

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 14 – NO. 13

also serving Irving, Gill, Everett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JANUARY 14, 2016

## Gill's Fifth Graders Ask a Weatherman

By LEE WICKS

**GILL** – On Tuesday, fifth graders at Gill Elementary School were excited by the prospect of snow, and by their visitors, Brian Lapis and Jennifer Pagliei from the Channel 22 News Storm Team.

The students in Jackie Chase's class have been studying weather since the winter solstice. They have researched how local wildlife copes with the cold, and learned about the relationship between the earth and the sun at this time of year.

A visit from a well-known meteorologist seemed like a perfect way to round out these studies, and Ms. Chase sent out a number of requests. The Channel 22 News Storm Team was the first to respond.

Before the team arrived, and while the students were in their music class, Ms. Chase offered a tour of the small, cozy school. She spent the summer personalizing her class-

room, and she covered the walls with advice, vocabulary words, goals, books, posters and more.

Her favorite poster proclaims, "Don't be afraid to make mistakes," and she spoke with joy about the learning opportunities

inherent in making mistakes and learning from them.

Few mistakes were evident, however, when her twenty-two confident fifth graders began to respond to Mr. Lapis and Ms. Pagliei.

see **WEATHER** page A7



22News Storm Team meteorologist Brian Lapis uses a water bottle to explain condensation to Gill's fifth grade class. From left to right, James Staelens, Pearl Schatz-Allison, Grace Parzych, kindergarten teacher Kelly Gobeil, Julian Smith, Matthew Marchefka, Tommy Lombard, Morgan Dobias and Olivia Vassar listen.

## Three Months Vacant... Three Months Homeless

By MIKE JACKSON

**TURNERS FALLS** – According to Montague director of public health Gina McNeely, the town is moving to force repairs and upgrades at 15 Fifth Street, which her department deemed unfit for habitation, and ordered vacated in October.

"We met yesterday with a contingent of professionals: a plumber, an electrician, and a general contractor. They are supposed to be writing up an estimate," she said, which will be presented to owner Matthew Robinson. "There's going to be a price tag."

McNeely said she planned to set a deadline for Robinson to get building permits pulled and work started. "I would expect, by the 27th, that permits for the general contractor have to be pulled," she said.

see **VACANT** page A3



15 Fifth Street

By MIKE JACKSON

**TURNERS FALLS** – On Thursday, October 8, Montague's board of health issued an emergency order deeming a 16-unit apartment building in downtown Turners unfit for habitation (*Board of Health Condemns Fifth Street Lodging House*, MR 10/15/15). No public hearing was held, and occupants were told they had to vacate the building by Monday the 12th.

Three months later, on Tuesday of this week, one of the building's tenants, Tammy Johnson, stood on an Avenue A sidewalk, holding a sign reading "Homeless and Rent was Always Paid".

We interviewed Ms. Johnson about the building's condemnation, and her experience since then. The text has been edited for the sake of brevity, continuity and clarity.

**MR:** *Where were you living up until October?*

**TJ:** I was residing on 15 Fifth Street, third floor.

**MR:** *Where were you when you heard the board of health condemned the building?*

**TJ:** I was visiting my sister in Shelburne Falls.

**MR:** *What did they tell you at the time?*

**TJ:** I never heard from the board



JACKSON PHOTO

Tammy Johnson

of health. My landlord and I spoke, and he said that my place would be secured – padlocked – and that he'd be in touch with me as things progressed. I was considered a renter in the whole situation. Everybody that was not able to rent was listed on the second page of the Board of Health's paperwork that was posted on the doors. I had been living there since April, 2014 – a year and a half. My rent was \$650, everything included...

**MR:** *And you had put in a*

see **HOMELESS** page A4

## King in Chicago: Memories of the Civil Rights Era

By ANNE HARDING

**TURNERS FALLS** – Gale Whitbeck, also known by her Native name Blacksnake, grew up knowing she was descended from the Miami tribe, but rather than living on a reservation her family lived on Englewood Avenue in Chicago in the 1950s. Her grandfather came from Peru, Indiana where there is a Miami State Reservation; he left as a boy when his father came to Chicago to work on the skyscrapers in the Ironworkers trade.

She was raised to follow the path of the storyteller, and it was a treat to listen as she shared a

few pages from her life story at the Greenfield Savings Bank on Saturday, January 9 to a group of 30 or so people.

It was in Chicago, at the age of five, that Gale first became aware of racism, as black families started moving into her neighborhood. What followed was an exodus of white families, including some of her relatives. She asked her father why people were moving away, and he told her sadly that they were afraid of the changes.

It wasn't long before a black family moved into their apartment building, and Gale gained a new friend, Desmond Butler see **RIGHTS** page A4



JAMES WHITBECK PHOTO

Gale Whitbeck reviews her notes before giving a talk at Greenfield Savings Bank last Saturday afternoon.

## Montague Center Water District Meeting Draws a Small Crowd

By JEFF SINGLETON

**MONTAGUE CENTER** – "Nobody comes to the meetings," complained Montague Center Water Commissioner Gary Dion. "It's all family run. My wife is the Secretary. Ed's wife is the Clerk. Nobody comes to the meetings!"

Well, Mr. Dion got his wish on Wednesday, December 6, as a crowd of nearly twenty residents came to the monthly Montague Center water district meeting. The meeting had been relocated from the cramped pump station on Main Street to the fire station on Old Sunderland Road.

District residents were drawn to their first water meeting by the events of November, when the bacteria *E. coli* were discovered in the district's water tank. But they asked a wide range of questions about how the district responded to the discovery of bacteria, the location of the water supply, and why the village of Montague Center has its own water district in the first place.

It was an upbeat meeting with few complaints and little finger-pointing. Questions remained, however, about the virtues of a small, independent water district, and a process for improving communication between district officials and

local residents.

At the beginning of the meeting Dion was asked how the Montague Center District came into existence. It was not, it seems, an archaic remnant of nineteenth-century village culture. According to Dion:

"My mother worked for the guy that started the water district. In the [19]40s, he had a fire over on Center Street – the house with the pillars. He hired these guys to dig a trench from West Pond [south of the Center on Main Street] to his house. As he was digging the trench other people wanted to hook on. My mother used to go around and collect money from them...."

"When he decided to retire, he went to the townspeople and said, 'Do you want to start a district?' So three or four people went to Boston, and that's how the water district started."

An audience member noted that her copy of the bylaws was dated 1953. "So that's the date," said Dion.

Another question concerned the location of the water supply. A common belief in Montague Center is that its water still comes from West Pond. Dion said the well is actually located just to its south, drawing water from the same "crack in the

see **WATER** page A5

## Steady: One Win, One Loss Bring Turners Boys to 3-4

By MATT ROBINSON

The Turners Falls Boys basketball team finished the week 1 and 1, outshooting Smith Academy 74-41 on Friday, January 8 and then losing a barn burner to the Frontier Red Hawks 46-44.

**TFHS 74 – Smith 41**

In last Friday's game, there was a bit of a lineup change for Powertown. Coach Gary Mullins picked Tionne Brown, Anthony Peterson, James Vaughn, Jalen Sanders, and Josh Obochowski as his starting five.

And although the emphasis was on defense, it took about 20 seconds for Sanders' D kept up the pressure on the Purple Falcons, and as a result, within 2 and a half minutes, Obochowski had accrued two fouls and Sanders one, giving Smith two free shot points and making the score 3-2.

But that's as close as the Falcons came.

Through a series of steals, fast breaks and smart passing, Turners went on an incredible 16-2 run, and after 1 period, the Tribe led 19-4.

The second quarter was relatively close, with Turners scoring 15 points to Smith's 13 and at the half, the score was 32-15.

In the third, both teams went for steals, causing loose balls, collisions and fouls, but Turners seemed



DAVID HOLT PHOTO

Tionne Brown drives baseline to the hoop against the Smith Academy Falcons last Friday.

to fight a little harder. When they came up with the ball, they managed to put it in the bucket.

Turners also played exceptionally well under the hoop, coming up with rebounds on both ends of the court, and by the time the buzzer sounded, Blue had expanded their lead to 30, 57-27.

The Falcons went on a 6-0 run to open the fourth, but Turners regained their composure and confidence and coasted to a 74-41 victory.

Sanders led the Tribe with 18 points. Vaughn added 10, see **BASKETBALL** page A8



# The Montague Reporter

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August, 2002

## When China Sneezes

Over the last decade and a half, one surging powerhouse has driven the global economy: China. The liberalization of many of China's markets has led to economic growth, both on paper and in the material world.

Between roughly the years 2000 and 2008, China's officially reported gross domestic product doubled. Between 2008 and 2015, it doubled again.

Some analysts believe that these figures are exaggerated, but even if so, the Chinese economy has been a modern anomaly. (Over the same period of time, our own nation's GDP grew by about 14%.)

The most remarkable changes, and the ones that will have the most lasting effect, are in the emergence of a large middle class in the country. Many workers have been able to amass enough assets to shift their focus to consumption – and education.

Two hundred million Chinese people own stocks – lower by percent, but more in sheer numbers, than American shareholders.

At the higher level, this has also meant the emergence of a class of Chinese entrepreneurs investing throughout the globe. From Nigeria to Nicaragua, from Indonesia to the United States, Chinese money is tied up in all sorts of business, particularly energy, transportation and metals.

Though China does not yet have as much foreign direct investment abroad as, say, Ireland, Belgium or Sweden, its nationals are newly venturing onto the global stage, and are particularly making infrastructure investments in places that have been neglected, or spared such attention.

In the American imagination, so often stuck a decade in the past, China is notable as an unimaginably vast pool of exploitable, low-rent and low-skilled manufacturing labor. But Chinese wages, too, have skyrocketed.

The country's working population has peaked, as has migration to cities. In many industries, waves of strikes have prompted owners to cough up a larger share to workers. There is a real, and rebellious, environmental movement afoot, and it is not uncommon to hear of entire small cities blockaded by residents united against new chemical plants.

Much of the scale of China's boom has a dystopian feel to Americans, particularly those of us not old enough to have witnessed many transformations to the landscape by industries or highways. China boasts the largest power station, second-tallest building, and two largest cities in the world.

It no longer has the most-polluted cities – those are in India and Pakistan – and in October, its government announced it will end the repressive "one child" policy instituted in 1978.

But Chinese economic growth has been slowing. And as it slows, the system's risks build – capital is beginning to flow out of the country, and its currency is depreciating. Several days of free-fall on the stock market last week had the whole world feeling jittery.

If the economy of China finally tanks this year, the consequences won't simply be on international trade and investment, or global markets. A crash would open the door to a historical unknown: a generation that has enjoyed the managed introduction of capitalism only in its growth phase, in a political culture that still enshrines collective well-being, would experience the other side of the capitalist coin.

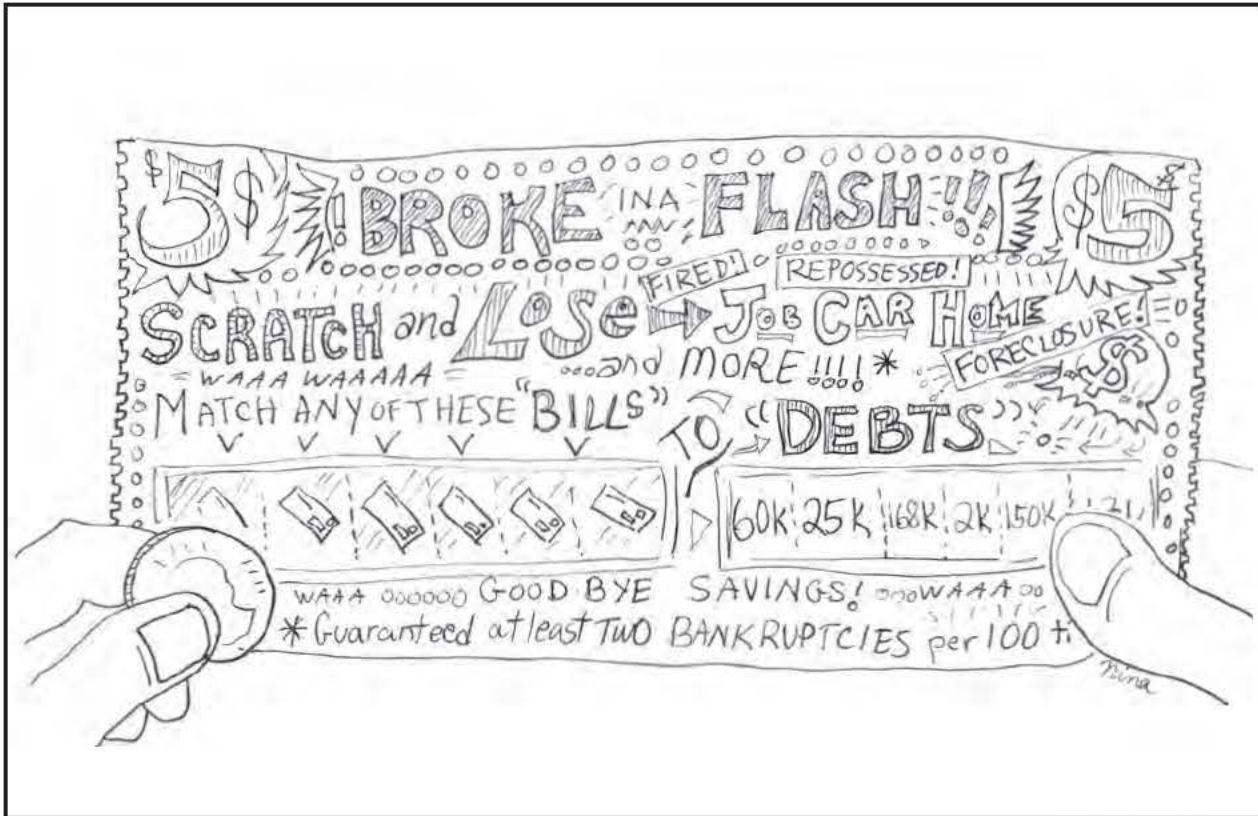
And in a way, such a scenario may be the point at which China finally joins the rest of the world. With our slow-burning austerity, jobless recoveries, and hyper-concentration of family wealth – our mass experiences of first becoming educated producers, and then being obsolete – many of us encounter the market as a field of constraints.

The specter of an educated, empowered, well-networked and restive population experiencing loss and betrayal must weigh heavily on the minds of Chinese economic planners and government officials. Indeed, over the past several years, we have been watching them prepare for just such a development.

Nationalism, which Einstein called the "measles of mankind," and Orwell "power-hunger tempered by self-deception," is the greatest tool ruling classes have ever developed to distract the downwardly mobile from organizing to better their lives in lasting ways.

The Chinese state has been focusing on modernizing its military, and setting up arenas of conflict in both the East and South China seas, over the last several years.

If what went up indeed comes down, let's hope that the vast majority of Chinese people refuse to fall for patriotic distraction. The world has had enough war and suffering as it is. And who knows – maybe it'll even bring a chance to build some bridges.



NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION

## Letters to the Editors

### Thanks to Water Commission

We would like to thank the Montague Center Water District (MCWD) commissioners for the informative meeting held this past week at the Montague Center volunteer fire department.

We appreciated the discussion about cost comparison with the Turners Falls District, as well as the proposed strategies to improve communications with MCWD members. Specifically, the commissioners agreed to include a request for email addresses from all members with the next billing, so that the commission can notify members in a timely fashion of scheduled shut-downs and emergencies, including any future boil notices.

The commissioners also agreed to notify the Montague Health Department upon earliest detection of any environmental contaminant, to allow for better communication with members. It was helpful to learn that while our

water is drawn from a shallow well, according to commissioner Dion, it actually originates from a much deeper aquifer – the same aquifer that supplies Turners Falls Water District – and so it is not influenced by West Pond.

Finally, it was encouraging to learn that the commissioners seek to maintain low levels of chlorine in the water in accordance with DEP standards, so that our safety against pathogens is protected, as well as our preference for water with the lowest levels of chemicals.

Perhaps going forward more of us will become involved with the district. The next annual meeting takes place at 6:30 p.m. on May 10 at the Montague Center Fire Department.

Emily Monosson  
Leigh Rae  
Julie Kumble  
Montague Center

### Spanish Page Put To Use

Muchas gracias para la página en español. Nosotros lo gozamos mucho.

Estamos tratando de aprender el idioma y esta página nos ayuda mucho en nuestros estudios. Esperamos que siga con aquí se habla español.

Dennis, Dorothy, Gerry, y Janet  
Leverett y Shutesbury

### Video No Substitute

As the main videographer of the Gill selectboard meetings, I vote to keep reporting on them in the Montague Reporter.

Sure, it's great that they are available to watch online, or on TV – and soon ours will be broadcast live – but there are several disadvantages to that. If you have a slow connection it takes FOREVER to load, if you have no connection, of course it never loads. To watch it on TV, you have to be available at the time it is being broadcast, and you only have access to information from one or two towns.

Finally, and most importantly, as much as I love video, there is no substitute for the value of the written word.

One can quickly benefit from the distillation of a 1-2 hour meeting and learn all the decisions and main points in moments and on your own time. Then, if you want more in depth detail, you can access the video on TV or online, provided you have the capability.

Lee Wicks  
Montague Center

Janet Masucci  
Gill Cable Commission

### Fragrances Affect Health

Dear Oystergirl,

Thank you so much for bringing readers' attention to the unnecessary chemicals in our cleaning and body care products, for your wit, and effective education.

It is absolutely true that vinegar and baking soda can take care of most cleaning jobs. What you have not mentioned (unless I missed it) is that some people are chemically sensitive and the perfumes, shampoos, hand lotions, dryer sheets, detergents, fabric softeners and a host of other products actually make them ill.

Some things once taken for granted have changed. Reporters no longer smoke at their desks, and people are expected to pick up dog

waste – when I was growing up in Brooklyn, the signs simply said "curb your dog," which never prevented children from coming home with soiled smelly shoes.

Maybe someday people will come to understand that entering a restaurant or movie theater, or any public space, and imposing an array of scents on others might make someone physically ill; the most common effect is a migraine headache. Maybe you could write more about this, explain the science, and help people understand.

Again, thanks for your column.

**Published weekly on Thursdays.**  
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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

Compiled by DON CLEGG

Enjoy a **Wine & Canvas** to Benefit Big Brothers Big Sisters of Franklin County on Friday, January 15 from 5:30 to 9 p.m. at Saint Kazimierz Society, 197 Avenue A, Turners Falls.

Join to paint "Cardinals Meet Up," enjoy some pizza and a cash bar, all to support BBBS of Franklin County. It's a great night out with friends, or a great date night activity. Pizza is included in your ticket price.

Arrive early to eat and mingle. Painting starts at 6 sharp. For more info call (413) 772-0915.

An **adult book discussion group** is starting at the Carnegie Library. It will be held on the third Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. starting on January 20.

The first title is "The Notebook" by Nicholas Sparks. Copies will be available at the circulation desk or can be ordered. The facilitator is Amada Traynor. This series is sponsored by the Friends of the Montague Public Libraries.

For more information, or to be put on the mailing list, call 863-3214.

The **black bear population in Massachusetts** has grown significantly since the 1970s. What was once numbered in the hundreds is now more than 4,500. It's now quite

possible that you may see a black bear in the woods or in your neighborhood while they forage for food.

Join attendees in the Great Hall of Great Falls Discovery Center for a program, "Black Bears – An Introduction to your Neighbors," on Saturday, January 23, from 1 to 2 p.m.

This free program with Ralph Taylor, MassWildlife Connecticut Valley District Supervisor, will describe the history and status of the American black bear in Massachusetts, behavioral changes of bears, current research, human/bear conflicts, and tips on coexisting with black bears.

On January 31, at 1 p.m., Turners Falls High School will be hosting **FAFSA Day Massachusetts**. On this day, financial aid experts will be available to guide you through completing the FAFSA and answer any questions you may have about financial aid. Local school systems strongly encourage all college-bound students and their parents to attend this free event.

You must register ahead of time at [www.FAFSADay.org](http://www.FAFSADay.org), and select the town of Montague when you are asked to select a location. When you register it will give you a list of all important documents that you need to bring with you to the event.

You do not have to attend Turners

Falls High School in order to attend.

The **Cabot Hydroelectric Station's 100th anniversary** is in 2016. In February 1916, the station began generating electricity, supplying power to the Montague area and communities throughout the Connecticut River Valley. At the time of its construction, Cabot Station was the largest hydroelectric station east of Niagara Falls.

The Cabot Centennial Calendar, created to celebrate this milestone, features historical photographs dating from 1912 through 1917 during the construction of the new concrete dam, hydroelectric station and power canal expansion in Turners Falls. Each month also includes a historical highlight from 1916 that collectively provide a glimpse into the year Cabot Station began generating electricity.

These complimentary 2016 calendars can be picked up at the Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center (99 Millers Falls Road, Northfield), the Great Falls Discovery Center (2 Avenue A, Turners Falls), or the Carnegie Li-

brary (201 Avenue A, Turners Falls).

Just prior to New Years, **Montague police chief Chip Dodge** posted a challenge to the department's Facebook friends. His challenge and goal is for the department page to reach 4,000 friends, so that the community will be informed about current matters that affect us all. As of press time the total is 3,956 friends.

**Did you know?** Though most of our subscriptions are delivered, the *Montague Reporter* is mailing 160 papers per weekly issue. Subscribers are included in 37 towns and cities across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and 19 other states.

When the paper is 14 pages, the mailing cost 71 cents per paper; when it is at 16 pages or has an insert, the cost jumps to 93 cents.

The average age of the two volunteers who help assemble our mailing on Thursdays is 84 years young.

Now you know!

Send your local briefs to [editor@montaguereporter.org](mailto:editor@montaguereporter.org).

#### VACANT from page A1

When asked about resident Tammy Johnson's concerns about her belongings being in the building (see accompanying article), she answered, "She certainly should legally be given access to get her things."

"I'm going to keep a pretty short rein on Mr. Robinson," McNeely said. "That building needs a complete new heating system; it needs some serious core work done before you can even start rehabbing the units."

She said that in the past, lists of required upgrades to the building "weren't worth the paper they were printed on," because the work was never done.

She also said the building is vacant. "If people see activity, they should call us," she said.

"I haven't heard anything from the town since before Christmas," said Robinson on Wednesday. "I had a contractor try to pull a permit back in December, and when he went [to town hall] they said they wanted to inspect the building first."

He said he has an appointment set to discuss the work plans with the contractor this weekend. "I know that he talked to them about certain things that [McNeely] brought up that were grandfathered in when I bought the building," he said. "He's going to talk to me about it on Saturday."

Robinson said most of the residents' property was out of the building. "Some people did have some property in there, but it wasn't much – U-Hauls came through and pulled out most of the things," he said. "I assume the former residents have found other places, because it's been months, so they must have found other places."

He said that he had received messages from Tammy Johnson. "She's been leaving me messages, but I haven't heard exactly what she wants – I think she wants to get her stuff."

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**Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week**  
week ending 1/8/2016:  
**Grade 6**  
Lucy Postera  
**Grade 7**  
Julie Sprankle  
**Grade 8**  
Tucker Millane  
Luis Vinton

#### OBITUARY

## Edward A. Diemand 1952 – 2016



**WENDELL** – Edward "Eddie" Albert Diemand, 63, of Wendell died January 8, 2016, at his home following a short illness.

Eddie was born in Montague on July 1, 1952, to the late Albert and Elsie Diemand. He leaves his two children, Eddie J. Diemand, of Wendell, and Michelle Diemand of Orange. He is also survived by eleven siblings and their spouses.

His brothers and sisters are: Joseph Diemand, Mary Diemand, Judy Bailey, Faith Diemand, Peter Diemand, Anne Diemand Bucci, Paul Diemand, all of Wendell; Bertha Petruski of Fairhaven, MA; Elsie Blanchard of Florence, MA; Albert (Butch) Diemand of Houston, TX; Anthony Diemand

of Montague.

Eddie also leaves many nieces and nephews, and a few cousins as well as countless friends.

He was a carpenter who built a reputation over the years for his high-quality, long-lasting workmanship. With his Samson-like strength, he was a favorite of many local tradesmen.

Eddie had a determined spirit and he always worked through whatever hardships came his way. He was an easy man to love, and no matter what mischief he got into, it was hard to stay mad at him.

His family fondly remembers his signature curly blonde hair and his slow, easy smile. He was a truly good man – one who will be sorely missed by those who loved him.

In keeping with Eddie's wishes, he will be cremated. A gathering in his memory will be held Sunday, January 17 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at his family's farm.

To honor Eddie's memory, the family suggests donations be made to the Heifer Foundation ([heiferfoundation.org](http://heiferfoundation.org)), Dakin Humane Society ([dakinhumane.org](http://dakinhumane.org)), or to the charity of one's choice.

Arrangements are under the direction of Kostanski Funeral Home. Sympathy message available at [www.kostanskifuneralhome.com](http://www.kostanskifuneralhome.com).

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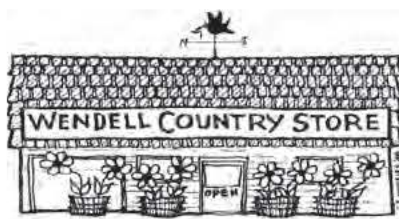
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### RIGHTS from page A1

— as she says, “the handsomest boy in the world.” The friendship was encouraged by her family, and they became great companions, although other white children in the building were not allowed to play with him.

Gale lost track of Desmond when her family moved out of Chicago to realize her father’s dream to live on a sailboat. The family spent the next six years at sea; there was no formal schooling, but plenty of voracious reading and a different type of education.

Back on land at the age of thirteen, Gale found herself labeled a truant in Louisiana. In spite of testing at a college level (with the exception of math) she found herself placed in eighth grade, and endured a long bus ride to and from school each day.

It was the late 1950s, and buses were segregated in Louisiana, with a moveable bar behind which black passengers must sit. If the bus filled up with more white people than fit in the privileged seats, the bar could be moved further back, and any blacks then in front of the bar would have to relocate.

Over the months of riding the bus, she found herself enamored

of an elderly black woman who shared the ride for several blocks each day. They never spoke, but she was a young girl and liked to imagine this lovely woman was the grandmother she never had.

Gale told us of a day when a group of unruly teenage boys tried to force her “grandmother” to move out of her seat and further back on the bus, despite the fact that there were plenty of seats in the “white” section. Whitbeck asked them to stop, and even tried to enlist the support of the bus driver, but he did not want to get involved.

She finally took a stand by sitting with the woman, and the bus driver was eventually compelled to support her efforts. Sitting in silence, both of them staring at the floor, Gale felt the hand of her “grandmother” reach out and take hers. She never saw the woman again.

By 1966, Gale was married and living in an apartment just upstairs from her parents. They were back in Chicago, this time living on West 63rd Street in Marquette Park. Their apartment was along the route of an infamous march by Martin Luther King Jr. who, along with approximately 700 civil-rights advocates, was protesting housing segregation in Chicago by march-

ing through this all-white neighborhood.

Gale did not plan to be a part of the march; in fact, until her family witnessed the growing crowds of angry white people, they were unaware that King would be passing by their apartment. She raced outside to find a spot by the curb so she could see the legendary activist. By a stroke of luck, a marcher lost her shoe almost directly in front of her.

Martin Luther King himself moved to the curbside to assist the woman, and happened to look into the eyes of Gale. He reached his hand out to her, and she reached back.

Suddenly, as if in a dance, she found herself in the midst of the protesters, making her way down the streets of Chicago. A few blocks later she was back on the sidewalk, but the experience was one she will never forget.

King was one of many people injured that day when a rock struck him in the head. He later said, “I’ve been in many demonstrations all across the South, but I can say that I have never seen — even in Mississippi and Alabama — mobs as hostile and hate-filled as I’ve seen in Chicago.”

The Marquette March was one

of several that took place that summer and eventually led to changes in Chicago’s housing scene.

Gale’s descriptions of the unbelievably hateful mobs, in contrast to the quiet dignity of the marchers, were compelling. She couldn’t fathom the horrible signs proudly carried by whites on the sidelines, and was shocked to hear them jeering at the marchers and see them pelting the activists with rocks, sticks and bananas as well as watermelons and fried chicken. It saddens her to think that 50 years later our country is still struggling with racist fear, sometimes deliberately inflamed by certain politicians of the day.

Listening to Gale read from her biography made me want to know the rest of her story. For her, writing it down is more difficult than the oral storytelling traditions she grew up with, but I was just one of many listeners held spellbound.

Gale Whitbeck will be teaching two classes at Greenfield Community College that start in March: *The Gift of Biography: Enriching Your Life through Writing and The Beauty Path: Rediscovering the Enchantment in Your Life.*



### HOMELESS from page A1

deposit?

**TJ:** Yes I did — of \$1950. First and last, and a security deposit.

**MR:** Where did you go?

**TJ:** My sister said I could stay with her for a little while. With her having Section 8, you’re only legally allowed to have someone stay with you up to, I think it’s 30 days. It’s not somewhere I could just move in.

I was sleeping on the couch there. I was told I would only need to take what I needed while I was gone — personal things, clothing, personal items. It was just a suitcase of stuff, and another satchel.

**MR:** So you expected to be able to get back into your own apartment?

**TJ:** Yes, with things being different, yes.

**MR:** What was it like living in that building?

**TJ:** Tough. There was a lot of fighting, a lot of cops — a lot of raids. I did gather my peace, because I could just go to the third floor, and shut the door.... I just wasn’t a part of what was going on there, not at all. I had a whole apartment: a living room, nice big bedroom, nice kitchen that I repainted, bathroom that I repainted, full bath.

You just shut that big door, and didn’t hear anything hardly, unless it got really loud — there was some nights I got woken up at 2 and 3 in the morning, from, you know, chaos there....

My landlord told me — and it made me feel good — that I was the only person he never worried about paying rent, and I was his best renter. Never caused problems, never had officers there for me.

**MR:** What did the landlord tell you was going to happen?

**TJ:** He was trying to better the place. And he needed to get people out who were not paying, because he was going under, and he’s already lost buildings, so he knew what was at stake.

And he told me that he was using the board of health to do it, be-

cause he financially couldn’t do it through the courts.

**MR:** And you heard that before the [condemnation]?

**TJ:** When I moved in. The day I moved in. A year and a half ago.

Matt had explained to me — I said, “it’s pretty chaotic here, huh?” and he’s like, “yeah, um, but I plan to, Tammy, clean it out.” And I said “Okay, that works.” You know?

And it took him a year and a half, but he, I was proud of him for doing that — I mean, I like Matt. He’s a great landlord to me. We’ve never had a problem, and I’ve been renting from him for almost six years. [Editor’s note: Johnson had previously rented from Robinson at a different location.]

**MR:** Did he say anything about what was happening with the emergency condemnation?

**TJ:** No. Just that, the following Tuesday from our weekend of having to be out of there, after the notice — which was only two days later, four days later, whatever — that following Tuesday he said he was going to be having a meeting with the board of health and that he would be in touch with me. And I didn’t hear what happened.

**MR:** Has he called you back since?

**TJ:** We’ve talked a couple times. I really like renting from him, he’s just kind of a cool guy....

**MR:** Did anyone from the board of health, or from the town, give you any resources or information about how to find housing?

**TJ:** No. Not at all.

**MR:** You saw a copy of the [notice]?

**TJ:** Yes, it was on my door, everyone had one on their door...

**MR:** Did you have any other communication from the town, or from the board of health?

**TJ:** No. Nothing.

**MR:** And did you try to find emergency housing?

**TJ:** Yes.

**MR:** What’s that like?

**TJ:** Waiting lists.

**MR:** Who’d you call?

**TJ:** All kinds of places. Charities, churches. I found out that they don’t even have a shelter [in Montague City] anymore, the whole building’s gone! I heard there’s possible motel programming, but there’s such a long waiting list for that. You have to be able to live before you can get into a program, still.

**MR:** Did you find any apartments for rent?

**TJ:** Yes. In Shelburne Falls, near my sister — on the Buckland side of Shelburne Falls, where I grew up.... [In November] I called Matt explaining I had found this apartment, and was just going to go ahead and get it... and that I would need him to give me back my security, and my down payment parts, being that I paid my last month’s rent, obviously, in October.

In November I explained the guy said I could have that apartment up there — it was beautiful — but then he kind of got a little creepy, asking me all this personal stuff, but also I lost out on the apartment because Matt did not come through with the money in time, at all.

**MR:** Did he eventually?

**TJ:** He gave me \$650 in a check. And he even stated on there, “last month’s rent.”

**MR:** So you’re actively seeking housing —

**TJ:** Yes. Papers, Craigslist, Housing, Regional Housing — nothing. Cannot get the RAFT program, can’t get anything from there.

I was at my sister’s up until last week. It’s not that I can’t go back there, it’s just that I’ve decided I’m going to fight this. I can’t just be homeless. I’m homeless right now — in all legality, I’m homeless because of this situation.

My neck has been reconstructed. It was broken in 2008. I have three rods, two metal plates, eight screws, four fake bones. I almost lost my ability from the neck down, but surgery saved me. I’ve been sleeping on [a] floor since last Thursday, and my back is on fire.

I just need to have a home.

A home, where my things are. [Crying] I paid rent for a year and a half.

**MR:** What made you decide to write this sign?

**TJ:** Seeing my curtains in the windows.

**MR:** Have you been able to get back into your apartment?

**TJ:** I went there one time, to find my place has definitely been broken into, and ransacked.... There’s a mattress put on my living room floor, from the downstairs. A nasty twin mattress on the living room floor. I don’t have a twin bed... This was October.

[It] was stated in the board of health paperwork: every door was to be padlocked. [Editor’s note: This was not a requirement on the emergency order.] And when I asked him, is mine going to have a padlock, he said yes. So in turn I felt a little bit secure that there was a padlock on it, you know?

But when I found out there was never a padlock, it really pissed me off. And to know that people are in and out of my place.... I don’t even know what’s left.

**MR:** What’s in there right now?

**TJ:** Everything I own, except the clothes on my back and a suitcase.

It’s bullshit. Absolute bullshit.

They should have looked out for the one person who was doing the right thing. I’m only one person, it wouldn’t have cost anybody much, to say something real.

I’m so sick of the lying, and the liars, and the bullshit. It’s not a great place to live, but it’s what I had. And I don’t have it anymore, and I’m hurt and tired and angry. I need to rest. I’m exhausted.

And I don’t deserve this, not whatsoever. [Crying] I’ve been through a lot, more than ten lives — with my children, being a single mom for years.

It’s been a struggle in life, and I don’t want to struggle any more.



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NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

# Board Approves Inclement Weather, Liquor Fee Policy Changes

By JEFF SINGLETON

The Montague selectboard meeting of January 11 lasted less than an hour, but the board approved several important policy changes, and approved a job description for a new second-in-command at the police department.

The meeting began, however, with Charles Kelly, a vocal critic of the town's broadband policy, handing the board what he called an "Open Meeting Law Complaint." Kelly argued that the town's broadband committee, created by a May 2013 town meeting warrant article, had been mandated to develop a "townwide broadband policy." However, he argued, the committee has "morphed" into a group that failed to implement the charge of town meeting.

With no townwide policy in place, last fall's town meeting vote to create a Municipal Light Plant, a requirement to receive a state broadband grant, was invalid, Mr. Kelly told the board: "Usually you create the townwide policy and on that basis create the municipal light plant."

Mr. Kelly did not explain how this violated the state Open Meeting Law, but selectboard chair Michael Nelson thanked him and accepted the documents: "You know the procedure. Check in with Deb, and she'll make things happen," he said, referring Mr. Kelly to town clerk Deb Bourbeau.

## IT, Recycling Upgrades

Next at the front table was Laura Arruda, the town's IT administrator and coordinator. She had come to request a reserve fund transfer of \$3,000 for a variety of computer system upgrades, including battery backup units, extra work stations, a warranty, additional software and software licenses.

The request was approved by the selectboard, but it was noted that this was in fact just a recommendation to the town finance committee, which appropriates from the reserve fund.

Arruda said that "we're trying to get the IT Department up and running but we need money to cover some of the extra costs this year." The finance committee, as it is wont to do, may ask why these costs were not put in the original budget that went before town meeting in May.

Next, Department of Public Works head Tom Bergeron and Jan Ameen, director of the Franklin County Solid Waste District, proposed that the town accept a \$7,500 grant to purchase a cardboard compactor and finance the cost of its installation.

The grant, it turns out, will fund only part of the compactor, whose total cost Ameen estimated at \$20,000. The rest would be funded by something called the state "recycling dividends program" and a future \$8,000 town appropriation.

Ameen estimated that the compactor would save the town approximately \$4,500 to \$5,000 per year "on hauling." She and Bergeron did note that the transfer station on Sandy Lane might move at some point in the next few years, potentially delaying installation.

In response to a question from

Nelson, she said the compactor would not be easy to "pick up and relocate" because it would be bolted to a concrete base. However, she advised the board to accept the grant now. It voted to do so.

## Snow Day Comp Time

Next, Bergeron came forward again, with proposed changes in "inclement weather policy" for "essential" town employees required to come to work during snow emergencies. Selectboard member Rich Kuklewicz, who had worked with Bergeron and town accountant Carolyn Olsen on the policy, described the core issues.

Town hall employees who do not report to work when the building is closed on snow days receive pay. Unionized public works employees, required to come to work on those days, receive a "comp day," according to their new contract. However, four non-unionized "essential" employees, including Bergeron, do not receive the comp time in similar situations.

Bergeron pointed out what he saw as the inequity of the situation at a previous selectboard meeting. Kuklewicz presented a proposed new policy at the January 11 meeting that he had developed with Bergeron and Olsen. In essence, the new policy would extend comp time "if town hall is closed" to essential employees in all departments required to work on inclement weather days.

The policy would cover all staff, including the police, library and town hall staff, and employees of the water pollution control facility. Police comp time cannot be filled with overtime.

"Those folks that we need on those days get a little bit of recognition," said Kuklewicz. After changing the hours potentially covered (6 a.m. to 5:59 p.m., in the final version), the board approved the new policy.

After the vote, Olsen noted a comment she had received expressing concern that the new policy would cost the town money, and "why doesn't it wait until Frank comes back." Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio is currently on long-term leave for health reasons. Another suggestion Olsen heard to solve the problem was "simply not to close town hall."

## Fee Reimbursed

Next, the selectboard discussed and implemented another policy, this one regarding the transfer of liquor licenses. The current policy requires that those receiving a new license pay an entire year's fee, even if the license is transferred at the end of the year and the previous license holder had already paid a fee for the same year in question.

The issue was raised by the owners of a new bar and restaurant on Avenue A, Riff's North, who were required to pay a full 2015 fee even though they were not actually going to begin serving alcohol until mid-January of 2016, and even though the license fee had been paid for by Kali B's, the previous license owner.

The board voted to require the new owner to pay the fee only for the first month that they own the

business, beginning at the first of the month. They then voted to "abate" the amount paid by Riff's North for 2015 by \$873.80 – approximately 11/12 of the annual fee.

"We're trying to grow our downtown businesses, and this is certainly a huge chunk of change," noted Michael Nelson. "Personally, I'd rather [they] spend the money getting the business up and running."

## Lieutenant Advances

Next at the front table was police chief Charles Dodge who asked the board to approve a job description for a new "lieutenant" position. This is part of a significant reorganization of the department proposed several months ago. Dodge has stated that the new position is needed to provide a second in command should he be on vacation or at statewide meetings. He has also said he needs the new Lieutenant to relieve him of some of his paperwork so the chief can "get out of the office."

Dodge has stated that the new position, which will in effect supplement the job description of a detective, will not add to his staff. He has also suggested that the new position will be "revenue neutral," due to retirements and new hires lower on the pay scale.

The board did not discuss these issues at the January 11 meetings, but instead asked several questions about the "physical requirements" for the position. It then approved the job description.

## Other Business

Rodney Madison of the Coalition for Racial Justice requested that the board delay a discussion of racial sensitivity training for town staff for two weeks. The board did not take a vote, but the chair agreed to the request.

The board voted, at the request of Walter Ramsey, to "execute" a state Massworks grant of \$352,785 to design and develop a parking lot on the corner of Third and Canal streets. The town-owned space is currently being used as a youth sculpture park.

The board also approved Ramsey's request to award the design contract to Berkshire Design Group. Ramsey said that although Berkshire was not the lowest bidder in the procurement process, the company had more experience with municipal projects than the alternative. Berkshire has done design work for both the Unity Park and Avenue A Streetscape projects in recent years.

The board voted to authorize additional officials from the water pollution control facility to send reports to the state Department of Environmental Protection and to the federal Environmental Protection Agency.

It also authorized a change order for the Avenue A streetscape project, and voted to designate Ramsey as the town's "environmental compliance officer" in light of the continued absence of town administrator Frank Abbondanzio.

The board adjourned at approximately 7:50 without going into executive session.

## TOWN OF ERVING ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR

The Town of Erving is accepting applications for the position of **Administrative Coordinator**.

For a complete position announcement including the application instructions go to website [www.umb.edu/cpm](http://www.umb.edu/cpm) and click on 'executive searches'. Please send cover letter and resume to [recruitment.umb@gmail.com](mailto:recruitment.umb@gmail.com). Cover letter and resume should have the following words: Erving AC and the applicant's last name. Instructions will be found on page 7 of the Town Hall Profile at website [www.umb.edu/cpm](http://www.umb.edu/cpm).

Application deadline is **February 8, 2016**.

*Town of Erving is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

## WATER from pg A1

aquifer" that supplies the pond.

Turners Falls, he pointed out, draws some of its water from the same aquifer, although through a much deeper well. The Turners Falls Water/Fire District currently maintains three wells.

Another revelation was that the Water District owns the field to the south of the pond. The land was purchased jointly by the Montague Center District, the Turners Falls District and Mount Grace Conservation Land Trust to protect land above the aquifer from development. Dion said that the town of Amherst once considered buying land on the corner of routes 47 and 63 to draw from the aquifer.

Dion said the perceived delay in informing Montague Center residents of the *E. coli* contamination was a result of the state requirement for a second test to confirm the positive reading, and the extra days it took to get those results. When the second set of results arrived, the department – consisting of the three members of the commission – were required to deliver the state's warning and boil order by hand:

"[The Department of Environmental Protection] wants us to walk around in the dark and drop off these forms. If you know Montague Center, everybody lets their dogs out. You can get bitten by a dog or break an ankle to deliver a piece of paper. So my question was what does Turners do?"

"You know what they do? Channel 22, Channel 40 – they just put [the warning] on the air, that's what they have to do. But since we're a little district, they want us to hand-deliver it. That's one of the problems we have as a small, little district... DEP would like to get rid of all the little districts."

Several in the audience said they wondered why Montague Center had a separate water district, particularly since the rates in Turners Falls appear to be lower.

Dion replied that some of the Turners Falls water costs are financed by the Turners Fire District tax, which is assessed on property. If Montague Center joined the Turners district, he said, "there's no way it is going to cost you less."

According to the Turners Falls Water Department website, water rates for residents within the Turners Fire District are \$2.40 per 1,000 gallons, for usage of between 14,000 and 200,000 gallons, and \$2.60 for those using between 201,000 and 400,000 gallons. There is a minimum fee of \$30.

The Montague Center water rates,

on the other hand, are \$5 per \$1,000 gallons, with a \$45 minimum.

However, the Turners Fire District Tax is \$3.08 per \$1,000 of assessed residential property valuation, while the Montague Center Fire rate is \$1.41 per \$1,000 for residential property. Some of this differential no doubt reflects the fact that the Montague Center department, unlike Turners, is an all-volunteer department.

A review of the Turners fire/water budget shows that the fire tax finances some of the water infrastructure costs.

The village of Lake Pleasant, which is in the Montague Center Fire District but receives water from the Turners Water Department, has a water rate of \$4.80 per \$1,000. This is roughly the rate the Turners department charged the Montague Center District when it sent water over to the village during the *E. coli* crisis, and is comparable to the Montague Center rate.

There was a good deal of discussion of the role of Montague's board of health during the *E. coli* emergency. Dion stated that the "Reverse 911" recommended by the town's director of public health, Gina McNeely, led to dozens of calls from residents not in the district.

Dion also said that the health department "wasn't very helpful" because, he claimed, McNeely said she would not be available to answer questions on the day after the boil order was issued. Montague's town hall is closed on Fridays.

Michael Nelson, a member of both the board of health and selectboard, expressed surprise at this. He said the health department frequently responds to emergencies on Fridays and weekends.

Paul Voiland, who lives on Turners Falls Road in Montague Center, said he thought the water department should coordinate its activities with the town board of health in emergency situations.

Karen Casey-Chretien, clerk in the Montague building department and a resident of Montague Center, said she had spoken to other town hall employees, who are "willing to give you a hand if you need help."

Dion agreed that "there must be a better way" to inform the public in similar emergencies, although he said he hoped "it will never happen again."

The meeting ended on an upbeat note when Dion agreed to include a form with the next water bill encouraging residents to send their phone numbers or emails to the commissioners.



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



## NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

## Coordinator Job Posted

By KATIE NOLAN

Continuing the review of the fiscal year 2017 budget that it started the week before, the Erving selectboard interviewed the town treasurer, a recreation commissioner, the library director, the assistant assessor, the IT coordinator, town clerk, town accountant and the tax collector about their budget requests. Immediately after meeting with the selectboard, these town officers met with the finance committee.

## Treasurer

Town treasurer Margaret Sullivan asked for 2% merit raises for the human resources assistant and for the treasurer's clerk. Sullivan also recommended that the selectboard and the treasurer's office review the human resources tasks and responsibilities and divide them carefully between the board and treasurer.

Selectboard member Jacob Smith said that the board "discouraged the idea of merit raises" for FY'17. Later during the meeting, after completing all the interviews, the board voted against the treasurer's recommended merit raises.

## Recreation

Recreation commissioner Chad Gagne told the board that, now that the commission has an office, it is proposing a new line item for office supplies that includes telephone and internet costs. The commission moved into the former Pleasant Street School building last year.

Gagne said that, in the future, the commission might consider asking for funds for an on-site employee to keep the building open more often for public use, perhaps providing after-school activities for teens.

## Library

Library director Barbara Friedman asked to increase the part-time assistant librarian's hours from 14 hours per week to 21. Because employees working more than 19.5 hours are eligible for health insurance and vacation benefits, this would increase costs beyond the simple salary increase.

Friedman said the increased hours would allow the library to be open more days, including afternoons when students are getting out of school, and would free up Friedman's time for writing grants and working with the library feasibility study committee on plans to upgrade or renovate the library building or build a new library.

Friedman said of the assistant librarian hours, "In the long run, it will benefit the town greatly and bring money to the town."

Selectboard member Arthur Johnson asked, "Why not hire two part-time assistants?" in order to avoid paying benefits.

Friedman replied that two employees would require more supervi-

sory time. She said that Erving was the only library in Franklin County with no benefited employees. She noted that her position as library director is a "retirement position," and the town she retired from pays her health insurance.

Library commissioner Deborah Smith said that it was important to keep the current assistant, who is a valuable employee – "if another library offers her a better job, she's gone."

Later during the meeting, after the interviews were completed, Johnson remarked that once a position becomes benefited, "it's permanent." He predicted a request for "a 39.5 hour per week position next year."

Bembury said he would ask Sullivan to compute the potential costs for salary and insurance if the assistant hours are increased, so the board can consider the request based on its cost.

## Support Staff

Assistant assessor Jacquelyn Boyden told the board that the board of assessors had voted a 2% merit raise for her and approved 75 hours of professional development time. Boyden said the board of assessors reduced the professional development time formerly budgeted for the board members, because only the assistant assessor needed the hours for certification.

Boyden, who is also the IT coordinator, said that the IT budget was similar to the previous year's request.

Town clerk Richard Newton said that he requested some extra funding because he is responsible for the three elections this year: presidential primaries, the town election and federal elections. He noted that he was proposing two articles for town meeting: one to purchase a new ballot box and one to fund restoration and preservation of town records.

Tax collector Michele Turner requested a 2% merit increase for the collector's assistant. Later during the meeting, the board voted against recommending the merit increase.

## Other Business

Selectboard chair William Bembury told the board that the UMass Collins Institute had posted the town's administrative coordinator job, and that applications would be accepted until February 8.

Bembury said the town would meet with potential owner's project manager applicants at the former Usher Mill on February 21. Work at creating a recreational area at a portion of the property will be funded in part by a Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) grant from the state. A special town meeting will be held in late February or early March to approve town funds for the project.

## RUMORS FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

## Two Finalists for Highway Post

By TIA FATTARUSO

Tuesday's snow flurries interfered with the *Reporter's* coverage of Leverett's first selectboard meeting of the new year, and also inspired a brief meeting, according to board member Julie Shively.

Shively related important notes

from the meeting by phone the following day. Most notably, two candidates for the highway department superintendent position will be interviewed next Thursday, January 21, at 6:30 and 7:30 p.m.

Fire chief John Ingram announced the launching of the fire department's Facebook page.

Shively encouraged residents to like the page.

Tom Hankinson will represent the selectboard at the Massachusetts Municipal Association convention to accept an innovation award – one of three handed out statewide – for the broadband project.

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL-MONTAGUE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

## District Office Presents Preliminary FY'17 Budget; Presently \$67,635 Over Affordable Town Assessments

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

**GILL-MONTAGUE** – The lengthy budget process began to take shape this week as superintendent Michael Sullivan presented early numbers in a preliminary FY'17 budget proposal for the Gill-Montague Regional school district.

Members of the school committee, at their meeting on January 12, examined the numbers as Sullivan and business director Joanne Blier went through the multiple spreadsheets that examined past spending and revenues for the previous fiscal year, state revenue estimates (always subject to change), and what they expect to need for the 2017 school year.

The district's first pass at presenting a FY'17 budget sets the total operating and capital budget (without debt) at \$18,725,382, an increase over the FY'16 budget of \$377,694. This budget reflects some projected increases in revenue from Chapter 70 state revenue and Medicaid reimbursement, but reductions in charter and transportation reimbursements.

Assessments to the towns provided in this preliminary budget data are based on the superintendent's recommended budget. The assessment for Montague was calculated based on information provided by the town of Montague of what it said it considered affordable.

The assessment for Montague would be \$8,767,167, an increase of \$268,824, or 3.16%, over FY'16. An assessment estimate for Gill of \$1,635,110 was based on the Montague numbers. It reflects an increase over FY'16 of \$50,173 or 3.17%.

Blier said they had asked the town of Gill to provide information on what they considered affordable but had not received an answer yet. She said, "As soon as Gill gives the district a number, we can adjust their numbers."

However, according to Blier, the towns' combined affordable assessment does not cover what the district needs to fund the superintendent's budget. She said that, between the towns' affordable increases of \$318,997 and the proposed budget's assessment increase of \$386,632, there is presently a gap of \$67,635.

## Goals, and Changes

In his presentation to the school committee, Sullivan began with his goals for the budget. Of importance to the administration was support of the district strategy to:

- Improve readiness to learn
- Improve literacy and critical thinking
- Increase use of performance-based assessments
- Improve as an organization for adult learning
- Increase parent and community involvement and investment

Important in the development of the budget, Sullivan said, was retaining small size classes without eliminating existing programs. He also said an important goal of the administration is to stabilize budget fluctuation, and make choices that can be sustained.

Proposed changes in staffing were limited primarily to movement within the district, with one position eliminated and a few changes in how staff is allocated.

Two additions in staffing were included. The district plans to hire one elementary reading teacher to work at both Gill and Sheffield, which Sullivan said is necessary for additional instruction for students who are struggling.

Also, because the teachers use a model of dividing students into small groups for reading instruction, they intend to hire one paraprofessional at Hillcrest, to support first grade reading instruction and special education inclusion. Sullivan said with this model, having a second adult in the room was very important.

The plans would also re-allocate two staff members. One special education teacher at Sheffield would stop sharing her duties between teaching and being a special education team leader, and return to the classroom as a full-time teacher. A special education team chair who currently covers the middle school, high school, Gill and Hillcrest would cover only the elementary schools. The superintendent would then hire one new staff person, to work at the middle school and high school as special education team chair and adjustment counselor.

A few changes include reductions in staff and positions. The proposal would eliminate the elementary behavior specialist position that covered Sheffield and Hillcrest. Sullivan said she has trained the staff at these schools and he feels they can continue the work she was doing. While the position would be eliminated, the employee would not: she would return to classroom teaching.

A part-time teaching position is being eliminated; the teacher is retiring. According to Sullivan, there are smaller increases that he would have preferred to make in teachers, staff, maintenance, textbooks, supplies, furnishings and other teaching materials. This includes \$42,000 of the FY'17 "high priority" computer and technology acquisitions.

Valeria Smith, member from Gill, suggested to the superintendent that this item could be brought up at town meeting as a request of one-time-funds for the technology upgrades, which she felt the towns would be inclined to support.

There will be a school committee budget meeting, open to the public, on Tuesday, January 19 at 6:30 p.m., at Turners Falls High School.

The members agreed to hold it in the TV studio to allow room for members of the community. The meeting will be recorded, but will not be broadcast live.

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## NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

# Selectboard Unsure On School Roof Proposal

By AIDAN BELANGER

This past Monday Joanne Blier, business director at the Gill-Montague school district, and superintendent Michael Sullivan came before the Gill selectboard with an application to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) for a replacement roof for Gill Elementary.

The MSBA had opened an accelerated repair program which covers boilers, roofs and windows. The project has an estimated cost of \$400,000 to \$900,000, possibly including work on the school windows, and an estimated time frame of 2 ½ years. The new roof would have a life expectancy of 20 years.

The district would need to file paperwork within a month, and an application cannot be applied without a town vote. This means the project would need to be put in motion before the necessary town vote could be taken.

If the town votes down the project, the town would receive a 76% reimbursement, but would lose eligibility for this MSBA program forever.

Selectboard member John Ward's initial reaction was to worry that due to the town doing a lot of roof work projects recently, another one would be a tough sell to citizens.

The original building's roof is approaching the expiration of its life expectancy of 20 years, as it was re-roofed in 1994. The addition on the school has not been re-roofed and is the original 1986 construction, meaning it is six to eight years overdue, although a 2012 inspection said the roof could last 10 to 15 more years.

Selectboard chair Greg Snedeker responded to this information saying that the timeline for deciding on this application did not feel right. He wanted to see what the town support was like, and said he would be willing to apply next year when he was aware of the town's level of support.

Selectboard member Randy Crochier added to this, saying that the board was aware a new roof was needed, but also that there were no "current" issues with the roofs, implying that an application could be held off another year.

The board decided that the application would remain a live process, and that town administrative coordinator Ray Purington would keep talking with them.

Sullivan said he wished to add that this year, the Gill Elementary School was rated a "one out of five school," with one being the best rating.

The elementary school performed in the top 27% out of all Massachusetts elementary schools

in the PARCC tests. Sixth-grade students performed 12% above average in math, while lower grades scored more average scores. He pointed out that this shows that the school improves students' performances exceedingly well.

## Riverside School Project

Vicky Jenkins of the energy commission came to the selectboard to request an additional \$4,000 after an initial disbursement of \$10,000 for the Riverside School Project. The project aims to replace eight classroom windows, install windows in the school library, and run on-demand hot water from the town hall because it is not used there. The money would come from an appropriation of \$25,000 for boiler and heating system projects approved at last year's town meeting.

The project in total is estimated to be \$21,718. The \$4,000 would be the estimated remaining amount needed after using the initial grant and the remaining Green Community money.

Another estimate from Alden Booth said it could be \$4,518 for commercial acrylic window inserts. Randy Crochier motioned to grant "up to \$5,000." The selectboard approved this motion.

## New Newsletter Editor

Susan LaScala introduced herself to the selectboard as the new newsletter editor.

Gary Bourbeau, the pastor of the Gill Congregational Church, spoke up, thanking Mrs. LaScala for being willing to do the job, then bringing up questioning about the mission of the editor and the mission statement of the paper. Last year, Mr. Bourbeau had submitted an article that was omitted from the paper due to its religious nature.

Mrs. LaScala replied that she had talked in the past with Ray Purington about what articles might go in the paper, but that they had not developed a mission statement.

Mr. Bourbeau then said that the former editor had made a draft mission statement for the newsletter, and recommended that the goals of the paper should be decided by the selectboard.

Snedeker replied to this, saying that now that there was a new editor, a new discussion could be started.

Mr. Bourbeau then voiced concern that the selectboard was too anxious to send out a newsletter and was not adequately prioritizing a mission statement.

Mr. Snedeker responded that the board was anxious but that they wanted to have a process around determining the newsletter's mission.

Mr. Bourbeau voiced that he would like to be in the discussion, and the selectboard agreed to in-

## WEATHER from page A1

These kids knew what a meteorologist was, but wanted to also know how many specialties existed within the field. They knew about the water cycle, and understood the difference between fog, water vapor, sleet, hail and freezing rain.

Mr. Lapis, who took the lead in the presentation, told them that they were lucky; in our area we get to experience a vast range of weather.

But, he asked, "What are the essential elements of weather?"

To give an example, he asked the class what they would need in order to bake a batch of cookies. Hands went into the air. This was easy.

But what about weather? Only four elements are needed.

The first was easy: water.

A student offered air – not quite. "What about atmosphere?" asked Djibril Diao. That was number two, and Mr. Lapis wrote it on the board.

Anna Baskowski provided the

third when she said "the sun."

After a few suggestions that came close but did not exactly hit the mark, Abigail Moore offered earth, and she was correct.

**The visit was a great example of how good preparation, on the part of the class and the presenters, can combine to create an enhanced learning experience.**

With these four elements weather is created, and also predicted. Using a marker on the whiteboard like an experienced teacher, Mr. Lapis demonstrated the constant relationships that can result in something as lovely as a spring rain or as dangerous as a hurricane.

Focusing always on what is local and pertinent to those of us living here, he asked the class what they knew of the famous flood of 1936 and recommended they look it up



WICKS PHOTO

*Abriella Stumpo, teacher Jackie Chase, Aisha Pruitt Gonzalez, Djibril Dian, special education teacher Brittany Cooley, Anna Baskowski, Olivia Vassar, Matthew Marchefka, Maureen Parzych and her daughter Grace Parzych, Pearl Schatz-Allison, Morgan Dobias and Abby Moore.*

clude him. The selectboard decided they would still like to get a newsletter out by the end of January.

## Green Communities Grant

Ray Purington announced that the replacement LED lights ordered had been received and installed. He added that he believed the safety complex still needs one more light, as a truck in the pickup area creates a large shadow over the car next to it.

Randy Crochier agreed with Purington, adding that he liked the new lights on the back of the complex, but would like some by the side doors, and also that he liked the new LED lights on the front porch of the town hall.

Purington went on to inform the selectboard that the heat pumps at the Riverside building were done, from a contractor's standpoint. Selectboard member John Ward responded that he had visited there, and the temperature of the building was right where the thermostat was set.

## Safety Complex Roof

Ray Purington informed the se-

lectboard that the factory representative from Carlisle Roofing had conducted a warranty inspection of the new membrane roof on the safety complex. A wide strip across a section of the roof along the back wall of the safety complex has bad insulation. Snow is melting in that spot from the heat escaping the roof.

Spray foam to fill this strip could cost \$14,000 to \$15,000, two to three times what Purington expected. Crochier inquired what a fall-back plan would be, and Purington suggested building a vapor barrier. This problem does not affect the roof's warranty.

But another issue does. "Where seams meet seams and joints meet joints" on the roof, he said, a special white patch material is required, but the inspector noticed that the material was probably the wrong one due to its grayish tint.

This issue is not a roof integrity issue but a requirement for the warranty, which can be fixed by going over the incorrectly patched seams with a larger patch of the correct material.

if they wanted to know more. This will not be difficult for the students: Gill Elementary has a computer lab and more than a dozen iPads that can be borrowed for research.

In a little more than an hour, Lapis showed how hot air balloons work, and explained why morning is the best time to launch one. He described the function of weather stations, weather balloons, and the computers that calculate their data to make predictions. He gave the students an idea of how the studio at the station works.

Both he and Ms. Pagliei talked about the kinds of education needed to become a meteorologist. Ms. Pagliei studied science and math and then added journalism. Mr. Lapis studied journalism first, and then added science.

The students seemed to like knowing there are different paths to success. They also learned that Ms. Pagliei was once a cheerleader. Mr. Lapis was a team mascot – an orange. These insights came towards the end, when the students were relaxed enough to ask if they always liked their jobs, and if they ever disagreed with their co-workers.

The visit was a great example of how good preparation, on the part of the class and the presenters, can combine to create an enhanced learning experience.

Ms. Chase said she tries to use local resources as much as possible. When she can get the funding, she enjoys bringing her students to UMass; they recently saw a play there.

After learning from Mr. Lapis that some of the best research on climate has come from UMass, it seems another trip might be in the planning stages.



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**BASKETBALL** from page A1

Obochowski had 8, Brown scored 7, and Colby Dobias 6.

Rick Craver and Kyle Bergman each scored 5 points, Peterson, Tyler Lavin and Jeremy Wolfram had 4, and Nick Croteau popped in a 3-pointer.

**Frontier 46 – TFHS 44**

Coach Mullins tweaked his starting lineup for Tuesday's game against the Frontier Red Hawks, putting in Javoni Williams and Jeremy Wolfram with Tionne Brown, James Vaughn and Jalen Sanders.

In the opening quarter, Turners benefited from several misses by the Hawks, and Frontier was helped by some errant passes by the Tribe. The first half of the period was all Blue, and the second half, all Red.

At the four-minute mark, Turners was leading 11-6, but in the next four minutes, Frontier had caught up and went ahead. They then hit a buzzer-beater to take a 14-11 lead after 1.

Mullins kept the Red Hawks off balance by switching his defensive strategy throughout the game. In the second period, he opened with a full-court press, contesting every inbound pass and going for steals as Frontier tried to advance the ball. Later in the period, he allowed the Hawks to bring the ball up court while setting his players in strategic zones.

And with less than 3 minutes left in the half, Jalen popped in 2 free throws to tie the game at 18.

Then, with the press back on, Turners stole the ball and Sanders hit a two, putting the Tribe ahead 20-18.

Frontier tied it again at twenty. With 40 seconds left, Nick Croteau hit a 3, putting Turners up 23-20. Turners gave up a pair of fouls in the final seconds of the half, but managed to hold onto a precarious single-point lead going into the third, 23-22.

The game seesawed back and forth in the third period, and the players became aware that every point counted. The game was too close to call and a single play could win or lose the game.

Every time a player couldn't quite get to a ball that was bouncing out of bounds, or every time a shot went in-and-out, was a source of frustration.

At one point in the third, three consecutive traveling calls were made, followed by incredible team work, circus shots and throw-aways. And throughout the quarter the game remained tight.

As time was running out in the period, the game was knotted at 33, but Red again hit a buzzer-beater to take a two point lead, 35-33, going into the final quarter.

Although the Red shirts vastly outnumbered the Blue shirts in the

crowd, the Turners faithful let themselves be known. When thirty or forty Hawk fans screamed a chant, three or four Turners students answered, and were just as loud.

The deficit in that last quarter never exceeded 3 points as both teams took turns stealing, missing, rebounding, scoring and fouling. With 1:10 left in the game, Turners was down by 2. Jalen made his way to the hoop, was swarmed by bodies as he went for the shot, but was called for a travel as he released the ball.

This gave possession back to the Hawks with only seconds left on the clock. Blue finally regained the ball with 13.6 seconds left, down by 2.

Jalen again made his way to the hoop. The ball bounced off the back board but this time he was fouled with only 1.8 seconds left. He sunk 1, putting the score at 45-44 – and Turners immediately fouled.

The Hawks sunk one and with 1.1 seconds left, Blue took possession under the Red Hoop.

Sanders again was the high scorer for Powertown with 24. Tionne Brown, Nick Croteau, and Anthony Peterson scored 4, Rick Craver, Jeremy Wolfram added 3, and James Vaughn got 2 points.

On Friday, January 15, Turners hosts Pioneer Valley. Then on Wednesday the 20<sup>th</sup>, Mahar comes to town.

**GREG,**

*It's been two years. Two very difficult years without you. We miss you as much as ever. While an anniversary is often reason to celebrate, this one is anything but.*

*However, it occurs to us that, while this date is understandably a tough one, maybe it's time we make it one to celebrate. Not the loss we all feel so deeply. But the life you lived and the love you brought. Because thoughts of you should bring joy instead of sadness. You earned that.*

*So, beginning this year, we will try to spend the day remembering the happy times and honor you in doing that. We'll think of the phone calls, the holidays. We'll think of your incredible grin – the one your son displays today. We'll see you on your skateboard. We'll hear your music. And we will smile.*

*We will remind ourselves of the great love you selflessly gave to us all. And in thinking of you with smiles, hope to show you that same love which we will forever have for you. You deserve nothing less.*



All our love,

Mom, Dad, Melissa, Jeremy, Mary Rose, Sebastian, Emily, Damien, Owen, Sarah & Anthony

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## A Little Rebellion

### Part 1: Moses Harvey

To this day, many in western Massachusetts remain proud of the legacy of “Shay’s Rebellion,” an uprising against the Massachusetts government in the wake of the Revolutionary War.

Pelham’s Daniel Shays was merely the figurehead of this movement, a “folk hero,” as historian Robert Gross writes, “to a region perennially grumbling about its mistreatment by ill-informed and unresponsive officials in Boston.”

How did this movement play out in our towns – who joined its ranks, and who remained loyal to the new government? These articles will explore some of the local characters and the parts they played in the insurrection.

By ANN TWEEDY

On April 25, 1787, Moses Harvey of Montague was made to stand on a gallows outside the Northampton courthouse with a rope around his neck for one hour. He was also fined 50 pounds on the spot, and another 200 pounds in surety to behave himself for five years.

Harvey was accused of his role in Shay’s Rebellion, the first and only armed action taken by western Massachusetts towns against a seemingly indifferent and hostile capital city of Boston. It is unclear if Harvey was actually part of the culmination of the Rebellion, a march on the arsenal in Springfield to confiscate its weapons.

But he was a hothead, with a sharp tongue. Prior to the Revolution, Harvey led a group of 1,500 men to the Springfield courts to shut down the quarterly session of the Court of Common Pleas in protest of an act that put full judicial control under the royal governor, so that towns could no longer set rules for themselves. He harangued the Springfield court to demand an end to state tax policies.

Seth Catlin of Deerfield was an officer of the court charged with opening the doors for the quarterly session, and it was recorded that he was much abused by Harvey. Catlin was not off the hook, as two weeks later, Harvey showed up at Catlin’s tavern with a group of supporters, and made Catlin get down on his knees and ask forgiveness.

**The rebellion had the support of prominent, relatively wealthy families and town leaders – depending on the town.**

Moses Harvey was a founding member of the Leverett Baptist church, which parted with the Congregational church because of the tax it imposed to support its minister. Moses’s father Samuel, also a Baptist rebel, did the same and was levied a cow, a calf, and a yoke of oxen to pay for the support of the Congregational preacher, Mr. Nash. (This was much more than the fine hog Major Richard Montague of Leverett was “mulcted” by the constable for the same offense.)

The movement that came to be known as Shay’s Rebellion had economic grievances at its root. During the Revolution, the colonies were unable to keep up with the taxes the Continental Congress requested, and it was forced to print paper money with no reserves to back it up. It paid soldiers with this money.

At the Revolution’s end, Mas-



Portrait of Moses Harvey.  
Art courtesy Bryant White,  
[www.whitehistoricalart.com](http://www.whitehistoricalart.com).  
Used with permission.

sachusetts owed \$41,500,000. To pay this debt, the Commonwealth increased taxes – over 1,000%, between 1774 and 1786 – to one-third of people’s income. It used the poll or head tax that fell on all citizens, regardless of income: If you were a man, you were taxed. If you had a horse, you were taxed. The poll was four times higher in Massachusetts than New Hampshire.

Many of the poor farmers and homesteaders who had served as colonial soldiers under Britain, and then as patriots against the British, had little time to earn a living. At the same time, the value of the Continental dollar had collapsed – merchants refused the currency, which by 1780 was trading at \$40 to a single cent in gold and silver. A popular put down of the time was “not worth a Continental.”

Boston simply turned a deaf ear to the hardships of the rural west, who felt their tax money was being used to pay debts owed to wealthy merchants and lawyers living on the coast.

One of the rebel leaders, Daniel Gray of Pelham, clarified the difficulties in western Massachusetts in a 1786 piece for a brand-new newspaper called the *Hampshire Gazette*. Those who spoke out against the taxes could easily get thrown in jail, as the writ of Habeas Corpus was suspended. The law, the Sheriffs, Constables and Justices of the Peace were given unlimited power, and they could prosecute with abandon, in deeds “perhaps wholly actuated from a principle of revenge, hatred and envy,” in Gray’s words.

The rebellion had the support of prominent, relatively wealthy families and town leaders – depending on the town. In Amherst, the key family was the Dickinsons. Nineteen men from that family, as well as seven who married into it, took up arms against the government; all told, one fourth of all the Amherst rebels were connected in one way or another to the Dickinsons.

Of the 110 Pelham men who marched behind Daniel Shays, twenty in one way or another were members of the Gray family.

see SHAY’S page B3

## Homage to Dutch Masters of Paint

By JOE KWIECINSKI

MONTAGUE – James Whitbeck works in a well-stocked studio he built some 125 feet away from his house, right near the Connecticut River. The painter started using this specialized artist’s work area about eight years ago.

As he leads the visitor down the hill toward the studio, James Whitbeck leans back his head and laughs, “Other than if I worked in my house, I have as short a commute as I could ask for.”

Whitbeck’s paintings are exquisite. He describes the style as “traditional realism done in the 17th century Dutch manner, using techniques that 17th century Dutch painters were using. Because I wanted my paintings to have the same feel as the old paintings, I wanted to learn the true, authentic techniques.”

One of the signature techniques is glazing, applying thin layers of oil paint, one upon the other. The painting is loosely painted in some areas and thickly in others, enabling



“Ancient Feast,” by Whitbeck, an oil painting in the style of Dutch Masters.

the viewer to get a sense of depth in the painting.

James, now 42, thanks his parents Jim and Bev for playing such an important role in his artistic development. “My parents were always giving my brothers, Matt and Ben, and me exposure to the arts,

such as trips to museums along with their ongoing encouragement to be creative.”

Whitbeck’s first job was as a tile artist for Joe McCarthy in Greenfield. Next, the Greenfield Center School graduate worked for custom

see PAINTER page B5

## Not Just Another Mirror!

By JULIE CUNNINGHAM

DEERFIELD – The behind-the-scenes work of curators like Christine Ritok is what enables museums like Historic Deerfield to display beautiful antique pieces for the public to enjoy.

Ritok said it takes teamwork and some awesome restoration to get the quality of work displayed in the most recent addition to the *Into the Woods: Crafting Early American Furniture* exhibit at the Flynt Center of Early New England Life. The early nineteenth century mirror, which she attributes to George Smith, has been on display at the Flynt Center since September 2015.

“It took a bit of detective work to find the origins of this piece,” said Ritok.

Curators like Ritok refer to the origins of an antique as the connoisseurship. In this case, Ritok used a little gut intuition, a little experience, and some teamwork to discern where this particular antique was

made and who made it.

“This was an expensive piece to make,” Ritok explained. “I had to think about where in the United States people could afford this sort of work.”

Ritok was able to use her knowledge and experience in New York City to rule out that location. Then she thought about the other possible cities that could create such a work of art. She considered Boston, she said, but her break came when she came upon an advertisement for a Baltimore furniture maker.

George Smith was a furniture maker in that area, and he had a

see MIRROR page B4

*An early nineteenth-century mirror restored by Hugh Glover, the newest addition to the exhibit Into the Woods: Crafting Early American Furniture at the Flynt Center in Historic Deerfield. The bald eagle at the top of the mirror is a tribute to America, according to curator Christine Ritok.*



CUNNINGHAM PHOTO



POLLY FRENCH ILLUSTRATION

## WEST ALONG THE RIVER:

### JANUARY COLD, JANUARY COMFORT

By DAVID BRULE

ERVINGSIDE – So far this winter, unlike many others before, we find ourselves still waiting patiently for a real snow, promised by the time you read this. The cold that we are expecting is coming too, for sure.

*Cold frozen January next comes in  
Chilling the blood and shrinking  
the skin...  
The day much longer than before,  
The cold not lessened but  
augmented more...*

So wrote Puritan poet Anne Bradstreet (1612-1672), shortly after arriving in Massachusetts in 1632. It’s safe to say that January has little changed since her poems were written, so long ago.

Outside now in 2016, windblown jays drop down in the gray morning,

swirling as in a snow globe, blue floating in the air, with a dash of red cardinal as accent and exclamation point in the stark lilac branches.

Reading poems like the seasonal one above evoke lyrical images on cold mornings such as this. Today I take my poetry along with the first

of many hundreds of cups of coffee there will be in the coming year, rich coffee laced with chicory in the French Market style of sunny New Orleans. Which poets go best with the jays and wind today? Some lines from James Merrill, Maxine Kumin, snow poems by Longfellow and Emily Dickinson are right for this blustery Monday.

The new Siberian husky pup, nose tucked into tail, curled up snow dog style, shelters patiently near my feet on the back porch waiting for a run through our ancestral woods, once the coffee and poetry session finished.

His waiting and my musings are

see WEST ALONG page B4



*Accipiter cooperii* – Cooper’s hawk.

LOUIS AGASSIZ FUERTES ILLUSTRATION



# Pets of the Week

I am Ginger. I'm best friends with Polkadot - please adopt us together for the same price as taking one bunny home! We're so good together!

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4. We want to play when you do.

Whatever reasons you have, bringing a bunny into your home can be a wonderful and rewarding experience. And choosing to adopt a bunny gives a homeless bunny a forever home.

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



“GINGER & POLKADOT”(BEST FRIENDS!)

## Senior Center Activities JANUARY 18 to 22

### 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 1/18**  
8:30 Foot Clinic Appointments  
Noon Pot Luck & Bingo  
**Tuesday 1/19**  
9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga  
1 p.m. Knitting Circle  
**Wednesday 1/20**  
12:45 p.m. Bingo  
**Thursday 1/21**  
9 a.m. Tai Chi, Veterans Outreach  
10 a.m. Coffee & Conversation  
1 p.m. Cards & Games  
**Friday 1/22**  
1 p.m. Writing Group

### WENDELL

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

### ERVING

Erving Senior Center, 1 Care Drive, Erving, is open Monday

through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for activities and congregated 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 1/18**  
9 a.m. Tai Chi  
10 a.m. Osteo Exercise  
**Tuesday 1/19**  
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics  
10 a.m. Stretching & Balance  
12:30 p.m. Friends Meeting  
**Wednesday 1/20**  
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing  
10 a.m. Chair Yoga  
Noon Bingo, Snacks  
**Thursday 1/21**  
8:45 Aerobics  
10 a.m. Healthy Bones  
12:30 p.m. Card Games  
**Friday 1/22**  
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](mailto:coa@leverett.ma.us).

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

MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

Montague Meetings & TFHS Basketball

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

Here's hoping that everybody's new year has been off to a good start. MCTV staff have been busy at work to bring the following videos to a screen near you:

- Montague selectboard meeting, January 4: Agenda items this week included a public hearing on the FY'16 Community Development Block Grant application and a grant application for the 1676 Great Falls Archaeological research project. 1 hr, 41 min.
- Boys Basketball: TFHS vs Tech, December 21: Relive this benefit basketball game from the comfort of your TV! Complete with play-by-play announcing. 1 hr, 23 min.
- Montague finance committee meeting, January 6: Gain insight

into the decisions affecting financial matters in the town of Montague. 1 hr, 45 min.

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

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

## Saturday, January 23: Zydeco Connection Brings the Good Times to Wendell!

Zydeco Connection has been bringing the irresistible sounds and infectious rhythms of zydeco from Louisiana to New England since 2004.

Dominated by the button or piano accordion and a form of washboard called the rub board, Zydeco is guaranteed to get your toes tapping with a spicy mix of waltzes, two-steps, blues, and boogie woogie.

Zydeco has its origins in Cajun music, incorporating the sounds of Rhythm & Blues, adding electric guitar and bass and drums to get its unique blend of driving rhythms.

Zydeco Connection is Lil Cyn Rose on accordion,

Eileen Almeida on rub board and lead vocals, David Leblanc on bass, Michael Rose on drums, and Lawrence Ochs, Rolland Pierre, John Leblanc on guitar.

The Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse is located in Old Town Hall in the center of Wendell, offering a lively night out for music, fun and dance; always in support of a good cause.

Come experience the Valley's only Dessert-O-Rama in an affordable family-friendly venue!

Open Mic begins at 7:30. For Open Mic sign-up, directions and further information, please visit our website: [www.wendellfullmoon.org](http://www.wendellfullmoon.org).



By FRED CICETTI

*Q. I seem to get diarrhea more often now than I used to when I was younger. Any ideas why?*

Before I offer you some general information about diarrhea, I urge you to see a doctor for a diagnosis. As I tell everyone who writes to me, I'm a journalist, not a physician.

Diarrhea is caused by bacteria, viruses, parasites, certain foods, medicines and diseases. Diarrhea is a common malady that usually lasts a day or two and goes away without treatment.

Here's a question for you. Ever notice how often diarrhea is mentioned as a side effect in the package inserts for medicines?

Seniors often get diarrhea from medicine. This is a complex subject. The first issue is that seniors take a lot more medicine than younger people. The average older person takes more than four prescription

THE HEALTHY GEEZER

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drugs and two over-the-counter drugs daily. The high intake of medicine increases the odds that one or more of these medicines could give you diarrhea.

Older people have more health problems, and these add to the mix of potential causes of diarrhea. Older bodies process drugs slowly so that they tend to stay in our bodies longer. And some drugs work differently on older people.

Then there are the problems of drug-drug interactions and overdoses because we take so much medicine and retain it in our systems.

Diarrhea can be much more than an inconvenience. Diarrhea causes dehydration, which can be lethal to older people. With the fluid you lose from diarrhea, you also lose salts that your body needs. Diarrhea can make a victim pass more than a quart of watery stools a day.

Dehydration symptoms include thirst, reduced urination, dark urine, dry skin, fatigue, dizziness, fainting.

You should see a doctor if your diarrhea lasts more than 3 days, or if you have dehydration symptoms, severe abdominal or rectal pain, a fever of 102°F or higher, or blood in your stools.

In many cases of diarrhea, the only treatment needed is replacing

lost fluid and salts. Adults should consume broth, non-citrus fruit juices, flat ginger ale and ice pops.

As your condition improves, you can start eating bananas, plain rice, boiled potatoes, toast, crackers, cooked carrots. Smaller meals are recommended because they're easier to digest.

When you have diarrhea, avoid dairy products, fat, high-fiber foods, sweets, spicy foods, carbonated beverages, chewing gum, caffeine, and any food or beverage that is hot.

It is common to get diarrhea when visiting a foreign country. It's so common that the medical community has a name for it: traveler's diarrhea.

The following are some tips for avoiding diarrhea away from home.

**DON'T...**

- Drink tap water
- Use ice cubes made from tap water.
- Drink unpasteurized milk or dairy products made from it.
- Eat raw fruits and vegetables
- Eat meat or fish unless it is well-cooked and served hot
- Eat food sold by street vendors.

*If you want to ask a question, write to [fred@healthygeezers.com](mailto:fred@healthygeezers.com)*

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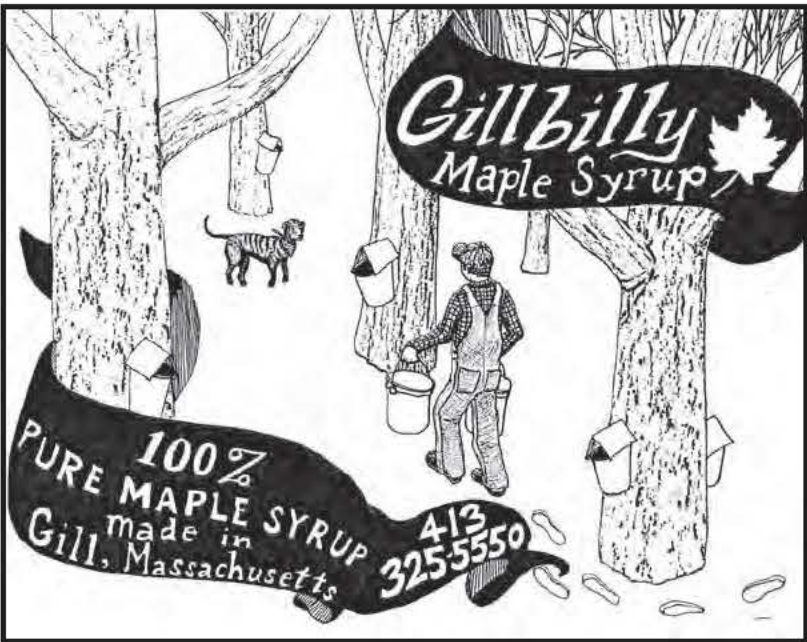
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SHAY’S from page B1

Daniel Gray, the richest man in town, was also a deacon of the church, and frequently elected selectman and town moderator.

But Hadley and Northampton elites did not follow suit, with little support shown for the movement by prominent town leaders.

Boston government became nervous when regional courthouses were once again stormed. Robert Gross’ piece “A Yankee Rebellion?” in the *New England Quarterly* (March 2009) includes the account of Aaron Broad of Holden, who vowed to sacrifice himself for the cause: “I am determined to fight and spill my blood and leave my bones at the Court House till the Resurrection.”

The Northampton insurgents were led by a “disappointed and disaffected clergyman by the name of Ely for a leader, who understood all the arts of a demagogue.”

The group assembled in Springfield in September 1786, blocking the entrance to the courthouse. Harvey again faced Catlin, who twelve years ago had been a British loyalist, and now represented the force of order and taxation under a new government. A riot was prevented by the intervention of influential citizens.

In response to the spread of the rebellion that winter, the Commonwealth issued a requirement called

the Oath of Allegiance, and town leaders needed to sign it or face the consequences. Moses Harvey did not sign his name to the allegiance, but his brother, Philip Harvey of Montague, did.

Although all towns in western Massachusetts provided signatures, it is likely and probable that family members of the signers were active supporters of the rebellion. Support for the rebellion is not something prominently touted in family genealogies or town histories.

If the head counts on some of the rabbles, mobs, and agitations are real, it was a large group of people in various locations. Northampton and Springfield are pinpointed as ground zero, but the Regulars were also closing courts in locations much closer to Boston.

Moses Harvey suffered humiliation only on the gallows that spring, and he lived on his land in Montague until his death in 1795. He may have been saved by an election. The execution of the Regulars, as the rebels were known, was vigorously promoted by Samuel Adams, Governor Bowdoin, and many prominent Bostonians.

But that spring, John Hancock was elected governor, and he pardoned most of the rebels. Had Bowdoin remained in leadership, Montague’s Moses Harvey may well have hung from the gallows.



The home of Captain Daniel Shays in Pelham, taken not long before it was destroyed by the flooding of the land for the Quabbin Reservoir.

MONTAGUE CRYPTOJAM !!!

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Loose Horse; Unshoveled Sidewalks; Corolla Stuck In A Snowbank: Town Residents Getting Even Closer To Writing Perfect Country Song

Monday, 1/4

8:01 a.m. Caller reports that he just saw two parties assault each other near Fourth Street/Fifth Street then get into vehicles and leave. Plate information obtained. Officer checked area; unable to locate.

8:49 a.m. Colin D. York, 27, of Lake Pleasant was arrested.

3:59 p.m. Caller from F.L. Roberts advises that a female party has been in the bathroom for over 20 minutes; female entered bathroom after having an argument with someone and now has not come out. Caller concerned for female’s well being. Officer advises female had misplaced a few items and was in the bathroom looking through all her belongings in an attempt to locate them.

10:15 p.m. Caller advising of loose horse on the side of Turners Falls Road north of Montague Center. Referred to an officer.

Tuesday, 1/5

10:41 a.m. Report of an unshoveled sidewalk on Coolidge Avenue. Officer will try to contact homeowners.

6:19 p.m. Caller from L Street requests to speak with an officer regarding shopping carts being left in the area. Caller unsure how to rectify situation; if she should be calling the store that the carts belong to, or making a complaint to the police. Officer spoke to party and advised her of options.

Wednesday, 1/6

8:21 a.m. Report of a Toyota Corolla stuck on a three foot tall snowbank in the Farren Care Center parking lot; vehicle appears to have been there all night. Found contact number for registered owner, who advises that his fiancée was using the vehicle this morning. Fiancée called registered owner to tell him that she accidentally hit the accelerator instead of the brake, and that is how the car ended up on the snowbank. A friend who has tow equipment will be coming this afternoon to remove the vehicle.

9:18 a.m. Structure fire on Third Street: first 911 caller reported smoke and flames coming from ceiling/roof. TFFD and officers advised and responding. Second 911 caller reported flames showing; did not know if anyone was still in the building. Third 911 caller was a resident from across the

street; observed flames showing from side of building near wooded area. Eversource advised; DPW put on standby. MedCare requested for one party complaining of smoke inhalation. Avenue A shut down from Second Street to Third Street. State police on scene. Fire marshal responding. Berkshire Gas on scene. Chief Dodge on scene. TFFD requesting DPW with sand. Detective off at Baystate Franklin Medical Center with fire marshal. Red Cross arrived at station.

1:04 p.m. Report of a mangy looking coyote near the capped landfill on Sandy Lane; has been hanging around for the past hour. Caller advises that four wheel drive will be needed to get through to the area where the coyote is. Contacted environmental police dispatch; nearest officer is in Pittsfield. MPD officer checked area including woods; unable to locate.

2:57 p.m. Report of suspicious activity; caller observed a male party dump fluid out of a Mason jar. In the past, caller has seen this party engaging in what appeared to be drug activity. Officer off on foot in alley between Fourth and Fifth Streets; found male party had been transporting a friend back and forth to Greenfield today to help fix friend’s car.

3:53 p.m. Caller complaining of male party again working on a vehicle in the public lot on Fourth Street; reports that this is a common occurrence. Right now, tire is off vehicle. Caller also advises that this party disposes of antifreeze by the dumpster for her building. Referred to an officer.

9:23 p.m. Two 911 calls advising of vehicle rollover on Millers Falls Road. Vehicle is on roof, unknown injuries; two children, one dog, and adult female still inside. TFFD and Medcare advised. All parties out of vehicle; three parties transported to ER. Officer advises yaw marks 266.4 feet; 56.1 feet airborne; 28.2 feet airborne again to final rest. Officer request check with TFFD to see if they had removed any car seats or booster seats from vehicle; they had not. Vehicle towed. Mother of involved on scene to pick

up dog and house keys. Female transported from hospital to MPD; no bail. Immediate threat faxed.

was arrested and charged with operating under the influence of liquor; child endangerment while under the influence; driving as to endanger; failure to operate a motor vehicle within marked lanes; speeding; carrying a dangerous weapon; child 5-12 without a seatbelt; and no inspection sticker.

Thursday, 1/7

8:10 a.m. Report of an unshoveled sidewalk on Turners Falls Road. Caller expressed concern for children who walk to school and older pedestrians who walk in the area. Officer spoke with homeowner, who advised s/he just returned home from vacation yesterday and will attend to the issue.

12:04 p.m. Officer spoke with a subject who emerged from the area of Railroad Salvage. Subject advised against being in that area.

1:14 p.m. DPW employee advises that the sick looking coyote that was called in yesterday has been in the same general area again today. Officer checking; area search negative.

2:27 p.m. Report of unshoveled sidewalk at corner of Montague Street and Stevens Street. Officer left copy of town bylaw in the door of the residence.

6:45 p.m. was arrested and charged with operating under the influence of liquor (2nd offense); failure to use care in starting/stopping turning or backing; and operating to endanger.

6:48 p.m. Caller reports that their tenant on L Street had their apartment broken into today between noon and 1 p.m. Husband observed white female, thin, with “marks all over her face” leaving the apartment. Tenant advises they are missing cell phone, \$200, and other items. Report taken.

8:48 p.m. Officer reports that the lights at Seventh Street and Avenue A in the northbound direction are not changing in a timely manner. Message left for DPW.

Friday, 1/8

4:48 a.m. Caller from Third Street complains of noise coming from

neighboring apartment: stomping, banging, and loud voices since midnight. Caller advises this is an ongoing issue. Officer spoke to involved parties. The noise was reportedly from the pots and pans they were using to cook. Parties advised of complaint.

7:43 a.m. Multiple calls reporting a two vehicle accident involving a school bus at Millers Falls Road and Grand Avenue. No injuries. Operator of passenger vehicle found to be at fault. Summons issued; immediate threat filed.

10:08 a.m. Realtor requesting to meet officer at one of the properties he represents on G Street. Potential buyer reported to him that someone shot up the siding and windows of the house with a pellet gun. Damage discovered last night. Officer observed damage to right rear of building. Report taken.

Saturday, 1/9

8:32 a.m. Copied via radio; state police en route to French King Bridge for an elderly male who is on the bridge. Gill is also en route. Officer located party, who did have plan to jump from bridge; en route to Baystate Franklin Medical Center with Erving PD for evaluation.

6:10 p.m. Caller from Rite Aid advising of male party who causes a disturbance in the store; male came in approximately 5-10 minutes ago attempting to return items he did not purchase. Male often comes to store to do this: digs through trash to find a cash receipt greater than \$10, then finds the items in the store and attempts to return them. Store has this activity on camera. Male party was very angry about this today; has left to go to the Greenfield store. Caller has already spoken to that store and to Greenfield PD. Caller advised to call back right away if male returns. Officer advised of call.

10:45 p.m. Caller wishing to remain anonymous complaining of loud music coming from Hubie’s Tavern on Avenue A. Upon clearing, officer advises he has spoken with owner; band was inside and had stopped prior to officer arrival.

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## LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was January 12, 2006: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

### Agawam Firm Rumored to Bid for Esleeck

William Blanker, chairman of the Esleeck Manufacturing Company refused to comment yesterday on persistent rumors that his company had been sold to Southworth Company of Agawam. When asked, Blanker said simply, "It is not something I could comment on."

But interviews with half a dozen company employees and town officials say the deal is all but done, and an announcement is expected imminently.

If true, the larger, family-owned Agawam paper manufacturer, which has been in operation since 1839, would be acquiring, not merging, with Esleeck, which has been turning out quality paper on the power canal in Turners Falls since 1900.

### Principals Seek Expanded Evacuation Zone

The principals of the Sheffield and Gill elementary schools came before the Gill Montague school

committee to ask for formal help in dealing with evacuation planning for district schools in the event of an accident at Vermont Yankee.

Bob Mahler, principal of Gill Elementary School, eight miles from the reactor core, addressed the committee with Chip Wood, principal of Sheffield School, thirteen miles from the reactor. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission requires evacuation plans within a 10-mile radius of operating reactors.

Wood told the committee, "The selectboard in Brattleboro is taking steps to put a non-binding referendum on the town meeting ballot to improve evacuation plans for Vermont Yankee. The towns of Guilford, Marlboro, and Dummerston have all agreed to include similar questions on their own town meeting warrants.

"We are asking you to urge the selectboards in Gill and Montague to put a question to work on improved evacuation plans for the citizens of the Gill Montague district, especially the children, on their town meeting warrants as well."

### New Trash Cans on Avenue A

Beautification efforts in Turners Falls are picking up in the New Year with the introduction of new all weather trash cans. Formerly, the trash cans on the Avenue and been put in storage each winter, because they were hard to empty when covered with snow and ice.

According to town administrator Frank Abbondanzio, the streetscape committee that formed in the spring of 2005 asked that trash barrels be kept out in the winter to help combat the downtown litter problem.

Now dog owners should find it easier to deal with their particular waste disposal needs all winter long.

### MIRROR from page B1

shipment of looking glass advertised around 1802. During that time, looking glass was manufactured and shipped from England. The advertisement, along with a partial, but legitimate, label on the back of the mirror led Ritok to believe this is indeed a piece created by Smith.

Using wood, spruce, sylvestris pine, basswood, gilding, glass, and gesso, Smith was able to create a visually stunning mirror that would have been displayed in the old style of alternating windows and glass mirrors.

"There was a rhythm to the furniture in that time. This mirror would



Curator Christine Ritok in front of the early nineteenth-century mirror. The mirror is part of the George Alfred Cluett collection at the Flynt Center, located in Historic Deerfield.

have been displayed alongside a window, which would have brightened the room," said Ritok.

To show what a difference proper restoration makes, Ritok pointed to another mirror on display at the Flynt Center. "See the difference in the paint?" She asked. "This is how they restored things earlier in the 20th century. Now, they use a combination of oil and water gilding."

The mirror, displayed as part of the George Alfred Cluett collection, stands apart from the gentleman's secretary and table it is displayed with. "We have about three-fourths of that collection," said the curator. The rest is either in other museums or part of a private collection. "It's important to keep a collection together as much as possible."

In this case, two curators at Historic Deerfield, Phill Zea and Peter Spang, were able to view the house where the mirror was originally displayed, and have a good visual memory of how things looked. Spang was hired by Henry and Helen Flynt as the original guide at the museum, and Zea is currently the president. Henry and Helen started the collection of antiques that has become an entire village of historical life dating back as far as the pre-revolutionary war era.

Pieces like the ones displayed in the Flynt Center come from various parts of the United States and vary in the time period in which they were created. What Ritok finds striking about this particular mirror is the majestic gold eagle at the top of the piece.

"What a beautifully, finely carved eagle. This is a celebration of American identity," said Ritok.

During the winter months of January, February, March, and the first half of April, the Flynt Center and Frary House remain open on weekends only. The rest of the museum will re-open on Patriots Day weekend. Visitors can purchase tickets at the ticket desk at the Flynt Center from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



### WEST ALONG from page B1

interrupted by the knifing flight of the murderous Cooper's hawk diving through the air of the back yard. How he can manage to catch his breakfast is beyond me, since the band of jays sounded the alarm several seconds before he sliced through the yard.

Today he had to be satisfied with watching the little birds hunkered down in the brush and brambles. He shakes his tail in frustration, glares at the sparrows who don't care to become his meal this morning. This male hawk, more colorful and actually smaller than his brownish mate, soon wings off through the woods, threading the needle through the trees on his way to the frozen marsh and better hunting.

Shortly, the sparrows venture back out of the brush pile and begin their usual morning feeding, the English ones squabbling and cheery, leap in and out of the pans of water set out for them, while the more subdued song and white-throated sparrows work their quiet way through the garden of weeds we left for them on purpose until spring.

Then one of those visitations happen, likely set in motion by some of the readings: a blue jay yodels as they are wont to do, and suddenly an old German professor friend of mine, who passed away last spring, pays a visit from the other world, thanks to the jay.

Let me explain: the two of us were working in the same language department at the local high school. One winter vacation many years ago, while skiing at Stratton Mountain, he and I unexpectedly crossed paths on the snowy slope. Recognizing me, he yodeled out his Bavarian mountain greeting that still echoes in my mind.

Indefatigable, bustling and wheeler-dealing his whole life, having survived the troubled times of the '30s and World War II in Germany, he sleeps now beside his wife under the Vermont snows after 90 years on this planet. Through the jay's yodel, my old Bavarian mentor sends a good morning greeting from the other side.

Or maybe it was just the jay after all, trying out his many voices.

Just the same, you have to stay open to those kinds of messages.

So, with the return of January, things have gotten simple again, after the headlong rush into the holidays of December. The year's end gives you a sense that you have to finish up, close the books, settle the accounts, pay up, and clear the table before December 31. Then you can move into the new January and the new year with some semblance of clarity and increased simplicity.

The wild things out of doors need the essentials right now: food, drink, shelter. We try to provide those ba-

sics for them the best we can, to get through this together.

For those of us who dwell indoors, the same applies: we welcome winter foods, January foods, like hearty beef stews, barley soup, clam chowder and the like.

Of course, there will be drink for us too, especially in the form of fine whiskies on January's Robert Burns night, some of the bubbly for Capricorn and Aquarius birthdays, and for a January wedding anniversary.

Our shelter is this old house, with its 19th-century windows facing the four directions so that we are reminded to give thanks to the east, west, south, and north upon rising in the winter morning light. Thankful for all things, and thankful to still be here.

I often imagine looking out my windows with my great-grandfather's eyes. He gazed out on the same landscape one hundred and forty years ago, out the same windows, before going forth into the cold to the barn to tend the animals: Bess the milk cow,

Old Dan the draft horse, the chickens in the hay.

He tended the animals and drove the teamster's wagon, that was his job. And I, tending to my own job, pick up my pen to write about all this.

Each of us to our own January chores and thoughts.



### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

## Six Emergencies; Four Hazards; Three Animals

#### Monday, 12/28

12:18 p.m. Assisted with a medical emergency on the French King Highway

#### Tuesday, 12/29

1:51 p.m. Assisted with a medical emergency on Warner Street.

Wednesday, 12/30

4:15 p.m. Assisted with a disabled motor vehicle on Route 2 near Farley Flats.

6:30 p.m. Assisted with a medical emergency near Prospect Heights.

Thursday, 12/31

8:49 a.m. Assisted with a medical emergency on Forest Street.

6:45 p.m. Report of a Christmas tree blocking traffic on Route 2 near State Road. Tree removed by officer.

#### Friday, 1/1

1:15 a.m. Assisted with a medical emergency

on Moore Street.

Sunday, 1/3

6:30 p.m. Assisted with a medical emergency on High Street.

#### Monday, 1/4

11:40 a.m. Assisted a driver locked out of their vehicle at Weatherheads convenience store.

#### Tuesday, 1/5

6:40 a.m. Assisted Northfield Police with motor vehicle crash on Route 63.

#### Wednesday, 1/6

8:40 a.m. [redacted] arrested on a court warrant.

3:10 p.m. Report of a suspicious vehicle at Lillian's Way. Gone upon arrival.

3:40 p.m. Caller reported a suspicious vehicle at Poplar Mountain Road, later found to be hikers looking for parking.

#### Thursday, 1/7

9:40 a.m. Report of UPS truck leaking fuel on Route 2 near Farley Flats. Officer unable to locate.

#### Friday, 1/8

7:50 a.m. One-car motor vehicle accident on Moore Street. Report taken.

2:50 p.m. Report of flames come from chimney at Erving Paper Mill found to be controlled flare burn.

3:35 p.m. Animal control officer called for a loose dog near Moore Street.

7:00 p.m. Report of deceased deer on North Street. Animal control officer alerted.

#### Saturday, 1/9

10:20 a.m. Animal control officer advised of wild animal near a hen house on North Street.

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# Battlefield Grant Scholars Share “Phase 1” with Public

By JEFF SINGLETON

TURNERS FALLS – “I’m very encouraged,” said Joe Graveline, the Northfield representative on the advisory board of the project to study the “Battle of Great Falls,” sometimes called the Turners Falls Massacre of 1676.

“No one source seems to have all the details,” Graveline continued. “Something that might seem disconnected can be a piece of the puzzle. We are asking more questions than we are getting answers, which is the magic.”

The first phase of the federally-funded project to study the events of May 1676 is nearly complete. On Wednesday, January 6, the project’s oversight committee and researchers from the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center discussed the findings of a 220-page Technical Report, as well as plans for the next phase of the project.

The meeting, held in the select-board room on the third floor of Montague’s town hall, was attended by a large crowd of enthusiastic local history buffs. Many seemed well-versed in the events of 1676, obscure seventeenth-century personalities like William Hubbard and Roger L’Estrange who chronicled the massacre, and tribal leaders associated with the Native American insurgency.

The project appears to have encouraged a remarkable amount of independent research on the battle and its context.

Graveline and Howard Clark have been assembling primary sources that document connections between families who originally founded the Massachusetts Bay Colony in Boston and the next generation of English who fought in King Philip’s War. At the January 6 meeting, Clark hung a scroll showing those links on the wall of the selectboard room.

Another group as been gathering evidence on the topography of the area where the battle or massacre took place in 1676. Peter Thomas and his colleagues have produced a preliminary report documenting possible changes in the path of the Connecticut River since the last ice age, and particularly over the last several centuries. At the meeting he held up a sketch of the river and falls in 1676.

The technical report itself begins with a brief history of King Philip’s war, describes the project’s research methods, and then establishes the main areas of the “battlefield” using traditional primary and secondary sources.

The document then proposes a research design for Phase 2 of the project, which will focus on archeological research primarily through the use of metal detectors.

Nearly 100 pages of appendices include a list of the combatants, a detailed (64-page) time line of “contextual events,” and an annotated bibliography. Fourteen pages of primary source excerpts used in the earlier narrative will make this a particularly valuable addition to

town records.

There do not appear to be dramatically new findings gleaned from the primary sources at this point. However the narrative and primary sources seem to diminish somewhat the role of Captain Turner himself. Turner, a Baptist, spent time in a Boston jail for dissenting from the dominant Puritan orthodoxy of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. He was released and sent west to organize the defense of the Connecticut River towns in the spring of 1676.

Turner has been portrayed as a somewhat “out of the box” leader willing to undertake an all-night-march into hostile Indian territory at the Great Falls. He was not your run-of-the-mill seventeenth-century militarist, building forts or besieging them in set piece battles.

This may well be true, but the battlefield study narrative suggests that much of the pressure for an attack at the Great Falls came from settlers themselves. According to the project narrative:

“Around May 13, 1676 [five days before the Falls massacre], native soldiers from the Peskeompsut area raided Hatfield meadows and captured seventy cattle and horses which were driven upriver to the North Deerfield meadows and eventually to the Native communities gathered at Peskeompscut.

“The incident enraged English settlers at Hatfield and other river towns, who had been urging colonial officials to attack the upriver Native settlements for weeks. Many of the English in the Hatfield and Hadley communities were refugees from the destroyed Northfield and Deerfield settlements and harbored a great deal of resentment toward the tribes gathered at the Falls.”

**The battlefield study narrative suggests that much of the pressure for an attack at the Great Falls came from the settlers themselves.**

Settlers and their leaders may also have been frustrated by the lack of action by colonial officials, who were making peace overtures to the tribes. The study quotes a letter from the Reverend John Russell of Hadley to the War Council of Connecticut requesting assistance:

“They (natives) sit by us secure without watch, busy at their harvest worke storing themselves with food for a yeer to fight against us and we let theme alonge to take the full advantage that ye selves would afford them by there wise nor enemy.”

Excerpts like this, part of a longer document reprinted in the appendix, give the reader a sense of English motivations and attitudes, not to mention the difficulties deciphering seventeenth-century spelling and syntax.

(One sidebar not in the battlefield narrative: the Reverend Rus-

## Tuesday at the Brick House: The Phantom Re-Resurfaces



Left to right: Montes, Trujillo; Fleisenberg

By UNPAID INTERN

TURNERS FALLS – Between 2008 and 2010, local promoter Neil Cloaca Young hosted a series of twenty-eight cultural events known as the Montague Phantom Brain Exchange. Each Exchange consisted of one or more bands, a video artist, DJ, and lecturer.

Most of the events were held at the Rendezvous, but they occasionally sprang up at the Brick House, or at the National Spiritual Alliance lodge in Lake Pleasant. Performers, and attendees, came

from far and wide.

Since the termination of the Exchange, a decreasingly frequent series of afterspasms called the Phantom Erratic have taken place. 2015 was Phantomless. But this Tuesday night, January 19, an Erratic will occur at the Brick House, featuring Trio Bajadelphia.

Bajadelphia is comprised of two musicians from Baja California, Mexico, Ivan Trujillo (trumpet; electronics) and Edwin Montes (guitar), and Philadelphia-based percussionist Flandrew Fleisenberg. The three play free improvi-

sations.

Local openers include Greenfield songwriter Lauri McNamara (Egg, Eggs; Ovature; the Carbuncles), debut of Mister Colbymakin; and potentially an additional act, not announced as of press time.

The Brick House, located at 24 Third Street in Turners Falls, is an all-ages, substance free space.

Suggested donations of \$5 to \$10 will go to the touring performers and to support Brick House programming, which includes a teen drop-in center and direct support for local families.

PAINTER from page B1

homes builder Toshi Kashima doing carpentry until 2006.

James’ interest in Dutch painting was first initiated by his wife, Gale, who compiled a Whitbeck family genealogy [Gale Blacksnake, James’ wife, is also featured in this week’s issue of the Reporter on page A1].

“Knowing my Dutch roots,” said the Montague resident, “added another facet to my learning, another form of enthusiasm to push me forward. Arriving in New Amsterdam (New York) in the 1650s, my ancestor, Jan Tommas van Witbeck, traveled up the Hudson River to Fort Orange (Albany) and made a living, buying and selling land.”

Another link on the journey, according to Whitbeck, was his enrollment in classes with Barbara Johnson of Easthampton. Well-established as a fine artist and teacher, Johnson specializes in traditional painting techniques. James studied with her in 2005.

Meanwhile, Whitbeck went to museums and studied books and artists’ catalogs, while he carefully perfected techniques, preparation of oils, etc. This complete delving into a whole new world marked the third segment of his development.

Two of the Montague resident’s favorite inspirations are Jan Ver-

meer and Pieter de Hooch, two of the Dutch Golden Age masters. Painting with utmost care and precision, Vermeer was particularly known for his brilliant use of light. He was forgotten following his death in 1675 but his work was “rediscovered” two centuries later.

Pieter de Hooch, a contemporary of Vermeer, was noted for his domestic scenes that featured open doorways. In addition, de Hooch’s paintings parallel the themes and styles of Vermeer.

In 2005, Whitbeck approached Harrison Gallery in Williamsburg and in 2006, he contacted William Baczek Gallery in Northampton and the now defunct Gallery 267 in Greenfield. All three galleries exhibited James’ work.

Whitbeck met Larry Preston at Baczek’s Gallery and was invited by the successful still life painter to visit the latter’s studio. Preston gave James a list of outdoor art shows – but there was only one remaining for this region that year, in Glastonbury, CT called “Art on the Green” in September.

“Larry took me under his wing,” said Whitbeck, “and gave me an old tent. I loaded up all the paintings I had, went to Glastonbury, and sold seven original oil paintings. So now Gale and I were full into the outdoor art show scene.

We’ve been doing it ever since. It’s a lot of hard work but it’s also a lot of fun.”

In 2007, James’ first full year at outdoor shows, the two visited many ports of call. Included on the list were Rittenhouse Square in Philadelphia; 57th Street (Chicago); Old Town Art School (Chicago); State College, PA; Gracie Square (New York City); Bethesda Row Art Show (Bethesda, MD); Mystic Art Show (Mystic, CT).

Gale is in charge of the painstaking details that enable the traveling show to proceed smoothly. She coordinates the outdoor art show schedules, the hotel reservations, directions, all bookkeeping tasks, sales of paintings, etc. “Gale does a great job with organizing,” said Whitbeck.

After more than a decade painting, why does James still hold it so dear? “I have a profound passion for the past,” he said. “I’ve always been interested in what has come before us. I have a tremendous need to create – stretching the canvas, priming it, making the first sketch, the first strokes of paint. All the way to completion.

“I’m still learning,” said James, 42. “I see the brilliant originals and still wonder how they were able to do it.”



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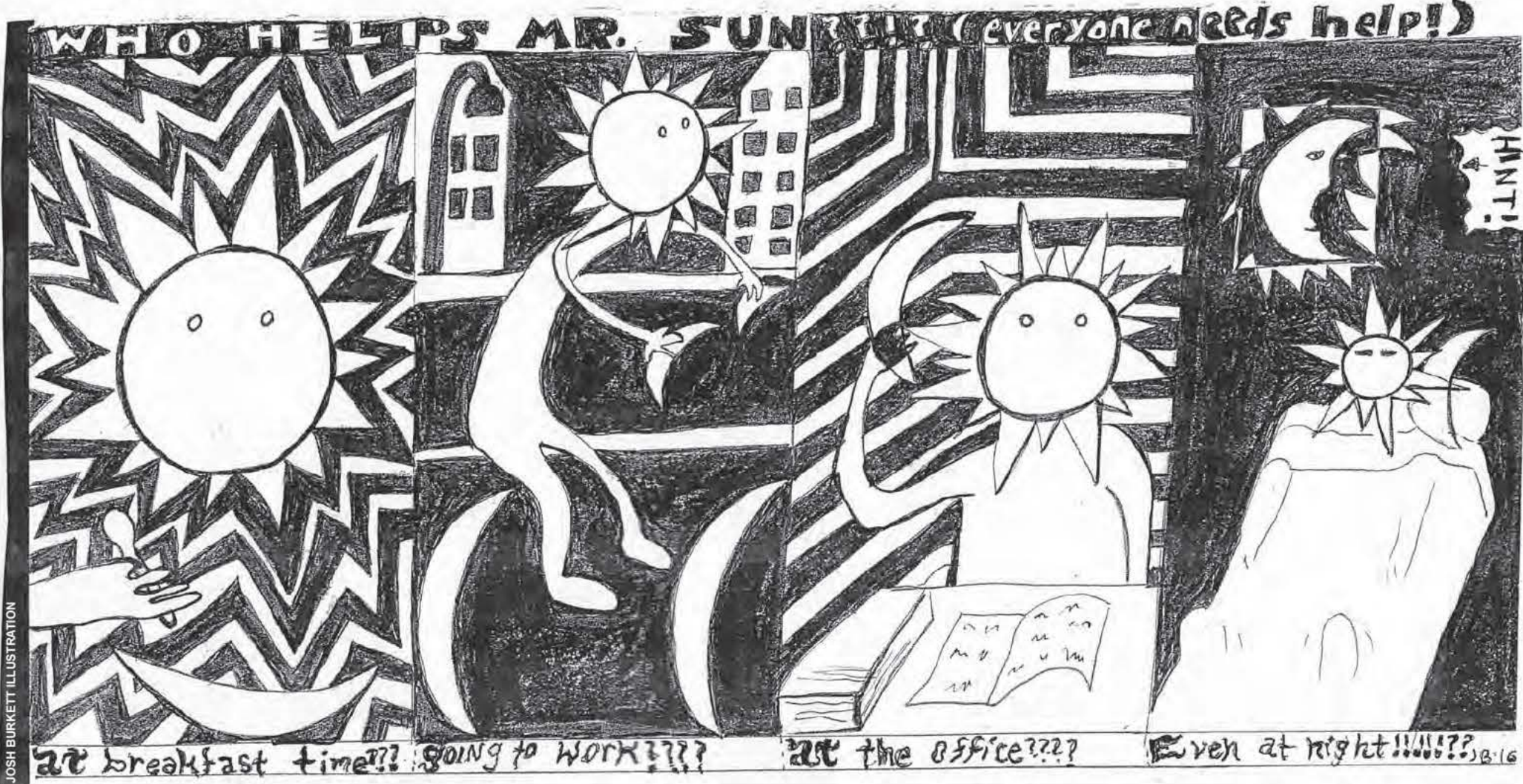
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# Children's Page

★ FAMILY ★



Kakazome is a Japanese tradition! "The first writing" of the new year. So get out your best markers and write your favorite word or poem in your VERY BEST printing!



Thursday, January 14  
Waxing Crescent. Visible in the afternoon & evening. The light points to where the sun went down.



Saturday, January 16  
First Quarter (half moon). Visible in the evening until midnight. See how it looks like a D?



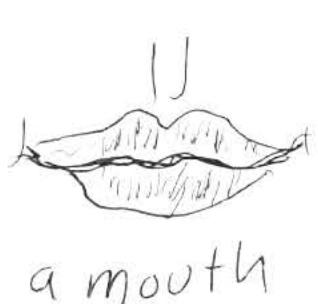
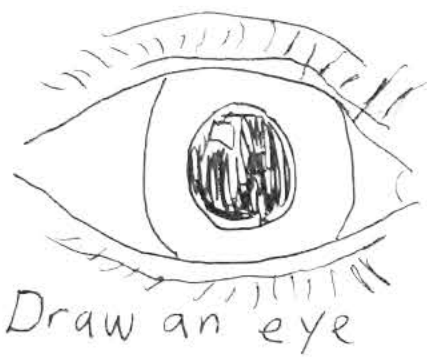
Saturday, January 23 (into Sunday)  
Full Moon! Not close to the sun in our sky at all. Rises after sundown, visible all night!



Sunday January 31  
Last Quarter (Half Moon getting smaller). Rises around midnight, sets in the west around noon.



The moon is getting fuller now (that's called "waxing"). You'll be able to see the moon while the sun is still out, and it will be above the sunset.  
Each day it will appear to move further from the sun until next Saturday, January 23 when it's full. While the moon is getting fuller, it's shaped like a D as in "Daring" with the lighted part always pointing towards the sun.  
When the moon is getting less full, that's called waning, and the moon will be lit from the left, like a letter C as in "Coy."



Next month's Children's Page will have a DRAWING theme!  
Send your drawings to [kids@montaguereporter.org](mailto:kids@montaguereporter.org)! Don't be shy!

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## ARTS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT



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## ONGOING EVENTS:

## EVERY SUNDAY

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

## ONE MONDAY EACH MONTH

Wagon Wheel, 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.

## 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: *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

to create large paper sculptures and installations. See Friday's listings for Gallery Talk and Reception. The exhibit runs until February 17. For more information, please visit [sbschool.org](http://sbschool.org) or call (413) 774-2711.

## 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/1SFZt78](http://bit.ly/1SFZt78) 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.sawmillriv-](http://www.sawmillriv-)



*Mt. Toby Concerts presents Annie Patterson and Peter Blood at Mt. Toby Meeting House, 194 Long Plain Road (Route 63), Leverett. Annie will perform original and traditional tunes, and there will be a sing-along from Rise Again, the second collection of 1,200 songs compiled by Annie and Peter. Saturday, January 16, 7:30 pm,*

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:

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

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.

Geissler Gallery, Stoneleigh-Burnham School. The 2016 Winter Art Exhibition will feature the artwork of Turners Falls artist Fafnir Adamites, who works in feltmaking, papermaking and other traditional craft processes

erarts.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 entries for its April exhibit *Where in Leverett?* at the Leverett Library. Take a photo, draw a picture, write a poem, riddle or paragraph about a place in Leverett. Challenge others to figure out where it is through your work. Bring to the Library by March 15. Submission form available at the library or online ([www.rattlesnakeguttertrust.org](http://www.rattlesnakeguttertrust.org)). Help us create a Scavenger Hunt on the Library Walls!

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

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.

The Art Garden, Shelburne Falls: *Winter: A community Art Exhibit*. All works that relate to the theme of winter will be accepted: painting, poetry, photography, drawing, mixed media, etc. No prior art experience is necessary. Some size restrictions may apply. Please contact us in advance if your work is larger than 3' in any direction. Deadline for submission is 1/20. Exhibit will run 1/30-3/31.

## EVENTS:

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 14

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *The Collected Poets Series*, poetry reading. 7 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Doug Plavin All-Stars* with special guest Richard Chase. 8 p.m.

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 15

Geissler Gallery, Stoneleigh-Burnham: Stoneleigh-Burnham *Becoming Unstuck*, artwork by Turners Falls artist Fafnir Adamites, who will present a gallery talk at 3 p.m. to discuss her work. Reception 6-7:30 p.m. The exhibit runs until February 17. For more information, please visit [sbschool.org](http://sbschool.org).

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Uncle Hal's Crabgrass Band*. 6:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Escape Route* Highly dance-able classic rock. 9 p.m.

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 16

Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: Live at the Met: Bizet's *Les Pêcheurs de Perles*, 12:55 p.m. \$

Mt. Toby Concerts, Leverett: *Annie Patterson and Peter Blood* Original and traditional songs, *Rise Up Singing* sing-a-long. 7:30 p.m. \$

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *The Lonesome Brothers*. "Before there was Americana or Alt/Country or Singer Songwriter or Roots Rock or any of the other record store bin labels of today; when new wave was crashing and hair bands were making video history...there was The Lonesome Brothers." 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Reprobate Blues Band*. Blues Baby Blues! 9 p.m.

Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *Rock 201*, 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Groove Night* w. DJ Drew (hip-hop/funk/r&b) 9:30 p.m.

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 17

Laughing Dog Farm Gill: *Low-tech Winter Gardening* workshop about the practical details of cold weather horticulture. Suggested donation. Reservations: (413) 863-8696. 10 a.m.

Parlor Room, Northampton: *Parlor Room Session with Laurie Lewis and Tom Rozum: California Cultural Exchange*, concert followed by a musician's jam. BYOB. 7 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Lexi Weege. Sassy Jazzy Blues*. 8 p.m.

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 19

Brick House, Turners Falls: Phantom Erratic #7 feat. *Trio Bajadelphia, Mister Colbymakin, Lauri McNamara*, and one more tba. All ages / substance free, 8 p.m., \$

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 21

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



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**Thursday, 1/14 – 8 p.m.**  
Doug Plavin All-Stars

**Friday, 1/15 – 9 p.m.**  
Escape Route

**Saturday, 1/16 – 9 p.m.**  
Reprobate Blues Band

**Sunday, 1/17 – 8 p.m.**  
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**SAT. 1/16 9:30 FREE**  
Groove Night w. DJ Drew  
(hip-hop/funk/r&b)

**SUN 1/17 9pm FREE**  
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## Talk and Exhibit by Fafnir Adamites at the Geissler Gallery

**BERNARDSTON** – Stoneleigh-Burnham School's 2016 Winter Art Exhibition will feature the artwork of Turners Falls artist Fafnir Adamites, who works in felt-making, papermaking and other traditional craft processes to create large paper sculptures and installations.

The exhibition, titled *Becoming Unstuck*, will open on Friday, January 15 in Geissler Gallery at Stoneleigh-Burnham School. Adamites will present a gallery talk at 3 p.m. that day to discuss her work. According to her artist statement:

*Using feltmaking and other traditional craft processes, I create sculptural and installation work that serve as meditations on trauma, memory and the legacy of emotional turmoil inherited from past generations. The theory that anxieties and traumas are embedded in a person's DNA and are then passed down to the next generation is a major motivation in my artwork.*

*Using repetitious processes such as feltmaking allows me to physically engage*

*with and meditate on the concepts I am working with.*

*Material exploration is the starting point for all of my work and plays a key role in building the conceptual backing of each piece.*

Adamites graduated from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst with a BA in Women's Studies and Photography in 2001. In May 2015, she earned her MFA in Fiber and Material Studies from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Visit Adamites online: [fafniradamites.com](http://fafniradamites.com).

A reception will be held that evening from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Both the gallery talk and reception are free and open to the public. The exhibit runs until February 17, 2016.

The Geissler Gallery is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. and is located at 574 Bernardston Road, Greenfield. For more information, please visit [sbschool.org](http://sbschool.org) or call (413) 774-2711.

## SMITH 45 - TFHS 29

By MATT ROBINSON

On Thursday, January 7, the Turners Falls Girls Basketball team traveled to Hatfield to play Smith Academy.

Smith jumped out to a 16-8 lead after 1. The second period was low scoring, with a combined total of 8 points for both teams, and at the half, the score was 21-11.

Smith outscored Turners by 10 in the third, and increased their lead to 33-13. Turners put up 16 points to Smith's 12 in the last quarter, and the final score was 45-29.

Maddy Chmyzinski, Blue's top scorer, tried her best to turn the game around, but was called for charging fouls when she went to the hoop. She ended with 7 points.

Nadia Hasan and Abigail Loynd contributed 5 points each. Dabney Rollins and Aliyah Sanders both put up 4.

Jordan Meattey got 2, and Jordyn Fiske and Lexi Lacey each sank a foul shot.



DAVID HOIT PHOTO

*Jordan Meattey (23) takes a shot as a Smith Academy player attempts to block.*

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