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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

**JANUARY 7, 2016** 

# News ANALYSIS Land and its Uses:

# Solar Arrays Planned for Town-Owned Landfill

The 163-acre tract of land south of Turnpike Road is currently designated for a new highway garage, small industrial park and 6.4 MW solar farm.

#### **By PETE WACKERNAGEL**

**MONTAGUE** – One of our town's primary planning goals is the reuse of underutilized spaces. Many local residents are aware of the big projects, the 19<sup>th</sup>-century brick leviathans like the Strathmore that make people's hearts beat faster.

One project that's much closer to realization is the repurposing of the old landfill on Sandy Lane, off Turnpike Road. Once a quarry, the landfill is sited on 163 acres of town-owned land that is mostly forested, but mysteriously unknown to most residents.

Town planner Walter Ramsey says that his department's current proposal for the site, which includes three solar installations, a new DPW building, and a small industrial park, is "a way to make use out of land that is generally unuseable."

The open space in question stretches from Montague City to Turners Falls Road, connecting it to the Montague Plains, and from Turnpike Road to Greenfield Road. The woods around the landfill are adorned with artifacts of its past history.

A tiny paved road that goes to the former burn dump is losing the battle against the grasses and other early colonizers that are coming up through it. On a recent walk, I found an old rusted moped, a printer and desk, and a white toilet seat with white plastic Greek columns. More recently, someone had placed light-catching talismans on overhanging tree branches, hung by string. There were large concrete cubes stacked on top of each see LAND USE page A7

# All Safe in Third Street Blaze Wednesday Morning Fire Leaves Extensive Damage to Two-Apartment Building



RK HUDYMA PHOTO



CKSON PHOTO



#### **By MIKE JACKSON**

**TURNERS FALLS** – Crews from eight local fire departments spent the better part of Wednesday morning, and well into the afternoon, putting down a house fire at the end of Third Street reportedly lit by a fallen candle.

Turners Falls deputy fire chief John Zellmann, who served as incident commander, said his department first received a call at 9:20 a.m. Within minutes, a plume of smoke was rising over the downtown area, pouring out of a white duplex at the western end of Third Street near Keith Apartments.

One woman, believed to be the only person in the building at the time of the fire, was brought to the hospital. She reassured neighbors by telephone from the hospital that she was in safe condition, but declined to speak to press.

Firefighters from Conway, Greenfield, Northfield, South Deerfield, Montague Center, Orange and Brattleboro joined the effort, as a crowd gathered to watch. Avenue A was closed from Second to Fourth streets, and Third was blocked off between L to Canal. Before long, water from the battle ran and froze into an icy glaze on the road surface.

One of the only wooden structures on a block lined with brick buildings, 23-25 Third proved hard to save. The fire quickly filled its outer walls, and several times during the operation, fresh cascades of smoke burst from its seams. By noon, much of the roof had fallen in, and a steady flow of ashen sludge poured out its door and down its front steps. Crews ripped and scratched at the outer walls with pike poles, searching for fresh pockets of fire sweltering in its voids. A state rehab trailer stood by, but no firefighter injuries were reported

# **On Standardized Testing**

Swift River to Host Forum

#### **By ELLEN BLANCHETTE**

**NEW SALEM** – In response to concerns over changes announced by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) regarding standardized testing in Massachusetts, the Swift River School Committee is hosting a community forum on state testing next Thursday, titled "PARCC and MCAS: What's It Like?"

DESE commissioner Mitchell Chester announced last fall, after evaluating the results of testing using the new, interactive PARCC exam, that the state would not go forward with using this test instead of MCAS. Instead, it plans to develop a new test that will combine some of PARCC's methods with some portions of the MCAS. This test will be ready by 2019.

Naturally, this leaves a lot of unanswered questions.

Johanna Bartlett, chair of the Wendell and Swift River school committees, said in an interview this week that the event, which will be held at 5 p.m. on January 14 at the Swift River School, is intended to provide the community a chance to come together, after many parents and teachers expressed concern over the impact of testing on student education.

The forum will feature a panel of parents and educators who will speak from their experiences and answer questions. Bartlett said, "The discussion is intended to help

see **TESTING** page A7

## New Bus Fares In Effect



The \$1.25 fare is the first of several planned changes this year for FRTA.

#### **By MARK HUDYMA**

**FRANKLIN COUNTY** – Many bus riders may be in for a pleasant surprise when they find fares have dropped on many routes, even if they have to scramble for quarters to pay the new standard rate, \$1.25. The change is most significant on Route 23, which runs from Amherst to Greenfield, which used to cost \$3.

Those who ride at half fare – anyone with a Statewide Access Pass, ADA, or Medicare card; those 60 years and older; veterans and active military; and students through grade 12 – will see a change to \$.60 for all routes.

"If you take it enough, it does add up," said Cindi Oldham of Turners Falls. Oldham says she typically rides the Greenfieldsee **BUSES** page A6

TOP: Smoke and steam hissed from the building's frame for hours. MIDDLE: A rainbow appears in the icy mist. BOTTOM: Flames melt one of the duplex's doors as responders stage a ladder.

"This doesn't affect my department," said highway superintendent Tom Bergeron, standing by at the

see FIRE page A3

# Basketball: Turners Girls Hit Their Stride



Maddy Chmyzinski (20) drives the ball to the basket for 2 at a December 28 home game against Greenfield High School. Greenfield won that game, 65 – 49.

#### **By MATT ROBINSON**

Coach Ted Wilcox told me, before the first game of this season, that he has a young team. That he is looking for his girls to get valuable playing time, but they will face growing pains and the road may be bumpy for a while.

That was evident in the first three games of the season: young girls playing over their heads, playing teams rife with talent and experience.

But as each game passed, the Turners Falls Lady Indians got a little better. Certainly there was potential in the first three games. The girls made some good shots, dove after loose balls, and tried their hardest the entire games, even though the scores were lopsided.

But in the next two games, they managed to eke out wins. Granted the wins came by a total of 6 points but they were wins just the same. This two game winning streak doesn't mean there won't be more bumps ahead but for now they should be happy that they are seeing some success.

#### TFHS 46 – Frontier 43

Turners notched their first win of the season on December 30, edging out Frontier 46-43. The Lady Indians took a modest 12-8 lead after one quarter, and expanded it to 21-14 at the half.

The Red Hawks nosed ahead in the third and took a

see STRIDE page A4

# The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

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Founded by Arthur Evans Harry Brandt David Detmold August, 2002

# Laughing Matters

Last Saturday's takeover of a remote cluster of empty federal wildlife refuge buildings in southeastern Oregon by a group of armed antigovernment activists has so far been answered by a devastating and broadly derisive torrent of opinion.

We hope for a peaceful resolution to the conflict. As of press time, nothing much has happened, and the tone among liberals has shifted from outrage – as an armed occupation carried out by anyone but white cowboy types would be treated as terrorism and violently crushed – to a delighted pigpile of mockery.

A dozen or two poorly provisioned opportunists holed up in a visitor's center in the middle of nowhere, asking their Internet followers to mail them snacks, is certainly funny in a certain light.

Despite the guns they carry, it is a symbolic action; their goal is not simply to control the refuge headquarters. Their hopes to inspire others to rise up seem to have fallen flat; even the intended beneficiaries of the action, two ranchers convicted on federal arson charges after an epic land-management conflict, have disowned the occupiers.

We are in a polarized climate, and witnessing a groundswell of frustration and reaction. A leading candidate for the presidency this week promised he would "cut the head off ISIS and take their oil" and "build... a wall on our southern border that Mexico will pay for." These are not just boasts of strength; they are calculated calls for revenge in excess of what the law allows.

Meanwhile, in our neck of the

appeal of a pipeline expansion in Pennsylvania, ruling that it does not consider gas production (and therefore the environmental impacts of using the fuel) a consequence of pipeline construction:

"A causal relationship sufficient to warrant Commission analysis of the non-pipeline activity as an indirect impact would only exist if the proposed pipeline would transport new production from a specified production area and that production would not occur in the absence of the proposed pipeline."

The US Forest Service may be moving in the opposite direction. In November it released a study of the environmental impact of letting coal companies mine on 4.2 million acres of "roadless" land under its protection in Colorado. The study tried to take the true cost of greenhouse gas emissions into account.

The mining will probably proceed, despite the USFS's conclusion that its true costs will outweigh its benefits. But the fact that a federal agency is attempting to take the global impact of fossil fuels into consideration should give hope to opponents of new pipelines.

Still, most anticipate the FERC will green-light the Northeast Energy Direct project. And some are preparing to take the fight beyond the legal arena, calling for the formation of affinity groups and advertising civil disobedience trainings.

They should consider carefully their strategy. Some disobedient actions are direct: it directly accomplishes its goal, as in last April's blockade of oil drilling ships by kayaks in Seattle, or treesits, or making fraudulent bids at a lease auction. Others, despite their rhetoric, is symbolic; their success depends on the sympathy they elicit. A spokesperson for Berkshire Gas made headlines last spring by accusing opponents of the pipeline, which the company plans to buy gas from, of "a little eco-terrorism." He rolled that comment back a week later, and apologized.



## Selectboard Notes: The Heart of the Paper

On your musings about coming broadband and the future of selectboard meeting reports:

To me, they're the heart of the paper. Many if not most town issues show up there. I wouldn't be half as informed about Wendell town affairs if you didn't carry them (let alone those of our neighboring towns, which I sometimes also read).

I doubt I'd go to a website regularly to watch them on video. I appreciate the compression in Josh Heinemann's coverage, the historical perspective he sometimes adds, the continuity and personality he brings, that sort of thing.

I understand that fast internet looms, and that it's a probable game changer in communications. But it's hard to say how it will impact there, or our community cohesiveness and patterns.

Assuming it facilitates paid work

able, provided enough snacks have been packed.

But the political climate is polarized, even in Massachusetts. Many people believe an increased gas supply will reduce energy prices. The rising cost of living and a longterm decline in living wage jobs make this a real issue in many rural New Englanders' lives. These are not concerns that can be waved away with lawn signs asserting the pipeline would raise prices. Sooner or later, a movement will emerge in this country that directly aids working class people, by connecting them with resources, and giving them the power to make decisions about the use or conservation of those resources on a local level. It will likely overstep the law, and in doing so may garner accusations of terrorism from those enmeshed in the old power structure. The only real question is whether that movement will come from the left or the right. For now, both factions remain too inwardly focused, and obsessed with their own symbols, to offer up much more than a good laugh.

for those determined to create and contribute through the digital pathway, thus reducing commuting, it may give us more time together to weave more strands of community. Of course it won't help grow food or build shelter or make pants or pour beer.

AND... it might even spoil or fragment us – confuse our sense of possibilities and place – e.g., bring in people who weren't self-selected by a willingness to trade away financial prospects in order to live in this relative Eden. It might inflate the sense of autonomy, as money can.

What we have now is precious. Community has thrived on our sense of economic and social interdependence.

Sometimes it's timely to resist change. Take Wendell's meeting house – whether to equip it to rent out for normal, contemporary weddings, etc., or use it more as is, simple and historic – I think we'd do well to preserve and take advantage of its old-timey qualities.

Authentic, old-fashioned function, in its simplicity and frugality, has intrinsic merit that more and more people are learning to appreciate, not just as a retro novelty. My 9-year-old grandson is drawn to "old fashioned" ways, and asks to be taught them.

By the same principle, I believe a local, physical "rag" like the *Montague Reporter* can wrap our people and places together better than anything digital, and I would hope it will be slow to change. Whatever happens, I don't think a rolling video camera will ever replace a reporter.

> Jonathan von Ranson Wendell

## Thanks to Sawmill Run Supporters!

On Friday, January 1, Montague assistance is essential to the success rks & Recreation held our Annual of an event of this magnitude.

woods, rural activists are gearing up for a fight against the federal government, which they expect will pursue a predetermined outcome and approve the seizure of a narrow strip of land to build a gas pipeline.

Towns and cities are queuing up with requests to be granted an official say as the Northeast Energy Direct project goes before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Our state senator, Stan Rosenberg, last week begged the commission chair to take the project's climate impact into consideration.

But in many circles, a fatalism pervades about the federal process – both among those positive to neutral on the pipeline, and among its opponents. The FERC is likely to rule the pipeline is in the public interest on the basis of local companies' pledges to buy its gas.

Last October, FERC rejected an

Running for re-election to Montague's selectboard, conservation committee chair Mark Fairbrother quipped that he was "proud" of the epithet, and he wasn't the only one who felt that way.

If anti-pipeline activists hope to succeed after FERC approval, they will need to significantly sway public opinion. Symbolic actions – arrestable offenses, in the woods and elsewhere – may satisfy a sense of purpose; they may even be enjoyParks & Recreation held our Annual Sawmill River 10K Run in Montague Center.

Approximately 178 runners from the entire region participated in this major fundraising event that supports our Sponsor-A-Child Scholarship Program. The race would not have been possible without the investment of time, energy, resources, and funding from many within our fine community.

We would like to thank A.H. Rist Insurance Co., Greenfield Savings Bank, Renaissance Builders, Judd Wire, and Turn It Up Music for their generous financial support, as well as the Montague Common Hall, the Sugarloaf Mountain Athletic Club, the First Congregational Church of Montague Center, Fosters Supermarket, and Stop & Shop for muchneeded supplies, materials, and other services.

As many of you know, volunteer

Therefore, considerable appreciation goes out to the Montague Parks & Recreation Commissioners, the Franklin County Amateur Radio Club, FRCOG's Community Emergency Response Team, the Montague Highway Department, Montague Police, and the countless number of volunteers who spent a good portion of their New Year's Day helping us out during registration and at the finish line.

Finally, we would like to thank the runners who participated in the Sawmill Run. We appreciate your support of MPRD programs, and look forward to seeing you again on December 31!

Sincerely,

Jon Dobosz, CPRP Director of Parks & Recreation Town of Montague

#### Published weekly on Thursdays.

Every other week in July and August. No paper last week of November, or the Thursday closest to 12/25.

#### PHONE: (413) 863-8666

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Send address changes to: The Montague Reporter 177 Avenue A Turners Falls, MA 01376

## Advertising and copy deadline is **MONDAY at NOON.**

This newspaper shall not be liable for errors in advertisements, but will print without charge that part of the advertisement in which an error occurred. The publishers reserve the right to refuse advertising for any reason and to alter copy or graphics to conform to standards of the newspaper, such as they are.

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# The Montague Reporter

177 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376

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#### **Compiled by DON CLEGG**

Welcome to 2016. This is a Leap Year. What will you do with that extra day?

If you can never remember which year is Leap Year here is a handy tool: it's always the same year as the presidential elections. Must be because candidates need that extra day.

Wendell Climate Action will host a screening and discussion on the recent climate summit in Paris, "The Road Through Paris," this Friday, January 8, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Wendell Free Library.

What happened, and what didn't? What does it mean for the planet - and for us? All are welcome to attend this free and accessible event.

Saturday, January 9, stating at 11 a.m. local resident Gale Whitbeck will read excerpts from her upcoming autobiography, "A View From My Window," focusing on the Marquette March for Civil Rights in Chicago in 1966. Whitbeck will also touch on other incidents in the struggle for equality in those explosive times.

Come shake the hand that held the hand of Martin Luther King, Jr. as he led the movement in the United States. This is a completely free event, and Greenfield Savings Bank is honored to provide the opportunity for Ms. Whitbeck to relive those moments. Light refreshments will be provided and all are welcome.

Enjoy a Beach Party at Carnegie Library on Saturday, January 9 from 10:30 a.m. to noon, and beat away the winter blues. Join in for some summery games, crafts and snacks. Designed for children of all ages

Montague Reporter staff have been enjoying reading the year-end surveys that went out in our December 30 edition. Please keep sending them in! Extra copies of the issue are available at the office, and you can also fill it out online at www.surveymonkey.com/r/GS592C6.

and their caregivers. For more info, call (413) 863-3214.

Also on Saturday, enjoy a **winter** walk to Cabot Woods, leaving the Great Falls Discovery Center at 1 p.m. Dress warm with winter boots for a moderate walk for about 2.5 to 3 miles. For adults and sturdy young hikers with an adult. Inclement weather cancels the walk.

The First Day Hike held by DCR on New Years Day, which also left from the Discovery Center, had 80 participants - almost a 300% increase over 2015, which saw 28 hikers!

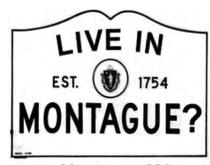
Anyone interested in becoming a Valley Time Trade member is invited to a free orientation on Saturday, January 9, 2:30 to 4 p.m. Time Trading is an organized exchange system through which members earn hours (time credits) for time spent helping other members.

No registration required. Bring your laptop or tablet if you have one. Held at the Green Fields Market Meeting Room, 144 Main Street in Greenfield. See www.valley*timetrade.org* for more information.

**Customers of the Turners Falls** Water Department have until the close of business on Thursday, January 14, to pay their water bills. There is a \$20 late fee for bills received after this date.

The water department office is located at 226 Millers Falls Road, Turners Falls and is open 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. A drop box is located to the left of the front door.

> Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.



www.MontagueMA.net local gossip, news & business listings





#### FIRE from page A1

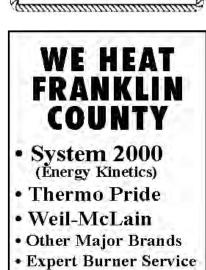
scene. "Until it freezes." Before long his department was supplying the scene with sand, which they spread on icy surfaces with shovels.

Two hydrants on Avenue A, and one on Third, supplied the trucks with water. A little after 1 p.m., Zellmann began demobilizing the incident, sending departments home one by one. He noted that Deerfield and Bernardston covered the Turners Falls district during the event.

Orange and Brattleboro firefighters at work. He was impressed that trucks had arrived from so far away, and spoke highly of the capabilities of our era's firefighters.

The building's owner, identified in town assessor records and the county registry of deeds as Amanda Pitchford was not at the scene "There's heavy fire damage. They'll have people assess it, but there's a lot of damage," Zellmann said, when asked to speculate if the building would be salvageable.





Over In Gill

Don Girard, who has lived in more outspoken in his town his whole life, stood in the alley behind the building, watching

A nearby public adjuster was pessimism.





Clockwise, from top left: Smoke and steam pour from the Third Street building; Northfield department works at its west wall; a Turners Falls firefighter is engulfed in smoke pouring from the building's roof; hooking up to a hydrant.



**Great Falls Middle School Students** of the Week

week ending 12/18/2015:

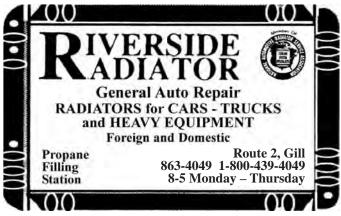
Grade 6 **Odalis Ramirez-Martin** 

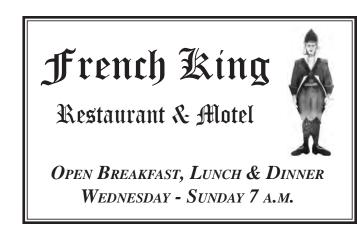
Grade 7 Hailey Wheeler Dylan McLaughlin

> Grade 8 Andria Ames









## PAPER Week of January 11 C in Montague more info? call: 863-2054

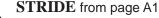
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2-point lead, 28-26, going into the fourth.

But the Lady Indians did what they needed to do. They outscored the Hawks 20-15, and stole the win.

Maddy Chmyzinski had a monster game. She sank 8 buckets, made 4 free throws, and posted 3 three-pointers for a total of 29 points.

Emma Miner scored 5 points, Chloe Ellis got 4, and Jordyn Fiske 3. Hailey Bogusz and Nadia Hasan each got two points, and Aliyah Sanders sunk a free throw. Lexi Lacey and Abigail Loynd also saw action for the Tribe.

#### TFHS 38 - McCann 35

Turners came from behind to beat McCann Tech 38-35 on Monday, January 4, improving their record to 2–3.

The game was close from tipoff to final buzzer. McCann shot out to a 2-point first quarter lead, 9-7. In the second, Blue shaved one point off that lead, and the ladies went into the locker room at the half with the score 16-15 McCann.

Turners clawed their way up and over McCann in the third quarter to take a 26-24 lead. And in the fourth, Turners outscored them by one point, going on to win 38-35.

Maddy Chmyzinski was kept to two field goals, but made up for it by sinking 10 free throws for a total of 14 points. Aliyah Sanders helped out with 9.

Abigail Loynd scored 6 points, and Jordyn Fiske finished with 3.

Chloe Ellis, Nadia Hasan and Emma Miner each scored 2, and Hailey Bogusz and Lexi Lacey both saw action.

On Thursday, January 7, the Ladies travel to Hatfield to play Smith Academy at 7 p.m.

## MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS **Gill Selectboard Meeting**

#### **By ABIGAIL TATARIAN**

We hope you're all enjoying some frosty weather in this first full week of January! Here's what's in store for you this week in the TV schedule & available for download:

• Gill selectboard meeting, December 28: Tune in to see in action the local decisions affecting residents of Gill. 1 hr, 2 min.

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

moment!

Contact (413) 863-9200, infomontaguetv@gmail.com, or stop by 34 2nd Street in Turners between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

We'd love to work with you!

## **Pioneer Valley Chorus Seeks Singers**

HADLEY – The Pioneer Valley Symphony Chorus is looking for new members in every voice part to join us for the second half of our 2015-16 season.

Repertoire for Spring 2016 will include two beautiful Romantic masterpieces: Schicksalslied ("Song of Destiny") by Johannes Brahms in March, and a pair of collaborative performances with

the Springfield Symphony Orchestra and Chorus of Gabriel Faure's Requiem in May (one show at the UMass Fine Arts Center, one show at Springfield's Symphony Hall).

PVS Chorus rehearsals are on Tuesday evenings, from 7 to 9 p.m., at Most Holy Redeemer Church in Hadley, right on Route 9. Our Spring rehearsal cycle will begin on Tuesday January 5. Our

first rehearsal is open to any potential new singers, no commitment required. Come and check us out!

For more information, please contact chorus@pvso.org.

The Pioneer Valley Symphony receives funding from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a State agency.

## **Panel Discussion on White Privilege**

**GREENFIELD** – The January session of Racial Justice Rising's free program series examines white privilege through the eyes of local activists, educators, and others.

Our Stories of White Privilege, Then & Now will feature Sister Clare Carter of Leverett, Natan Cohen of Turners Falls, Bob Cooley of Northfield, Ya-Ping Douglass of Turners Falls, George Esworthy of Shelburne Falls, Alex Fischer of Brattleboro, Teegrey Iannuzzi of Shutesbury, and Brenda Ross of Springfield and will include time for questions and discussion.

The presenters, who represent a range of ages and walks of life, will share stories that may include how they came to recognize the existence of white privi-

lege, how their understanding has evolved over time, and/or how they see it now.

The program will be from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at the First Congregational Church, 43 Silver Street in Greenfield. Doors open at 9:30. Admission is free; donations are welcome.

After the program, Racial Justice Rising will offer a lunch of home-cooked New Orleans style food, by donation.

For more information or to reserve childcare contact email@racialjusticerising.org or 413-625-2951. Please RSVP for childcare and for the meal by January 2.

Learn more at www.racialjusticerising.org.

# **Turners Boys No Match** For Undefeated Hopkins HOPKINS 84 – TFHS 49

#### By MATT ROBINSON

"They're the cream of the crop," Mitsy Croteau, Nick's father told me before Tuesday night's game. "They can beat Division I teams," someone else said at halftime.

So how do you compete against

#### 17-16, Turners.

In the second quarter, Hopkins again shot out of the cannon and in spite of Coach Gary Mullins' efforts, his players were unable to counter. "Just relax," he counseled, but Hopkins kept sinking their shots. When Jalen went to the foul line halfway through the second, the Hawks were leading 27-21. Then they went on an incredible 9-1 run.



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an undefeated team that pops in 3pointers at will, fights for every rebound and tries to intercept every pass? Well, Turners seemed to have the solution – at least in the first quarter.

At the beginning of the game, the Hopkins Golden Hawks did what they do best. Their first shot was for three, and their defense forced a shot-clock violation, setting up a field goal. Before they knew it, Turners was behind 5-0.

To combat the exploding Hawks' offense, Jalen Sanders came up with a solution of sorts. He forced the ball inside, drawing a foul. This put him at the line. But trading 1 point for 3 doesn't add up, and soon the score was 13-1.

But then Sanders hit a three, and then a two, and Jeremy Wolfram got a couple of buckets. When Jalen forced his way to the hoop and drew another foul, the game was suddenly tied at 14 all. And when he got the free throw, Turners took their first lead of the game, 15-14.

The teams then traded buckets and after one period, the score was

By the half, Turners found themselves trailing by 14, 36-22.

It's hard to trade hoops with a team like Hopkins, especially when they get hot from three-point land. By the end of the game, they hit an astonishing 13 of them, while many of the Tribe's points came at the foul line.

Frustration began to build in the third as Blue kept the Hawks out of the paint, only to watch them hit the long shot. Hopkins had another monster quarter and they led 63-29 after three full.

Turners kept up their aggressive play in the fourth, continuing to contest any inside moves and boxing out underneath when the long ball missed. Of course, this style leads to fouls, and Tionne Brown finally took a seat after receiving his fifth.

In this last period, Turners kept pace, scoring 20 to Hopkins' 21, but the damage had been done.

Sanders hit the Tribe's lone 3point shot. He also hit 9 foul shots

Colby Dobias (25) draws the foul as he shoots.

and sank 6 buckets, for a total of 22 points.

Jeremy Wolfram also hit 6 field goals for 12 points. Tionne Brown helped out with 4 points.

Nick Croteau, Trevor Mankowsky, and Javonni Williams each had field goals. Colby Dobias

and James Vaughn both hit 2 free throws and Kyle Bergman added 1 point.

On Friday, January 8, the Turners boys host Smith Academy, and on Tuesday, January 12, they travel to South Deerfield to play Frontier.

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For a simple composting how-to, please visit tinyurl.com/compostingiseasy.

For more information on composting or waste management programs, call the Solid Waste District at (413) 772-2438, email info@franklincountywastedistrict. org, or visit the District website at www.franklincountywastedistrict. org. MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or (800) 439-2370 (TTY/TDD). The District is an equal opportunity provider.

#### NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

# **Erving Annual Budget** Fun In Full Swing

#### By KATIE NOLAN

The Erving selectboard began 2016 by working on the fiscal year 2017 budget. Selectboard member Jacob Smith called this initial draft of the FY'17 budget "rough and dirty," and chair William Bembury said that some line items were "still in progress."

The board reviewed budget requests and interviewed department heads from the water, highway, wastewater, fire and police departments, and the Council on Aging. The requested departmental budgets were similar to the FY'16 budgets, with small increases, many related to the 2% cost of living increase for town employees approved by the selectboard.

Senior/community center director Paula Betters requested increases over last year for electricity and propane costs and for programming. She told the board that, with more cooking at the center, more propane is used. In addition, more classes and activities are scheduled, resulting in increased costs for teachers/leaders.

for step increases for two long-term officers, who he said were "exceptional in the last year."

Wastewater operator Peter Sanders asked for a step adjustment increasing the salary of the assistant chief operator.

After meeting with the selectboard, the department heads traveled to the basement meeting room to discuss their requests with the finance committee.

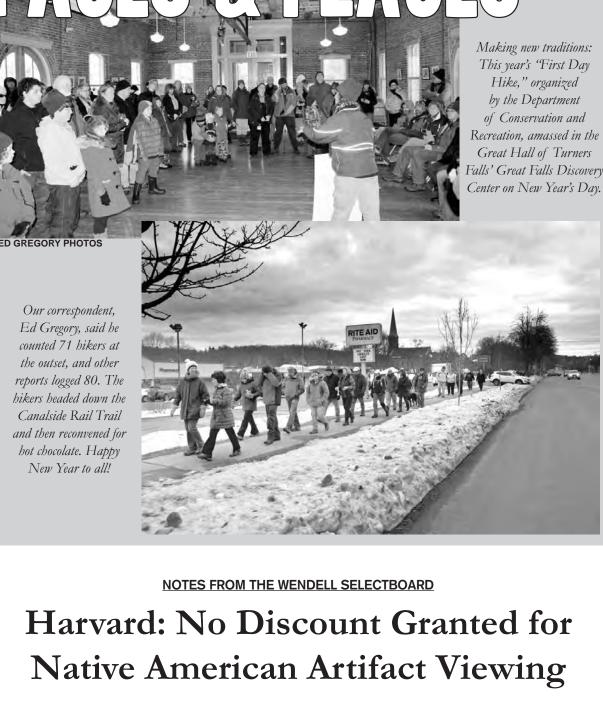
Smith said that the town has approximately \$9.1 million in available funds for FY'17. However, a more precise summary won't be available until next week.

In addition, Smith reported that the school committee had not submitted a FY'17 request for Erving Elementary School, because contract talks with the teachers' union were not complete.

Finance committee member Eugene Klepadlo commented that, without the available cash summary and the school request, the fin com couldn't make recommendations.

#### Highway Truck Use

McCrory asked for permission to



#### **By JOSH HEINEMANN**

Note: I missed the Wendell selectboard's final meeting of 2015 because of snow in Chicago, and so this short article is taken from the posted agenda and draft minutes taken by selectboard clerk Laurel Brenneman.

The draft minutes have not yet been approved by the selectboard.

The Wendell selectboard's December 30 agenda had ten items and two scheduled attendees - the conservation commission and Ray DiDonato, who talked both about the Massachusetts Broadband Institute's challenge to WiredWest, and about Wendell filing for intervenor

accept the plan for aggregation of electricity submitted by Colonial Power to reduce electric bills for homeowners. Before this, the Hampshire Council of Governments (HCOG) submitted a plan with the same objective, which was not accepted by the state.

At the December 16 meeting board members had received a list of items for technical assistance funding from the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG), and they took the two intervening weeks to review them and set priorities.

At this meeting they chose to seek help on these five topics: ambulance service; fire department guidelines; internet/broadband; education workshops; and the opioid task force.

#### **Other Business**

Two of three property owners who have been contacted about having more than two unregistered vehicles on their properties have responded to the reminders sent to them by the selectboard. Both are working on a solution. The third property owner has not responded.

The planning board will schedule a hearing on their draft junkyard bylaw in March or April.

DEP informed the conservation commission that a third-party reviewer hired by them to review the proposed solar installation plans for Wendell must get "special municipal employee" status, because the con com is considering a person who is neither a town employ-

Highway foreman Glenn Mc-Crory requested additional overtime funding, because the larger highway projects planned for the next year may increase overtime use. He also asked for additional money for road safety reflective jackets, vests and bibs.

Police chief Chris Blair asked

take the highway truck home with him at night, because he is on call 24 hours a day, and having the truck at his home would allow him to "be on scene and do the job faster."

The board approved the request until April, when it will review its approval.

status regarding the proposed natural gas pipeline.

Board member Jeoffrey Pooser was not at the meeting.

#### **COGs Moving**

Selectboard member Dan Keller moved, and the board voted, to

#### No, But We'll Sell You Pictures

Wendell historian Pam Richardson learned that Harvard's Peabody Museum holds eight Native American artifacts that were found in Wendell. The artifacts date to the woodland period, roughly 1,000 BC to 1,600 AD.

Two of the artifacts, a five pound mortar and a matching pestle, suggest a more than fleeting encampment in Wendell.

Richardson originally brought that information to the selectboard's attention at its October 21 meeting, and the board sent the museum a letter asking that those artifacts be sent for viewing in town at a reduced cost, considering the town's small size and limited budget.

At this December 30 meeting board members got news that the Peabody Museum refused their request, and instead suggested that the town purchase photographs of the artifacts.

ee nor a resident.

The selectboard favors hiring this person, and con com member Robin Heubel said she would work to make that happen.

Ruth Mazurka resigned from the commission, and the selectboard appointed Melissa Grader to fill the vacancy.

Keller will add information given to him by Ray DiDonato about potential adverse effects of the proposed gas pipeline to the FERC forms he is filing for intervenor status on that project.

The board accepted a response from the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association (MIIA), the town's insurance carrier, about changes to its appraisal of town buildings.

Keller said he would contact facilities engineer Jim Slavas about a job description for that position. Keller said he supports paying Slavas for the work he has done with WiredWest and the broadband committee, and that the broadband committee's expense account should be enough to cover the cost.

# January 5 STM: Fifteen Wendell **Citizens Determined Fate of Town**

#### **By JOSH HEINEMANN**

In eleven minutes, fifteen Wendell citizens concluded a special town meeting on Tuesday by voting unanimously to accept the single article on the warrant.

That article authorized the selectboard to make a tax arrangement for a solar project on Wendell Depot Road, but it did not specify what that tax arrangement

#### would be.

Selectboard member Dan Keller said the arrangement would be a set payment per megawatt of capacity, and that such an arrangement would save the issue of assessing the facility regularly, and would provide the town with a regular income and the operators with a predictable and manageable expense.

Assessor Chris Wings said a

payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) rate of \$12,500 per megawatt capacity per year would give the town \$500,000 over 20 years for a two-megawatt solar farm, the original size projected.

Before the project can go through it must be considered by the conservation commission, and face a public hearing with the planning board.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

## Wastewater Super Trombley to Retire; Proposes Major **Department Reorganization**

#### **By JEFF SINGLETON**

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At the Montague selectboard's first meeting of 2016, superintendent Robert Trombley of the Montague Water Pollution Control Facility presented the board with a "succession plan" to address his retirement, planned for the coming year.

The plan involves a significant reconfiguration of the management structure of the WPCF, which Trombley briefly described and then gave the board in preliminary draft form. The board took the documents, contained in bright red file folders, and then voted to authorize Trombley to "continue the process."

Trombley noted that he had been hired to serve as WPCF director several months after the departure of his predecessor, making the transition difficult.

The plan Trombley proposed appears to eliminate the current superintendent position, dividing responsibilities between a "chief operator" and an "administrator." The organizational flow chart in the plan given to the board indicated that current operator John Little would serve in the former position, and current administrative assistant Kate Jones in the latter.

The administrator would supervise a "lab technician/pretreatment coordinator," who is identified in the chart as current secretary Tina Tyler. The chief operator would oversee the work of four operators and three laborers.

If the reorganization is enacted as proposed, most of Trombley's current duties would be divided among Little, Jones and Tyler, added to their current job descriptions in the draft plan. Trombley suggested that this management structure was becoming more common at water treatment plants. He cited South Hadley in Massachusetts and Cheshire in Connecticut.

Trombley, along with selectboard member Rich Kuklewicz, also emphasized the unique and innovative nature of the Montague plant, which has managed to nearly eliminate the need to dispose of traditional solids and other byproducts of the treatment process. The plant generates revenue by processing solids trucked in from other towns. The important roles plant staff played in developing these innovations, according to Trombley, was a justification for addressing his retirement by changing the job descriptions of existing staff, essentially "hiring from within."

staffing plan on the department's budget, but Trombley suggested his proposal would be revenue-neutral.

After presenting the plan, Trombley read a list of twelve decisions on requested sewer user fee abatements. These ranged from \$36 to \$738.72. The latter involved a bursting pipe whose water had not flowed into the sewer system. Sewer payments are based on water usage during the colder half of the year.

The selectboard approved all the requested abatements.

#### "Battlefield" Study to Continue

In other news, town planner Walter Ramsey reported on the completion of the first phase of the project to study the 1676 "Battle of Turners Falls." The draft technical report of the research team, primarily based on archival and published secondary sources, would be available for "public comment" until January 6.

Ramsey noted that the process had included two well-attended public meetings where the findings of the research were presented. An advisory committee that included representatives of Indian tribes and of local towns had also met regularly to discuss the project.

Ramsey then requested that the board vote to approve a grant application for Phase 2 of the project. He said this would focus on archeological research, mostly involving the examination of sites with metal detectors, but also more labor-intensive research where objects are found.

The board approved the grant application, as well as a request to allow archeological research on property adjacent to town hall.

#### **Development Grant**

Ramsey then remained at the front table for a public hearing on the town's 2016 Community Development Block Grant application. He was joined by two officials from the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority: acting director of community development Pam Parmakian, and infrastructure coordinator Bruce Hunter. The hearing focused on describing the programs in the 2016 grant. These were the same programs discussed in a lengthy "informational hearing" before the selectboard in December. The proposed projects focus on housing rehabilitation, an "infrastructure" project that would extend the Avenue A streetlights west, and three social services components. The latter include a literacy program administered by Montague Catholic Social Ministries, Franklin County Home Care's "Meals on

#### BUSES from page A1

Montague route, and her fare increased when the new rates went into effect on Monday. "This is my first time riding with the new rates," she said.

The advisory board of the Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA) approved the new fares in July, along with a slew of other changes, following a state-mandated comprehensive study of the

runs from the Olver Transit Center to Montague Center, may be merged with 32, the Orange route.

Sunderland route that would allow riders to connect to an existing PVTA route to Amherst. Despite having a transfer, this new route will run four times a day, replacing the current route to Amherst,

half fare riders), that will grant riders unlimited rides for 31 consecutive days.

"We have implemented new fares on all our routes... in anticipation of the release of our monthly pass," said FRTA assistant administrator Michael Perreault. "This is the first change from our comprehensive fixed route study. There were public comments asking for the monthly pass. People are excited."

Planners anticipate that the public will be more likely to use a streamlined system. "The hope is that an increased ridership will compensate for any lost revenue," said Megan Rhodes, senior transportation and land use planner at the Franklin Regional Council of Governments.

The hitch in the plan, even after approved changes to routes and fares, is the new hardware required for that project, including upgrades to the fare boxes on each bus in the fleet. "We're waiting

for the equipment before we can implement the monthly passes," said Rhodes.

According to Perreault, the monthly passes can be expected as soon as April.

One change recommended by the comprehensive assessment that has not been approved - but that FRTA administrators say is a priority, should increased state funding become available – is the expansion of services to weekends and evenings.

Such a change would mean a real improvement for Bruce Poirier of Turners Falls.

"When you're on foot, you depend on the bus system," said Poirier, as he waited on Third Street for the Greenfield bus.

"The cabs here are a little exorbitant – you can take the bus five or ten times, for what a cab costs.

"Pioneer [Valley Transit Authority] has already had weekends and nights," he pointed  $\mathbb{N}_{\mathbb{Q}}$ out.

Wheals" program, and a new program to promote youth leadership, administered by the Brick House.

#### **Cable Windfall**

Jason Burbank, chair of Montague's cable advisory committee (CAC), requested that the town transfer \$34,000 to the town's cable access provider, Montague Community Cable Inc. The funds have been withheld from cable subscribers over the past few years, ostensibly for the purpose of financing needed capital improvements for local access.

Burbank was joined at the front table by MCCI board member Mike Langknecht and former CAC chair Gerry Earles. Langknecht presented the board with a plan for spending the money that focused on upgrading the system that broadcasts selectboard and other meetings from town hall.

Earles questioned the process by which Comcast billed subscribers for capital funds not guaranteed by the previous cable contract. He asked whether the money was really designated for capital needs, when in fact it had been "discovered" by Montague's cable lawyer, Peter Epstein. He also noted that MCCI had significant money in the bank he said could be allocated to capital projects.

quorum to three.

He also noted cryptically that the selectboard had increased the number of seats from five to seven in 2008, but that the "controversy has subsided." (See sidebar.) The selectboard approved the request.

#### **Other Business**

Under the "Town Administrator's Report," chairman Michael Nelson announced that town administrator Frank Abbondanzio, who has been on medical leave for several months, should be returning to his job during January.

Nelson said that "we should know more at the end of the week." and also that "things have been working fantastic" in Abbondanzio's absence.

"As well as could be expected,"

#### added Rich Kuklewicz.

The board, at the request of Nelson who recused himself, voted to change the date of the fall 2016 Franklin County Pumpkinfest event to October 29. The change was needed to address scheduling conflicts.

The board then voted to appoint a planning committee to oversee the design and construction of a new Department of Public Works facility. The committee will include Pam Hanold, Jason Burbank, Jay DiPucchio, Deb Radway, Ken Moran, Mark Williams and Mark Fairbrother.

The board then went into executive session to discuss litigation involving the Kinder Morgan Pipeline and the Millers Falls Road Embankment Project.

## From the Vaults: The Expansion of the Montague Airport Commission

#### **By JEFF SINGLETON**

The expansion of the Montague Airport Commission from 5 to 7 members occurred in December to airport users, and Golrick reof 2007, in the context of a pilots'

no votes on that."

[Ross] asked if the airport manager had made any change to his policy of issuing security badges plied, "There has been no change

cerns about the impact of the new system's fixed routes.

The 22 line, which currently

FRTA will also implement a which only travels twice.

FRTA is also introducing a monthly pass for \$30 (and \$15 for

Kuklewicz said the reorganization concept "feels good," noting that the facility was not a "standard operational plant." He raised con-

However, when pressed, Earles did not advocate refusing to transfer the \$34,000 to MCCI, and the board approved Burbank's request.

#### **Airport Expansion Reversed**

Next, Peter Golrick of the Turners Falls Airport Commission requested that the board reduce the number of seats on his commission from seven to five. He said the commissioners were having difficulty achieving a proper quorum to conduct business, and five members would reduce the

rebellion against the policies of then-manager Michael Sweeney, and a dispute with Native American tribes and others over a possible ceremonial site in the path of a runway expansion.

According to the Montague Reporter's account of the December 3, 2007 selectboard meeting:

[Selectboard member Allen] Ross asked [airport] commission chair Peter Golrick if there had been any change in rates for the commercial users of the airport.

Golrick said, "There have been

in badge policy."

He asked if a letter had been sent to the airport users group, the Committee to Save the Airport, regarding their questions about the use of access roads, and Golrick said there had been no response sent.

Ross asked if there were any new tenants at the airport, or any activity to indicate interest in new leases there, and Golrick shook his head "No."

At which point Ross made a motion to expand the board, saying new viewpoints would be helpful....



The parcel is mostly surrounded

by private land that fronts on the

road, and it seems possible that

many people just don't know that

it's there. Some people might not

be interested in strolling around a

former dump. Or maybe its small

size and proximity to a residential

neighborhood - and also an existing

industrial facility - makes it seem

tributes give it a higher value. People

living on the Hill can walk to these

woods. The idea that conserva-

tion land shouldn't have sightlines

to any nearby factory or bathroom

fixture perpetuate the Ansel Adams-

era myth that nature is only valuable

tension showing the "Index of Eco-

logical Integrity" and "Habitats of

Statewide Importance" show the

land here as significant by both

measures. Despite a lack of atten-

tion given to the natural elements of

this town-owned land, Fairbrother

agreed that "the site is jointly com-

patible for both uses" - conserva-

recreational use of this town-owned

forest is possible. "I'd like to see

formal walking trails on this public

Like at Freshkills Park, reuse

of Montague's land could balance

Ramsey also believes greater

Maps produced by UMass Ex-

if it is immaculate and vast.

I believe, however, that these at-

less than pristine.

#### A7

cover a lot of land, it requires a relatively small amount, compared with other single uses. A 2015 MIT study called *The Future of Solar Energy* found that 33 land "units" (each comprised of 1,000 square kilometers), if covered with solar panels, would supply all of the United States' 2050 energy needs. If these panels were placed in locations with high insolation (a measure of the amount of sun energy reaching the surface), like the desert southwest, it would only require 12 units.

The larger quantity, 33 units, corresponds closely to the amount of land devoted to coal mining – and also the size of Massachusetts. The latter is about the same as we currently use for golf courses. For comparison, the highest current use listed in the study is forest, at 2,717 units. Cropland – mainly in monocropped grain – comes in at 1,652 units, and urban/suburban development at 245.

Being convinced of solar energy's viability in terms of land area, it seems like the biggest question is where to site these projects. Capped landfills, like our own, are excellent places to build them.

The Turnpike Road project is not a done deal. Solar development depends on state-level policy. If legislators raise the net metering cap, which determines how much of a utility's electricity may be generated by solar panels, the project could be under construction by the end of this year.

"State officials need to get their act together, if they want to sustain the renewable energy revolution," said Ramsey, when I asked if that cap could affect the project.

Many residents of Montague are proud to have a major renewable energy project slated for townowned land. History plays out in all landscapes, and it would be exciting to see land once used to quarry gravel, and later to hide trash, find a third use in our time as a source of renewable electricity. If recreation were included in this centrally located woodland, people would enjoy seeing what a possible sustainable future could look like.

could look like.



#### LAND USE from page A1

other in ways that, when one's imagination was stimulated, suggested intentional patterns.

All of these items were being grown around, through, and upon by the trees and other plants of the forest. There were other trails here as well, cut out of the woods informally.

Landfill reuse is an important topic in the planning world. As landfills have been capped and waste has begun to be dealt with differently – most of Montague's trash, for example, is now incinerated in Springfield – people have searched for productive ways to reuse these suddenly appearing open spaces.

The most common plan for obsolete landfills used to be covering them with just a few inches of soil and growing shallowly-rooting grass on it. In the 1980s, a popular scheme was to turn them into golf courses. Today, golf is not enjoying its former popularity, and many of these landfill sites are being converted into public parks, or into public-sector solar installations.

In the big metropolises, planners often find landfills to be sudden windfalls of open space – these sites, originally built on the outskirts of the old city's bounds, are now in the middle of prime urban real estate.

Also importantly, the nature of landfills limits their options for redevelopment: one cannot dig into them, and they are soft, compacting as waste breaks down. This strictly limits their development possibilities, because they cannot support heavy structures, predisposing them to uses like parkland and solar generation.

As turn-of-the last century park designers like Frederick Law Olmsted found opportunity in cheap accessible land at the edges of our Victorian cities, planners today find a similar gift horse in the large open spaces created by decades of consumption and waste.

Perhaps the most well-known landfill reuse project in this country is Freshkills Park, on Staten Island. Prior to its use as a landfill it was an agricultural district, fringed with wetlands. It was the destination of the majority of New York City's trash for 50 years, and by 2001, was known as the largest man-made structure on earth, according to the NYC Department of Planning. Freshkills' last use as a landfill was as the final resting place for the debris from the Twin Towers.

Freshkills is being redeveloped into a park, as well as a site for a solar array. It will be the city's largest new greenspace since the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and the second-biggest park in the city overall.

Montague's plan for its own, more modest, landfill site is multifaceted. Included in the current proposal are three solar fields: one on the landfill itself, one on the Burn Dump, and one on undeveloped, forested land west of the gravel pit. Together, these would generate 6.4 MW of electricity, enough to power 700 homes.

In between the solar arrays, in an already-cleared and graded area of about 40 acres, the town wants to site a small industrial park – three or four parcels. (As recently as 2012, the site was designated for a larger industrial park, with 21 plots.) Besides the park by the airport being near capacity, Ramsey notes that there is a "shortage of developable industrial land in Montague and in Franklin County."

Finally, the proposal envisions the land as the future home of the Department of Public Works headquarters. The department's existing facility at the end of Avenue A is aging rapidly, and this week, the selectboard appointed a planning committee for the town to build a new one.

#### Walking Trails?

One use that has been absent from many discussions of this parcel's future is conservation. "It just hasn't been on anyone's radar," said Mark Fairbrother, chair of the conservation commission.

While living in Montague City, I dreamed about walking through these woods from the bike path to the cemeteries on Turners Falls Road. I wondered why the area seemed neglected.

commerce and recreation, in ways

land," he explained.

tion and redevelopment.

that benefit the larger community. Sandy Lane could be a gateway for people to tour this suburban extension of our town's woodlands.

#### **Comparing Uses**

The proposal to build solar arrays on this site comes amid a wave of solar buildout in Massachusetts. Is the diffused generation of electricity, requiring a lot of land, the best use of space from an environmental perspective?

From the roadside, solar's widespread expansiveness can be similarly scaled to mall parking lots or industrial grain growing. This latter comparison is apt because in New England one of the more common sites for big solar is on farm fields themselves.

Food production is competing with energy in the use of our land, and, as has often been the case in modern history, agricultural value comes out lower. Is solar power just another incarnation of the same cash-generating forces that also build big box stores, and houses on one-acre lots? Should other sources of electricity, with smaller footprints, be pursued instead?

Despite my gut skepticism, solar comes out looking good. For one, it is not the same as the tourniquetlike cul-de-sacs of new subdivisions – in a typical arrangement, farmers maintain ownership of their land.

And, while solar generation does

#### TESTING from page A1

parents, teachers and other community members learn more and decide on possible actions to take." The Swift River committee has reached Time devoted to testing is time not spent on teaching and learning."

Haggerty also mentioned the lag time between when students take the tests and when the results are "Think about the purpose of these tests."

Swift River principal Kelley Sullivan spoke to this reporter about her experience with state

pulled away from instruction to do the time-consuming work of preparation and supervision of the tests, depriving students of classroom time spent learning. when results were released to teachers and students. "From a teaching standpoint, it feels futile to analyze the data now," she said.

As for the emotional impact on



As recently as 2012, the town's master plan for the site envisioned it simply

as the town's second industrial park. Now it is slated for a mixture of uses.

out to other schools and organizations in preparing for the forum, and has invited members of the Collaborative for Educational Services, District 5, and Mahar.

Members of the panel will include Swift River principal Kelley Sullivan, Union 28 superintendent Jennifer Haggerty, and teacher and parent Danika Tyminski, among others. Glenn Koocher, executive director of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees, will act as moderator.

"I think it is important that Swift River is taking this time to hear about the impact of testing on students and teachers," said Union 28 superintendent Haggerty. "It's important for all perspectives to be heard."

According to Haggerty, parents and teachers in the district have raised concerns over the amount of time devoted to preparing and taking the tests, and how that impacts student learning. She said she recognized the importance of assessments and accountability, but said, "I think we have to be cognizant of what we're using these tests for.... available to teachers and administrators. By the time the results from last year's tests were released, she said, "the teachers no longer had those students in front of them [in their classroom.]"

"As an educator, it's important to use assessments in the moment they're teaching," Haggerty explained. She said the kinds of testing many adults will remember from their student days - that quiz at the end of the week, the bigger exams, homework, and essays – are all useful to teachers to track the progress of their students. But she questioned the value of testing aimed not at helping teachers evaluate students, but rather at evaluating teachers and entire schools, and the impact it has on students' educational experience.

"The test is just one data piece," Haggerty continued, saying that high-stakes accountability should be balanced with many other pieces of data for measuring teacher effectiveness. "What are the experiences for students and staff? What are the problems created? testing in her school. "I'm not opposed to standardized testing," she assured me, "I just think there are way too many tests."

Sullivan said Swift River performs its own "benchmark" testing, collecting data on student performance on a daily, weekly and monthly basis. She said the additional assessments they are required to perform for the state are burdensome, particularly for a small school like hers.

She pointed out that Swift River is a Level 1 school. and was named a Commendation school this year because their students met 99% of proficiency, significantly closing the learning gap. She said the state testing process strains school resources.

For example, it must hire additional substitute teachers to cover the classes not involved with the testing. Sullivan and her secretary had to devote their own time toward organizing materials for the tests.

The school is required to store them in a locked room, and the only secure place large enough was the conference room. Teachers were And then there is the time spent taking tests. Sullivan said Swift River's fifth-grade students at Swift River had eleven test sessions last spring, taking PARCC tests in English Language Arts and math, and MCAS in science. "All that testing puts a lot of pressure on everybody," she concluded.

Swift River teacher Danika Tyminski spoke to us about the tests, and her hopes for the upcoming forum. "It's important for parents to hear the toll that PARCC and MCAS takes on our little school," she said.

She explained that PARCC is different from other assessments students have taken in the past, which required teachers to spend a lot of time preparing students to take it, losing valuable time for education.

"When PARCC was introduced, it was touted as a formative exam – one that would help teachers inform their instruction," Tyminski said. But she argued its value in this regard was limited by the length of time between the spring, when students took the tests, and December, students, Tyminski said she believed high-stakes testing caused enormous stress and anxiety in her students. She said every year she sees students break down in tears while taking the tests. "It breaks my heart... I hate that my students go into the exam feeling confident with what they have learned and the skills they have, yet many feel inadequate and disheartened at the conclusion of the test."

Tyminski emphasized that she is not opposed to testing in general, but says she feels there are too many tests, and she'd like to see testing that allows for creativity and differences among students.

Principal Sullivan called for something similar, speaking of "standardized tests for students who are not standard."

Swift River School is located at 201 Wendell Road, New Salem. For more information, call (978) 544-6926 or go to www.swiftriverschool.org.





## TRANSPORTATION IS A CRITICAL **NEED FOR OUR AREA**

Volunteer Marvin Kelley says, "Helping has been kind of a theme in my career and my life, and now I'm involved here with RIDES FOR HEALTH."

\*\*\*You could help as a volunteer too!\*\*\*

The next FREE training: January 26, 2016, 1–5 pm **Turners Falls, MA. Refreshments provided!** 



## January 16, 17 & 18: Martin Luther King Walk to Stop the Kinder Morgan/NED Pipeline

FRANKLIN COUNTY - This MLK Weekend walk will proceed from the proposed compressor station site on Gulf Road in Northfield to the proposed construction yard in Plainfield.

The route will pass through Northfield, Erving, Montague, Greenfield, Deerfield, Conway, Ashfield, and Plainfield.

Join for as long or as little as you wish. Hospitality will be provided for meals and overnights.

To register, contact Hattie Nestel at (978) 790-3074 or hattieshalom@verizon.net

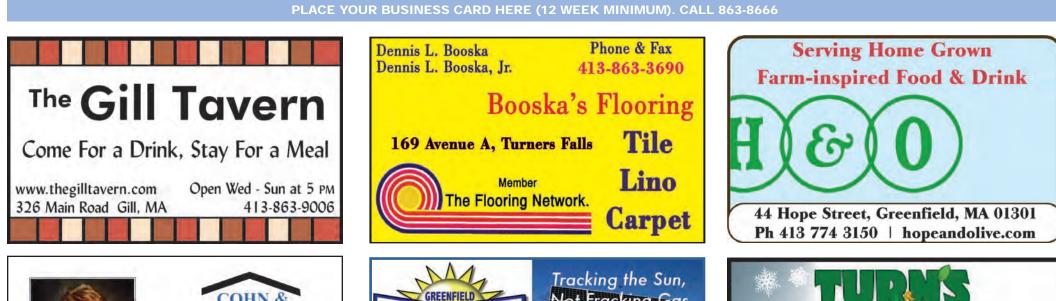
From the mission statement by Sister Clare Carter of the New England Peace Pagoda in Leverett:

"We walk through the beautiful hills of western Massachusetts in order that the nurturing sublime natural world be spared the destructive wrath of exploitation. Everywhere we see how the unchecked force of greed brings unspeakable suffering to the people and to the land, the water and the air....

"We pray for the transformation of the mining and fossil fuel extraction industry to responsible, sustainable, collective living...."



Greg and Penny Kuzmeskus of Gill, enjoying an early winter cruise, keep up with hometown news.









**A8** 

Cell: 413-772-9279 Fax: 413-773-1143 marylou@cohnandcompany.com www.cohnandcompany.com

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YEAR 14 – NO. 11

FEATURES@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

**JANUARY 7, 2016** 

**B1** 

# Jinx: Ice Gaffers, Roast Potatoes, and the Joys of Free Range Children

This excerpt from 'Jinx: A New England Mill Town Urchin's Life, the Depression through 1952" was written by Jerry 'Jinx" Collins about his youth growing up in Turners Falls' Cutlery Block.

Collins prefers to write in the third person, and in his memoir seeks to present "not just the pleasant memories showing him in a glowing light but also those that aren't so favorable." Several of the following excerpts are in the latter category. A copy of his book is available at the Carnegie Library.



Wintertime scene at Unity Park. Third Street, in the upper left. Detail from an undated photograph at the Carnegie Library.

#### **By JERRY COLLINS**

#### **Ice House**

At the bottom of Ferry Road there used to be a suspension bridge over the Connecticut River, connecting Turners Falls to Riverside and Gill. As you can probably deduce from the road's name, a ferry would have been used at that location, prior to the bridge, in order to get across the river. Situated next to the bridge, on the Turners side of the river, was a large wooden structure.

In the early- to mid-fifties – and previous winters also – the river

would freeze over, forming a solid layer of ice in excess of twelve inches thick. In that period, which was prior to the widespread use of electric refrigerators for preserving meat, milk, and other products needing cooling in summer, ice boxes were in use.

Therefore, in the winter when at its thickest, Mr. Thompson's company proceeded to harvest the river ice – an amazing sight to witness. Using huge saws, the men would cut the ice into large blocks, lift them from the river, and load them onto trucks for transfer to the building, known to the boys as "The Ice House," for storage.

The company hired strong high school boys to work inside the building stacking the blocks, with straw in between, from the floor to the ceiling. In order to maneuver the blocks into position, a long wooden pole with a metal pointed hook on one end (called a gaff) would be used.

In 1946 Jinx's brother Royer, then a senior in high school, was one of those boys hired for the short (one to two weeks) ice season. As a typical ten-year-old, Jinx couldn't wait to go down to the river and watch the fascinating harvest.

On one such day, while standing on the river bank next to "The Ice House," he suddenly heard a commotion coming from inside the building. Within a few minutes Jinx became upset upon seeing two men coming out of the building carrying his brother, with blood streaming down his pant leg.

They rushed him to the doctor's office for treatment. A few stitches and some antiseptic fixed him up, but he had to remain off his feet for a while. Jinx sure felt better when he knew Royer would be alright.

Apparently, the accident occurred when a gaff one of the other boys see **JINX** page B4

Raili Cohen: A Committed Knitter



THE TODDLER

Ethan, 4, and David, 8, enjoy taking turns with a potato masher.

#### **By ERIC DAMKOEHLER**

**TURNERS FALLS** – Turn the menial task of cooking into wholesome family fun with these five recommendations!

#### 1. Shop with them.

Bringing kids into the grocery store, especially toddlers, can be a hassle, for both you and the other shoppers. But the nice old ladies, and the lessons the kids can learn, are worth the headache.

To keep the kids behaving and help them understand food, reward them with a fruit, instead of candy. If you bring your kids to the fruit aisle and allow them to choose a fruit for good behavior and require they vary their selection each time, they will gravitate toward the more bizarre fruits. They will learn to be experimental.

Ask them what things taste like to spark their curiosity and allow

something will cost. A valuable math lesson and a lesson which will remind them that "food costs money!"

# 2. Involve them in the entire process of cooking – including the "dangerous" parts.

Chances are that you've taken a kitchen tool away from the kids on more than one occasion, and chances are better that one of them was a knife.

Unless you have finely honed steel knives, this should be something you encourage... at the correct times and under the correct supervision.

Teaching kids the proper way to handle a knife, and respect for the knife, will take away the mystery and translate to more appreciation for the dangers. Most kitchens have a least one fiftycent knife, which is shaped like a chef's knife, looks like a chef's knife, but isn't. Toddlers won't be strong enough to cut themselves with that fifty-cent knife. Use it as a practice knife, and buy a practice cucumber each week.

#### **By NINA ROSSI**

**BERNARDSTON** – Raili Cohen has been a self-proclaimed "knitting machine" for several hours each day within the warm and cozy walls of her 200-year-old farmhouse on Bald Mountain Road in Bernardston.

A walk through her back yard (on snowshoes, most likely, for this time of year) will bring you to modern day traffic whizzing along on busy Interstate 91, but in Raili's kitchen, with the deep farmhouse sink surrounded by comfortably worn old wooden shelves and drawers – somehow this spot escaped the fanatical drive towards modernity during the 1950's – there exists an oasis of old world charm. Says Raili, "This house is my retreat, my world; it is totally where I am most comfortable... I am always happy to be home." Raili's infectious laugh throughout our interview, and her beautiful Finnish accent, delighted the ears.

The sight of a basket of soft and vibrantly colored wool in her lap delighted the eyes, and freshly dripped, strong coffee with cream delighted the taste buds.

In this house of delights, where warm knitted **woolen items are con**tentedly generated on a daily basis, Raili has also journaled every morning. A morning ritual to clear her psychic pipes, she has been engaged in the process of creating a family history for her sons.

Part of this process is re-examining the past, as represented in journals she has kept all her life. Looking back sometimes causes her to cringe at the actions of her younger self, and she ended up destroying one notebook that she didn't want her heirs to read.

Knitting, writing, reflecting. Caring for house, car, self. Nourishing her friendships by going on fun "poke-about" journeys to treasure troves, such as the Experienced Goods thrift shop in Brattleboro. All give her much satisfaction in her seventh decade.

Raili was herself a caretaker for the elderly and a licensed social worker for ten years. In a serendipitous turn of events, she connected to Michael and Tony of the former Green Emporium restaurant in Colrain and ended up cooking for them when they first opened their venue.

She had asked them on a whim if they needed help, and became part of the adventure as the two partners, who also had no prior restaurant experience, tried to figure out what to do.

Growing up in the post-war years in Finland, Raili learned to knit in grade school because it was something everyone did out of necessity. Sweaters were commonly unraveled and re-knitted, and it was a familiar site to see passengers plying their needles while riding on public transport.

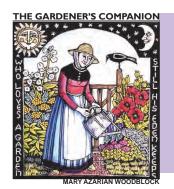
Raili admits to being a terrible knitter in those days. She preferred to sing, and performed as often as she could, even getting censored at 12 years old for singing "Kiss of Fire" (teachers deemed this song inappropriate for her age).

After graduation, she took receptionist jobs in England and Europe, attending parties and having adventures, and eventually took an opportunity to move to the US when it presented itself.

see COHEN page B8

their imagination to do the hard work of convincing them they like something,

Point out prices, and help them do some simple math, to figure out how much a single portion of



#### **By LESLIE BROWN**

**MONTAGE CITY** – Another year gone and a new one begun.

After a balmy Christmas weekend, the moderate temperatures continued into the New Year. The only sign of winter an ice storm followed by rain and fog. When we walk our favorite loop through the meadows of Old Deerfield, the pasture roadways look like mud time come early.

Still, we begin to prepare for our planned trip south in a few days' time. Whatever the weather in between, when we return in early March, it will be time to plant the tomatoes!

The colorful seed catalogues arrived in December, along with the plethora of gift catalogs from anywhere we'd ever purchased something. Now, the pleasure of perusing the pages of fresh, juicy fruits. It's hard not to order many more varieties than we can well manage to tend. Don't cook your kids. Burns

see TODDLERS page B8

A New Year Begins

We settle on seven: three heirloom indeterminates and four hybrids.

The heirlooms, Rose, Pineapple and Brandywine, are seeds that have been around for at least fifty years and saved for their special qualities like size, color and flavor. These indeterminate plants will continue to grow and produce until frost.

We're also ordering three hybrid varieties. Hybrid tomatoes are seeds from two different strains in order to strengthen plants for disease resistance, reduce sensitivity to temperature changes, and to create early and midseason timing. These plants have a built-in timer for production, and will finish producing according to their own timetable.

The hybrids are highly reliable in general and represent some of our favorites: Celebrity, Jet Star, Early Girl and Sungold, a delicious cherry.

We enjoy growing some of each – hybrid and heirloom, but feel strongly that while hybrids may be more resistant to disease issues, they

see GARDENERS page B3



Raili Cohen

# Pet of Week

Compact and quiet, furry and fun, a hamster may be a match for you. hamsters are delighful companions.

If you have the time and kindness to devote to a fuzzy friend who is good company, doesn't need much space and won't bark at the mailman,

We also have a group of gerbils.

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



## "PIPPIN"

## **Senior Center Activities** JANUARY 11 to 15

#### **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 **M**, **W**, **F** 10:10 a.m. Aerobics, 10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise Monday 1/11 8:30 Foot Clinic Appointments 10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise 1 p.m. Knitting Circle Tuesday 1/12 9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga Wednesday 1/13 11:15 a.m. Friends' Meeting Noon Birthday Lunch

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 1/11

9 a.m. Tai Chi 10 a.m. Osteo Exercise Tuesday 1/12 8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics 9:30 a.m. C.O.A. Meeting 10 a.m. Stretching & Balance Wednesday 1/13 8:45 a.m. Line Dancing 10 a.m. Chair Yoga Noon Bingo, Snacks Thursday 1/14 8:45 Aerobics 10 a.m. Healthy Bones 12:30 p.m. Card Games

## WENDELL FREE LIBRARY Saturday, January 9: **Twelve Monkeys**

An unknown and lethal virus has wiped out all but 1% of the population by the year 2035.

James Cole volunteers to be sent back in time to gather information about the origin of the epidemic and bring back a sample so that scientists can study it. Cole is mistakenly sent back six years earlier than expected, and is put in a mental institution, where he meets Dr. Kathryn Railly, a psychiatrist, and Jeffrey Goines, the insane son of a famous scientist and virus expert.

Starring Bruce Willis and Brad Pitt; directed by Terry Gilliam.

Doors open at 7 p.m., show starts at 7:30 p.m. This is the next in the monthly Science Fiction/Fantasy and Horror/Monster movies series at the Wendell Free Library in the center of Wendell. Admission is free.

A Doctor Who episode, "The Ribos Operation: Part Four," with Tom Baker and Mary Tamm, will be shown before the movie.

For more information about the Wendell Free Library visit www.wendellfreelibrary.org or call (978) 544-3559.



#### **By FRED CICETTI**

Q. My husband is getting a drinker's nose. He reminds me of W.C. Fields. But my husband doesn't really drink more than an occasional beer. I don't get it.

W.C. Fields, the vaudevillian and comedic actor in early films, was known to hoist more than an occasional beer. But, Fields got his red, bumpy nose from rosacea, not alcohol. Former President Bill Clinton has rosacea and so did the late financier J.P. Morgan. Rosacea (roh-ZAY-shee-uh) is a chronic skin disease that causes redness and swelling. It usually affects the face. It can also strike the scalp, neck, ears, chest and back. You can also get it in your eyes; this condition is called ocular rosacea. The disease can make the eyes look bloodshot. Rosacea affects about 16 mil-



### **THE HEALTHY GEEZER**

**Rosacea**, Not Alcohol!

lion Americans, and most of them don't know they have it. According to a Gallup survey, almost 8 in 10 Americans do not know that rosacea exists.

There is no cure for rosacea and science hasn't found a cause. However, dermatologists can attack the symptoms with medication – both oral and topical - laser surgery and other treatments if the disease is caught early. It may take two months of treatment before skin affected by rosacea looks better.

Some believe that early treatment may reverse the disease. If ignored, rosacea often worsens and and extreme cold.

tale that rosacea is caused by heavy drinking. Alcohol aggravates rosacea but does not cause it. Another myth is that rosacea is "adult acne."

The disease has little to do with the pimples and blackheads of acne.

People with fair skin tend to get rosacea. Women are afflicted more often than men, but men get more severe forms of the disease. Rosacea often runs in families.

If you have rosacea, here are some tips to avoid flare-ups:

• Shield yourself from the sun

12:45 p.m. Bingo Thursday 1/14 9 a.m. Tai Chi, Veterans Outreach 10 a.m. Coffee & Conversation 1 p.m. Cards & Games Friday 1/15 1 p.m. Writing Group

#### WENDELL

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

#### **ERVING**

Erving Senior Center, 1 Care

#### Friday 1/15 9 a.m. Quilting 9:30 a.m. Bowling 11:30 a.m. Pizza & Movie 12:30 p.m. Painting Class

#### **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.

becomes difficult to treat. Rosacea may last for years. For most people it tends to get better and then flare up again.

Symptoms usually begin in adults between the ages of 30 and 60. When women with rosacea go through menopause, they may experience additional flushing.

Rosacea often starts with what looks like a blush. Then the disease progresses to red pimples and bumps filled with pus. Tiny blood vessels may become noticeable. The skin on the nose may become thick and red.

Research has debunked the old

• Abstain from alcohol, if you can. If not, cut down.

• When you put anything on your face, do it gently. No scrubbing.

• Avoid spicy foods and hot beverages.

• Do not use facial products containing alcohol, acids and fragrances. Wash with mild soap.

· Avoid overheating. When exercising, make sure it's in a cool place. And no hot showers or baths.

• Don't get hair spray on your face.

> If you want to ask a question, write to fred@healthygeezer.com



#### GARDENERS from page B1

often lack the flavor of the older breeds. A stand-out example is the recently developed Cloudy Day, a tomato specifically developed for resistance to late blight, yet which we found to be very bland in taste.

Rose, Pineapple and Brandywine often lack uniformity of size or shape, but produce some of the most colorful and flavorful tomatoes we've ever enjoyed.

Obviously, what each gardener chooses to grow is a matter of personal taste. We are fortunate to live in a valley of gardeners, and even if you don't want the big task of growing your own plants, or lack the space or time, you can find plants of most any variety at local co-ops and farmers markets.

It seems a bit contrarian to be heading to northern Florida when the winter is so mild, but it does feel like a change of scene will be salutary. We've completed our projects in the vard and garden, and done quite a bit of cleaning out and letting go inside.

Despite my chronic anxiety about leaving hearth, home and cat, I am starting to look forward to new places and adventures.

We will be returning to the lakeside fishing camp for a month, traveling by train to my mother-in-law

in Fort Lauderdale for a brief visit, and then spending the last two weeks at a new camping area near the Ocala National Forest. This represents unexplored territory in an area of salt springs and wildlife.

At Georgetown, we plan to revisit favorite hikes and will spend time with new friends made last winter (including the loud brothers), go back to Saint Augustine for another visit, and no doubt return a couple of times to the rather wintry beach.

We hope for an uneventful, if lengthy, four days of travel down to North Florida and will enjoy the unfolding of spring, and then summer-like, weather and growth on the way.

We start a New Year full of hope and possibility and resolve. We hope for further resolutions and movement towards peace.

The possibility looms that the vast, unnecessary pipeline project, which violates conservancy, native remains, private lands and our own clear water will be arrested. We resolve also to be a stronger voice for the positive and the good in our own sweet community and beyond.

A happy New Year of hope and possibility to all.

# Snow Towing, Midnight Pit Crew, And A Bloody Nose In Town-Owned Lots;

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG** 

# Dog Dying and In Need of Haircut; Two Laser Light Systems Stolen

#### Monday, 12/28

6:39 a.m. Caller from H Street reports that his unlocked truck was entered and rummaged through overnight. Nothing appears to be broken or stolen. Subsequent report of second vehicle at this address broken into.

10:38 a.m. Caller from K Street reports that her vehicle was entered overnight and cash and store savings cards were taken. Referred to an officer.

11:57 a.m. Christmas light laser display reported stolen from O Street yesterday. Report taken. Tuesday, 12/29

9:25 a.m. Caller complaining of a party on Central Street who is plowing ries of calls regarding a snow into the roadway trespass order/neighbor and leaving it there or try- intimidation on L Street. ing to push it into another Situation mediated for neighbor's driveway. Officer did not witness operation, but did warn party about driving this vehicle on a public way.

#### Wednesday, 12/30

1:56 a.m. Report of shoplifting at F.L. Roberts; male purchased 2 small items, and female believed to have put more items in bag as they were about to leave. Male in all black clothes; female wearing purple hoodie and nightgown or similar. Report requesting a taken.

7 a.m. DPW requesting an officer to Third Street ing a report that the aniparking lot for snow-re- mal appears to be in need lated tows. 13 vehicles ticketed.

9:15 a.m. DPW requesting ficer found no one home, assistance with tows for no visual on dog. Message snow removal at Fourth left for animal control of-Street parking lot. Rau's ficer. Owner identified is finishing the last tows and voice mail left; ownfrom the Third Street lot, er, who was out of town,

berland Farms requests removal of a male subject who has been loitering since 6 a.m. Caller tried to ask subject why he was there; subject initially ignored him, then became belligerent. While caller was on the line with dispatch, subject asked caller if he could use the phone to speak with the police. Caller put subject on the phone. Subject refused to identify himself and said repeatedly that officers did not need to respond and that he did not want officers to shoot him. Subject then disconnected the line. Officers advised. Peace restored.

4:52 p.m. Latest in setime being.

11:21 p.m. Caller from Crocker Avenue reports hearing loud noises behind her house in the area of Marshall Street. Noise described as "like M80s," possibly fireworks; is upsetting her dogs. Officer spoke to parties on Marshall Street and advised them to keep the noise down.

#### Friday, 1/1

12:59 p.m. Chief Dodge welfare check on a small dog on Unity Street after receivof immediate medical attention. Responding ofter Department advised. 3:15 p.m. Party into station reporting that he was assaulted by a male party who claims he owes him money. Reporting party states that he had offered to sell the male party a weed whacker and had placed it in the back of a pickup truck belonging to the male. When the girlfriend of the male party attempted to drive off with it, the reporting party grabbed it out of the truck, and this is when he said he was confronted by the male, who shoved him and punched him in the area of his ear and face. Advised of op-

#### Sunday, 1/3

tions.

12:29 a.m. Caller reporting that her sister is yelling and screaming at her from across the house. Nothing physical. Officers clear; dispute over a bill. One sister will resolve on Monday.

1:02 a.m. Officers out with a suspicious vehicle in the Fourth Street parking lot, where two males are removing tires from one vehicle and installing them on another. Officers clear; suspicious activity for 1 in the morning, but

seems to check out. 1:49 a.m. Caller reporting some type of disturbance in a parking lot at Fifth Street and L Street. Multiple parties can be heard yelling. Officers on scene; spoke with male party on foot in area. Same has bloody nose; same refused medical attention and states there was no altercation, but that he slipped on ice. 10:20 a.m. Party into lobby to report that \$3,000+ worth of his belongings were stolen when his vehicle was repossessed this morning. Officer advised party of options, took a list of belongings that were in the vehicle, and spoke with tow company, who advised it is fine to give the party their number and that they will work with him to get his belongings back to him. 12:05 p.m. Caller from Montague City Road reports that he had a "laser light" system in his yard that was stolen in the last two days. Advised of options.

tioning whether this is allowed/legal. Officer advised of call; he believes this is standard practice but referred caller to the Environmental Police.

12:34 p.m. Caller reports that a blue truck with no plates has been parked across from her house, on Central Street near Chestnut Lane, for some time. Several people were out with it a bit ago, apparently trying to start it, and it looked like it was leaking gas. She then noticed a fire that started underneath or near the truck. She stated the people there put the flames out with snow then left. TFFD notified; firefighter advises that truck does have a slow gas leak and will need to be removed. Caller also gave a plate number for a white Monte Carlo that has been left for some time and has a window that is stuck open, resulting in water and ice inside the vehicle. Caller also reports that there is a grey Ford sedan parked here with no plates, and a pink truck with a plow that does not appear to have plates. Owners of blue truck and Monte Carlo contacted and warned to move vehicles by 5 p.m. Officer spoke to husband of registered owner of Ford, who stated that the vehicle was sold to "a kid named Ian" months ago. Advised caller that vehicle is still in his wife's name; he will attempt to find contact info for the person he sold the car to. Spoke to suspected operator of pink truck, who claims he is not the one driving the vehicle, as he has a suspended license. Warned party that truck must be moved by 5 p.m. Husband of Ford Taurus owner called back with a phone number for Ian. As of 5:51 p.m., no vehicles left in this location. Officers clear. 8:28 p.m. Caller advising there were 2-3 males walking down the alley near Fifth and L streets swearing and "carrying on"; on occasions a vehicle will meet these men, and there is some sort of exchange that usually ends with more yelling. Caller has spoken with officer about this and feels that there is not enough police presence in this area. Officer advised of call; will make checks of area.

## ILOOKIING BACK: **10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK**

Here's the way it was January 6, 2006: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

#### Kulik Fields Local and **National Concerns**

Representative Steve Kulik got high marks for accessibility from nine of his constituents in Montague Center, who turned out for an up close and personal discussion of the issues at the fire nation Wednesday night.

The meeting was prompted by a call from Audrey Reipold, a Newton Lane resident who works as a visiting nurse. She told Kulik she had some things on her mind, and wanted a chance to speak to her state representative about them.

When Kulik invited Reipold to open the nights' discussion, she launched into a long list, beginning with the war in Iraq, winding through the spiraling cost of living, the lack of opportunity for young people, rising crime, illegal immigrants, and the scarcity of decent single men to choose from in the area

is wooded hillside. They rent another 500 acres.

Seeking for ways to cut expenses and increase profits they looked at producing ground corn.

"We decided to invest in a corn dryer so we could bring dried corn for our cattle and to sell to other farmers as feed for crews, pigs, chickens, and sheep," young Bill said

They wanted to offer local farmers an alternative to buying corn shipped in from the Midwest. "We eliminate the cost of shipping and price increases that occur each time the corn passes from middle man to middle man," the elder Llewelyn said. "Farmers can buy the same quality corn direct from us, and save money."

#### **Racing Into**

road. Turners Falls Wa-

beaver carcasses; ques-

"And what are you going to do about that?" his audience demanded.

#### Corn is Hot at **Five Point Farm**

When we mentioned the Llewelyns at the Five Point Farm in Northfield selling kernel corn as a fuel in the last issue, that was only the tip of the corncrib. Corn and other feed for farm animals are the larger focus of the Llewelyns' operation.

With milk prices going down, C. William and William E. have sought ways to keep farming profitable. They bought the 540-acre Five Point Farm in 1954; half of the acreage is tillable and the rest

#### The New Year

On the day after New Year's in Montague Center, 201 runners showed up to usher in 2006 with a 10 kilometer race around the streets of the snow clad village.

The road race was a success, according to organizer and Montague selectboard chair Allen Ross. Ross originated the race 16 years ago, when 20 runners turned out to raise money to preserve 100 acres along the Sawmill River on North Street that was up for sale.

This year, Ross plans to give the proceeds to the Montague Grange, the Mount Toby Land Trust, the Michael Smiarowski Scholarship Fund, and the local Firemen's Relief Association.

An unexpected recipient this year will be President George Bush. Ross said he will devote some of the funds to buying a copy of Darwin's Origin of Species for White House perusal.

and will then respond to later called back and was Fourth Street. Two vehi-

cles ticketed. 11:14 a.m. Caller from High Street reports that a pipeline sign was stolen from his yard for the second time.

4:10 p.m. Party into lobby to report that she was driving on Swamp Road and saw a male party trying to help a little dog; when she stopped to ask if they needed help, the dog jumped into her vehicle. dog is very sick and does Dog does have tag and ap- seem to be of advanced pears to be well cared for. age. Owner agreed to Message left for owner. take the dog to the vet Party advised that rather tonight. Copy of call left than bringing the dog for animal control officer. to the kennel, she would 3:17 p.m. Request for K9 take the dog home and her Artie to assist Greenfield phone number could be given to the owner. Dog Services rendered. owner later called back Saturday, 1/2 and was given party's phone number.

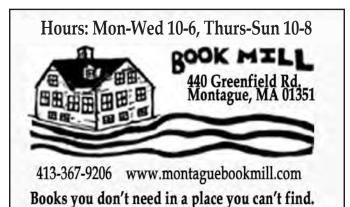
Thursday, 12/31

informed of concerns. Owner admitted that the dog was older and "needs to be put down." Another officer later checked and reported that no one was home but he could see the dog; it did not appear to be in distress but did look like it needed a haircut. Another officer later made contact with the owner and was able to see the dog; advises the PD with a traffic stop. 8:20 a.m. Report of a wa-

ter main leak on Sandy Lane. Officer observed 1:06 p.m. Caller from Cum- water bubbling out of the

12:07 p.m. Caller reports that near his house, close to the corner of Route 63 and Gunn Road, there is an environmental area where someone has dumped several deer and







#### Are you suffering from ...

Thoracic Outlet or Carpal Tunnel Syndrome, Plantar Fasciitis, or Tendinitis?

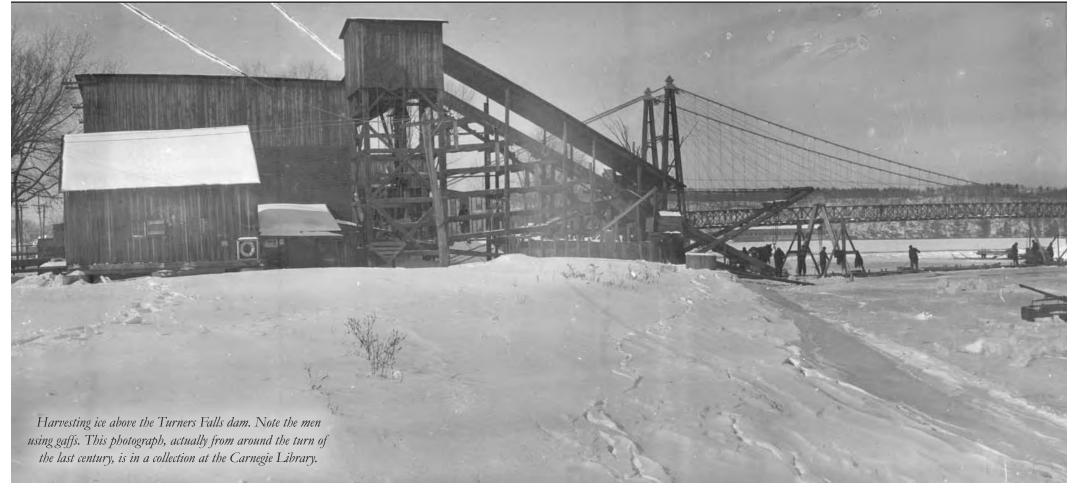
I can help. Gretchen Wetherby LMT Massage Offices in Shelburne Falls and Millers Falls

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#### JINX from page B1

had been using slipped and caught Royer in the leg, causing the damage.

#### Ice Out

In the spring of Jinx's junior year, and his best friend Hoppy's sophomore year, the two would find a great treasure. Unlike today, where only Barton's Cove and part of the Deep Hole freezes over in the winter, during the 1940s and '50s the main river would have iced over from just above the dam to at least north of the French King Bridge and probably further. Jinx couldn't attest to that, as the only time he went further up the river was in the

#### summer.

With the spring thaw, in late March or early April, the ice would break up and huge frozen chunks would start their journey downriver. A lot of damage occurred to upstream docks, and if the owners had not gotten their boat(s) out of the water before winter freeze, you could count on seeing one or more floating down with the icebergs, dead animals, and downed trees.

You could even count on the wooden "flashboards" on top of the dam (used to hold back as much of the melt as possible in order to lessen the degree of flooding downstream) being smashed by the force of the debris and ice. These "flash-

boards" were later replaced with powered steel ones that could be raised or lowered, depending on the volume of the water flow.

During the spring of 1950, one of the breakaway boats made its way to land just below the Rod and Gun Club instead of floating all the way to and over the dam, where it probably would have ended up as splinters of wood.

The urchins, while exploring the river bank between the "Stone Wall" [more on this "Wall" in further stories] and the Rod and Gun Club, thought it a miracle when they found the small but intact treasure.

Finding no registration numbers on it, they claimed it as "Pirate Booty" and stashed it away in some nearby cat-o-nine-tail reeds. Fashioning paddles out of some pieces of wood (probably part of a smashed wharf) that had also reached the shore, they had a treasure that would prove useful in improving their fishing ability until the next winter freeze.

"Ice Out" was a special time for Jinx, as you'll see in other stories in these memoirs.

#### **Roasted Potatoes**

Loyalty really came through for him one day when Jinx and "Zino," a friend of his who lived across the street from "The Block," were playing on the street. They found a match!

Now, on the street was the First National grocery store, which had a wooden storage building attached to it. It contained items such as potatoes, lettuce, carrots, and other produce.

As the two urchins walked by the storage building with their newfound treasure in hand, they spotted a piece of a cloth potato sack jutting out from under the door. It didn't take too much prodding from "Zino" for Jinx to strike the match and light that little protrusion.

They frantically tried to stamp it out to no avail. Like frightened rabbits, they ran and hid under the steps in the alley behind Jinx's tenement.

continued on next page

## **Circles in Stone: Art and** Geometry of the Stone People

#### **By ROSIE HEIDKAMP**

WENDELL – On the evening of Friday, January 15, the Wendell Free Library is pleased to present an opportunity for local naturalist Sarah Kohler to present her research into stone configurations in our landscape that often go unnoticed and unconsidered.

The evening begins with an introduction to the subject matter at 6:30 p.m., followed by Kohler's talk and Power-Point presentation at 7 p.m. The presentation will be followed by a Q&A and discussion.

A lifelong naturalist and self-directed researcher,



metric relationship that is reflected in both the macro and



#### By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

**GREENFIELD** – Many people, for each New Year, make resolutions to do certain things in the new year. Examples of types of resolutions listed on Wikipedia are "improve physical well being," "spend quality time with family members," and "improve finances: get out of debt, save money, make small investments."

made during Judaism's High Holidays and the Christian season of Lent.

While not religious myself, I have one desire that is foremost that I wish to accomplish for the new year. A couple of years ago, another resolution of mine would have been also to get work other

Kohler has spent the past three and a half years observing and photographing the ubiquitous "New England" stone walls and their spatial relationships to associated singular stones and geologic features.

Noting that there are geometric alignments throughout the various stoneworks that appear far beyond the realm of coincidence or chance, she feels she has observed and documented overlapping and concentric circles, radiating lines through a common vector, woven patterns through stone walls evocative of a double helix and many other repeating patterns.

Kohler says:

Experts" have long declared that there are no significant stoneworks in the northeastern United States that predate European contact... Is this history? Or an affliction of cultural blindness, which has persisted despite early historic record and overwhelming evidence to the contrary?

Long forgotten, or disregarded, is that the stone rows and walls were once referred to as "Indian fences," or even "Ancient Indian fences," and as such were described in early contact and settlement period writings, as well as specifically named in some of the earliest surviving recorded land deeds from the seventeenth century.

Kohler will present her findings that she feels document that not only were the majority of the walls built pre-contact, but that they were built by artistically, conceptually and mathematically advanced peoples.

Suggesting that the patterns are also geometric fractals, in that each part has the same statistical character, or geothe micro scale, Kohler has come to see the stones as remnants of a vast and extraordinary reticulation, or network, of the once interconnected, pre-Colombian civilizations.

Literally, a stone GPS: calendrical, directional, horological; told with the sun and shadows, in the universal language of mathematics.

Following the artistic principles of perspective, also known as projective geometry, Kohler has taken tens of thousands of photographs of the above described phenomena. She will share a selection of these photographs in her presentation.

Kohler believes that

... it is our human duty to speak up for our collective human history. Across the globe, we are simultaneously awakening to our once magnificent achievements of the past, just as we stand on the brink of destroying it. In offering my work to Creative Commons, it is my hope that it will be used for social, political and environmental justice, beginning with our stand against the Kinder/Morgan pipeline.

Ms. Kohler's talk is part of an ongoing tradition of continuing education at the Wendell Free Library providing local residents an opportunity to share their investigations into local history, the environment, or other topics of interest to the community, for consideration and discussion by the larger community.

We appreciate the efforts of our presenters to broaden the knowledge base of the community. The views and conclusions expressed are those of the presenter and not necessarily the Wendell Free Library.

One person named Tom I talked to about New Year's resolutions mentioned he wishes "to be more like Jesus."

However, another person named Patty said, "I don't make them. I don't believe in them."

The idea of making annual resolutions has religious origins, according to Wikipedia. Babylonians made promises to return borrowed items and pay debts, while Romans' promises were to the god Janus, according to Wikipedia.

The site also says that medieval knights "took the 'peacock vow' at the end of the Christmas season each year to re-affirm their commitment to chivalry. At 'watchnight services,' many Christians prepare for the year ahead by praying and making these resolutions."

Similar commitments are than with my parents. But that has since happened, thankfully.

The only self improvement that I resolve to undertake in my life in 2016 has to do with getting a driver's license, or at least taking the road test, which I have not done in a few years.

I want to try for my driver's license before my next birthday, which is in September. But it's also kind of an obligation, or something that has to be done, because I have to try before my learner's permit expires in April. So, the whole idea kind of has a bit of a deadline to it.

Some resolutions that people make may not be realistic or what some would say is that. Like the one where Tom is supposed "to be more like Jesus."

But people will wish what they will, to improve themselves or their lives. Here's wishing they have more success than failure with their resolutions, come the year 2016.





#### **JINX** from previous page

Coming up the alley, Jinx's brother Donnie, suspecting the two squatting imps had been up to no good, "persuaded" them to divulge their secret and laid down the law to them – but never told anyone.

What is it about fire that fascinates young boys?

Oh! Yes! Fire truck and all, the storage unit still burned - "Roasted Potatoes."

#### **Up in Flames**

From the rear of the high school athletic fields to Turnpike Road and from Montague Road to Montague Street, there were no homes (as now) but only scrub oak growing to about eight feet high. There were two paths, worn through by repeated foot traffic from those students who lived on "The Hill." It provided a convenient short cut to and from school.

Now, whenever a brush fire started on "The Hill," the high school boys would be allowed to leave school and help the firemen extinguish the flames before they got out of control, and for this, they would be paid a small amount of money.

"Smeeks" [Jinx's brother Donnie] and his friend "Wadie" were always looking for ways to get out of school. So, this particular dry fall day, they devised a plan to get out of

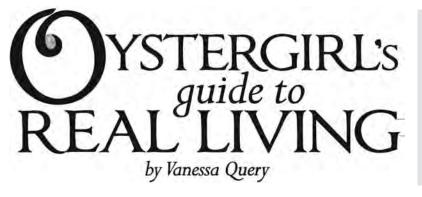
wooden match part way into it from the non-burning end, and flip the incendiary device into the woods.

It would allow enough time for them to get to school, and into class, before the cigarette burned down to the match and ignited it. A small fire would start and, after the rising smoke had been noticed, and the fire whistles would sound the alarm, the teacher would excuse the boys from class to help extinguish the fire.

This time, the plan went awry. By VANESSA QUERY An unexpected high wind came up, and the hoped-for "small" fire erupted into a blazing inferno which, before being brought under control, would consume almost all of the brush within the before-mentioned road boundaries.

The high school boys strapped on "Indian Pumps" - water tanks having a short hose and hand pump and carried on the back. When pumped like a pump shotgun, they would spray their contents and put out small fires in the underbrush. It took almost all day to get the blaze - one of the largest ever in Turners Falls – under control.

When "Smeeks" came home, his clothes were so covered with soot and smoke, and the soles of his shoes so melted, that they were unsalvageable. It ended up costing a lot more than the couple of dollars "Smeeks" made for fighting the fire (which he



My infamous interest and practice in alternative, more natural personal care has always involved an interest in the cultural history of hygiene.

Many people may have the idea that before the advent of modern personal care products, everybody was just dirty and smelled bad all the time. This is pretty inaccurate, both scientifically and historically.

Scientifically, our skin cleans itself, if we let it. Our current cultural practice of incessant washing with harsh chemicals disrupts these systems, so that when we go a day without the chemicals, we do get dirty and stinky. But when we don't interfere with it too much - when we wash more on an "as needed" basis, with mostly just water and some natural cleansers - our body's hygiene system will actually work. Also, our olfactory system is

highly adaptable, so the synthetic scents we've come to associate with bodies, such as deodorant, shampoo, and perfume, have become the norm. Throughout human history and currently, in many parts of the world, the unadulterated scent of human skin – which we would now associate with "BO," however mild - is the norm.

you a history of the most basic and ubiquitous hygienic products: soap and shampoo.

This information is primarily from An Uncommon History of Common Things by Bethanne Patrick and John Thompson, published by the National Geographic Society in 2009.

#### The History of Soap

The earliest recorded hygiene product was derived from the soapwort plant, one of a series of plants that contains saponin, a natural cleansing agent. You may have noticed a resurgence of this original cleaner in the recent availability of "soap nuts." I've used them for laundry; I like them.

It was originally ashes of the soapwort plant that were used, along with water, to clean the bodies of Asia Minor's Hittites around 2,000 BCE.

#11: Hygiene History 101 - With a Bit of Science

**B5** 

salt, and use that as the alkali in the soap. Then it was cheap, and made its squeaky way into the populace!

#### A History of Shampoo

Hair-cleaning goes almost as far back as soap. However, it quickly became clear that plain soap did not work as well on hair as on skin: cleaning hair is, generally, less about getting rid of dirt and more about getting rid of sebum, the oily, antiseptic substance secreted by the sebaceous glands that flows along the hair from its follicle to protect it from harmful bacteria - yes, let's get rid of that, why not?

In ancient Egypt, people washed their hair with a mixture of soap and citrus juice; the citric acid cut through sebum. By the Middle Ages, soap was combined with sodium carbonate or potassium carbonate for a similar effect.

Synthetic cleaning agents, includ-

class and earn some money.

The plan, though very simple, would be quite effective - they thought. On their way through one of the paths in the scrub oak, they would light a cigarette, push a

and "Wadie" had started).

The police suspected the fire had been deliberately started, but could not prove it. "Smeeks" and "Wadie" must have charmed lives. They never used that plan again.

## Youth Orchestra Auditions

**GREENFIELD** – The Pioneer Valley Symphony Youth Orchestra, director, Jonathan Brennand, will hold auditions for instrumentalists 18 and under on Saturday, January 9, from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. at Artspace Community Arts Center, 15 Mill Street, Greenfield.

Auditions for the PVS Youth Orchestra are open to all student string, wind, brass, percussion, keyboard, and harp players, age 18 and under, who meet the audition requirements. Information about audition requirements is at *pvsoc.org*.

The PVS Youth Orchestra is now in its third season. The orchestra will perform twice this spring in collaboration with the Worcester Youth Symphony. The first performance is on Sunday, April 3, at Mechanics Hall, Worcester. The second is on Saturday, May 7, at Grace Episcopal Church in Amherst.

The orchestra rehearses on Saturdays from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m., starting January 16 and continuing until the beginning of May, at Greenfield High School, 21 Barr Avenue, Greenfield.

Students interested in auditioning should sign up online at www.pvsoc. org/youth-programs/youth-orchestra/online-audition-registration/, or email PVSYO co-manager Cecilia Berger at youth@pvso.org.

The Pioneer Valley Symphony receives funding from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Historically, people have been using some form of body-cleaning practice and products as far back as we can find evidence.

The idea of helping along our body's natural cleansing system is scientifically and historically sound. For example, just as you may drink lemon water to help "detox" your liver, a self-cleansing organ, you may use water and a basic soap to help your skin combat harmful bacteria without decimating the helpful or benign bacteria population, or microbiome, of your skin.

You wouldn't drink bleach to clean your liver. Arguably, most contemporary hygiene practices are the equivalent to that.

Anyway. I thought I'd share with

Around 1,400 years later, the seafaring Mediterranean Phoenicians boiled saponin-rich ashes, water, and goat fat together - after evaporating, it became a waxy substance, the ancestor of modern soap.

A little science lesson: Soap works because the saponin forms soluble salts called alkalis, that react together with the fats, especially under heat, to create an emulsifying product that is first hydrophilic (that is, it mixes with water), then hydrophobic (that is, it does not mix with water).

What that means is, soapy water will attach itself to whatever isn't water - e.g. dirt - and then suspend the dirt within soap molecules so that it can be rinsed away.

Around 800 AD, soap-making had become a European craft, especially in Spain. The recipe was essentially the same as the Phoenician recipe, except that it also usually involved some scents and colors.

Soap was a rare, expensive substance until the 1700's, when French chemist Nicholas Leblanc discovered a way to make lye from table

ing detergents, were developed in the early 1900s by German chemists. These were the genesis of what would become synthetic, commercial shampoos and laundry detergents.

The primary difference between soap and detergent is that detergent contains alcohol, which does not bind with minerals in water. Soap can bind with these minerals, which is what sometimes causes a scummy residue, because the bound molecules won't dissolve and wash away.

At first, detergents were too abrasive for consumers. After World War I, nonabrasive synthetic shampoos were manufactured.

And that concludes today's history and science lessons! I hope you enjoyed it.

Vanessa Query, aka Oystergirl, digs all things local and sustainable, and identifies mostly with the ancestral/paleo movement. She writes about food, movement, and more at theycallmeoystergirl.com. She welcomes responses and questions at oystergirl@montaguereporter.org.



**JANUARY 7, 2016** 

# NatureCulture:

# The Science Page

Welcome to NatureCulture, the Montague Reporter's new monthly Science Page. *NatureCulture* is a word that includes all of the natural world and how people interact with it. People are not separate from nature; we have the privilege and responsibility to be curious about it.

Science is one way we express our curiosity about the natural world, including the processes we use - how we go about investigating it - as well as what we discover.

I hope you will join me in thinking holistically about natureculture and how we do science.

If you have a scientific idea you'd like to write about, a science-related book to review, an activity to advertise, or would like to share your experiences with science or any related field, please be in touch: science@montaguereporter.org.

Lisa McLoughlin, editor

VARREN ONDRAS PHOTO

# What's Behind Mona Lisa's Smile?

#### **By STEVE WINTERS**

Who has not wondered at the mind of Leonardo da Vinci? As mysterious as he was brilliant, Leonardo (1452 - 1519) is impossible to classify - and who cares! What great gifts he gave us all.

But his scientific and engineering sides are too often neglected as we marvel at his artistic accomplishments. I like to merge the two.

And there is much evidence that Leonardo did the same. My favorite example is to look behind the smile in his great portrait, Mona Lisa, completed in 1507.

It's well known that Leonardo was fascinated with geology: he climbed the Alps and collected fossils from mountain tops. Despite thinking, current Leonardo argued for

a marine, not a biblical, origin for fossils. He didn't publish his idea because it was radical heresy. For this, Leonardo must be regarded as our first great paleontologist.

According to www.waterencyclopedia.com, however, Leonardo's notebooks reveal that it

scenes: He did experiments. In his notebooks, decades before Galileo or Bacon, Leonardo encapsulates the scientific method as he studies hydraulics: Before we begin to reason about water, he writes, we must *first consult experience*.

To do this, the great artist/sci-

It's then no wonder that Leonardo joined forces with the Renaissance master of political arts and sciences, Niccolo Machiavelli (1469 - 1527), in his lifelong dream of building a system of canals that would make the Arno River navigable from Florence to the sea.



L: Mona Lisa sits before the Arno Canals in Da Vinci's painting, completed in 1507. R: Detail of the Mona Lisa background, showing the Arno Canals.

entist/engineer took to the field. Leonardo made the first empirical studies of streams and their velocity distribution. He used a weighted rod held afloat by an inflated animal bladder, and traced the velocity distribution across the stream's channel by releasing the rod at different places in the stream's cross-section. A classic technique we still use today!

This project, as with many others, never materialized - it seems a flood destroyed much of their work in 1504. But we can get a glimpse of how it may have looked. Where? See the Mona Lisa – not her splendid hands or smile, but the dark and mysteri-

## **BOOK REVIEW** The Virtues of Darkness

The End of Night: Searching for Natural Darkness in an Age of Artificial Light, by Paul Bogard, published in New York by Little, Brown & Co., 2014.

#### By LISA MCLOUGHLIN

This is a beautifully written book about night, how we're losing it, and why we should care.

In a series of short chapters, each focused on a different place and aspect of natural darkness, Bogard alternately extols the virtues of a dark night sky, elucidates the problems that arise from light pollution and bad lighting design, and investigates the technical and cultural changes that could restore the night to us.

Bogard visits Paris and tours the city at night with the man who designed the lighting for Notre Dame. He spends the night stargazing in national parks out west,

and describes the incredible, threedimensional view that emerges with thousands of stars. He follows night shift workers, and hears first hand the physical and social difficulties they experience from being on a different rhythm.

It's a fascinating collection of stories that add up to a powerful statement about how we are allowing the natural darkness of night, something very important to our scientific progress, our health, our economy, and our overall wellbeing, to become extinct.

This book is not just for astronomers: it's for anyone who loves the natural world, and wants to minimize our negative impact upon it.

To find out more about dark skies and their many benefits, as well as how to work to preserve them in your community, visit the International Dark Sky Association: darksky.org.

## Moon Calendar for **January 2016:**

Saturday, January 2: Last Quarter Saturday, January 9: New Moon Saturday, January 16: First Quarter Saturday, January 23: Full Moon Sunday, January 31: Last Quarter

Sky Events Calendar by Fred Espenak and Sumit Dutta (NASA's GSFC). Create your own custom sky calendar at:



was not rocks, or guns, or flying machines that were his most frequently studied and recorded topics, but hydraulics.

It seems Leonardo was mesmerized by water, especially moving water. And his appreciation did not stop at sketching or painting water

Consistent with the Italian Renaissance, Leonardo's mind instinctively joined the experiential with the logical, the beautiful with the practical.

ous world of rock and water in the background. That's Leonardo's Arno Canal.

Could it be that the background scene framing the famous smile is really Leonardo's way of saying goodbye to his beloved Arno Canal?

### WEBSITE REVIEW

## www.Archaeoastronomy.com

#### **By LISA MCLOUGHLIN**

Archaeoastronomy is the study of past civilizations based on their physical history - archaeology - with a specialization in how they related to the skies (astronomy.)

The site explains: "Archaeoastronomy's goal is to understand how skywatchers of the past fashioned and refined systems for regulating their primitive calendars and for memorializing celestial events, both cyclical and unique. [...] knowing seasonal durations and transitions was vital to success in hunting migratory prey, planting crops and harvesting them. Archaeoastronomy draws on several scientific disciplines, primarily astronomy, archaeology, anthropology, psychology and epigraphy, the decoding of ancient inscriptions."

This website is a great example of natureculture. It combines scientific data about our position in space relative to the sun, explanations about seasons, moon phases, and other scientifically-understandable processes, with a curiosity about how earlier civilizations made and used their own astronomical observations.

Under "Almanacs," it lists the equinox, solstices, and crossquarter days according to how far around the sun we have travelled. This is different than dividing the year into equal quarters of time, because Earth travels in an ellipse, not a perfect circle.

The calculations are credited to the US Naval Observatory, which also uses this system to accurately measure and predict events like eclipses - another great site to check out: www.usno.navy.mil/USNO.

#### eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov/SKYCAL/SKYCAL.html

# NatureCulture Events

#### Family-Friendly Moonlight Snowshoe in Petersham, MA Saturday, January 23, 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Enjoy an enchanting night-time trip through the shimmering snow, illuminated by light of the moon. We may see signs of flying squirrels or the tracks of foxes, hear the howls of coyotes or the hoots of owls.

Bring the family, or treat your loved one to an evening to remember. We will provide the hot cocoa and homemade cookies to warm you up afterwards! For more information, see www.walnuthilltracking.com.

This event announcement is from the North Quabbin Community Coalition Event Calendar. For more North Quabbin events, visit www. nqcc.org/events.html

#### Tracking at the Quabbin with David Brown

Sunday, February 7, 9:45 a.m.

The Quabbin Reservoir is surrounded by a huge protected watershed of forest, field and beaver ponds where human intrusion is light and wildlife abounds.

Even in marginal tracking or birding conditions, a day spent in this "accidental wilderness" refreshes the soul. Meets in Petersham, MA. Pre-register by February 3. For more information, directions, and registration, see www.dbwildlife.com/qtrls.html.

#### PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM).

CALL 863-8666







## **ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT**



#### ONGOING EVENTS: EVERY SUNDAY

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

#### **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**

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

The People's Pint, Greenfield:



JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

*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.

CeCe's Chinese Restaurant, Turners Falls: Traditional Native American and improvised Asian



Join author and writing coach Jane Roy Brown for "Sketching Portraits with Words" at the Arts Bank in South Deerfield. This free two-hour workshop will focus on writing about people, using the portraits in the current gallery exhibition

as inspiration, such as this photograph by Diana Mara Henry. Come and learn a few techniques to punch up your writing – no experience required, only the willingness to have some fun. See Sunday's listings for details.

flute music featuring *Eric Wolf Song.* 6 to 6:30 p.m. Free.

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

#### EXHIBITS:

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

#### CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS:

Dickinson Memorial Library, Northfield: Seeking artwork for their Doug and Marty Jones Art Space. Artists of any age from Franklin County can submit application found at *bit.ly/1SfZh78* or contact library.

Sawmill River Arts, Montague Center: All artists, all ages are invited to provide art for the 3rd Annual Community "6X6" Show. Flyers with details available at the gallery, at *www.sawmillriverarts.com*, or call: (413) 367-2885. \$5 fee per person for 1 or 2 pieces. Name your own "for sale" price. Delivery date: by Sunday, 1/31, 5 p.m. Opening reception Saturday, 2/6, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The Leverett Trails Committee solicits multi-media entries for its April exhibit Where in Leverett? at the Leverett Library. Take a photo, draw a picture, write a poetry reading. 7 p.m.

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

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

#### **FRIDAY, JANUARY 8**

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

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Barrett Anderson*, hypno-boogie blues. 9 to 11:30 p.m.

#### **SATURDAY, JANUARY 9**

Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, Brattleboro VT: Exhibit Openings, Open Call NNE 2016 and Recovering the Body: Craig Stockwell and Jon McAuliffe. Open Call is a juried art show of works by 12 selected artists from the North-Northeast region. In Recovering The Body, Craig Stockwell and Jon L. McAuliffe join their disparate artistic styles and techniques to explore themes of agency and artistic impulse. Reaching back to the end of the Heroic Age, this collection of paintings seeks to trace those impulses through the "war to end all wars," through the life and tragic death of the explorer, George Mallory, and to the present moment. 11 a.m.

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: *Twelve Monkeys* Film. An unknown and lethal virus has wiped out five billion people in 1996. Only 1% of the population has survived by the year 2035, and is forced to live underground. Sci-Fi thriller. 7 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls. *Village Hill Trio*, jazz fusion. 8 p.m.

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

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

#### SUNDAY, JANUARY 10

Deerfield Arts Bank, S. Deerfield: *Sketching Portraits with Words:* Join Jane Roy Brown for a 2-hour workshop on writing about people. 12 to 2 p.m.

Leverett Crafts and Arts, Leverett: *Danse Cafe* - French & Breton dancing, instruction, live music, French Café ambience. 3 to 6 p.m. \$

### and General Revelry, 7 p.m. \$

#### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13

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

## Memorial Hall Theater POTHOLE PICTURES

Friday & Saturday January 8th & 9th, 7:30 p.m. WEST SIDE STORY

Music before the show, at 7 p.m. Friday: *Abdul Baki*, piano Saturday: *Chris Scanlo*n, folk/rock/pop 51 Bridge St., Shelburne Falls 625-2896

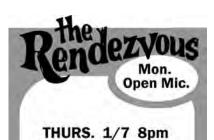


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Salmon Falls Artisans Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Life After Life* by Ken Kipen. Images selected from Kipen's lifetime of camera-work, depicts the forces in nature. January 10 to February 15.

Shelburne Falls Arts Co-op, Shelburne Falls. *Mystery and Magic.* Winter sale of Special Items by member artists. Group show through 1/25. wendellmass.us.

the Library Walls!

Hosmer Gallery, Northampton: *The Torso Project:* A compelling exhibit of embellished plaster cast torsos made by area breast cancer survivors, female family members and friends. A reception for the public will be held on Saturday, January 9, 2 to 4 p.m.

poem, riddle or paragraph about

a place in Leverett. Challenge

others to figure out where it

is through your work. Bring to

the Leverett Library by March

15. Submission form available

at the library or on line (www.

rattlesnakeguttertrust.org). Help

us create a Scavenger Hunt on

Wendell Free Library invites

artists to submit applications for

exhibit in the Herrick Meeting

Room gallery. See www.

#### EVENTS:

#### **THURSDAY, JANUARY 7**

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls. *The Collected Poets Series*, Hubie's Tavern, Turners Falls: *Backtrack*, 3 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Crow's Rebellion,* warped Americana. 8 p.m.

Mocha Mayas, Shelburne Falls: *Mohawk Arts Showcase.* Come enjoy Mohawk students showing their talents. 8 p.m.

Parlor Room, Northampton: *Parlor Sessions*, first in a series of Sunday performances followed by jam sessions with guest artists. *Edith & Bennett: Worksongs* 

Falltown String Band

FRI. 1/8 7pm FREE Drew Paton's 1940s Hit Parade

SAT. 1/9 9:30 FREE no show

SUN 1/10 9pm FREE TNT Karaoke





#### COHEN from page B1



She lived in NYC and worked at the tonguetwister "George Jenson's Furniture Showroom" where she met her ex-husband, Arthur Cohen. In some circuitous way that my coffee-buzzed brain didn't quite follow, a trail of yarn led the couple to Bernardston, where they both have resided for almost 50 years.

Raili makes fingerless gloves, hats for all ages, wee sweaters, and sometimes "scarf-ey things" out of inventive yarn mixtures.

She takes knitting commissions, and also creates pastel animal portraits upon request.

The knitting goods have evolved as she tries various items to sell - and she doesn't want it to become something too business-like that would add an anxious or fretful element to her days.

"I can be very content in my own company for quite a while, but you have to have friends, social interactions, or you go cuckoo..." admits Raili. She is a member at the Shelburne Arts Cooperative and enjoys her time gallery sitting there. "I like working at the store, I see people I know, it's full of activity and

I like that the interaction is structured, it makes it easier."

#### TODDLERS from page B1

hurt, but they're great teachers. Allowing your kids to put things in the oven, or stir sauce on the stove, may teach them a hard lesson, but a lesson nonetheless. If you show them to be careful, and how to handle the equipment correctly, instead of forbidding it, the mystery will vanish.

Make clean-up fun! Then invent a perpetual motion machine, then tackle World Peace.

#### 3. Don't make them cry when they spill the milk.

Professional chefs spill things all the time. Grownups spill, too. The kids are going to make a mess, so be ready for it. Have a broom handy, or lay a shower curtain on the floor where you are working, depending on the scale

of mess you expect. Cleaning as you go will teach the kids to be organized and help them become more efficient. The saying goes, "A clean kitchen is a slightly less disgruntled kitchen."

#### 4. Taste!

This is strong advice to give to adults who want to learn how to get off of the couch and into a kitchen. Kids must taste everything! And they will want to taste things which you have never tasted, such as raw potatoes. Keep the raw meats and chicken away from the other ingredients, and encourage them to do this. It will give them an understanding

of what french fries are.

Teach science, or demonstrate the change of ingredients throughout the various cooking stages. The curiosity bug will take over, and they will want to see more and learn more.

Kids have the attention span of gnats, and their impatience will require you to let them snack as they cook. Keep this in mind when planning your dinner. Let them have a small piece of as many ingredients as possible, even the dry pasta and flour.

Season food with them. Taste before and after. Taste the seasonings themselves.

#### 5. Love to cook!

How can you expect the kids to want to cook if you don't want to cook? If you and your spouse constantly argue about whose turn it is to cook, only to settle on take-out, kids will learn that cooking is a chore. If you are sick of cooking, try to do new things that you haven't made before.

Cooking is really quite simple, and if something looks too hard to make, it probably just has a snazzy garnish on it. So skip the garnish and make it!

You might not find everything to be your favorite, but you will have fed your family, and learned something.

Just remember how children are sponges, and absorb everything. When you go out to eat, and you tell the waiter you don't want onions on your salad, or

hold the sauce, you are teaching kids that is is okay to be closed minded. When you scold them for not eating their broccoli, and they say they hate broccoli, it's because they heard it from a friend or saw it on TV. Or maybe it may be really overcooked or poorly seasoned, which you can fix. You don't have to eat the broccoli, or onions, just don't let the kids know.

If your toddler tells you something you made tastes like styrofoam, he has a discerning palate; he is complementing you. Toddlers love styrofoam. But, just to be safe, you should skip the next hamburger helper day.

Eric Damkoehler is the Sous Chef of the Delaney House in Holyoke. He lives in Turners Falls with his wife and three sons. He has been working in commercial kitchens since 1999 and attended the New England Culinary Institute in Montpelier, VT. Check out his blog at: www.thesobersouschef.com.



Chef Toddler Nicholas (2) thinks "out-of-the-box" when it comes to cereal.



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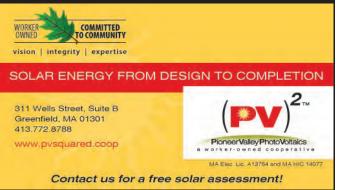
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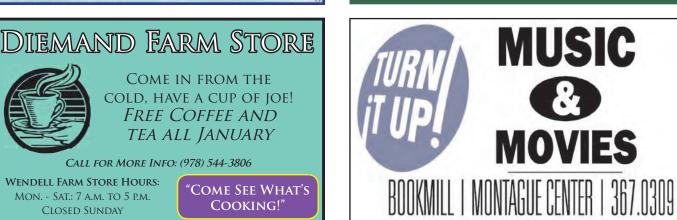


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