back, but soon, encouraged by her grandmother and following her brother's example, took some tentative steps towards the "jolly old elf." It was a moving moment for everyone – helper elves, sponsors, and volunteers – but particularly for the grandmother, Theresa Camara, who had brought the children.

"They've never met Santa before," she said, visibly moved as she

watched Allia cautiously clamber up onto Santa's lap.

There were lots of tears in the room then, and not only in the grandmom's eyes.

"That right there is why we

do this," said Heather Wood, co-director of Montague Catholic Social Ministries, which helped coordinate the event along with Hubie's Tavern proprietors

see VISITOR page A8



EDITE CUNHA PHOTO

Allia and Jeremiah Sheffield visit with Santa at Hubie's Tavern last Sunday.

The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

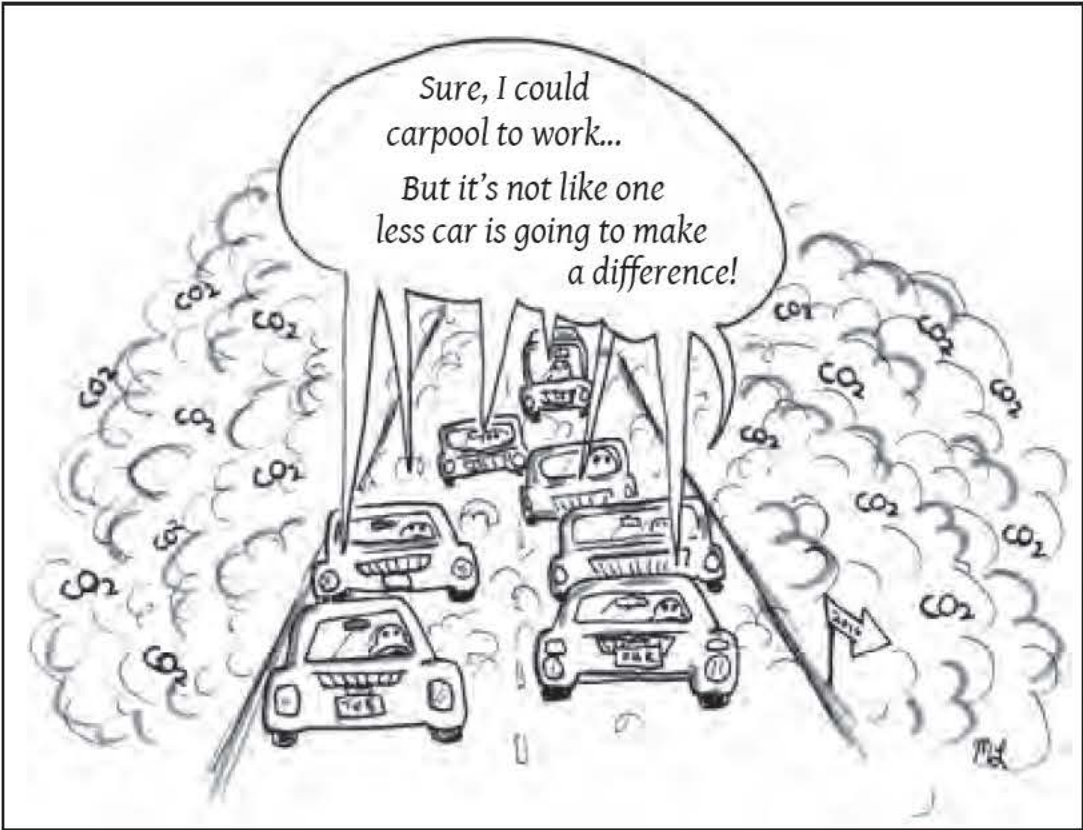
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MADLINE LAPORTE ILLUSTRATION

GUEST EDITORIAL

En Route to a Sustainable Planet

By DAVID DETMOLD

MONTAGUE – Lamar Smith’s grudging admission in the *New York Times* last week that “human activity likely plays a small role” in climate change got me thinking.

As I took the Peter Pan bus out of Greenfield, bound for Williamstown on a quest to purchase a 12-year-old VW diesel wagon parked on a county road somewhere in Buskirk, NY, I considered my own part – a very small but to me nonetheless significant role – in the ongoing meltdown of the Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets that very likely and very soon may cause the Earth’s oceans to rise 20 feet or more, flooding coastal cities from Galveston to Boston and beyond.

After all, it isn’t every day I find myself even remotely in the same country as the Republican chair of the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology.

And here we were, passengers on the same bus, so to speak, hurtling west to points unknown and vistas barely charted.

The bus I was taking cost only \$6 to take me roughly 45 miles to the far end of the Mohawk Trail in Massachusetts. I say “take me,” because after I put down the *New York Times* somewhere around North Adams, I noticed that the only other passenger on the bus must have gotten off along the way, either in Charlemont or Shelburne Falls.

The other 53 seats were empty now. This despite the fact the clean, modern equipage of Peter Pan, when operating at capacity, comes complete with Wi-Fi, footrests, and plenty of leg room, runs twice daily, and conveys human beings and their baggage across mountains at half the carbon cost of railroad cars, a third the carbon cost of gas-powered autos, and a quarter that of commercial airliners. They can even run on bio-diesel. Where was everybody?

Less than an hour later, I disembarked at the Williams Inn, got my bicycle out of the baggage compartment, and headed north on Route 7 on a late September type of day in mid-December. Across the Atlantic Ocean, caffeinated climate negotiators from 195 countries plus the European Union haggled out the

final details of a badly inadequate accord to cut about half of the greenhouse emissions necessary to avert widespread global disaster by the century’s end.

Let’s hope they were drinking Fair Trade coffee. The disasters we are producing for our grandchildren are predicted to include the extinction of a quarter of the species we share the planet with before 2050, along with widespread drought, heat waves, and flooding causing huge (I mean “Yuge!”) disruption to the food chain on which well over 7 billion people depend, prompting mass migrations, the leading edge of which are already underway.

I was sweating beneath my long-sleeved woolen shirt as I crossed the line into Pownal, Vermont and turned left on 346, following the Hoosic River up its long, eroded swale through the Taconic Range.

One of its tributaries flows near the mouth of the Hoosac Tunnel, the longest active train tunnel east of the Rocky Mountains, built under the direction of Montague’s own Alvah Crocker and Bernard Farren. One hundred and ninety three men died during the course of that tunnel’s construction, including thirteen who lost their lives in October of 1867 when a candle ignited naptha fumes that had leaked from a lantern they had been using to illuminate the 538-foot deep central ventilation shaft.

The explosion caused the hoist to collapse, stranding them at the bottom of the shaft, and destroyed the pumps, causing the pit to begin filling up with water. A worker lowered down the next day was partly overcome by fumes; no further rescue attempts were ever made. Months later, when the bodies were finally recovered, searchers found evidence that some of the men had survived long enough to build a life raft in hopes of rescue.

More men will die before light commuter rail returns to the Pioneer Valley.

The fern brakes were green along the hillsides of the Tibbits State Forest when I crossed into New York. The farm fields were filled with birds, gleaning kernels of corn. Two men at a roadside nursery strung Christmas lights, working off the bucket of a front-end loader. It hasn’t snowed around

here since April.

By Route 103, in Hoosick Falls, two men in muddy t-shirts worked an iron bar and shovels digging out the footing for a lamppost. I stopped to ask directions.

“Is Eddy Road up this way? I’m trying to get to Buskirk.”

“Never heard of Eddy Road,” said the one deeper in the hole.

“There’s lots of roads to Buskirk,” said the other.

“How far’ve you come on that thing?” asked the first.

I told him Williamstown. “Fuck that,” he said. “Excuse my language.”

A few miles further up, at the next crossroad, I came upon the sign for Eddy Road.

The land sloped downward now, rolling fields and bare hardwood forests, and I picked up my pace as the sun westered.

I got to Buskirk about quarter to four and found the covered bridge with its lovely lines intact, seated on the old ford across the Hoosic. It bore a wooden sign above the one lane entrance reading, “Twenty-five Dollars Fine for Driving on this Bridge Faster than a Walk.”

I passed the grange in Cambridge, and headed south on 74. I soon spotted two VW’s standing on a graveled driveway, beneath a beautiful old farm. One of them, a dark blue wagon with rusted front fenders, was the one I had seen pictured on the internet, the one I had come looking for. The farm fields behind were strewn with other old VW’s. Three generations of the mechanically inclined family who owned the farm drove and worked on VW diesels as a hobby.

The grandfather met me at the door, with his young Chinese wife, whom he met online and married six years ago. She comes from Chengdu, near where the massive earthquake struck in 2008, killing 70,000 of her neighbors. She is studying English five days a week at a community college in Schenectady. It’s a small world. I didn’t ask her religion. Taoist, I would guess.

I drove the car a few miles down the road, and realized it was the best car I had driven in many, many years. After the test drive, I paid the owners, put my bicycle in the back, and, in the gathering dusk, tried to

find my way back home.

As soon as I got there, I planned to add bio-diesel to the tank. In fact, I had brought a little with me in a jelly jar. I pulled over almost immediately and poured a little in the tank, spilling it over my hand in the process and christening the car with the aroma of burnt French fries.

It’s hard to know how large a proportion of bio-diesel to add to the fuel tank of a diesel in New England in the winter. Ten percent? Twenty? Too much, and it begins to act like a jar of olive oil in your ice box, and clogs up the fuel lines. But how much is too much when it’s 60 degrees and sunny in the middle of December?

Eight months out of the year, at least, you can run on 100% bio-diesel, brewed locally from re-used vegetable oil, often fryolator oil from local restaurants. If the long-awaited bio-diesel factory in the Greenfield Industrial Park ever opens its doors, we’ll have ready access to lots of bio-diesel, and maybe the price will drop. It ought to.

Meanwhile, I buy it by the five-gallon container at the Solar Store in Greenfield. They sell it at the Wendell Country Store, too, last time I checked.

Carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, and nitrogen oxides from the tailpipes of our private cars add to the combustion gases from mass transit vehicles to make one third of the greenhouse gas emissions each day, each year, in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. If we are truly serious about leaving our children’s children a livable planet, we each need to consider how we get around.

While we continue to press the various levers of government for improved mass transit options, even here in rural Franklin County (dig those hybrid FRTA buses rolling near you now), we can do much more to lessen our individual impact on the planet.

So stop cheering the Paris accords and start reducing your own carbon footprint. Walk to work or ride a bike. The weather is lovely for this time of year.

Or carpool with a friend in a recycled biodiesel.



Letter to



the Editors

Update: Wiring Montague’s Last Miles

The recent news regarding the dispute between WiredWest and MBI (Massachusetts Broadband Institute) caused a good deal of worry in Montague. But WiredWest is not involved with Montague’s quest for universal broadband. WiredWest’s mission is to cover unserved towns, which are those with no existing infrastructure.

There’s a separate initiative, not part of WiredWest, with separate funding through MBI that will cover the ten towns with partial broadband service. This includes Montague, with approximately 204 unserved houses out of approximately 2,500 homes in town.

This summer, MBI sent a Request for Qualification (RFQ) to parties interested in the project. Of the ten towns, eight got only one response, from Comcast. Two, Montague and Hardwick, are fortunate in having two responses to the RFQ, Comcast and Matrix, making the project competitive.

Both proposals have been accepted by MBI as qualified, and both are available to the public at broadband.masstech.org/news-and-updates/news/procurements/rfq-cable-system-extensions.

In our own, informal house-by-house survey, we anticipated we will need about 18 miles of fiber to cover 98% to 99% of the town. Comcast proposes 6.3 aerial miles of new cable, which will result in 96% coverage. They state they would consider covering more than 96% for more money.

Comcast’s response has most significant details redacted as proprietary.

Matrix’s proposal is more

see LETTER next page

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

Compiled by **DON CLEGG**

Every holiday season we are all advised to **get our packages to the Post Office early** to ensure timely delivery. Post offices around the country, along with Fedex and UPS are swamped.

Here is a good example: The Turners Falls post office usually handles about 400 incoming packages per day. This week they are handling more than 1,600 a day!

The **Franklin County Technical School Players** will present a new and irreverent twist on some timeless Holiday classics this year when they present "Every Christmas Story Ever Told (And Then Some!)." This madcap comedy is written by John K. Alvarez, Michael Carleton, and James Fitzgerald and has been performed all over the world. Original music is by Will Knapp.

"Every Christmas Story Ever Told (And Then Some!)" will be staged at Greenfield Community College's Sloan Theater on Friday, December 18 at 7 p.m. The three-actor show stars Kaiti Churchill, Lindsey Mailloux, and Hailey Perkins-McGraw.

Tickets are \$5 and can be reserved by calling (413) 863-9561, ext. 233. Tickets will be held at the Sloan Theater door or can be picked up at Franklin County Technical School, 82 Industrial Boulevard, Turners Falls during regular school hours.

Celebrate Solstice in Colrain at the magical Roundhouse on Saturday, December 19 at 6:30 p.m. Come for an evening of music and storytelling to Celebrate the Longest

Night of the Year and the Return of the Light.

A 30-plus year tradition, the event is a fundraiser for the Food Bank of Western Mass and Partners in Health. Call (413) 624-5140 to make reservations, and for more info see www.roundhouseculture.com.

Local coin and antique dealer **Gary Konvelski**, of Gary's Coins and Antiques in Turners Falls, will be at the Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls on Saturday, December 19 from 10 to 11 a.m. to assess or appraise any treasures that you may be curious about.

Konvelski has been a collector for decades of jewelry, coins, currency, books and other antiques. Do you think you have some valuables? Here is a chance to find out.

That night, December 19, Rani Arbo and Daisy Mayhem bring their infectious brand of roots music and beyond to the **Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse**. The event, which takes place at the Old Town Hall in the center of Wendell, begins with an open mic at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$7 to \$15, sliding scale, and proceeds benefit the Swift River Historical Society. See wendellfullmoon.org for more information.

On Monday, December 21 the Turners Falls high school boys' basketball team will be hosting Franklin Tech in a **Coaches vs. Cancer game**. JV will play at 6:00, and varsity tips at 7:30. The proceeds from the game will be split between the Coaches vs. Cancer Fund and the family of Earl McGraw.

Tickets are on sale at TFHS, Franklin Tech and Scotty's. The cost is \$5 for students and \$7 for adults. There will also be a 50/50 raffle, with the proceeds going to the McGraw family. Come out and support this great event!

All too often, people feel they have to 'put on a happy face' for the holidays. Second Congregational Church of Greenfield is hosting a community-wide **Christmas service for people in grief** and for all who find the holidays to be a difficult time.

This special community worship service will be on Tuesday, December 22 at 7 p.m. in the church sanctuary. While it is a Christian worship service, it is open to anyone regardless of where they are on their journey of faith and in life.

Come to another showing of **"Bring a Book, Get a Book"** at Greenfield Savings Bank, Turners Falls on Saturday, December 26 from 10 to 11 a.m. Feel free to browse for that perfect book which will pique your interest.

There will be a collection of gently used books perfect for children, teenagers and adults as well. Be sure to bring books in order to get books. No cash transactions.

The **First Day Hike** returns to the Great Falls Discovery Center on Friday, January 1, New Years Day.

Enjoy a leisurely two-mile stroll down the Canalside Rail Trail, and get the New Year started off on a Great Falls note. This family-friendly hike follows a gentle route and provides an opportunity to discover the abundant natural, historical, and cultural features that make the GFDC and rail trail such an amazing State Park.

Be prepared for cold weather: dress in layers and wear winter boots. Dogs are welcome on leash. Afterward, enjoy a cup of hot chocolate in the Discovery Center's Great Hall.

Sign in at the Discovery Center's

Great Hall at 1 p.m. Hike will begin at 1:15 p.m.

First Day hikes are being organized by the Massachusetts DCR at eleven State Parks throughout the Commonwealth. The GFDC is one of only two parks in Western Mass having a hike. The other is Mt. Greylock Reservation.

The **bus fares** for all Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA) fixed routes will be changing on January 4 to a one-way fare of \$1.25. This will mean a hike for some routes, and a rate reduction for others.

Baystate Franklin Medical Center's Oncology Department will present three consecutive free eight-week yoga classes, **Gentle Yoga for Cancer Survivors**, at the YMCA of Greenfield.

The classes will take place on Wednesdays, from noon to 1:30 pm, on the following dates: January 6 to February 24; March 2 to April 20; and April 27 to June 15.

Course facilitator is Pam Roberts, a certified Kripalu Yoga teacher and a breast cancer survivor for over 20 years. Classes are for individuals who have been living with a cancer diagnosis, and consist of stretching, strengthening, and breathing and deep relaxation exercises.

For more information or to register, contact Roberts at (413) 625-2402 or pamro@aol.com.

It is **holiday travel time**, and to ensure your opportunity at fame, do the following: Bring along a copy of the *Reporter*, get a picture snapped of you or traveling companion reading the paper, and send the photo to us. Easy! Be part of the growing collection of *Montague Reporter on the Road* features.

There is no publication of the *Montague Reporter* the week of Christmas. Our next edition will be Wednesday, December 30.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

LETTER from prev. page

complete, with many specifics, more coverage, and a quicker date for completion. Matrix includes financial details, unlike Comcast.

There are still many questions to be answered by both parties. In a meeting with the committee and Representative Kulik on September 30, Eric Nakajima, the Director of MBI, committed to getting a formal request for clarifications to both Comcast and Matrix, by the week of the 14th of December, with responses due no later than January 5.

Representative Kulik later confirmed that he will push MBI to keep on this schedule.

The next step for Montague is a second (required) vote at a Special Town Meeting this winter, which would establish a Montague Municipal Lighting Plant, the governing body for the system.

The WiredWest issue is unfortunate, and isn't good for anyone. But we have a separate, independent track that we hope will lead to a quick decision, funding from the already allocated state grant, and a quick start.

For the Montague
Broadband Committee,

Rob Steinberg
Montague

Holiday Church Services

Tuesday, December 22:

7 p.m. Special community Christmas service of healing. (See Local Briefs.). Second Congregational Church, 16 Court Square, Greenfield.

Wednesday, December 23:

7 p.m. Celebration with carols, faith lessons and family activities. First Congregational Church of Leverett, 4 Montague Road.

Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24:

4 p.m. Children & Family Christmas Mass (preludes and carols begin at 3:30 p.m.). Our Lady of Peace Church, 90 7th Street, Turners Falls.

4 p.m. Afternoon mass, Our Lady of Czestochowa Church, 84 K Street, Turners Falls.

5:30 p.m. Service, Gill Congregational Church, off Main Road, Gill.

6:30 p.m. Congregation of Grace Church, 146 L Street, Turners Falls.

7 p.m. Candlelight Service and Service of Lessons and Carols. Includes special music and guest musicians. First Congregational Church of Montague, 4 North Street, Montague Center.

7 p.m. Valley Life Church service held at Frontier Regional School, South Deerfield.

7 p.m. Service. North Leverett Baptist Church, 70 North Leverett Road.

10 p.m. Christmas Mass of Midnight (preludes and carols by the Senior Choir begin at 9:30 p.m.). Our Lady of Peace Church, 90 7th Street, Turners Falls.

11:30 p.m. Concert of Carols, followed by Midnight Mass. Our Lady of Czestochowa Church, 84 K Street, Turners Falls.

Christmas Day, Friday, December 25:

9 a.m. Morning service, Congregation of Grace Church, 146 L Street, Turners Falls.

10 a.m. The Mass of Christmas Day (preludes and carols by the Senior Choir begin at 9:45 a.m.). Our Lady of Peace Church, 90 7th Street, Turners Falls.

10:30 a.m. Morning Mass, Our Lady of Czestochowa Church, 84 K Street, Turners Falls.

New Years Eve, Thursday, December 31

4 p.m. Mass honoring Mary, the Holy Mother of God. Our Lady of Peace Church, 90 7th Street, Turners Falls.

4 p.m. Mass, Our Lady of Czestochowa Church, 84 K Street, Turners Falls.

New Years Day, Friday, January 1:

10 a.m. Mass of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. Our Lady of Peace Church, 90 7th Street, Turners Falls.

10:30 a.m. Mass, Our Lady of Czestochowa Church, 84 K Street, Turners Falls.



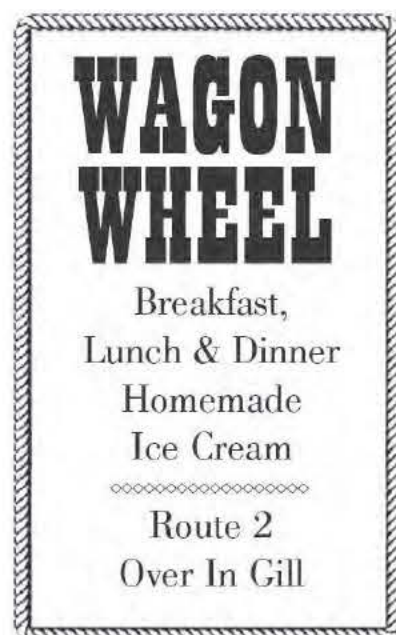
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Grade 7
Ashley Allis

Grade 8
Jaclyn Thibeault
Kyle Brunelle

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MOTORCYCLES from pg A1

intend to map out tours of varying distances and destinations so that people can walk in the door, jump on a cool bike, and make a break for the nearest horizon.

Anthony does most of the repairs and custom builds at Nova, and has been working in motorcycles for a long time. Growing up in Western Mass, he rode away to college in New York City on his first bike, a black 1975 Honda CB550. After getting mixed up with Team Obsolete, the Brooklyn-based originators of vintage motorcycle racing, it was an easy decision to drop out.

It was through this racing team that Anthony met his chief inspiration, Dave Roper. Roper is a team member and winner of the Isle of Man, the oldest and most dangerous motorcycle race in the world – a 38-mile circuit, raced on public roads on the mountainous Irish Sea island since 1911. Anthony worked for Team Obsolete and in other team members' shops for a decade, and eventually did receive a philosophy degree from NYU.

Anthony has gone on a number of epic motorcycle journeys. He's ridden his Honda CB550 down to Alabama, and up to the Canadian Maritimes, also known as the Wild East, twice. Anthony has lived through a number of motorcycle accidents. He's crashed three times without disfigurement, and had a very close scrape with an oncoming truck in a Canadian suicide lane.

I asked him what it was like to go down, and he explained that often "it happens so quickly you don't realize it until you're sliding on the ground." He stressed that within every crash, there's a lot of space for success: "I don't think of a crash as game over," he told me.

For the past two summers, Anthony has raced at Loudon, NH with the US Classic Racing Association. He told me that while most modern race bikes hit 230 miles per hour, and racers on the Isle of Man regularly outrun the helicopter crews filming them, in vintage racing riders "try to not go too much over 100."

Clean Lines

Anthony's co-owner Pete Chilton runs the media side of Nova Motorcycles. After studying art and doing freelance design work for a long time, he now works a day job as the Senior Information Systems Manager at SealRyt Corporation, which sells things like sidewall agitators and slurry pumps.

Chilton wears black-rimmed glasses and prefers bikes made by BMW. While he has yet to crash, he's not a stranger to adventure. On one occasion this past summer on I-91, he was forced into navigating a 3-foot space between a red Corvette and a still-behind-the-wheel survivor of the Greatest Generation.

Chilton is a designer, and is cognizant of the look of the bikes he wants to build. He likes minimalist bikes, and the "clean lines that are in line with what people want today."

Both Chilton and Anthony share an eye for motorcycles that possess functional clarity. According to Anthony, "the purest form of the bike is the race bike: no lights, no horn."

They are students of the 1960s British rocker culture where this type of modification originated. A favorite pastime of these "ton-up boys" (ton referring to 100 m.p.h.) involved, in the name of speed, stripping all non-essential parts off

the bike, lowering the handlebars to the point where the rider's torso lay flat on top of the gas tank, and racing these motorcycles from café to café.

Looking For Some Tribe

Why are people devoted to motorcycles? Chilton believes that it's because they are a fully-developed hobby – one that can become a lifestyle, and an outlet for the consumption desire. "You get your adrenaline rush, you get to spend money," he mused. Motorcycles can also fulfill one's need for community, the solution to the fact that, according to Anthony, "we're always looking for some tribe."

In my own experience, it's the way that my senses are maxed-out on rushing, vibrating stimulus that promotes addiction. I think longingly all winter about the feeling of warm, moist air flowing over my limbs.

I glean a lot of satisfaction from feeling connected to my surroundings, and riding a motorcycle is the most adrenalized sense-of-place experience you can have. With one's attention turned all the way up, a light rain feels like a hail of needles, and you can smell the fog, because it's rushing into your flared nostrils at an unnatural speed.

I believe that Americans, in a co-dependent way, tend to fall in love with their mode of transport. And with bikes, the feelings run deeper, as they involve mortality (and immortality), balance, and motorized beauty.

This is only my opinion, but I believe that if the car is the vehicle of alienation, the motorcycle is an engine of *joie de vivre*, a self-help book that runs on unleaded. Anthony and Chilton are mechanics that want their customers to observe and learn motorcycle repair, because they know that maintaining the machine that moves you maintains your wellbeing.

Also appealing to many are motorcycles' associations with rock 'n' roll and its related counterculture – whether it's the UK's rockers, Japan's *Kaminari-zoku* (Thunder Tribe), or Meatloaf. "Rock 'n' roll and love of the machine that rolls are closely intertwined," says Anthony.

Who You Gonna Call?

Nova recently built two motorcycles for the new *Ghostbusters* film, set to come out next July. They put together two 1975 Harley SX250 dirt bikes that were then painted Ghostbuster-white and accented with the Slimer logo.

Anthony explained that Hollywood was not an easy client, and that "it sucked – until I showed up and saw the Ghostbusters cars, and realized it was actually real." (We know that there will be a cool chase scene, but the question remains: will Bill Murray be 1980s funny, like *What About Bob?*, or new-millennium-Wes-Anderson serious?)

Anthony and Chilton are on a mission to promote motorcycling as a cheaper and more satisfying way to travel the Earth. They see motorcycles as an antidote to an overly technologized life.

After visiting their old shop, I believe that even a brief stare at their collection of bikes will be able to convince the most defensive-driving, seat-belt wearing Volvo owner to put on a helmet (and possibly a personal airbag), and take their award-winning '74 Honda 350 for a test drive.



NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Town Coordinator Salary, Description Nailed Down

By KATIE NOLAN

At its December 14 meeting, the Erving selectboard completed the job description for the town's administrative coordinator, and set the salary range at \$60,000 to \$70,000 per year. With these tasks completed, the town will begin the search for a new coordinator to replace Tom Sharp, who retired in July.

Although the salary schedule showed a range of \$54,000 to \$80,000 adjusted for cost of living, selectboard chair William Bembury commented that an experienced coordinator would expect more than the schedule's minimum. "I don't want someone at the minimum range," he said. "That will be someone who's just starting out."

Hands Tied on Gas Action

The conservation commission contacted Bembury, asking that the board apply for intervenor status for the town with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission regarding the Kinder Morgan New England Energy Direct pipeline. The pipeline is proposed to pass through Erving.

Board members noted that, as a result of a town meeting vote, they are unable to take any action with regard to the pipeline without first getting approval at another town meeting, and there is not enough time to call a special town meeting to get approval before the application deadline.

The board decided to take no action on the earth removal and noise bylaw drafted by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments. The bylaw would have regulated major excavation projects such as the Kinder Morgan NED pipeline.

Drugs and Animals

The board discussed, but did not finalize, a draft drug testing policy prepared by the personnel relations review board. The policy states that Erving has a drug- and alcohol-free workplace. Under the draft policy, drug testing will be conducted before employment, after any vehicle accident, and for cause. All employees will be subject to the policy.

The board will continue to

consider the policy at its December 21 meeting.

The board decided to sign a contract sharing the services of animal control officer Arthur Johnson with Gill. Police chief Christopher Blair wrote to the board saying he had no problem with sharing Johnson with Gill for animal control calls.

The town signed a memorandum of understanding with Bernardston for sharing animal control services in October. Selectboard member Jacob Smith asked Johnson to make sure "Erving is the priority" in answering the calls.

Board members discussed asking for an additional annual fee in the future to cover mileage, equipment, and Johnson's training costs, in addition to the charge per call. Johnson is paid an hourly rate, and the town receives 20% of the payment for administrative costs.

Special Town Meeting

The special town meeting, also held December 14, voted to correct language from the May 2015 annual town meeting setting the fiscal year 2017 funding for POTW #1. The town accountant discovered that the language approved at that meeting was incorrect and could lead to disapproval by the state Department of Revenue, which could in turn delay sending out property tax bills.

The meeting also voted to reauthorize the selectboard to file special legislation approving the early retirement package voted for Robert Minor in 2001. The 2001 town meeting voted to pay into the Franklin County Regional Retirement System on Minor's behalf, in order to increase his retirement payout. This is the same process voted at the October 2015 special town meeting for highway employee Dana Moore, Jr.

After a town meeting vote, this type of enhanced retirement package must be voted favorably by the state legislature. However, there is no record of action by the state legislature for Minor's retirement package.

Minor was asked to take an early retirement as part of staff reductions at the town's water treatment facility.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Box Truck Leaks Fuel

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| Tuesday, 12/1 12 p.m. Property found at Erving Library was returned to the owner. 2:30 p.m. Assisted with an electrical fire started by a fuse issue. Erving fire department and electric company on scene. | to Erving Elementary for a fire alarm. | 9:15 p.m. Two-car motor vehicle crash on West Main Street. State police investigated and assisted. |
| Wednesday, 12/9 6:40 p.m. Report of suspicious vehicle on Old State Road. Found to be town animal control officer attempting to locate injured animal. Assisted same. | Wednesday, 12/9 6:40 p.m. Report of suspicious vehicle on Old State Road. Found to be town animal control officer attempting to locate injured animal. Assisted same. | Saturday, 12/12 10:55 p.m. Assisted with a medical emergency on the French King Highway. |
| Thursday, 12/10 Report of a white box truck with gas cap open and leaking fuel eastbound on Route 2. Unable to locate. | Thursday, 12/10 Report of a white box truck with gas cap open and leaking fuel eastbound on Route 2. Unable to locate. | Sunday, 12/13 2:20 p.m. Report of a suspicious person near Renovator's Supply, officers unable to locate. |
| Monday, 12/7 6 a.m. Report of past breaking and entering and larceny on State Road. Under investigation. | Monday, 12/7 6 a.m. Report of past breaking and entering and larceny on State Road. Under investigation. | Friday, 12/11 8:30 p.m. 911 mis-dial on French King Highway. |
| Tuesday, 12/8 8:30 p.m. Erving fire department responded | Tuesday, 12/8 8:30 p.m. Erving fire department responded | 4:30 p.m. Report of harassment on Northfield Road, report taken. |

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FOREST MONK from page A1

slowly and invitingly through a likely neighborhood, I realized, is the source of the 33-year-old’s continued health, the method of his survival. It’s how he’ll be handed sustenance to be put into the bowl he carries on a strap.

His ancient order restricts its members to food freely offered – one meal a day, taken before noon. Renunciates are also prohibited from storing food – strictures all related to the cultivation of “non-attachment.”

This getting-to-know-you phase could be awkward, or even comical. Just a day or so before my meeting, my wife, Susan, had encountered Tan in front of our house. She made an Eastern, hands-together bow. “He bowed back, and I practically fell over when he asked if he could give me a blessing,” she said. “I didn’t know if he was Japanese, or what. I didn’t think he spoke!”

The shaved-headed young contemplative suddenly looked, and sounded, European-American. The benediction he gave, though, was in an Eastern tongue that our local Buddhist scholar, Chris Queen, says was Pali, a dialect of Sanskrit.

One Unattached

The scores of Wendell people he ultimately touched found Tan, a child of both the Eastern and Midwestern U.S., to be unexpectedly hip – or at least not un-hip – culturally, and highly sociable. “He was delightful,” Kate O’Kane said. “Unassuming, unpretentious, a person making a radical lifestyle choice.”

“My sense is the folks of Wendell welcomed him with open arms,” said Judy Hall. “He fit right in. People were open to his witness.”

“Oh! I just love that monk!” exclaimed Donna Horn, who cashiers at the Wendell Country Store and helped introduce him around. “Super sweet! I just loved having him around.”

Tan speaks smoothly and confidently... and quietly. He can chat and comment with the best, though any cracks I heard were pretty gentle. This ease in the everyday world rides on extraordinary underpinnings. Katie Nolan, one of the regulars in the Sunday morning meditation group that Tan also attended, noticed “how wise he is for a young man,” and how dedicated he is to the many aspects of his practice, adding, “Whenever I talked with him, about any issue, great or small, he always made me feel better about the world.”

For this article, he discouraged much focus on himself and his particular characteristics, saying in an email message recently, “my efforts were always directed towards growth in wisdom and peace and everything that arose on account of it was incidental.”

Tan is human, though, and thirty-three – “a young man,” he once helpfully reminded Susan and me in reference to his nutritional needs. We were having an early lunch at the picnic table in the back yard, and had debated for days whether to provide meaty, cheesy fare or a light soup and salad. Luckily, we’d intuited heavy.

Because of the one-meal restriction, and the forenoon deadline, and because few people are working in the kitchen at that time of day – and because hardly any of us have ever heard of alms rounds – he risked having more energy bars and apples drop into his bowl than helpings of bubbling casserole – or builders’ lunches.

Alistair MacMartin once pulled over on his “too busy” work rounds

and gave him his bag lunch. In his rush, he noticed Tan’s apparent abundance of time. He called this another of the monk’s “witnesses,” a word that keeps the emphasis on substance, on learning and growing.

“Tan” is the respectful Thai term for “monk.” “Pamutto” is the name given him in his ordination, and it means, loosely, “one unattached”. He is of the Theravada order, the orthodox form of Buddhism prominent in Southeast Asia... orthodox meaning dedicated to the ancient practices.

On the Mountain

It was at the Village Co-op in Leverett that he was first spotted by Scott Garland, a resident of Locke Hill with years of experience with monks through Samdet Pria Mahagoeshananda, the supreme patriarch of Cambodian Buddhists, who founded the Cambodian temple in Leverett among many others.

“It was a rainy day,” Garland recounted. “He was holding a little umbrella, and I went out and saw him. It was unusual to find a Thai forest monk. I asked if he was on *vrindabhat*, the walkabout where a monk leaves the monastery and goes out with three robes and a bowl big enough to hold them.

“He’d left a monastery east of Mt. Monadnock, come down through Winchendon, Athol and Orange, up through Wendell Depot. He came to the center of town and it started to get dark. He went off into the woods and sat under a tree, sat a vigil watch, all night long.”

The next morning Tan made it to the co-op, and his encounter with this Wendell man so connected with Old World Buddhism. “We spent 24 hours together. I brought him to Temenos [Retreat Center in Shutesbury], we ate lunch at the Peace Pagoda and hung out at Wendell Country Store. He was a hit there!” Garland exclaimed. “Those women were amazing! They asked him all kinds of questions.”

That night, Garland said, Tan “was the first to sleep in my new house. The next day he walked away. He’d mentioned the coming rains retreat, and I told him he’d be welcome to come back. He continued south through Leverett and Amherst, and took time to visit family. Then, with the full moon of August approaching, he walked back to Wendell.”

Thus began Tan’s stay in Wendell. He and Garland would often meditate together on the third story of Garland’s unfinished new house with a view of the Quabbin hills, or he’d read, contemplate, sleep, and heat his food on a woodstove at his own quarters, in a garden shed at Garland’s home in the south end of town.

From it Tan would make his way into the Center, often taking indirect routes along Cooleyville Road and forest paths, where his fawn-colored robes matched the leaves: “I’m the perfect color for the season,” he quipped to Nolan.

He told me that once or twice he’d struck off through the woods toward neighboring towns to test whether they were within alms-walking reach, and discovered Wendell was on a mountain: “I kept going down, down and down...”

Tan was often at the country store and library. He attended the Coffee Connection, the Meditation Group and other events at the senior center, he helped a bit with the Good Neighbors food pantry operation and accepted invitations to people’s houses for late-morning meals.

Dr. Queen brought him to ad-

NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Gill to Seek Gas Pipeline
Intervenor Status in “Solidarity”

By BEVERLY KETCH

The December 14 Gill selectboard meeting began with the business of the highway department, represented by Mick LaClaire.

The highway department workers were granted the three-day holiday time that they put in for: the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday between Christmas and New Years Eve, as long as weather permits.

LaClaire also brought the good news that the sewer pump that had been broken, one of two, was back up and running as of Monday. A problem was discovered when fixing the leaking seals, and since it is only two years old it is suspected that it may have had a factory defect, which is still being looked into.

The selectboard also approved a purchase order to replace four tires on a town truck.

Pumps Pumping

The next order of business was a report from the town energy commission, given by Claire Chang and Vicky Jenkins.

The project to install heat pumps at the Riverside town building is staying close to estimated costs. The work is now complete and awaiting inspection. Interior storm windows may be the next step in improving the building’s efficiency, because the existing removable plastic window inserts have gotten torn and damaged.

Selectboard member Randy Crochier said that he wanted to compare the cost of replacing the windows with the costs of periodically having to replace interior storm windows.

John Ward added that a single sheet of Plexiglas, such as the storm window proposed by the commission, wouldn’t insulate quite as well as the double layer of plastic now in use, and that the present system is not damaged on every window, only on some.

Other efficiency measures for

other town buildings are planned, including an on-demand water heater for the town hall. To make more Green Communities grant money available for these last few projects, the selectboard authorized the use of up to \$10,000 of previously approved town heating system funds for the Riverside project.

HRA Heard

At 6 o’clock, the meeting’s usual business was set aside for a public hearing on the town’s next Community Development Block Grant application.

Bruce Hunter from the Franklin County Regional Housing and Re-development Authority (HRA) introduced the agenda: applying for one million dollars, to be shared by Gill, Bernardston, and Rowe.

A portion of the money is proposed to be used to improve existing conditions at 18 units of housing, by way of zero-interest rehabilitation loans.

According to materials Hunter distributed, “[r]emoval and replacement of roofs, windows, siding and electrical, plumbing and heating systems are typical. But other improvements like flooring replacement, bathroom upgrades, and new cabinets may be eligible if conditions are determined to be sub-code”.

Seven Gill families are already on a waiting list for improvements, of up to \$30,000 on each house. Others can still apply, and the HRA will send someone to help an applicant to assess what they may need. The funding will go to the applicants deemed most in need.

Peter Wingate from Community Action spoke about another proposed portion of the grant, which will help fill a critical gap in the system for people who run out of money for fuel.

Fuel assistance is meant to help with 40% of annual fuel costs, but many people run out of money and need more help. Regulated

utilities offer “shut-off protection” for vulnerable families, but people who use delivered fuel don’t have this option.

Some of the money from the grant would be used to make sure money was available to people in this emergency situation, so no one would have to go without heat in winter, or have their pipes burst and cause expensive, preventable damage.

Other Business

After this public hearing, the town business of the selectboard continued.

Administrative assistant Ray Purington told the board some good news: Susan LaScala has stepped up and offered to edit the town newsletter.

The town’s five liquor licenses were renewed.

Then the selectboard discussed chair Greg Snedeker’s proposal that the town apply for “intervenor” status with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on the proposed Kinder Morgan natural gas pipeline.

Although that pipeline is not planned to go through Gill, the selectboard was in agreement that “in solidarity” with more directly affected towns, and because we can all be strongly affected by such a project, it would be worthwhile to apply for this status to the FERC.

Intervenor status could also give the community more legal say in the matter of the pipeline. It was felt by members of the board that, especially with recent developments in the news regarding the finances of Kinder Morgan, that it was doubtful that the project would result in lower energy prices. Members also speculated that higher prices for their gas was in fact the goal of building the pipeline.

The board agreed that Gill should apply for the status, and Snedeker said he would submit the application this week.

dress his class on world religions at Harvard, calling him “a bit of a pioneer. Very few Americans,” he said, “have had the impulse, or courage, to adopt the forest tradition of wandering monks – monks capable of living in the woods as well as doing the door-to-door begging.” He became not just the living representative of a potential, radical trust in existence, he became, as should be evident, the talk and toast of the town.

“He was so good at meeting people,” Garland said. “And he was really excited and incredibly inspired by the openness of the community.” Before he finally left, after his three-month stay, “he told me it was the best three months of his life.”

From Wendell, Tan walked in a drizzle to Vipassana Meditation Center in Shelburne.

Transformations

The New England climate presents an extra challenge given the dictates of the order’s ancient calendar. By that tradition, wandering monks must retreat to monasteries for at least three months of the four-month monsoon season (from August’s full moon to November’s). Thus, Tan

said, “I kept the ‘rains residence’ in sun and warmth” – Wendell’s late summer and early fall.

But now, at the start of the potential wandering season, it’s winter. Generally, he explained, Theraveda monks living in a monastery have tended to treat wintertime as a time of “stability,” but “We are free to be total wanderers during the...nine [non-monsoon] months of the year.”

While admitting that in his tradition “there’s really no encouragement to leave a stable community or experiment with the form,” it seems he may try to exercise that freedom. He says “a sort of blundering fearlessness...has so far allowed me to keep my head above water while trying to breathe life into this most ancient practice of wandering. Only time will tell if anything comes of it.”

That prospect brought over a dozen Wendell people together to buy a couple of pairs of woolen socks and some cloth with which to make a hooded woolen garment for Tan. My partner Susan sewed the cloth into a warm, brown tunic that will be presented in a meeting scheduled a few days from now at a subway stop in

New York City, where he has gone to be with family over the holidays and “tackle a few large projects of my own.”

Little-known in town is a part of Tan’s life that Scott Garland learned during his time of hosting Tan at his place.

“He served in the Army,” Garland said. “He realized he couldn’t run around with a gun. He had traveled, even around Asia a bit.

“I’m not sure of the timeline, but he applied for conscientious objector status, and was turned down. He went to his commanding officer and told him about his situation. They could have court-martialed him, but they didn’t.

“He took the vow of the Five Precepts – that is, conscious abstention from killing, stealing, sexual impropriety, lying, and wilful intoxication – and realized he’d joined rarefied company, people who’ve propelled themselves into a new way of living. He transformed himself from that soldier into what he is.”

Summarized his friend, “He’s in something like Year 2550 in the Buddhist calendar!”



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A D V I C E W I T H P U R P O S E

STRATHMORE from page A1

while he and his staff were out on other calls. “Those mutual aid companies don’t know the Strathmore,” he said. “They’re going to open that door, and fall three or four floors.”

He also expressed concern that the owner of Swift River Hydro, a company that owns one building in the complex, was walking through various sections of the buildings alone: “He could fall through a hole, and nobody would know it for days.”

Selectboard chair Mike Nelson suggested that he and Escott, along with building inspector David Jensen, town planner Walter Ramsey, and highway department head Tom Bergeron, meet as soon as possible to devise a plan “so people are not going to get hurt.”

When contacted the next day, Jensen, who was not in attendance at Monday’s meeting, stated that he was “all for that.” He said some of the key issues raised in the original order of notice had in fact been addressed, but that the process “was not timely – a slow slog,” and that others had not been resolved.

Openings to the Weather

A review of recent *Reporter* articles on the Strathmore, along with interviews with town officials, suggests that there was no clear timeline for addressing the issues raised in the original fire order, and no sense of closure among the town officials,

including the fire chief, involved.

On February 19, 2014, Chief Escott issued an “order of notice” requiring the town to correct potentially hazardous conditions in the building. The actions required by the order included removal of “all stored combustible and hazardous materials,” the closing of “openings to the weather,” the elimination of roof leaks, “making operable fire department connection to system #2,” repairing sprinkler system #2, and marking the outside of buildings with a red box and white x indicating exterior operations only to all fire departments.

In his original notice and accompanying letter, Escott called for some of the conditions to be corrected within 48 hours and the remainder within two weeks. Subsequent discussions among Escott and town officials seem to have eliminated the original time requirements, but did not produce new targets for completion of the required work.

In March 2014, the selectboard allocated \$20,000 from the “community development discretionary fund” to address the issues raised by the fire chief.

Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio stated that holes in the Strathmore floor would be fixed by the Department of Public Works, although an outside contractor might also be required. He said the roof problems were being evaluated by Renaissance Builders, a private company, and the complex’s sprinkler system was said to be “up and running.”

The Turners Falls Water Department was said to be considering returning water to the building through a connection on the pedestrian bridge, and the sewer system that

services the building had thawed, but the pump, which was termed “in rough shape,” would need \$1,600 in immediate repairs.

In April, DPW head Tom Bergeron reported that much of the recycled paper, left in the complex by a former owner, had been removed. He estimated that between twenty and thirty containers of material would be removed by the time the job was completed. David Jensen reported that three of the five open windows in the complex had been sealed, that the roof repairs being done would probably cost \$9,000 and that fixes to the water and sewer system would cost “\$20,000 and up.”

The Montague annual town meeting that May did not allocate funds for Strathmore improvements, but at the end of June 2014, \$30,000 was transferred from the town’s “Unsafe and Unhealthy Buildings” account to pay for the work.

Blessing in Disguise

The next significant discussion of the Strathmore occurred at the selectboard meeting of September 29, 2014. Abbondanzio reported significant progress in addressing the problems identified by the fire chief. He called the chief’s order a “blessing in disguise” because it forced the town to address key problems, particularly the lack of water and sewer connections, that had undermined the complex’s marketability.

Abbondanzio rejected the option of demolishing the buildings, which he suggested could cost several million dollars. Instead, he called on the town to “stay the course” as the real estate market was beginning to improve, and recommended the town consider marketing the buildings in

the complex separately, perhaps beginning with Building 11.

At that time, Nelson proposed that the town consider funding hazardous waste removal as a priority, since this expenditure would be necessary whether sale or demolition proved to be the best option. This idea appeared to have the support of the selectboard, although no formal vote was taken.

On March 2, 2015, Ramsey presented the selectboard with a plan to market the complex in sections, beginning with Building 11, a building portrayed to be in relatively good condition. Ramsey proposed issuing a request for proposals under the Urban Homesteading program, as doing so would give the town more control over development and financing. He estimated the value of Building 11 at \$75,000, but said there should be no minimum price in the RFP, though added that the purchaser should be required to put at least \$100,000 into the project.

In response to a question from Nelson about the potential cost of hazardous waste removal, Ramsey revealed that the town had recently gotten an estimate for the entire complex of \$702,000. He stated that he would try to break out the cost for Building 11.

At the same meeting, then-selectboard member Mark Fairbrother discussed progress on recent negotiations with FirstLight Power Company regarding the bridges over the canal. These bridges, particularly the one located opposite the Keith Apartments on Canal Street, are considered vital to the complex’s development. Noting that FirstLight’s federal license was up for renewal, Fairbrother called for the town to “take the is-

sue to the federal level.”

Abbondanzio reported he had talked to the “new head” of FirstLight’s Northfield operation, who was “open to sitting down and talking to us,” and suggested a meeting with “our federal legislators.”

All the Way

That is where the issue of the Strathmore appeared to sit until the appearance of Escott before the board last Monday.

According to Ramsey, the town then issued a request for proposals for Building 11 and has received one response, from the Obear Construction Company. Obear is currently developing the Powers Block in Millers Falls, also under the Urban Homesteading program. Ramsey stated that there will be further discussions with the company about their proposal in the coming months.

David Jensen, in a telephone conversation, said he believed Obear is well versed in the condition of the building, having toured it several times.

Jensen expressed concern that the cost estimate for hazardous waste removal, which he considers “speculative” and potentially high, may have stalled further progress on addressing the problems identified in the original fire chief’s order. He also suggested that the town – with, for example, one DPU employee responsible for fixing all the town’s buildings – may lack the capacity to address the Strathmore’s problems.

At the selectboard meeting on December 14, Escott called on the town to secure Building 11 first.

Then, he said, “let’s figure out a plan that we’re actually going to act on all the way.”

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BASKETBALL from page A1

In the third quarter, Lee began to accumulate fouls, but the Tribe was unable to sink its free throws. After 3, the score was 40-8.

But the Lady Indians never gave up, and outscored Lee in the final quarter, 8 to 6.

Nadia Hasan led the Tribe with

6 points. Chloe Ellis added 4. Jordyn Fiske and Aliyah Sanders each scored 2 points, and Maddy Chmyzinski and Abigail Loynd both scored 1.

Turners will host Greenfield on Monday, December 28 and will travel to South Deerfield on the 30th to play Frontier.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Lee 74 - TFHS 71

By MATT ROBINSON

The two schools had also matched up a day earlier in boys’ basketball. The Lee Wildcats shot out to a 17-8 first-quarter lead, and outlasted Turners 74-71 in the Tribe’s opening game of the 2015-16 season. Turners actually outscored Lee in each of the next 3 quarters, but were unable to make up the point gap. Jalen Sanders led Powertown’s scorers with 22 points. Rick Craver added 12 on four 3-pointers. Josh Obochowski got 11 on 4 buckets and 3 free throws. Nick Croteau

sank 2 threes and ended with 8 points. Kyle Bergman scored 6 points and Tionne Brown and James Vaughn each had 5. Colby Dobias also contributed 2 points. On Wednesday, Turners travels to Winchendon to play Murdock High School. On Friday, they play Mohawk in Buckland, and on Monday the 21st they will host Franklin Tech. The proceeds from the TFHS-FCTS game will benefit Coaches Vs. Cancer and the family of Earl McGraw.



Turners’ Maddy Chmyzinski (20) steps in for the layup.

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NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Block Grants, Police Staffing, Aggregation and Intervention Make for Long Montague Agenda

By JEFF SINGLETON

The Montague selectboard meeting of December 14 lasted for nearly three hours, and covered topics ranging from town licenses to the ongoing problems of the Strathmore building (see page A1) to something called “municipal aggregation” of electricity. The largest block of time was spent on a hearing for the 2016 Community Development Block Grant application.

During the “public comment” period at the beginning of the meeting, Mike McCarthy, an owner of Riff’s North, which has purchased the space formerly occupied by Kali B’s Wings and Things on 166 Avenue A in Turners, asked a “procedural question” about the town’s license policy. Riff’s has purchased the space, but will not open using their liquor license until January 4. He wanted to know “the reasoning” behind requiring him to pay for both a 2015 and 2016 license, at a total cost of \$2,000.

Board chair Mike Nelson suggested that he had not been aware of this policy until recently, but believed that it was the practice to require payment for a license whether it was transferred in the beginning, middle or end of the year. He also stated he thought it was “pretty ridiculous.” Selectboard administrative assistant Wendy Bogusz confirmed that this has been the policy, and noted several recent cases where transfers had occurred late in the year.

Chris Boutwell said he did not think the town had a written policy on the issue. Rich Kuklewicz stated that if the business were serving liquor and generating money, a fee would be necessary. But since Riff’s is only doing renovations, he tended to agree with Mike that the policy was not fair in this case.

Nelson said the issue would need to be put on a future agenda. After some discussion he suggested that McCarthy pay the fees for both years now, the board put the policy or “past practice” on its January 4 agenda, and “possibly” Riff’s could receive a reimbursement.

Block Grant Information

Next on the agenda was an informational meeting about the 2016 Community Development Block Grant application. Town Planner Walter Ramsey briefly described the grant, which is targeted to low and moderate income communities. He stated that Montague could apply for up to \$900,000 in federal funds.

Pam Parmakian, interim community development director at the Franklin Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA), said the grants were highly competitive and noted that sign-in sheets for this meeting were sent in with the application.

There followed a number of presentations about projects that would be in the grant proposal. The first was a development proposal to extend street lighting further down Avenue A toward the Carnegie Library and Peskeompskut Park. This could involve narrowing the side-

walk so that lights can be placed in the town right-of-way on the side opposite the street.

A second set of presentations pertained to the social services component of the grant. These included a leadership education program for young adults at the Brick House; a family literacy program, administered by the Montague Catholic Social Ministries; and partial funding for the Meals on Wheels Program of the Franklin County Home Care Corporation.

A third component of the grant focuses on housing rehabilitation, particularly bringing structures in Turners Falls “up to code.”

Signs and Plants

After the block grant hearing, Gary Konvelski, owner of Gary’s Coins on Avenue A, requested a license to place a sign in the planter in front of the former location of his store on Avenue A. Konvelski, who has moved north and across the street to number 56, said that his customers from out of town have been unable to find his new location. The board approved his request.

Konvelski also requested that he be considered for the newly-created “planter coordinator” position. This position, as the title implies, will coordinate activities involving the various planters along Avenue A. Several selectboard members stated they felt Konvelski would do a good job as coordinator but that he needed to consult the “planter committee” which, according to the new planter regulations, is charged with recommending a candidate to the selectboard.

A paradox quickly arose with the realization that there was no planter coordinator to call together the planter committee to make such a recommendation. This was resolved with the suggestion that building inspector David Jensen call a meeting of the planter committee.

Bruce Hunter, also of the Housing and Redevelopment Authority, next came before the board to request authorization to disburse final payments to Mountain View Landscape and Lawncare, Inc. for the Avenue A streetscape project. The board voted to approve the request.

The board also approved an “addendum” to a contract with the Housing Authority to extend the administration of the 2014 block grant into 2016. The extension will be needed to complete the housing rehabilitation portion of the grant.

Reorganize The Police

Police chief Chip Dodge next came before the board with a complicated series of personnel requests. “Now is the time of the season to address a bunch of this stuff,” he told the board, noting that there were a number of vacancies on the force due to retirements and the loss of several reserve officers.

Dodge began by requesting that the board allow him to begin the process of hiring new reserve officers. The request was approved by the board.

Next, he requested to be allowed

to start hiring so-called “special police officers,” a category that apparently resembles reserve officers – and must have the same training – but are not on the Civil Service list. Dodge stated that “a few years ago,” specials were eliminated because they were deemed illegal. He said that he has received a legal opinion saying they were legal. The board approved this request.

Dodge then requested that he be allowed to create a new, non-union position of Lieutenant. He said this position had become necessary, as he was the only “non-union administrative employee around” and that he needed someone to “relinquish [his] authority to if I am out on a trip or out sick... someone who just steps right in and assumes my role.” Only a non-union employee can be involved in disciplinary issues or handle certain complaints. The big problem, he said, was that over time sergeants have been at the station, doing increasing amounts of administrative work rather than being out in the field. A lieutenant would take up some of those office tasks.

Dodge said he was not going to expand the total number of officers on his staff – he was not asking for a “seventeenth position” – but would rather “train someone” to be the lieutenant. Funds would come from savings caused by four retirements, which would lead to new hires at a lower pay scale.

The board voted to authorize Dodge to begin the process of creating the lieutenant position, and to authorize the committee chair to sign any relevant documents. In an unrelated matter, the board voted to appoint a reserve officer to a full-time position to allow a new officer to attend the police training academy.

Aggregating Montague

Next, Bernard Kubiak of the Hampshire Council of Governments approached the board to discuss “Municipal Aggregation Programs.” He was accompanied by Brian Murphy and Mark Cappadona of Colonial Power Group, Inc., a consulting firm that works with towns to implement the policy.

Cappadona described municipal aggregation as a way “to deliver, for people still on basic [electric] service, a lower more stable rate.” This would be done by bringing “all of the residents of Montague together to use your buying power to negotiate with suppliers” to obtain lower rates. If implemented by the town, all residents on basic service would be automatically enrolled but they could choose to opt out.

After briefly describing a rather lengthy process to finalize an aggregation agreement – although he claimed Montague town meeting had already approved the concept – Cappadona asked if there were any questions. “I think people would like cheaper power,” responded Chris Boutwell.

After a lengthy discussion including whether a procurement process was needed, the board voted to enter the town into a “consultation agreement” with Colonial Power.



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**LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF MONTAGUE**

FY 2016 CDBG PUBLIC HEARING

The Town of Montague will hold a public hearing on January 4, 2016 at 7:10 p.m. in the Selectmen’s Meeting Room at the Montague Town Hall, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls to solicit public response to the Town’s submission of an FY 2016 Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application to the Department of Housing and Community Development. The snow date for the public hearing is January 11, 2016 at 7:10 p.m. at the same location.

The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss the contents of the application which will include 5 activities: a housing rehabilitation program in the Turners Falls target area (TA1), 3 social service programs (town wide) a Youth Leadership Opportunity program provided by The Brick House CRC, Montague Home Delivery Meals provided by the Franklin County Home Care Corporation (FCHCC) and Family Literacy provided by the Montague Catholic Social Ministries (MCSM) and Phase Two of Avenue A Streetscape Lighting Improvements designed by Berkshire Design Group (BDG). The Town of Montague will contract with Franklin County Regional Housing & Redevelopment Authority (HRA) to administer the CDBG Program.

The Town encourages residents to attend the meeting where any person or organization wishing to be heard will be afforded the opportunity. HRA will be available to discuss the application and update the status of the Town’s FY 2014 and FY 2015 CDBG programs. Town of Montague Planning Department and HRA will be available to discuss the FY 2016 CDBG application’s activities.

The Town of Montague is an equal opportunity provider.

Board of Selectmen, Town of Montague

Ambulance Data

At this point Turners Falls fire chief Bob Escott sat down at the front table to ask the board to request data from the primary Montague ambulance service, Medicare. Escott said the fire department was reevaluating the back-up service it provides, but has been having trouble getting information from Medicare. The board agreed to request the information.

Escott then raised concerns about the safety of the buildings in the Strathmore complex (see article, page A1).

Other Business

Town planner Walter Ramsey then reappeared before the board to request approval for a letter to the Federal Emergency Regulatory Commission. The letter requests “intervenor” status in the upcoming proceedings involving the natural gas pipeline planned to run through Montague.

After accepting some additions suggested by Montague “pipeline liaison” Ariel Elan, the board approved the request.

Ramsey was followed by cable

advisory committee chair Jason Burbank, who said the local access contract with Montague Community Cable Incorporated had not been finalized. Since it expires at the end of December, Burbank requested a two-month extension. The board approved this request.

The board voted to appoint Kevin Hannah to the broadband committee, to replace Peter Vichi.

At the request of DPW head Tom Bergeron, the board voted to revisit the current “inclement weather policy” as it applied to certain “essential personnel,” including staff at the DPU. This discussion will take place at a future meeting, hopefully prior to inclement weather.

The board then read, and voted to approve, a long list of permit applications. Only one lodging house permit was included, that for the HRA’s Moltenbrey Apartments.

The selectboard then voted to go into executive session to discuss the purchase, lease or sale of property in the industrial park, and to approve and release the executive session minutes of December 7 involving collective bargaining.

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VISITOR from page A1

Lynne and Shawn Hubert and a host of community volunteers.

One of these volunteers, Marie Putala, of Turners Falls, was instrumental in starting the initiative four years ago when former Jake's restaurant owner Bill Holbrook wanted to do something charitable in memory of his niece, Kaci. Holbrook had approached Marie, saying, "If I give you some money, will you buy some presents [for kids in the community]?"

Her response was, "Sure, but why don't we start something here?" So they approached Montague Catholic Social Ministries director Susan Mareneck and came up with the idea of putting up the names and ages of community children on the wall of the tavern. Patrons then picked a child, bought and wrapped a present and these were distributed to the children before Christmas.

That first season, 91 local children received gifts. Lynne and Shawn Hubert, who purchased Jake's and re-named it Hubie's Tavern, were eager to continue the tradition.

"It's about the children," Marie Putala said. "And about the community working together. There has been an outpouring of kindness."

This year there were 167 children's names on the wall at Hubie's Tavern, and each one received gifts on Sunday, enjoyed cookies and punch, and had a visit with Santa – some for the very first time.



MONTAGUE REPORTER



LESLEY COGSWELL PHOTO

Jackson and Camden Cogswell, ages 4 and 7, with the Montague Reporter at Disney's Epcot in Florida in November. Thanks, guys, for bringing us along!

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GREEN FIELD
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Naomi Clark Regains Mobility with New TrackChair

By JOE KWIECINSKI

ASHFIELD – Meet Naomi Clark. At 31 years of age, Clark is the fifth generation working member of a family that has lived and toiled on the local farming establishment known as Clark Brothers Orchard.

The farm is an institution in these parts, dating back to 1886. Made up of some 65 acres, Clark Brothers is located about 11 miles from South Deerfield.

Naomi's father, Dana, is the owner; her uncle, Aaron, is the office administrator.

Brother Silas is a jack-of-all-trades. He drives big semi-trucks, manages picking crews during harvest time, does all the tractor work, and helps with mechanical repairs.

There are hopes that Naomi and Silas will continue the farm into the next generation. "We have a

SUBMITTED PHOTO



tremendous amount of respect," said Naomi, "for Uncle Aaron and my father. I will try my best to live up to my uncle's high standards see **CLARK** page B3

MINDFUL OF LEARNING, MOUTHFUL OF SHAKESPEARE



Members of the Young Shakespeare Players East ensemble rehearse for this weekend's debut of *The Tempest* at GCC's Sloan Theater.

By CALEB WETHERBEE

GREENFIELD – I went to the Sloan Theater at Greenfield Community College last Sunday afternoon to view a dress rehearsal of William Shakespeare's "The Tempest" performed by kids. I left hugely impressed with the performance, and also with an enlightened view of how an Elizabethan drama can be used as a vehicle for teaching.

The acting company, Young Shakespeare Players East (YSPE

– an off-shoot of the original Madison, Wisconsin company) presents an enthralling rendition of this classic drama. I stayed for all five acts!

Understand, this is not Shakespeare rewritten and edited to be accessible for children; it is the real deal that includes every syllable of its Elizabethan iambic pentameter glory, with the added feature of being delivered in the voices of children as young as seven.

I have personally sat through many a school-staged drama to cheer on my own kids and others and have come away from the experience remembering pageantry in paper costumes and parroted dialogue, and I assure you that the YSPE present nothing of that kind.

These performances are the culmination of a process of learning unlike any other. Young people, ages 7 to 18, are guided through the experience of creating a Shakespearean production from script to strike night. And they do everything: the casting, the scenery, the costumes, the props, the lighting, the blocking, and even the directing are all accomplished through collaborations among the performers themselves.

see **TEMPEST** page B4



THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

The Shortest Day

By LESLIE BROWN

MONTAGE CITY – This year's crop of apples was large and flavorful. My favorite apple for eating out of hand is the McIntosh; this year these large, fragrant beauties have also created supremely delicious pies. As we are down to the last dozen or so, we decide to make one more of the fall season's favorite pies.

Six or eight of these beauties pared and sliced, a half cup of sugar, quarter teaspoons of nutmeg and clove with a half teaspoon of cinnamon are stirred in a bowl and then set into the bottom crust. Add a top layer of crust, crimp the edges together, and cut a few slits in the top

to let out the steam and the pie is oven ready. Less than an hour later, the house is filled with the scent of warm apple pie.

We wait eagerly for it to be cool enough to slice.

An appropriate coupling: the end of autumn and the last apple pie.

Despite our unseasonably warm start to December, we approach the first day of winter and the Solstice or shortest day of our calendar year.

This year's Solstice falls on Tuesday, December 22 at 12:11 A.M. As the earth's axis tilts, the northern polar regions will experience 24 hours of nighttime, while the south polar area will be in daylight for a whole day and night.

see **GARDENER'S** page B4

MONTAGUE'S NEW CLAIRVAUX ARTS AND CRAFTS SOCIETY

PART III: LONG ON IDEAS ...

By JERI MORAN
and MIKE JACKSON

Readers of E.P. Pressey's Arts and Crafts journal, *Country Time and Tide*, must have garnered an impression of Montague, Massachusetts as an out-of-the-way rural village, restored to life by a back-to-the-land movement that united farming, handicrafts and a progressive spirituality.

Some came to visit and were charmed enough by what they encountered to stick around and help. But others – expecting from the literature that the New Clairvaux Arts and Crafts Society was a settlement or colony of craftspeople, like the Rose Valley Association (Pennsylvania), the Roycroft Campus (East Aurora, NY), or Byrdcliffe (Woodstock, NY) – left in disappointment.

The small circle of fellow min-

isters and intellectuals Pressey had attracted to Montague found they had to look elsewhere to maintain their livelihoods. The community's most widely recognized artisan, the printer Carl Purington Rollins, took off in 1905 for Europe, saying too much printing had injured his eyes.

Waldo Truesdell left in 1905 to accept a teaching position in Maine. Rev. George Solley accepted a Unitarian ministerial position in Winchendon, MA, though he did return from time to time to help Pressey run his boys' summer camp.

George Holcomb continued to live in Montague, but took a position at the Massachusetts Agricultural College (which later became UMass-Amherst). Pressey would later write that Holcomb, who had married his wife's sister, "divides his time between his Iona Fruit

and Poultry farm" and the college – not an unusual sort of arrangement in our own times, but hardly one that evinced the kind of self-sustaining agrarian lifestyle Pressey had argued could provide an alternative to the industrialized misery of the cities.

As the first decade of the century progressed, it became clearer that New Clairvaux's success would be more felt in fostering a local culture around the craft than in establishing a community of direct cooperators at Montague.

Much of this came down to economics. As a later *Boston Globe* newspaper article would say, "Pressey was long on ideas and short of cash." The school he was desperate to establish floundered. From the start, he had his students attend Montague public schools for traditional classes, then augmented them with vocational studies.

While he at one time listed almost 30 elective classes, including printing, animal care, forestry, and mechanics, very few of those classes attracted students "from all over the country," as was his original goal. There is little evidence that local students attended his school in great numbers – nor that he enrolled the city children he felt could profit from this sort of education, though through the US Commissioner of Education he did accept two students from Puerto Rico. (Lillian Fiske of the Montague Historical Society tells us her mother recalls seeing the see **CLAIRVAUX** page B5



The old Village Shop, as it stands today.

An Experience of Light and Solitude: Hallmark Exhibit, "Dune Shack" by Trish Crapo

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

TURNERS FALLS – Step into the entranceway of the Hallmark Institute in Turners Falls, and a sense of peace and solitude will engulf your mind as you are transported to those early spring days when the beach is quiet and the light is full of promise. Trish Crapo spent two weeks in May 2013, and then again this year, in a small rustic shack on the sand dunes of Cape Cod.

She stayed in the Margo Gelb shack, a privilege granted her by the Outer Cape Artist in Residence Consortium. Many artists before her, some famous, have stayed there, seeking solitude and a way to clear the mind of the world's clutter to open the heart to whatever the artist is seeking in pursuit of creative truth.

The path is never easy, and her book, "Dune Shack," places photographs side-by-side with her thoughts as neat, parallel creative efforts, offering a glimpse of her experience. In her book, Crapo talks about struggles with rain coming in the shack and cold that has her wearing multiple layers of sweaters and socks, but the photographs tell me she loves the beach and the ocean, and is out there seeking its comfort and nurturing voice.

Trish Crapo's photographs are exquisite. The quality of light behind the dunes, the depth and richness of the texture – so evident one can feel the soft, fine sand that brushes one's feet and caresses the skin when it is the perfect warmth.

Her time there was well spent, part of the process becoming adjusted to the lack of electronics, of the hurricane lamps in the window reflecting outdoor light but required for light after dark. The process is also, both in words and pictures, of a gradual ease that comes of swimming in the cool ocean, of days lying on the deck in the sun, of time to read and relax and think. Of first-day jitters over batteries dying, but also perhaps more



Trish Crapo at the opening reception of her photography exhibit, "Dune Shack," at the Hallmark Institute on December 12. Her large photographs of sand dunes dominate the exhibit, but many equally enticing images of ocean views, interiors and hurricane lamps offer a reflection of solitude and the creative process.

about being out there alone, and the fears she felt as a woman alone in the dark at night.

Finally, I asked Crapo if she had been at the beach as a child and she said she grew up on the beach, in Miami, as her father's work required they live there. For those of us whose first steps were taken on sand, soft and warm, hard and cold, wet or dry, the beach is a longing for home like no other.

We all have the opportunity now to share this experience with Crapo through her art, on display until December 28, at the Hallmark Institute of Photography, at 241 Millers Falls Road in Turners Falls. Call for more information, (413) 863-2478.

Her book, "Dune Shack" will be available for purchase. Learn more about Trish Crapo at her website, www.trishcrapo.com.

Pet of the Week

Hi, I'm Munchkin! I am a mature guy who came to Dakin as a stray. Deep below my rugged exterior is an old softie who just needs a little loving.

I'm independent, like my space and enjoy exploring the great outdoors. But I'd also like a warm home to rest my paws. I hope it will be yours!

I'll earn my keep by keeping those pesky critters out of the yard. I have that kind of presence! Come to Dakin and ask an adoption counselor about me.



“MUNCHKIN”

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

MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

Ancient History (Dinosaurs), Town Business and Racial Justice

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

TURNERS FALLS – We hope you all have had a chance to enjoy some of the many events near you—if not in person then on a nearby television or internet browser! MCTV staff and producers have been busy filming the following for your viewing convenience:

- **Jurassic Road Show** at GSB 2015: The Jurassic Road Show is a group that brings the public in touch with fossils and footprints of the Connecticut River Valley, as in this show at Greenfield Savings Bank.

Watch the video to learn what layers of rock and fossil can tell you about the stages of a lake dying: from fossilized fish, to fossils of scattered scales and mud cracks – all found locally in Turners Falls.

Plus: learn the species' names for dinosaur footprints from local sites and beyond, and see the

transition from dinosaur to bird as embodied in one illustrative fossil. Check out jurassicroadshow.com for more info, or find them on Facebook! 8 mins.

- **December 7 Montague selectboard meeting:** Agenda items included new appointments to the personnel board and a request from the Rendezvous to remain open late on New Years Eve.

Tanya Campbell, CPA from Melanson Heath came to discuss the management letter for the past fiscal year. 38 mins.

- **December 9 Montague finance committee meeting:** The main agenda item this week was a discussion with police chief Chip Dodge and dispatch manager Marsha Odle about their department's functions, challenges, and direction. 1 hr, 45 mins.

- **December 10 Racial Justice Coalition meeting:** A meeting of the Coalition for Racial Justice

(CoRaJus) with local officials, in circle format, to discuss and plan a training series on race and racism.

If the selectboard decides to go forward with these plans, the trainings would be held for select town employees (department heads in particular) on a monthly or bimonthly basis.

Local groups doing antiracism work would facilitate the workshops to provide multiple perspectives and get a conversation going about race and racism in Turners Falls. 1 hr, 58 mins.

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!

Call (413) 863-9200, email infomontaguetv@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!

Senior Center Activities December 21 to 25

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 12/21

8 a.m. Foot Clinic (appt.)
10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise
Noon Pot Luck & Bingo

Tuesday 12/22

9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga
Noon Lunch, Knitting Circle

Wednesday 12/23

10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:30 a.m. Monthly Health Scng
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise
Noon Lunch
12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 12/24

9 a.m. Tai Chi, Veterans Outreach
Noon Lunch
1 p.m. Cards & Games

Friday 12/25 CLOSED

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 congregate 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 Betters, 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 12/21

9 a.m. Tai Chi
10 a.m. Osteo Exercise
Tuesday 12/22
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
10 a.m. Stretching & Balance
12:30 Painting

Wednesday 12/23

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Chair Yoga
Noon Bingo, Snacks
Thursday 12/24
8:45 Aerobics
10 a.m. Healthy Bones
12:30 p.m. Card Games

Friday 12/25 CLOSED

LEVERETT

For information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022, ext. 5, or 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.



By FRED CICETTI

Q. Will sex mess up my pacemaker?

Only if powerful magnets are involved. Seriously, your pacemaker is safe.

Modern pacemakers are stable devices, but there are still some precautions you should take if you've had one of these miraculous gizmos implanted in your chest.

The following could be problems:

Power machines are dangerous. Stand at least two feet away from arc-welding equipment, high-voltage transformers and motor-generator systems.

Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is a no-no if you have a pacemaker. In fact, any procedure that exposes you to electromagnetic energy is a problem.

These procedures include therapeutic radiation, shockwave litho-

tripsy that breaks up large kidney stones, and electrocautery to control bleeding during surgery.

Short-wave or microwave diathermy uses high-frequency, high-intensity signals. These may interfere with a pacemaker.

Metal detectors at airports don't interfere with pacemakers when you pass through them briefly. However, you should not hang around them for a long time or lean against them. And, if security personnel want to use a hand-held metal detector, ask them to avoid your pacemaker.

Cell phones. I found a variety of opinions on this. Some sources say cell phones are harmless.

However, others insist that you shouldn't put your cell directly over your pacemaker because it's possible that the pacemaker could misinterpret a phone signal, withhold pacing and make you feel tired.

Modern pacemakers have built-in protection from most types of interference produced by everyday electrical appliances. The following don't create problems and you shouldn't worry about being around them if you have a pacemaker:

Microwave ovens, televisions and their remote controls, dental equipment, radios, toasters, electric blankets, CB radios, heating pads, stereos, vacuum cleaners, hair dryers, gardening machinery, electric shavers, food processors, computers, copy machines and shop tools.

Always inform all healthcare

professionals that you have a pacemaker before receiving any treatment. And always carry an identification card that informs people that you have a pacemaker.

There are more than 3 million artificial pacemakers in use today. They are devices that help the heart beat in a regular rhythm when its natural pacemaker isn't working.

One of the most common problems requiring a pacemaker is "bradycardia," a heart rate that's too slow. This can be brought on by age.

An implanted electronic pacemaker is made up of a pulse generator and leads. The leads are flexible, insulated wires that deliver the electrical pulses to your heart.

The pulse generator is a small metal container that houses a battery and the electrical circuitry that regulates the rate of electrical pulses sent to your heart.

Surgery to implant the pacemaker is usually performed under local anesthesia and typically takes less than three hours.

The pulse generator is usually implanted under the skin beneath your collarbone. Some models are as small as a quarter.

In our next column, we'll discuss implantable cardioverter-defibrillators (ICDs).

If you would like to ask a question, write to fred@healthygeezer.com.

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Sharon Cottrell
Property Manager

CLARK from page B1

as office manager, and I know the same is true for Silas when he moves into my dad's position as owner."

Naomi is the only female on the homestead. She is a personable and strong presence working in the organization's office. Clark broke her back 10 years ago, crashing on a four-wheel all-terrain vehicle. A paraplegic, Naomi has an insatiable drive to excel at whatever she does.

Thoughtful and kind, Clark is also articulate and highly intelligent. The Ashfield native relocated to Arizona to complete a demanding outpatient physical therapy program in Tempe before moving to the classroom, earning a Bachelor of Arts in the field of psychology three years ago.

"I missed the three seasons," said Clark with a hearty laugh. "I missed the spring, summer, and fall in New England, so I returned after I got my degree."

Living on a farm isn't very wheelchair friendly and she felt incredibly frustrated because of all the rough terrain and hills she couldn't negotiate. But Clark's determined spirit enabled her to raise money for an off-road electric wheelchair. Insurance would not cover this chair because, she explained, "as far as they are concerned, one wheelchair is enough."

Thanks to the crowdfunding website GoFundMe, Naomi was able to conduct her own fundraiser, ultimately buying the Action Track-chair by raising more than \$17,000 in three months.

After she went over the \$11,000

mark, a large anonymous donation brought Clark to her goal.

The wheelchair operates on tractor treads and has a zero-degree turn radius. The electric chair helps her to get out and walk her dogs, and even pick blueberries, plums, peaches, and apples without assistance. She can even "walk" on the beach.

This chair will also support the user in a standing position. "It's amazing," said Clark. "What a thrill!"

Now she can more fully participate in the life she loves on the farm. She started doing little jobs there at the age of five or six.

"I can't remember exactly when," said Clark, "because it felt so absolutely normal to me to be helping out with picking potato beetles from potato plants. I remember I would collect them in a can. I loved these tasks. My dad was my hero, and he was giving me a chance to be part of what the family was doing. I was beginning to absorb a strong work ethic that I don't think I would have gotten otherwise."

Farming can be highly rewarding. "You know you're feeding families," she said. "We're nurturers. We're not going to get rich, but we have a solid, honorable quality of life. I want to see our farm continue for generations to come."

Naomi will marry her fiancé, Craig Richter, next July 24. That day also marks the 11th anniversary of her accident. "I want to change the worst day of my life into the best day of my life," said the always-positive Ms. Clark.



"It's a Wonderful Life," Nearly 70 Years Later

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

It's a Wonderful Life is a film which we are used to seeing at Christmas time on TV. I always connect the movie to the holiday season. It's even been in the Cinemark theaters at the Hampshire mall in Hadley, and it's screening again at that location this year.

The film is based on the short story "The Greatest Gift," which was written by Philip Van Doren Stern in 1939 and published privately in 1945. The author got his inspiration from a dream. He finished the 4,100-word short story in 1943 which he had been working on since November 1939. He had no luck finding a publisher for it, and sent the 200 copies he made as a 21-page booklet to friends for Christmas presents that year. The private publication of it happened in 1945.

It was brought to the attention of the motion picture industry through RKO pictures producer David Hempstead, who showed it to actor Cary Grant. He had an interest in the lead role. Then RKO purchased the film rights for \$10,000 in April 1944. After many screenwriters worked on the adaptations, the story's rights were then sold to Frank Capra's movie production company for the same amount of money that was used to buy the rights in the first place. Then it was made into "It's a Wonderful Life."

The movie kept what I believe is an important element of the story, which is that the main character wishes he had never been born. By

seeing a world in which he had never been born, he learns of the impact he had on the people around him.

Who hasn't wondered "what if" about their lives, or hasn't wished that they'd never done something in the first place? This film captures this perfectly.

Despite it not doing so great when it first premiered, Capra reveals "the film was his personal favorite among those he directed, adding that he screened it for his family every Christmas season." Something very noteworthy when it came to the writing of this story could be one of the many reasons it continues to be shown on TV as a tradition at Christmas time.

People have done more than just watch the film every year. A few other TV shows have done their own take on the story.

A favorite TV show of mine called Warehouse 13, which was on the Syfy channel, did a Christmas episode where one of the characters saw the world as if he was never born. Part of the premise of the show was to find objects that had been specially impacted by a person and store them in a warehouse. Van Doren Stern's "The Greatest Gift" features a brush, so the show used a brush to set up things for the episode's storyline.

That is my favorite take on this plot idea being used, and it also shows how popular *It's A Wonderful Life* has become, and how it's viewed by people in the present.

You never know what will affect people, even years later.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Postman Corrals Fifth Street Chickens; Thefts of Marijuana, Pipeline Sign; Golf Club Break-In; Arson Charges

Monday, 12/7

9:17 a.m. Set of 4 studded snow tires reported stolen from basement of burned-down residence on Dry Hill Road. Investigated.

3:13 p.m. Caller states that he is following a male party that he suspects of stealing his vehicle (reported earlier today); they are heading toward Route 47 at a high rate of speed. Caller advised to refrain from "chasing" the male party. Caller attempted to explain to dispatch that he is very well aware of how his car drives/handles and that he knows all these back roads well and is not going to let the other party "get away." Caller again advised against this. Officer advised of call.

4:45 p.m. Caller into lobby reporting that North Leverett Road is getting slippery and may need attention from the DPW. Officer checked road and found spots of black ice; 2 vehicles have gone off the road because of it (see next two calls). DPW contacted.

4:55 p.m. Caller from North Leverett Road reporting that a vehicle had gone off the road onto his property, causing damage, and then left the area. Responding officer reports heavy damage to shrubs and yard; vehicle came within 5 feet of hitting the caller's house, slid into yard, turned around on lawn and left. Vehicle mirror left behind. Area PDs advised. Report taken.

5:28 p.m. Officer advises that while on previous call, he was flagged down about an overturned vehicle on North Leverett Road. Operator of vehicle uninjured. DPW and Rau's en route.

Tuesday, 12/8

5:05 a.m. Structure fire at Judd Wire. TFFD responding. Area departments responding for assistance. Turnpike Road closed. Building cleared to be occupied again.

9:27 a.m. Officer responding to Lake Pleasant Road to mediate a dispute between the caller and her brother regarding the installation of a well. Advised of options.

11:34 a.m. Report of a loose chicken in the road near Second Street Baking Company that is causing a traffic hazard. Total of 3 chickens located. Chickens were corralled with assistance of a mailman. Chickens returned to their owner on Fifth Street. Copy of call left for animal control officer.

11:42 a.m. Caller reports a large number of items dumped in the woods on a four wheeling trail across from the Ramblers Club.

Items include piles of tires, TVs, and a stack of mattresses 8-10 feet high. Caller referred to Environmental Police.

1:32 p.m. Caller advises that she and another party went to the attached party's residence on Lake Pleasant Road to try to get him to drive a vehicle that they are trying to get back. A disturbance ensued, and the caller advises that the male party squealed his tires and was briefly chasing her. Caller advised to leave the area, not to go to this party's residence, and to let officers handle the situation. Officer advised caller of options.

6:21 p.m. Caller reports that she was at the Third Street Laundry last night and several DVDs that she had brought into the laundromat with her fiancé were stolen while they were outside smoking. Caller no longer in town but on way to PA. Advised of options.

9:40 p.m. Report of a male party outside of an apartment on Third Street yelling and screaming and "singing about Jesus Christ." Now pounding on apartment door. Officers located party and escorted him to another address on Third Street, where he was permitted to stay for the night.

Wednesday, 12/9

3:16 a.m. Caller from Randall Wood Drive advising of fire in basement. TFFD and officers advised. Responding officer advises smoke and flames are visible from outside. Fire knocked down.

[redacted] was arrested and charged with arson of a dwelling house; violation of a restraining order; and attempted murder.

10:51 a.m. School resource officer requesting assistance with a disorderly student at Franklin County Tech. Courtesy transport provided. Student is not allowed to return to FCTS until further notice, per the school.

12:59 p.m. Caller from High Street reports that someone recently stole a pipeline sign from his lawn; requests to have on record only.

9:03 p.m. Caller from Lake Pleasant Road reports that earlier today several family members came to his house to look for firearms. While they were there, someone reportedly took several tools as well as marijuana that he left on the kitchen table. Investigated.

Thursday, 12/10

9:51 a.m. Caller from I Street reports that his truck was broken into last night and a small amount of change/money was taken. Officer advised of call.

2:25 p.m. Caller complaining of two parties who are feeding the geese near the river where signs warn not to feed the birds. Officer spoke to parties and advised them not to feed the birds.

5:51 p.m. Caller concerned for her husband's well-being; he left to go to the post office over 1.5 hours ago and has not yet returned. Attempted to call husband's cell phone; spoke to him as his wife was returning a call to the PD; he is now home. Husband recently bought a new cell phone and is not yet familiar with its functions.

Friday, 12/11

10:35 a.m. Caller from Thomas Memorial Country Club reports that the banquet hall was broken into overnight; entry made through smashed windows. Report taken.

5:12 p.m. Caller from Federal Street reports that he just returned home and found his residence had been broken into. Missing are a tray full of change, an envelope that held \$100, and a collection of half dollar coins. Caller declined an officer responding at this time as it is his birthday and he is supposed to be meeting friends shortly; he will call back and speak with an officer after dinner.

11:15 p.m. Caller reports that she just witnessed a vehicle chase someone running on Avenue A; vehicle chased person onto the sidewalk and pinned them against the dumpster next to Black Cow Burger. Person that was chased was then seen getting into the car, which sped up Fourth Street toward the bakery. Responding officer found a side mirror from a vehicle on the sidewalk; nothing else seen. Will be checking area.

Saturday, 12/12

9:46 a.m. Caller reports that approximately 30 loose goats have come from a neighbor's property onto her mother's property. The goats have done damage to bushes, trees, etc. Officer checked area; did not see any goats in the road or on the caller's mother's property, but did observe approximately 50 goats behind the neighbor's residence. Unable to make contact with owner of goats. Copy of call left for animal control officer.

10:27 a.m. Report of a male youth, approximately 10 years old, in the middle of Fourth Street lighting a fire in a pan. Caller advises that this is an ongoing issue with this youth. Officer and TFFD captain spoke with child's mother and advised her of her options pertaining to this behavior.

3:06 p.m. Caller from Fourth Street advising of a male party who just looked into his window and told him "I'm going to f*** you up." Caller did not recognize party but stated this has also recently happened to another apartment nearby. Unable to locate.

Sunday, 12/13

11:01 a.m. Vehicle reported vandalized on Fifth Street. Report taken.


8:18 p.m. Caller from Federal Street reports neighbor having a bonfire; advises "it's happened before." Officer checked area; could not see any flames/smoke from the reported residence or nearby.

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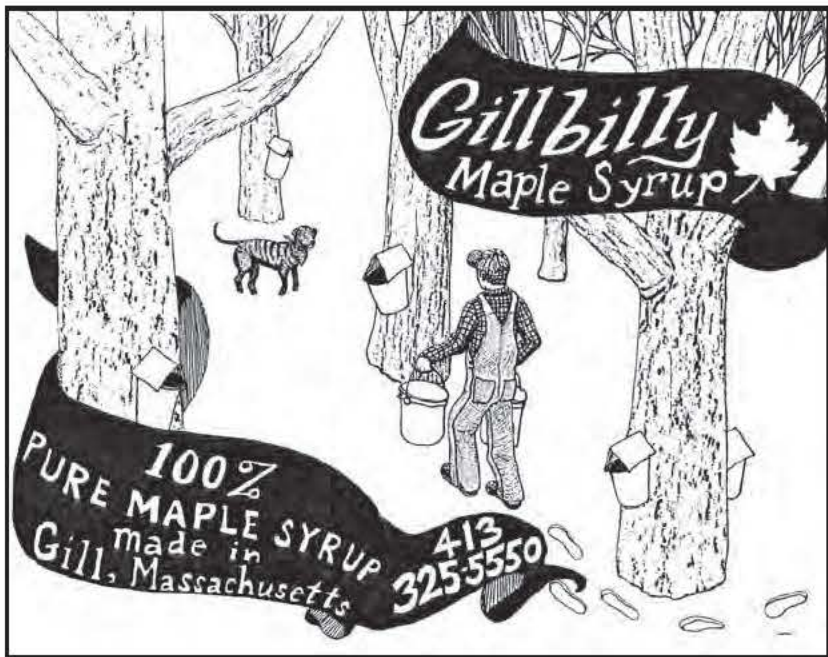
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TEMPEST from page B1

Ultimately, it's about the ensemble – none of that competitive actor-ego stuff. The program has been developed mindful that, above all, it is a deep learning exercise. Director/facilitator Suzanne Rubinstein, and many other parents and volunteers have beautifully supported this program where children learn how to work with others, and work through and into the works of the Bard.

Lines are carefully studied for meaning, not just memorizing words. This is achieved using audio media that helps them understand what they're actually saying: the references, the jokes and puns that erupted audiences in the original time of the Globe Theater, but perhaps need a bit of explanation 400 years later. In other words, these young actors know what they're saying.

This part I especially like: there are two casts. Each supports the other in a few ways. In performance, one cast acts as the stage hands – the tech crew – while the other performs, and then vice versa. But wait, there's more: in rehearsing, cast one watches cast two, and each actor delivers notes to the person playing their role in cast two, and vice versa.

This double-cast system is one of the techniques used to facilitate student directing, while allowing more kids to participate. It helps develop the ability to give and receive criti-

cism from one's peers in a respectful and constructive manner.

And these junior thespians are learning not just about theater arts, but academic and life skills. Through preparing this group production, they are also learning about history, language roots, literature, and even geography, and it all comes together in the end to create a truly fabulous performance.

Scared of Shakespeare? The program notes are very user-friendly, and make following along with the story fun and interesting even for non-16th-century English speakers.

The lessons for the young people who participate in the Young Shakespeare Players East theatrical program are limitless. The lesson for adults is that kids will learn whatever you teach them.

Amazingly, that includes five-act Shakespearian dramas and all the skills and knowledge connected to pulling that off. Catch this show if you can, these young actors will impress you with what they have accomplished.

Showtimes will be Saturday, December 19 at 1 p.m. and Sunday, December 20 at 6 p.m. in the Sloan Theater at GCC. Admission is free, and no reservations are necessary. Doors open 20 minutes prior to each show. Concessions available to purchase. All ages encouraged to attend. The show is approximately 2 hours and 45 minutes long.



Artist in Business Training Event

GREENFIELD – How much have you invested in your art career? Are you ready to pour that same energy into making your artist business work?

In this two-day intensive, artists learn best business practices and create elements of their marketing plans, leaving with next steps to build or expand their unique business.

Topics include pricing, web and offline marketing, understanding your unique market, short- and long-term goals, and finance basics.

The Artist-in-Business training will be held on Saturday, January 9 and Sunday, January 10, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at Greenfield Community College, 1 College Drive, Greenfield. Snow date is January 30 and 31.

This training is a project of the UMass Amherst Arts Extension Service's Arts Entrepreneurship Initiative in partnership with Greenfield Community College.

Register before Friday, December 18 at 5 p.m. for \$40. Regular registration fee is \$50; registration closes January 6.

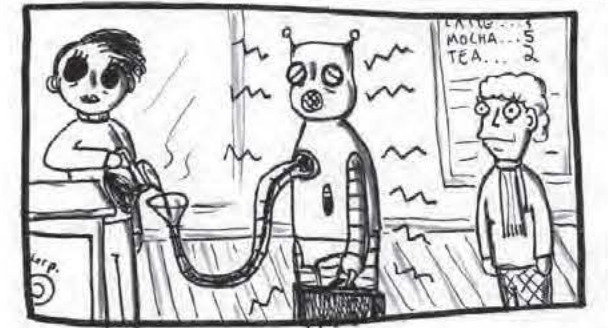
A light breakfast, snacks, coffee and other refreshments will be provided; please bring your own sack lunch. Note: there is no refrigeration available.

This training is funded by the Nan and Matilda Heydt Fund and the Eugene A. Dexter Charitable Fund, both administered by the Bank of America through the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts, and the Franklin Fund at the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts.

MODERN VOIDS



BY MADELINE LAPORTE



LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was December 15, 2005: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Toward a Greener School

Superintendent Sue Gee handed out copies of a manual explaining the benefits of the 'green' technology features at the recently renovated Great Falls Middle School / Turners Falls High School complex at the Gill-Montague school committee meeting. Yet, business manager Lynn Bassett noted, the schools still do not have a recycling program for glass, metal, or paper. Only cardboard is currently recycled at G-M schools.

The school's new features include daylight sensors that allow classroom lights to automatically dim during periods of plentiful sunshine and brighten when clouds roll in; skylights; high efficiency lighting; occupancy sensors that shut down lights and reduce air conditioning or heating when a room is empty; special window glass to allow solar gain and prevent heat loss; windows that open and ventilators that bring fresh air into the building, while allowing for preheating of outside air in

heat exchangers; flooring and tack boards made from recycled and recyclable materials; photovoltaic panels on the roof; and many, many more.

Only One Vendor in Running for Landfill

Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio provided an update on proposals received for developing the town-owned landfill site off Turnpike Road at Monday night's selectboard meeting. He recommended one of the two proposals the town received, that of Coventa Energy Inc. of Haverhill, MA, for further review.

Coventa Haverhill is one of 25 non-hazardous municipal solid waste-to-energy plants Coventa operates in the United States. The company proposed to bury ash and soils in Montague's DEP-approved 32-acre landfill site off Turnpike Road. The application will now go to the landfill committee for consideration.

The other applicant, a joint venture between Energy Answers Inc. of Albany, New York and wTe Recycling of Greenfield, did not provide a plan to cap the town's for-

mer burn dump. As a result of not addressing the issue, as mandated in the town's request for proposals, Abbondanzio recommend that the application be rejected and the \$10,000 application fee returned.

Gill: LaChance Sees Red

Gill treasurer Ronnie LaChance told the selectboard on Monday the town of Gill has run short of funds to pay major bills. "We anticipate revenue of \$690,000," said LaChance, but the town is currently "\$471,000 in the red."

To bridge the gap, LaChance has contacted five local banks seeking rates for short-term borrowing. Three of them gave her quotes for a \$500,000 three-month loan. The bank offering the most favorable interest rate, the Bank of Western Massachusetts, would charge the town \$4,425 in interest.

Reviewing unencumbered accounts to pay that interest, the selectboard found only a little more than \$3,900 in cash available in the short-term borrowing line item.

The board suggested that LaChance seek to borrow \$400,000 instead.

Correction – And Reprise

As editor of the MR Poetry Page, I want to apologize for mistaking the poet Julian Mayo's last name in our December 10 edition. Thanks to Nancy Holmes for bringing the error to our attention. Here's Julian Mayo's poem again, for our readers.

Patricia Pruitt

A FALL Walk

You walk out the door, you get Overwhelmed, for all the sights to see: The golden orange, yellow and red maple trees. The sweet smell of sap and apples is quite Overwhelming me.

A fall walk, a fall walk now. I'm having writer's block, a fall walk, a fall walk, and now I think it's time to STOP.

Julian Mayo, Turners Falls

GARDENER'S from page B1

The south polar area will be in daylight for a whole day and night.

If we have sun that day, note your noontime shadow which will be the longest of the year.

An evening of Welcome Yule has reminded us of the early significance of the celebrations which welcomed in the end to the supreme cold and darkness and the return of the light. How cold and dark those days and nights must have been with only the Yule log and the candles to illuminate and heat.

On an early December weekend, we drive the Jeep to an Ashfield tree farm to cut our seasonal tree. We join several others, many families with small children who swarm over a hillside thick with evergreens: pine, hemlock and pri-

marily balsam.

As is the habit at this farm, we cut the top of a lovely tree and leave the rest to grow another in a few year's time.

We bring our lovely tree home and set it in the yard until we can unearth the tree stand and prepare the room. Our tree is a perfectly round, symmetrical balsam almost six feet tall. For days the Jeep is redolent with the spicy scent.

Soon we will pull out the box of old ornaments and small lights and trim the tree to make the room festive for the coming Solstice party. Then this weekend's symphony Christmas concert will bring us all the closer to the Yuletide celebration itself, with family gathering once more before the new year begins.

Now the solar lights outside

gleam through the fog hanging over the river. The cat has taken up residence behind the wood stove in the cellar, and it's time to light the candles and give a toast to the coming of the shortest day and the return of the light.

After the new year begins, we will have time to peruse the colorful garden catalogs which have already arrived in the mail, and begin a list of seeds to order for the garden of the next spring season.

So the seasons move along, and time goes by ever more quickly each year.

Savor each moment of light and warmth with friends and family in this holiday season as we look forward to a new year, and another garden to come.



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CLAIRVAUX from page B1

two playing basketball at one of the New Clairvaux families' houses.)

Despite this focus on providing training for youth, Pressey and his associates were unable to establish adult education in the skills that could form the basis of a craft colony. In her essay *The Monastic Ideal in Rural Massachusetts: Edward Pearson Pressey and New Clairvaux*, Jeannine Falino cites this as part of the Montague community's undoing. Other similar arts and crafts movements such as Rose Valley outside of Philadelphia imported European craftsmen, and places like Roycroft carefully selected and trained artists. New Clairvaux's lack of financial strength, in Falino's analysis, prevented them from properly training the would-be craftsmen who did come, and without this, it "experienced difficulty establishing a reputation for well-made goods."

This is not to say the products of Montague's workshops were particularly shoddy. Pressey's connections helped showcase locals far and wide – the program of a 1907 exhibit at the Art Institute of Chicago showcasing the movement included the work of nine women of the "Montague Arts and Crafts Society," consisting of eight palm baskets, two palm boxes, six mats, two rugs, and a tea tray.

But the problem of finding a market that could sustain producers plagued even the most well-regarded Arts and Crafts groups in the United States, each of which in turn came to face the problem that most working people of their time could not afford to pay much of a premium for the aesthetics, or authenticity, of hand-hewn goods.

The debate over affordability, often framed as an opposition between "commercialism" and higher principles, raged in *Handicraft*, *The Craftsman*, and the other major journals of the movement. Lofty ideals shared at its outset – that the restoration of artisanship could provide benefits both to individuals and to the nation's working masses – were called into question, as crafts proponents disagreed over which of those goals should be prioritized.

For E. P. Pressey, who was focused on the spiritual rewards of a hard-working rural lifestyle, training great numbers of people to produce large quantities of goods was never a real goal. But the combination of no funds, no special reputation for high-quality goods, and no management skills began to ring the deathknell for New Clairvaux.

The Loss of Grace

The real beginning of the end came in 1907. In August of that year, Grace Pressey, who shared her husband's vision and was integral in helping him execute it, fell ill, and traveled to South Carolina with two of the couple's three children "in hope," as the *Turners Falls Reporter* wrote, "of being benefitted by a change of climate." Three months later, she died of tuberculosis.

That same year, Carl Rollins re-appeared in Montague, over the objections of his doctors, and threw himself back into the work of printing, as well as making furniture with Charles Kimball. Rollins had become more, rather than less, of a socialist in his travels, and this had an influence on Pressey and others at New Clairvaux during this time period. The April 8, 1908 *Turners Falls Reporter* ran this announcement:

The Socialists of Montague have organized the Socialist club of Montague. For the present the meetings will be held at the village shop on Sunday afternoons at 5:45, and everyone is invited to come.

These are the officers: Organizer, Carl Purrington Rollins; secretary, Frank C. Bryant, Lake Pleasant; financial secretary, Mrs. Nettie B. Kimball, Montague; treasurer, Edward Pearson Pressey, Montague; literature agent, John Thompson, Lake Pleasant. A free circulating library of books on liberal and radical topics has been started at the village shop.

That summer, the Montague Socialist Club was sponsoring speakers at Lake Pleasant – in what must have been a rather interesting season, as they were rubbing shoulders with the Spiritualists. Despite his participation,

Pressey seems to have been somewhat on the fence on any notions involving the redistribution of property. In his own writings on New Clairvaux, he cast the group's socialism as an aspirational, rather than a practiced, ideology: "No, we are not yet Socialists. Yet we look for a fraternal state, some form of Christian socialism not yet invented."

The world, even in sleepy, decadent Montague, was moving on without Pressey and his peers at the helm. In June 1908, the town voted to close its high school and replace it with the Montague Agricultural School, a five-year vocational school, and the third of its kind in the state after Petersham and Northampton.

Pressey would claim this as a kind of victory for the "Handicraft movement," writing that it would be "educating along the line of ideas advocated by the promoters of Kindergarten, Sloyd, Manual Training, Handicraft industries and the like." But there does not seem to be evidence of any overlap between the new school's trustees and New Clairvaux circles, and indeed, tracking students into vocational training was a different educational approach than integrating manual training into a liberal course of study, as Pressey, and other progressives of his era, advocated.

And though the Village Shop had gained a radical library, it reached its end as a single building that both showcased the crafts and housed their production. That July, an entity called the New Clairvaux Village Shop Association was incorporated, with Pressey as president, and Kimball, Holcomb and Rollins as treasurer, auditor, and clerk. "[A]s the corporation has no capital stock, it does not mean that it will become a commercial enterprise," the *Reporter* noted.

Later that year, Rollins and Kimball purchased another old property in the village, known as the Dyke Mill, and began moving tools and materials from the Shop into the new building. "The present village shop will probably be used for publishing and book-binding by E. P. Pressey, and display of the work of Montague crafts," the *Reporter* wrote at the time.

Rollins did continue to be involved in printing work, but Pressey, still farming on his own land, became otherwise wholly focused on writing and publishing, with two major book projects in the works. The first was a bound anthology of "The Vision of New Clairvaux," a sort of retrospective that combined earlier and more recent writings. He dedicated this to his deceased wife, and in his introduction wrote, at this late stage in the game,

If I could have my vision come true, it would not be a successful Utopian community. I would rather see the dead bones arise and the flood of modern knowledge and hope spread abroad over the fields; and that men should feel a moral quickening; and that these "remote" and "outworn" spots of earth should appear to a new generation in a cloud of glory; and that sentiment, faith and beauty should largely supplant the love of money in our manual endeavors at building up the glory of the land – the moral renaissance of the world.

In February 1909, the Socialist Club ran a slate of candidates for Montague town offices: a man named George I. Varney for selectman, Rollins for school committee, Kimball for tax collector, and Pressey himself for the office called "overseer of the poor," which oversaw the town's welfare provisions. Of six candidates for that office, Pressey came in a rather distant sixth, garnering a mere 14 votes in his own precinct. Varney and Rollins each also came up dead last in their races, and Kimball withdrew before the election.

A World of Handicraft Shops

Early that June, Pressey remarried, to a second woman who was also named Grace. Grace DeWolf Gamwell, the daughter of a prominent Westfield surgeon, was recently divorced, and brought two children into the family. Eight days after the wedding, Pressey's mentor in Boston, Edward Everett Hale, died.

The second of his books was a history of Montague, which he would dedicate "to the

fifteen hundred school children of Montague and to their teachers." This stands to this day as the most complete history of the town in existence, and was reprinted in 1987 by the Montague Historical Society. As a town history, it is a somewhat eccentric work, reflecting its author's interests and including quite a few of his opinions.

| The Vote for Town Officers in Montague. | | | | |
|---|---------------|---------------|----------|-------|
| | Turners Falls | Millers Falls | Montague | Total |
| Overseer of Poor | | | | |
| Thomas Berard, | 377 | 137 | 96 | 610 |
| A. H. Porter, | 310 | 76 | 82 | 474 |
| M. L. Richardson, | 258 | 87 | 129 | 474 |
| E. P. March, | 397 | 33 | 20 | 390 |
| E. P. Pressey, | 59 | 13 | 14 | 86 |
| E. J. Tremel, | 324 | 33 | 9 | 366 |
| Blanks, | 699 | 122 | 100 | 837 |
| School Committee, 4 years | | | | |
| E. I. Casady, | 436 | 70 | 61 | 557 |
| E. L. Bartlett, | 329 | 82 | 111 | 522 |
| Porter Farwell, | 390 | 65 | 83 | 538 |
| R. A. McGillicuddy, | 353 | 48 | 12 | 393 |
| E. M. Alden, | 205 | 72 | 62 | 339 |
| C. P. Rollins, | 68 | 18 | 32 | 118 |
| Blanks, | 679 | 146 | 110 | 935 |

The March 3, 1909 *Turners Falls Reporter* contained the returns from that week's town elections. It seems as if the New Clairvaux leaders, running as Socialists, were not broadly seen as qualified for local offices in Montague.

Pressey himself appears in his history, in the third person. The contemporary development of industrial Turners Falls – then home to over half the town's population, and surely many of its school children – was dealt with in just under five and a half pages, about the same space as Pressey accorded the local discovery of fossilized dinosaur footprints. And as for recent developments in his own neighborhood,

At Montague Center changes have been going on for ten years, as part of a world wide movement for reviving all the old industries which are artistically interesting. The future will see a division of labor between drudgery-saving factories and handicraft shops. The handicraft shops will be located generally within the rural communities.

This notion of a geographical "division of labor" was in some ways a complete turnaround from Pressey's earlier vision of rural craft production, and resettlement, as a challenge to the misery of urban factory work and of life in slums.

A more pragmatic approach to crafts was taking place at the Dyke Mill, which Rollins and Kimball spent most of 1909 developing into a working cooperative outside of the New Clairvaux umbrella. They brought over the printing press, loom and dye works, and cabinetmaking shop, installed a telephone, and began hiring workers.

For a time, its most commercially successful product was a line of Bayberry Dips – decorative and attractively packaged candles that "shed a rich, soft light and emit a delightful fragrance," according to an ad in *Handicraft*.

By the end, it was printing that the Dyke Mill became known for. Rollins became the assistant editor of *Handicraft* itself, and started printing it in Montague. He renamed the New Clairvaux Press the Montague Press, and would manage it from 1910 until 1918, when he joined the Yale University Press.

The esteemed typographer Bruce Rogers worked at the Mill in 1915 to set an edition of de Guerin's *The Centaur* on commission for the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The typeface he designed for the project, Centaur, is still regarded as a classic typeface (we have used it for the front pages of this article).

All Things Must End

In these later years E. P. Pressey was sidelined. His *History* was published in 1910, but

on June 26, 1911, calamity struck when his farmhouse and barn burned down. That week's *Turners Falls Reporter* noted that the family "lost nearly all of their clothing and not much of furniture was saved." What was not mentioned was that the fire also destroyed a significant portion of Montague's historical archives, which he had gathered for the history book. Pressey blamed himself for the loss.

The *Reporter* gives us only a few clues about how he spent the next few years. In 1914, he contracted to deliver the mail between the post office and railroad station; a year later, he resigned from the position. In the spring of 1915, the paper noted that a "Parent-Teacher Association was recently organized at the school-house" in Montague Center, and that "E.P. Pressey is chairman of the nominating committee." Not long after that, we know he left Montague with his family and moved to Vermont, hoping to establish a successful farm there.

In a letter that his stepdaughter Naomi wrote to the Montague Historical Society in 1979, she said:

Poor Dad, he loved.... working in the earth but he was not commercially motivated and with five children to support.... discouragingly for him, he became the A.P. Editor for the Schenectady Gazette where he spent the remainder of his life.

"I think the burning of the Montague farmhouse took a lot out of him. Somewhere along the years, any Socialist tendencies he might have had disappeared and he finally became a member of the Episcopal Church!"

[However] he was a student to the end of his life and I've always felt that intellectually, it was a privilege to have lived under his influence.

Edward Pressey died in 1928, and was buried in Westfield, in the cemetery lot of his second wife's family.

Despite its modest achievements, the New Clairvaux Arts and Crafts Society lasted longer than many intentional communities have in the United States. But, aside from the products of its printing press, which are sought after by collectors, very little evidence of the community is apparent today.

The Roycroft Campus and the houses at Rose Valley have been preserved, and museums are kept to their utopian legacies. But here in Montague, hardly a trace remains of the ambitions of the Presseys, Solleys, Holcombs and their friends – and to this day, we still see young new arrivals from the cities who believe they have found some forgotten corner of the world that can be improved by their labor, by which, in turn, they hope to find their own fulfillment.



Suggested Reading

Clancy, Jonathan, "Transcendentalism and the Crisis of Self in American Art and Culture, 1930-1939." Dissertation. City University of N.Y. 2008

Falino, Jeannine, "The Monastic Ideal in Rural Massachusetts", in Denker, Bert, ed., *The Substance of Style*, Winterthur, Delaware: Winterthur Museum, 1996.

Finer, Steve, "Edward Pressey and the New Clairvaux Society", in *New England Galaxy*, circa 1975.

Lears, T. J. Jackson, *No Place of Grace: Antimodernism and the Transformation of American Culture 1880-1920*, Chicago: U. of Chicago Press, 1994

Special thanks to Lillian Fiske for all her help in chasing down photographs and information about Pressey and New Clairvaux!

Do you have any chairs, baskets, embroidery or pamphlets that came out of New Clairvaux or the Dyke Mill? Get in touch with the Reporter. Next spring, we plan to write more about Carl Purrington Rollins and his time at Montague.



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Aquí se habla español

Esta es la nueva página en español del periódico Montague Reporter. Aquí podrá encontrar cuestiones acerca de la comunidad hispana en el área, eventos de interés, curiosidades, y noticias mundiales en español.

Si quiere participar o compartir alguna sugerencia, envíenos un correo electrónico a: spanish@montaguereporter.org. Esperamos su participación.



Granjeando al Norte



Granja en Massachusetts.

Por VICTORIA MAILLO

Cada vez que vamos al mercado buscando frutas y verduras de temporada cultivadas en granjas locales, deberíamos preguntarnos qué hay detrás de cada uno de estos productos. Recientemente he visitado una de estas granjas en la que inmigrantes de Jamaica y Centroamérica aportan su mano de obra cada día.

La mayoría de ellos son contratados a través de agencias de trabajo temporal en sus propios países para cubrir las diferentes estaciones.

Una vez terminado el trabajo regresan a su país de origen.

Como pueden suponer, las condiciones de trabajo son duras: en verano por el calor y la humedad, y en invierno por las bajas temperaturas. Normalmente los trabajadores vienen con sus familias y algunos son acogidos por otros familiares o amigos que los ayudan a integrarse.

No hablan inglés o no de forma fluida, lo suficiente para desenvolverse en la vida cotidiana. Las jornadas son largas, entre 8 y diez horas con descansos para comer en la misma granja. Ahora mismo el único cultivo en las granjas de Hadley, Deerfield y zonas limítrofes son las calabazas.

Aunque el invierno no está siendo muy duro y la nieve no ha hecho su aparición es difícil estar fuera con la espalda doblada para recoger los frutos.

Otros trabajadores están de pie dentro de los graneros clasificando la fruta y empacándola. En mi visita tuve la oportunidad de hablar con algunos de ellos y aunque todos están de acuerdo en que las condiciones son duras, están contentos de poder tener un trabajo que les permite enviar dinero a sus familias.

Por la noche ocupan su tiempo en clases de inglés, descansar, y pasar tiempo con familias y amigos.

Hay una organización llamada

New England Farm Workers Council que lucha por los derechos de estos trabajadores temporales. Los trabajadores que se beneficien de sus programas deben ser ciudadanos o residentes ya que los fondos vienen del gobierno federal.

Si los trabajadores no cualifican para sus programas, esta misma organización les da información sobre otras organizaciones o los deriva hacia ellos.

Los programas de New England Farm Workers Council se basan en dar educación y entrenamiento para que los trabajadores dejen de ser temporales y consigan trabajos permanentes y con mejores condiciones.

Sabemos que en nuestra comunidad de Montague hay muchos trabajadores de granjas y nos gustaría escuchar su opinión sobre este tema. Manden sus opiniones en inglés o español a spanish@montaguereporter.org

CREATIVE COMMONS PHOTO BY FLICKR USER LORI L. STALTERI

No me siento de aquí, y ya no soy de allá

Por VICTORIA MAILLO

No me siento de aquí, y ya no soy de allá.

Hace ya algunos años que vivo en esta gran tienda por departamentos, como llamaba Pedro Pietri a Estados Unidos. Llegué a este país por primera vez con 30 años, con una maleta llena de ropa, otra llena de libros y una tercera repleta de ilusiones. Llegué como muchos otros emigrantes buscando una oportunidad, una vida mejor, el trabajo que mi país no me ofrecía.

Y como muchos otros inmigrantes que entran en este país cada día, llegué sin hablar inglés, tanto es así que incluso tuve dificultades en el avión cuando la azafata de Delta me preguntó si quería: *chicken or beef?*

Y desde entonces, me siento como Tato Laviera, que no soy de aquí, ni soy de allá. Soy europea y blanca, y por esta razón no soy latina, aunque tenga las mismas raíces y hable la misma lengua.

No me siento de aquí, y ya no soy de allá.

Los estadounidenses, por mi aspecto, por mi forma de moverme o simplemente al abrir la boca saben que tampoco soy uno de ellos. "I am Victoria"- "ah, where are you from?"

No me siento de aquí, y ya no soy de allá.

Y cuando regreso a mi país y he olvidado cómo son las cosas allí y me rebelo contra ello, mi familia y mis amigos me dicen con un claro reproche en su voz: ¿te has hecho americana!

No me siento de aquí, y ya no soy de allá.

Pienso en español y tengo que hablar en inglés. Y al revés que la abuela de Pietri no hablar bien inglés en el mundo en que me muevo no es precisamente signo de inteligencia, aunque hables 3 idiomas más que él que tienes al lado.

No me siento de aquí y ya no soy de allá.

Me gustaría volver a España, pero sé que no podría vivir allí. Soy Meilo aquí y Maillo allá y a veces me siento tonta en los dos.

Y no me siento de aquí, pero ya no soy de allá.



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS PHOTO

Así celebramos el Año Nuevo en el mundo hispánico

Por VICTORIA MAILLO

En unas semanas despediremos al 2015 y saludaremos al 2016. De-searemos olvidar todo lo malo del

año que se va y esperar que el que llega nos traiga todo lo bueno que merecemos.

La manera de celebrar esa noche para atraer la buena suerte tiene ciertas

peculiaridades en cada país del mundo hispánico.

En España tomamos doce uvas, una por cada campanada. Requiere un poco de práctica, pero no suele haber accidentes. Se cree que esta tradición se originó en 1909 debido a un excedente en la cosecha de uvas y se extendió después a algunos países de Latinoamérica como México.

En Chile prefieren saludar al Año Nuevo con fuegos artificiales. Los espectáculos pirotécnicos son verdaderamente impresionantes en Viña del Mar y Valparaíso ya que se celebran al borde del mar.

En cambio, en Santiago de Chile se pueden ver en la Torre Entel desde la que además se lanzan globos que contienen deseos. En Montevideo, los uruguayos lanzan por la ventana los calendarios del año que se va.

Los cubanos van todavía más allá

y se arrojan baldes de agua para limpiar sus casas de malos espíritus. Se cree que esta tradición está inspirada en las religiones africanas de los esclavos llevados a la isla.

En Perú se hacen muñecos de personajes populares de la política o la vida social y se queman.

Al igual que en Bolivia, los peruanos esa noche visten ropa interior de color rojo para tener suerte en el amor.

En algunos lugares de Ecuador los hombres se disfrazan de viudas y recolectan dinero llorando por el año que se va. En Costa Rica es popular entonar la canción "El año viejo" de Tony Camargo. Los colombianos creen atraer la riqueza colocando espigas de trigo en la mesa.

Hablando de mesa, las tradiciones culinarias también son diferentes. En algunos lugares, como en Argentina lo típico es el asado. En Bolivia es popular el cerdo. Dicen que este animal nunca camina hacia atrás y les hace encarar fuertes el futuro.

En cambio en México prefieren los camarones con salsa de mole llamados *romeritos*. En El Salvador y Nicaragua prefieren la gallina rellena. Los chilenos comen lentejas para atraer la riqueza.

Como pueden ver diferentes e interesantes costumbres que invitamos a probar para llamar a la suerte y la fortuna.

¡Feliz año 2016 para los lectores de la página en español!



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EVERY SUNDAY

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

ONE MONDAY EACH MONTH

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

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

EVERY TUESDAY

Millers Falls Library, Millers Falls: Crafts and activities for children of all ages. 3:30 - 4:45 p.m.

The Erving Public Library will be open from 3-6 p.m. for extra patron hours and children's activities for the months of November and December.

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Story Time*: Thematic stories, projects, and snacks for young children with Mez, 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.

Through 12/17.

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. Gallery talks 12/18. Through 12/31.

Deerfield Arts Bank, S. Deerfield: *Portraits: Revealing & Concealing*. 36 local artists explore the puzzle of the portrait. 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 Annual Residents Group Exhibit* through holidays. Ends 12/30.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Little People*. Fantastic, beautiful, creepy, funny, thought provoking figures in clay, metal, fabric, wood, and paper by six local artists: Edite Cunha, Sue Huszar, Nina Rossi, Lilin Tseng, Belinda Lyons Zucker and N. S. Koenings. These 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. And *Explorations in Felt* by Liz Canali and collabo-

ration guest artists. Exhibit runs through 12/31.

Sawmill River Arts, Montague: *A Season's Reflection*. Special December exhibit from local artists through Jan. 3. Includes holiday raffle of donations from gallery artists - deadline to buy raffle tickets is 12/20. www.sawmillriverarts.com

Shelburne Falls Arts Co-op, Shelburne Falls: *Mystery and Magic*. December sale of Special Items by member artists. Opening on 12/19 at 4 p.m. Group show through 1/25.

Wendell Free Library, Wendell:



Mt. Toby Concerts Resents Bev Grant on Saturday, December 19 at 7:30. Bev is an award winning songwriter and has used her music as an organizing tool in both community and union organizing. Also performing that evening is John Coster who is an accomplished singer and guitarist who is also one of the best Celtic harmonica players according to the Boston Globe. This concert is presented by the Peace and Social Concerns Committee of the Mt. Toby Friends Meeting.

Paintings by Mari Rovang. Nine of Rovang's oil paintings, several of local scenes, are on exhibit at the library until 12/31.

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 a bit.ly/1SfZh78 or contact library.

Sawmill River Arts, Montague Center: Seeking artists for co-operative gallery. For more information see www.sawmillriverarts.com.

Wendell Free Library invites artists to submit applications for exhibit in the Herrick Meeting Room gallery. See www.wendellmass.us.

EVENTS:

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Kidleidoscope!* This week it's ducks. Activities for ages 3-6. 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Half-Shaved Jazz*. 7:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Tommy Filiault Trio*. Original guitar music with Doug Plavin and Klondike Koehler. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18

Fish & Wildlife Staff (DFW), and the DRC go for a *Public Habitat Site Walk at the Montague Plains WMA & Montague State Forest*. Meet under power lines on Old Northfield Rd. 2-3:30 p.m.

Artspace Gallery, Greenfield: *Grok this Art*. Mini-talks; Student exhibitors discuss their work. 7 p.m.

Yankee Candle Theater, S. Deerfield: *Ja'Duke Presents A Christmas Carol*. 7 p.m.

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Ray Mason*. Indie rock, and special guest *Robert La Roche*, singer/songwriter. 8 p.m.

Shutesbury Athletic Club, Shutesbury: *Uncle Hal's Crabgrass Band*. 8:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Josh Levangie & the Pistoleros*. Outlaw Country. 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Solstice Bloody Solstice*. Black Sabbath Tribute Night. 9:30 p.m. \$

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19

Yankee Candle Theater, S. Deerfield: *Ja'Duke Presents A Christmas Carol*. 2 p.m. \$

Mt. Toby, Leverett: *Mount Toby Concerts presents Bev Grant and John Coster*. See photo this page. 7:30 p.m. \$

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Birdsong at Morning*. Folk, pop, americana. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Grave Diggers' Union*. Hard Driving Bluegrass. 9 p.m.

Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *Sledge*. 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Shokazob*. (Afrofunk). 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20

Yankee Candle Theater, S. Deerfield: *Ja'Duke Presents A Christmas Carol*. 2 p.m. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Voo Christmas Spectacular*. Karen & friends, show and singalong. 7 p.m.

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Experimental Santa, Chopan, Eye in the Sky Guy*, more tba. All ages / substance free, 8 p.m., \$

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22

Erving Library, Erving: *Lego Lady brings her million legos to the library* for activities with school aged children. Kids under 10 must be accompanied by caregivers. 3-5 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23

Great Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Winter Solstice Walk*. Two miles on the level Canalside rail trail. Meet at the entrance. 1-2:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24

Happy Holiday. Almost all music venues are closed today.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25

Happy Holiday. Almost all music venues are closed today.


SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Wildcat O'Halloran Band*. Not your father's blues band. 8:30 p.m.



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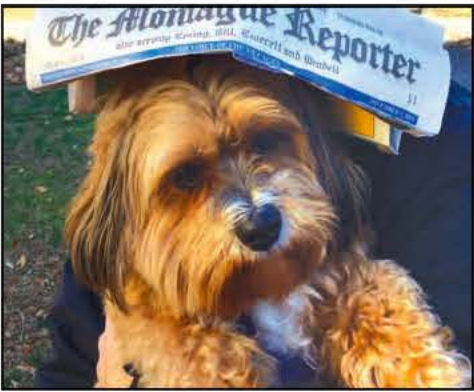
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The debut Children's Page in our December 3 edition included instructions for making hats out of newspapers. Marge and Frank Barrett-Mills sent these pictures of the dogs in their neighborhood.

FACES & PLACES



HEATHER KATSOUKIS PHOTO

Heather Katsoulis sent in this picture from Sheffield and Gill Elementary Schools' Winter Concert on Wednesday night, December 16. "It was beautiful and a packed house, standing room only," she writes.



JOHN FURBISH PHOTO

Robert Lord from South Deerfield (left) and Wendell's Ray MacIntire (right) teamed up on Monday, December 14 to bring Christmas cheer to the lobby of the Greenfield Savings Bank branch in Turners Falls. Each played multiple instruments.

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