



LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

# The Montague Reporter

also serving Erving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

YEAR 12 – NO. 13

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JANUARY 16, 2014

## MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

### Board Battles Over Colonial “Battlefield” Study Grant

By JEFF SINGLETON

Monday’s meeting of the Montague Selectboard convened before a packed house, and it was not in response to public art in the planters on Avenue A. The issue was a “Battlefield Restoration Grant” application, which was due to be submitted in two days to the National Park Service.

The grant would fund a study of the “Battle of Turners Falls,” an attack initiated by colonial militia on an Indian encampment during King Phillips War.

The grant was in fact a resubmission of a grant that had been rejected by NPS last spring, mainly because the applicants neglected to secure the support of the Massachusetts

Historical Commission in Boston.

For this round, The Massachusetts Historical Commission has endorsed the application. The town of Montague is the official applicant, although the project is being coordinated by a committee headed by David Brule.

So why the controversy? The grant has been opposed by Selectboard chair Mark Fairbrother, who has been highly critical of the alliance between the town and Indian activists. The alliance was initiated by a “reconciliation ceremony” to commemorate what was then called the “Turners Falls massacre.”

That ceremony led to an agreement between tribal leaders and the town, but also led to a good deal of

see GRANT page A3



SAWYER-LAUÇANNO PHOTO

It is believed that most of the battle, or massacre, took place on land above the Great Falls that is now underwater due to the dam, and in what is now Gill.

### Greg Ellis, 31, Mourned By A Town Too Familiar With Grief

By DAVID DETMOLD

TURNERS FALLS – Greg Ellis, 31, of 175 Avenue A, died in an early morning car crash at the intersection of Deerfield Street and Cheapside in Greenfield on Saturday morning at about 1:15 a.m.

Ellis, who worked at Home Depot, lost control of his vehicle while turning left onto Cheapside and collided head on with a van driven by Cammy Thurber of Greenfield. Neither Thurber nor a passenger in her van were injured in the collision.

Ellis was pronounced dead on arrival at Baystate Franklin Medical Center following the accident, which took place as road conditions became more treacherous, with temperatures hovering at the freezing point, and fog rising.

In addition to his four-year-old son, Anthony, for whom Ellis was the sole custodial parent, and who was by all accounts the light of Ellis’ life, Greg left a grieving community of friends and family in Turners Falls and throughout the area.

Friends spent much of Saturday reacting to the news of his unex-



Ellis and his son, Anthony.

pected death with shock and sorrow, and tributes to the spirit of a man who touched so many with his courteous, generous nature.

“I met Greg through my son, Gabe,” said Veda Mason-Hillman, reminiscing at the Rendezvous on Third Street in Turners Falls, at what became an impromptu wake for Ellis on Saturday afternoon. Gabe Mason, an Iraq War veteran who died in 2008 at age 24, had worked as a cook at the Voo.

Mason befriended Ellis, whom he met when Ellis was walking on the side of the road, and Mason stopped to ask if he needed a ride.

“Hey, dude, what are you doing?” Mason asked him, as his mother recalled.

“I’m running away,” Ellis reportedly replied.

“Well, hop in.” And so they became fast friends.

see ELLIS page A5

### GMRSD To Hire In-House Business Manager

By PATRICIA PRUITT

GILL-MONTAGUE – The GMRSD school committee returned from a lengthy holiday break on January 14 and, in the course of their first meeting of the year, showed signs of many important changes to come in the district. Among them will be a return to an in-house business manager.

Superintendent Michael Sullivan asked the committee to consider whether the district should continue with the outside consulting firm, The Management Solution, as its business manager or seek a full-time, in-house school business and operations manager.

His Business Office Task Force, which included Misty Lyons from the school committee as well as principals and other department heads, reached a consensus that it was time to seek a full time, in-house business manager.

The TMS contract ends in June, and its personnel are in the district only two days a week, which leaves much of the oversight of departments to the superintendent.

The committee agreed that it was time to return to having school business managed on site. With the exception of one abstention, the

see GMRSD page A3

### Leverett School Contract Approved

By CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUÇANNO

After working without a contract since the end of August of 2013, the Leverett Education Association has finally reached an agreement with the School Committee on contract terms for the next two years. According to School Committee Chair, Catherine Brooks, the approved contract agreement covers both the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 school years.

Because of deadlock in the fall, a mediation session was necessary to get agreement from both sides. But according to Brooks, it only took one session. “We left the table with an agreement,” said Brooks.

In the new contract, teachers and aides will receive a modest cost of living allowance (COLA)

each year (retroactive to September 1, 2013). For the first year the increase will be 1.75 percent; for the 2014-2015 school year, the raise is two percent.

Brooks said she was “very pleased to have the matter settled.” She also said that the committee was glad that it was a two-year contract as it gives everyone time to move forward. “We’re happy to have both this year and next year in place.”

There are some additional slight changes from the previous contract to the current one. Some contract language has been changed, particularly regarding family and medical leave policies.

These provisions were altered to be consistent with state and federal laws. Also new is a policy outlining precisely how on-line courses can count toward salary

advancement.

The agreement also puts in place a new system of educator evaluation, consistent with a statewide mandate. Teachers throughout Union #28 had previously jointly negotiated and agreed to this new educator evaluation system but until the contract approval Leverett teachers had not been officially integrated into the system.

Some Leverett educators expressed their dismay this fall that the School Committee had offered less than a two percent pay increase.

They pointed out that teachers at schools in Amherst, Erving and Wendell, as well as Leverett town employees, had received at least two percent increases. The increase last year for Leverett teachers was only 1.5 percent.

The School Committee also voted unanimously to raise the pay of substitute nurses to \$120 per day. For early dismissal days, the rate would be \$100.

The request was brought to the committee by Interim Superintendent Bob Mahler. Mahler argued: “It’s difficult for many schools to keep long-term substitute nurses, since the daily pay rate is usually low. Our nurses have suggested raising this rate to \$120 as well as standardizing it across the schools in the Union.”

He also noted that Erving

see LEVERETT page A6

### Communication Breakdowns Cause Chaos At Regional Kennel

By JEFF SINGLETON

MONTAGUE – The Montague Selectboard’s second meeting of the year was packed by supporters of a “Battlefield Grant” to study the Great Falls battle (or massacre) of 1676.

But after the crowd had left, another item innocently titled “FC Dog Kennel, Update and Discussion” generated almost as much concern, although certainly less passion.

This was what one might call a “sleeper agenda item.” Even veteran town officials did not seem to know what it was all about until chair Mark Fairbrother spoke.

Fairbrother began by noting that Franklin County Sheriff Chris Donelan had approached the selectboard in November to request a three-year extension of the agreement to use a building off Turnpike Road for the regional dog kennel.

The sheriff also wanted to use a bay currently housing various highway department (DPW) equipment for veterinarian services.

After a lengthy discussion the board had agreed to extend the memorandum of understanding (MOU) for two years and directed the DPW to clear out the bay. Everyone seemed happy.



SAWYER-LAUÇANNO PHOTO

This Department of Public Works building on Turnpike Road houses the Franklin County Sheriff’s Office’s dog kennel.

The popular and successful dog kennel would remain for two years, at which time Montague would begin design and construction of a new industrial park.

But then, according to Fairbrother...

“Sheriff Donelan emailed me last week and said they had not received an MOU, the garage up there has not been cleaned out, and – I am not sure I am getting his exact words, but basically I think his exact words may have been, ‘I’m fed up with the town of Montague.’”

Fairbrother did not seem pleased: “My question is, since this panel voted a month and a half ago to have this happen, why hasn’t it happened?”

Town Administrator Frank Abbondanzio stated that he thought that DPW head Tom

Bergeron had been meeting with the sheriff’s people to resolve the equipment issues.

Abbondanzio said that he assumed the sheriff’s office would be producing the MOU, as they had produced the previous one: “If the expectation was that I would do it this time, I apologize, but there was no intention to not do it.”

Abbondanzio also noted that no one had asked him to do it.

Then DPH head Tom Bergeron took the floor to address the equipment problem.

Bergeron raised a broad range of issues, from the equipment in the bay, to the maintenance of an outhouse the sheriff’s office has

see KENNEL page A5



SAWYER-LAUÇANNO PHOTO

Teachers at the elementary school had been working without a contract, which was reached during one session with a mediator.

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## LOCAL BRIEFS

JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

Compiled by DON CLEGG

The **Wendell Climate Change Group** begins its second year with the first of two programs on Friday, January 17, starting at 7 pm in the Herrick Room, Wendell Free Library. "The Economics of Happiness" is a 60-minute film by the International Society for Ecology and Culture. "Far from the old institutions of power, people are starting to forge a very different future".

Anna Gyorgy, who has been active internationally in this movement and has now made Wendell her home, will introduce the film and lead the discussion. Coffee, tea, and yummys will be served.

Local coin and antique dealer, Gary Konvelski of Gary's Coins and Antiques, will be at Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls this Saturday, January 18 to **assess or appraise your treasures**.

Gary has been collecting jewelry, coins, currency, books and other antiques for decades. Do you think you have some valuables? Might you want to turn them into cash? Bring them along as Gary will be prepared to take a look and discuss commerce with you.

This event includes local history, so we welcome anyone wanting to come and share. Feel free to drop by between the hours of 10:30 and 11:30 a.m., no reservations required. Light refreshments will be provided. A sampling of Gary's collection will be in the lobby of the Bank during the week, so go and take a look!

Visioning B.E.A.R. Circle Intertribal Coalition will hold a **Give Away Ceremony and Talking Stick Circle**, on the theme of generosity, at Four Rivers Charter School, 248 Colrain Road, Greenfield, on Monday, January 20, from 1 to 5 p.m. Bring something useful you no longer need. Call Strong Oak at (413) 772-0871 x 104 for further information.

Greenfield Community College is pleased to invite members of our community to our annual event celebrating the legacy and

archeological records; and to secure permission for future archaeological digs on privately-held property.

For thousands of years the site had been of significance. The Pocumtucks and their ancestors had long welcomed Native peoples from throughout the region, as the village was located at the confluence of two major Native American travel routes, the Mohawk Trail and the Connecticut River.

In the spring, when the salmon and shad ran the river, Native peoples from far and wide came to partake in the river's spectacular bounty. It was precisely this traditional gathering that was attacked on May 19, 1676.

We are delighted that the grant has been approved and submitted. We are hopeful that this round, it will be successful.

**birthday of civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr.**, Monday, January 20, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Main Campus located on One College Drive in Greenfield.

Activities and programs for children and families will be available from 10 a.m. to noon and the day will conclude with lunch and presentations in the Dining Commons. Activities will include lessons from our dance students, rock wall climbing, bracelet making, mural painting and more.

If you would like to sign up to participate with your children or volunteer to help with the event, please contact Judy Raper, Director of Student Development at (413) 775-1819 or by email at raperj@gcc.mass.edu.

"Meeting Gandhi on the **Path of Centering Prayer**" is a series of seven 90-minute sessions held on Tuesdays, from January 21 to March 4, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the First Congregational Church of Montague, 4 North St, Montague Center, (413) 367-9467.

The presenter is Armand Proulx. Sessions will include Centering Prayer and exploring its role in self-transformation. Participants will compare their spiritual journey with the path Gandhi walked as he **grew inwardly to become the fearless liberator** of his people.

The book, *Gandhi the Man*, by Eknath Easwaran will be used for our interactive reflections during each session. The book may be purchased at World Eye Bookshop in Greenfield or borrowed from the library.

The cost for the seven sessions is \$75, payable to First Congregational Church of Montague. Please register by January 17. (Minimum attendance of 15)

Captain Mike Morin from the Turners Falls Fire Department will give a talk at the **Gill/Montague Senior Center** on Wednesday, January 22, at 11 a.m. Capt. Morin will be discussing **home fire prevention and home safety issues** of particular interest to seniors. If you would like to stay for lunch, call the center, (413) 863-9357, by

11 a.m. on January 21.

**Greening Greenfield** invites you to "Genetic Roulette", a film about the problems with genetically modified foods and how we can protect our families. At 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 22, at the St. James Episcopal Church Parish Hall, on the corner of Federal and Church Streets in Greenfield. Admission is by donation, and free refreshments will be provided.

On Thursday, January 23, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. the Leverett Library will host **Leverett artist Leslie Fisette**, who will hold a Zentangle Workshop for adults. A Zentangle is "an abstract drawing created using repetitive patterns." Materials will be provided by the library but space is limited so please call or register at the library, (413) 548-9220.

St. Kazimierz Society, located at 197 Avenue A in Turners Falls, is hosting a **Trivia Night** on Saturday, January 25 to benefit Big Brothers Big Sisters of Franklin County. Special guest caller is state representative Paul Mark.

Trivia teams consist of 8 to 10 people. A cash bar is available. Bring your own snacks. Decadent desserts will be available to purchase. 50/50 raffle. Prize awarded to winning team. Cost is \$10/per player. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., trivia starts at 7 p.m. Limited space, reservations encouraged. Register your player/team by calling (413) 772-0915.

GCTV will air a **2-1/2 hour program on Tourette Syndrome and associated conditions**, produced by Montague resident Garry L. Earles, M.S.W., L.I.C.S.W. on Friday, January 24, from 5 to 7:30 p.m., and again on Saturday January 25 from 1:30 to 4 p.m.

The project is part of an ongoing effort by Mr. Earles to produce shows about the challenges faced by children and adolescents with various mental health conditions.

GCTV airs on Comcast Ch. 15. Get help completing the **free application for Federal Student Aid** known as the FAFSA. Turners Falls High School is hosting the free event on Sunday, January 26, at 1 p.m., and the event is open to the public – it is not limited to TFHS students.

Pre-registration is required. Go to [www.fafsa.org](http://www.fafsa.org). If you have any questions, please contact Sharon Girard at TFHS Guidance Office at 863-7203.

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

memorial fund has taken in over \$10,000 online.

Please donate to both if you can. These outpourings of charity affirm that our community is generous and caring, but we know that as the emergencies multiply, the safety net we can provide will be strained.

Some tragedies are preventable; others are not. The only lesson we can take from every one of them is the daily care with which we need to treat each other. It will go further than money, and it will remain long after the money is gone.

So watch out for your friends and neighbors, especially in times of grief and hardship. Encourage harm reduction, knowing that many seek to numb their pain in ways that create new risks. Don't be afraid to ask how you can help.

It may prevent the next tragedy.

## FROM THE MANAGING EDITOR:

In last week's edition we reported that a young Turners Falls man, Alberto Martinez, had died in a tragic accident. It breaks our heart to follow that this week with news of the community's loss of Greg Ellis, our own next-door neighbor.

Funds have been established to begin to help the families of both young, working fathers.

We will have more details next week, but enough was donated to Our Lady of Peace, alongside assistance from the Mexican consulate, to transport the remains of Don Alberto to Chiapas for burial in his hometown. All further aid will go directly to his family here in Turners.

As of press time, Greg Ellis'

[www.youcaring.com/memorial-fundraiser/emergency-fund-family-of-alberto-martinez/123529](http://www.youcaring.com/memorial-fundraiser/emergency-fund-family-of-alberto-martinez/123529)

Greg Ellis Memorial Fund: [www.gofundme.com/66o4ow](http://www.gofundme.com/66o4ow)

## Why the Battlefield Grant Matters

We were pleased to see that the Montague Selectboard finally acted responsibly last Monday when they allowed for discussion on the Battlefield Grant. T

he week before, selectboard chair, Mark Fairbrother, had attempted to scuttle the application by removing the topic of the grant from the agenda, effectively preventing the selectboard from discussing and voting on the revised grant proposal.

Fortunately, due to the efforts of the Battlefield Grant application coordinator, David Brule, both selectmen Mike Nelson and Christopher Boutwell were persuaded that discussion could not be postponed beyond one more week as the application deadline was yesterday. As a result, they pushed for its restoration. And at the last meeting, they voted to send on the application to the National Park Service.

This should really be the end of the discussion but Mr. Fairbrother's attempt to hijack the process is of significance. No one expected Mr. Fairbrother to vote yes.

But the citizens of Montague, not to mention town staff and his fellow selectboard members are entitled to open discussion of any issue. Fortunately, Messrs. Brule, Nelson and Boutwell forced his hand and the item was replaced on the agenda.

Last Monday, it became clear to everyone watching the meeting why Mr. Fairbrother had attempted to stop the application from going forward.

He is, and has been, a vocal critic of anything that advances Native American interests. His reason is that he firmly believes "a small group" of Native Americans has impeded progress at the airport, and that their obstinacy has resulted in costing Montague taxpayers money.

There is, of course, no real way to determine whether an expanded airport would have filled up Montague's coffers. What is clear is that in order for the airport to expand, it would have been necessary to demolish what the Native People believed was a "Sacred Ceremonial Hill."

Despite the discoveries of a unique man-made rock formation and other indicators of early indigenous activities on the hill, these claims were dismissed by the Federal Aviation Administration, the Montague Airport Commission and the Massachusetts Historic Commission.

But this small persistent group pressed on, and took their extremely well-documented case to the National Register of Historic Places. In December of 2008, in a very exhaustive finding, the National Register of Historic Places agreed with the Native Americans and deemed the Sacred Ceremonial Hill "highly significant."

The site was placed on the National Register, effectively ending the airport expansion plans. (To view the decision, see: [www.cr.nps.gov/nr/publications/guidance/TurnerFallsDOEDecision-Redacted.pdf](http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/publications/guidance/TurnerFallsDOEDecision-Redacted.pdf))

Most everybody moved on. The FAA kicked in for safety upgrading and repaving at the airport. Planes continue to land and take off; hangars and tie-down spaces continue to be rented. Mr. Fairbrother, however, has remained fixed in his opposition.

That he is linking the Battlefield Grant to the airport seems rather ridiculous. This is a proposal that comes from both Native groups and Mr. Fairbrother's own Town of Montague.

What the grant will do is allow for an extensive survey of the 1676 Turners Falls/Peskeompskut battle site in which Captain Turner and Lieutenant Holyoke led an attack on the Native Americans encamped at the Great Falls.

This is an important first step in coming to understand what actually took place at the Falls on that fateful morning of May 19, 1676. Greater documentation could likely lead to further studies. And this could ultimately result in the creation of a Great Falls Native Cultural Park.

Such a park would generate dollars for Montague and the surrounding towns through increased tourism as well as grants.

Indeed, the dollar-for-dollar value added to the town may even be greater, in the long run, than a few hundred feet of extra runway at the airport.

In any case, blocking one such economic opportunity simply to avenge another is not the kind of governance our town needs.

At present, the project's goals are simple and straightforward: to establish, through GIS mapping, the locations of the Native villages and campsites, as well as Captain Turner's route to and away from Great Falls; to create an oral history, from both Yankee and Indian accounts of the battle; to consult and catalog existing historical and

Published weekly on Thursdays.  
Every other week in  
July and August.

No paper last week of December.  
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**GRANT from page A1**

friction between said tribal leaders and the local airport commission, on which Fairbrother once served. The tribal leaders convinced the federal government to intervene in an airport expansion project because, in their view, there was an ancient "ceremonial site" in the pathway of the runway.

That view has since been corroborated by The National Register of Historic Places, who in their decision to grant the ceremonial hill special recognition, deemed the hill "highly significant."

That is a longer discussion, as they say, but Fairbrother's feelings about the Native American leadership have, by his own admission, influenced his feelings about the battlefield grant.

Reliable sources say he took the grant off the agenda of the previous meeting. It was put on the January 13 agenda at the request of his two colleagues, Chris Boutwell and Michael Nelson.

This was the first item on the agenda, and the tension in the air was palpable. The presence of the chief of police, who left immediately after the discussion of the grant, enhanced the drama of the moment.

But the debate, in spite of the passion on both sides, seemed to raise and address important issues related to the grant.

Fairbrother systematically reviewed the grant application and

raised objections to nearly every assumption it contained.

His main arguments, repeated numerous times in a ten-minute presentation, were that the battle was in fact a massacre, not a battle, and that Montague should not be applying to study a "tragic incident" that took place across the river in what is now Gill.

"Until last year when this came up, I had never heard of the battle of Turners Falls. I've heard of the Turners Falls Massacre, but not the battle of Turners Falls.

"I read this grant and what it is trying to say is that there was hand-to-hand combat on Avenue A. It's long established that all the fighting was someplace else."

Fairbrother also noted most of the existing battlefield, as well as approach and retreat routes, had been destroyed by "Route 2, in its two or three hundred years of industry, a major state highway, a major federal highway right through the middle of it all."

Regarding the reconciliation ceremony and agreement between the town and Indian leaders, Fairbrother stressed "no selectboard - that one, or this one, or any in between in the future or past - has the authority to bind this town, either legally or morally, to what is being claimed."

Fairbrother also argued that the grant would be rewarding "a few" irresponsible leaders who had used the agreement with the town to un-

dermine the viability of the airport.

The supporters of the grant, David Brule, Howard Clark and Joe Graveline, responded to the points raised by Fairbrother.

Brule admitted that the reconciliation ceremony does not bind future selectboards, but pointed out that it "carries a lot of weight with the various participants [and] for the town. This was why [Montague] was the starting point. I understand your concerns, but it comes down to what you want to see happen in this area."

Howard Clark argued that a significant portion of the battlefield, broadly defined, was "still intact."

Joe Graveline noted that at the time of the battle, "There was no Montague. There was no Gill. There was no Turners Falls."

He also argued that Turner sent militia up the river to stop the approach of Indian warriors. "There was real fighting on both sides of the river. Muskets were firing in both directions, and people died on either side of the river."

Town Administrator Frank Abbondanzio stated that he hoped the Selectboard would take a vote on the issue, one way or the other, so the town could move forward.

Selectboard member Mike Nelson stated he agreed with former Selectboard member Pat Allen that "at some point you have to put [the airport issue] behind you and move on."

Nelson went on to argue that "we always encourage people to do things, to bring projects forward, to celebrate our history." The grant, he said, involves "a relatively small amount of staff time."

Nelson then proposed a motion to endorse the American Battlefield Protection Program grant with the provision that the name be changed to the "Battle of Great Falls."

The motion passed by a margin of 2 to 1.

**Other Business**

The board then moved to other items on the agenda. These included a three year extension of the contract with Republic Services for trash pickup and recycling, as well as approval of the warrant for the upcoming special town meeting on January 30.

The warrant includes appropriations for legal expenses for negotiating the cable contract, for handicapped accessible rest rooms at Unity Park and for "various items" in the police department budget.

In addition, there are zoning changes to accommodate a medical marijuana facility, and a change in the wording of an existing appropriation to renovate the old Cumberland Farms building on Avenue A to include "demolition."

This will be the third time the town has attempted to win town meeting approval of that wording change.

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**GMRSD from page A1**

committee voted unanimously to seek a district business manager.

In his superintendent's report Sullivan also unveiled a 19-page guide for parents and students in the district entitled *School District Communications Guide*. Prepared by a group called the Communications Task Force, consisting of administrators, including the superintendent and principals as well as teachers, its purpose as stated is as follows:

"The Gill-Montague Regional School District is committed to working in partnership with parents, guardians, and its communities to challenge and support every one of its students. For this partnership to flourish, strong and clear systems of communication must exist...

The primary aid of this guide is to aid parents in the process of communicating with their students' teachers, counselors, and school administrators."

The *Guide* goes on to list titles, building locations, telephone/extension numbers, and email addresses of 25 offices or resources parents may wish to contact regarding their students.

In addition Sullivan said the *Guide* lets parents know the regularly scheduled opportunities at each school. Called "school practices," this allows parents to have easy contact with the school and to receive information about their student and school events, as well as avenues that exist for parental participation in the schools.

Overall the school committee welcomed the addition of the *Guide*,

which will be sent home to every family in the district.

Sullivan announced, as well, that the district website is in for an overhaul and redesign with a more accessible and attractive face for the community to use. More information is forthcoming.

Aside from the website, upgrading technology is also a major concern for the district. Darin Paulus, manager of district technology services, gave an eye opening account of the current tech situation in terms of aging equipment, service demands on his staff of three throughout the district, the future demands for technology, and the new world order of student mobile devices in school. Consider, for example, just the equipment currently used in classrooms: 30% are 7 years old; and 40% are 10

years old.

Paulus recommends purchasing 150 work stations per year in order to upgrade the majority of aging computers. In addition he recommends hiring an education tech coach to train faculty to use equipment and help them gain full use of the technical devices in their classrooms.

The school committee took two other significant votes: One was to accept the bid of \$496,410.00 for school bus transportation made by F.M. Kuzmeskus, Inc. of Gill. The other was to appoint former district educator Nancy Daniel-Greene as a technical consultant in the classroom. Both the bid and the consultant position were passed unanimously.

**NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD**

**Town Discusses Wastewater Deal With Paper Mill**

By KATIE NOLAN

Morris Housen, president of Erving Industries, Inc. asked the Erving selectboard to consider extending the company's current wastewater treatment facility contract for three to five years.

The town-owned treatment plant, which treats residential and commercial wastes from the eastern part of town while it treats Erving Paper Mill wastewater, is operated by Erving Industries subsidiary ERSECO.

The town pays \$1 per year for the wastewater treatment, and receives \$50,000 per year as a share of the tipping fees paid by outside waste producers. The town's contract with Erving Industries expires in June 2014.

The treatment plant was built in 1977, primarily with federal and state grants secured by the town. The town paid 1% of the \$480,000 in local costs, while Erving Industries

paid 99% of the local costs. Erving Industries pays all ongoing expenses and capital costs.

The company received \$583,735 in tipping fees from outside waste producers in 2013, a reduction from the amounts received between 2009 and 2012. Housen reported that the outside producer fees offset the costs of treatment, but the treatment plant does not make a profit.

Noting that Erving Industries supplies jobs, pays taxes to the town and provides approximately \$150,000 in wastewater treatment services for town residents annually, selectboard chair Andrew Goodwin said he felt that \$50,000 per year payment was favorable for the town.

The selectboard agreed to review the revenue and expense information provided by Housen and meet with company executives again before deciding on extending the contract.

Goodwin explained that the

selectboard can extend the contract for up to three years, but a longer contract would need town meeting approval.

**Education Budget**

Town administrator Tom Sharp and finance committee members Ben Fellows, Arthur Johnson and Jacob Smith presented the draft fiscal year 2015 education budget. The finance committee met with the Erving school committee on January 7 to review the elementary, secondary and tech school budgets.

The draft FY'15 Erving Elementary School budget request is \$2.69 million, a 3.4% increase over FY'14.

The "budget drivers" listed in the elementary education request include increased Union #28 cost allocation due to increased enrollment in Erving, cost of living adjustments, a new part-time math coach, increased hours for the technology specialist, Title I and essential skills teachers, increased hours for the instruction coordination, preschool expansion to full day and increased preschool enrollment, bus transportation, an after-school academy for students

needing enrichment, and increased food costs.

The draft FY'15 secondary school budget request is \$1.1 million, a 14.3% increase over FY'14. The draft Franklin County Technical School budget request is \$335,000, a 9.7% increase over FY'14.

Finance committee members said that they had further questions for the school committee and would be meeting with them to develop final budget requests.

**Library**

The selectboard signed a grant application to the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners for a planning and design study for improving Erving Public Library facilities.

According to library director Barbara Friedman, the proposed study would look at three options: renovation of the present library building, or new construction, or retrofitting another town building for library use.

The town would be responsible for \$25,000 of the study's cost. This expenditure would need town meeting approval.

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**NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD**

**Nice New Sidewalk –  
Now Who's Going to Shovel It?**

By DAVID DETMOLD

The recently expanded and renovated Gill-Montague bridge has a brand new sidewalk, for the convenience of pedestrians, and more than 50 streetlights to illuminate it. There's only one problem with the new sidewalk: no one is in charge of clearing the snow off in the winter.

On Monday, the selectboard continued a discussion about snow removal on the Gill-Montague bridge sidewalk, a conversation that is at least 63 years old.

Town administrative assistant Ray Purington said he had done some research in Gill history, and found a reference to a town meeting vote in 1950 authorizing a delegation of citizens to talk to the Franklin County Commissioners about clearing the snow off the bridge sidewalk.

The Franklin County Commissioners are long gone, but the problem of who is responsible for clearing the nearly quarter-mile-long sidewalk remains.

"It's the state's bridge," said selectboard member Randy Crochier. "The state should pay for it," he said, even if the state refuses to take responsibility for clearing the snow off the sidewalk.

But if the towns at either end of the bridge share responsibility for the sidewalk snow removal, Crochier wondered, would that open up the towns to liability if someone using the sidewalk slipped and fell on the ice or snow.

And, more practically, where would the snow be removed to if the towns did provide for its removal? Onto the bridge deck, where it might impede vehicular traffic? Or into the river, which might raise environmental concerns about shoveling salty and sandy snow into the waterway?

Crochier said whatever was on the bridge deck or sidewalk would wind up melting into the river anyway, but again, if the snow melt happens naturally, rather than as an act of municipal governance, then the liability would be on Mother Nature rather than the towns.

The selectboard noted that the state intends to add pedestrian activated signals at the stoplight, to facilitate crossing Route 2, and, as part of that plan, would likely add more sidewalk on the north side of Route 2.

Crochier said he has regularly seen a number of people attempting to cross the bridge on foot, despite the aftermath of recent snowstorms; selectboard chair John Ward said some of those pedestrians do not own vehicles.

Ward added, "I find it disingenuous that the reason given for adding all that lighting to the bridge is to make it safe for pedestrian access, when five months of the year, those sidewalks are not cleared."

Crochier said the matter should be discussed further with the Mass Department of Transportation, with local state representatives, and between the selectboards of the two towns, and he added, "I'd like to think we can solve this before another 63 years go by."

The selectboard held a tax hearing in preparation for setting the new tax rate. Homeowners can expect both a decline in the market value of their homes this year, and a hike in their taxes.

"The impact of the recession is noticeably showing up for the first time this year," said Purington. "Finally, there are sales taking place that show a general decline in value."

Purington, who also serves on the board of assessors, said the average price of a single family home in Gill declined from \$202,615 last year to \$191,985 this year. This decline in value, combined with other factors, will produce a tax rate of \$16.78 per thousand dollars of valuation, up from \$15.34 last year.

Taxpayers will be feeling the impact of two debt exclusion articles this year, one to replace the roof at town hall, and another to pay for a new police cruiser.

These, together with the added growth of taxes to meet revenue demands under the cap of 2½ percent, will raise the average single family tax bill from \$3,108 last year to \$3,221 this year, Purington said: "It's time to pay the piper."

The selectboard agreed to keep a single tax rate in town for the coming year. Purington said First Light Power provides about 8% to 10% of the town's taxes, while other businesses in town contribute about 5% to 6%.

The selectboard did not consider this fraction of valuation large enough to warrant a shift to a split tax rate.

"We definitely want to keep the businesses we have," said Puring-

**"Leverett Can Belong to Only One  
Transportation Authority." Maybe...**

In last week's *Montague Reporter* we reported on the controversy erupting in Leverett over whether the Franklin Regional Transportation Authority (FRTA) could, or should, serve the town.

As a follow-up to that article, our reporter, David Detmold, asked Paul Dunphy, legislative aide for state representative Steven Kulik (D-Worthington), to help unravel the conundrum of whether one town could belong to two different regional transport agencies.

Dunphy said this week that he had been in

touch with Trish Foley, legislative liaison for the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, to find out why a town like Leverett is being discouraged from joining two regional transit authorities at the same time.

Leverett, which has enjoyed access to a fixed route bus line running between Greenfield and Amherst for the past 40 years, has been attempting to discuss the future of that route, in hopes of regularizing that service, lowering the fare, and directing it through the town center of Leverett to a park and ride at town hall, so more residents would access the route.

Leverett is a member of the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority, which does not provide a fixed

bus route service to the town, but does provide demand-response van service for seniors and handicapped residents who wish to travel to points in Hampshire County. Leverett has recently been advised by Tina Cote, administrator of the FRTA, which runs the bus route from Greenfield to Amherst, through Leverett, that the town cannot join two regional transit authorities at the same time.

Foley, of the DOT, backed up that assertion. Dunphy, in a follow-up email, asked Foley what section of statute or regulation she was relying upon in stating that a town cannot be a member of two regional transit authorities at the same time. He said she had not yet responded to that inquiry, as of press time.



*Who will plow it? The Turners Falls-Gill bridge's sidewalk awaits a decision.*

ton.

State law allows for a mitigating factor for businesses with fewer than 10 employees, if towns do decide to shift to a split tax rate, Purington noted.

Tax bills will go out in about a month, Purington said. Unless they act fast, about a dozen or so sewer users from Riverside will see liens attached to their property tax bills to cover late payments on their sewer bills, which all add up to about \$8,500.

Adding to the town's fiscal blues, Gill police chief David Hastings reported a new leak in the 31 year old membrane roof on the public safety complex.

According to a recent report on the condition of the roofs at four buildings in town, Gill can expect competing demands to replace the aging roofs at the elementary school and the Riverside building at about the same time as the safety complex roof – all are well past their normal life spans.

Crochier called for volunteer labor to help out with replacing the roof at the safety complex, when the time comes. For now, a temporary patch may get the buckets out from under that roof (where water has damaged the drywall and the ceiling tiles), at least until spring.

Alden Booth has been appointed

to the energy commission, leaving one seat available on that board. His recent departure from the finance committee leaves one seat available on that committee, as well.

Amanda Doster of the Franklin County Alcohol Compliance Initiative said the town of Gill has not experienced any violations of state law limiting the sale of alcohol to minors since the town joined in the initiative in 2009. "Our retailers are doing the right thing," and carding minors, Doster said.

Doster distributed information that showed rates of teens reporting the use of alcohol, marijuana, or binge drinking are all on a steady decline in Franklin County.

Since 2003, teens reporting the use of alcohol have dropped from close to 50% to less than 30% today; while reported marijuana use has dropped from close to 30% to under 20%, paralleling a slightly steeper drop in the reported incidence of teen binge drinking.

Only teen use of cigarettes has shown a slight uptick in the most recent reporting period, from just above 10% to about 12%.

Janet Masucci said MCTV is looking for new volunteers to help videotape town events and town meetings in Gill; free training is available. Those interested can call 863-9200 for more information.

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### Book of Garlic Seeks Contributors

A crew from the North Quabbin Garlic and Arts Festival is creating *The Book Of Garlic* and is seeking, first and most importantly, your favorite garlic recipes! They also need great stories about the festival or about your love of garlic. These can be anecdotes, poetry or memories, festival photos from the past or the present and drawings!

The organizers are hoping to produce a book that will contain loads of garlic information, a history of the festival, recipes and pictures that show the true meaning of The Festival that Stinks!

So have fun, go through those old photos of you at the festivals in years past ... pull out your great great grandmother's recipe for pickled garlic! Submit them all to [TheBookofGarlic@gmail.com](mailto:TheBookofGarlic@gmail.com) or see the announcement on GAF website.

The documentary film "A Place at the Table" will be shown on Friday, January 31, at the **Wendell Free Library** at 7 p.m. This thoughtful film with Jeff Bridges looks at hunger in America, especially as it impacts one out of four children. The film is eighty-four minutes long. An informal discussion will follow. The screening is presented by the Wendell Agricultural Commission.

### ELLIS from page A1

Mason-Hillman said Ellis "was a great contributor to my healing in my grief," over the loss of Gabe. Now it is Mason-Hillman who is comforting Ellis' mom, Joanne, also of 175 Avenue A, in her grief over the loss of Greg.

"I went to see her today. She's still in shock. The cops called her at 2 in the morning to give her the news."

Mason-Hillman recalled Greg with love and sadness. "I just remember a lot of trials and tribulations. I've witnessed him climb up and out of hardship, for himself and his son, who was number one in his life."

Justin Smith, who was among a close-knit group of friends who came together as teenagers in Turners, spoke of his longtime friendship with Ellis, and recalled, "The summer before last working at the Brass Buckle in Greenfield, Greg would come by with his son, Anthony, after we closed. We'd push Anthony around on the skateboard, and Anthony would show us all his latest dance moves."

"The time Greg had with Anthony.... Greg's always been such a substantial person, with everyone he's been involved with."

"You can see that same thing with every moment he spent with Anthony. He was honest, and ear-

nest, and tried to give everyone the best of himself."

Curtis Herzig, assistant manager at the Rendezvous kitchen, said he had known Ellis for the last four years.

Ellis had recently proposed getting together for playdates, since both he and Herzig were raising small boys in town.

Herzig was among the last of his friends to see Ellis alive on Friday night, around midnight, when he urged Ellis not to drive over to Greenfield in the icy conditions.

"I just really feel bad for his son," said Herzig.

Hilary Graves said she had gone to Greenfield High School with Ellis, and watched him grow from boyhood into young manhood.

"He was popular. Everybody liked him, and all the ladies wanted him. He was very handsome and well-rounded and nice to everybody."

"I've watched him grow up with his child, be a man. I'm really proud of him. He left too soon, but left something really good behind."

Graves recalled that Ellis was "really passionate for the skatepark," which is planned as the final step in the improvements to Unity Park. "That was one of the biggest things on his mind," she said.

Ellis worked in 1997- 1998 with the other Turners teens in the Fam-

### KENNEL from page A1

provided as an alternative to DPW employees using the kennel's bathroom facilities ("Who cleans it?"), to the need to house a generator in case the power goes out.

"It seems to me we discussed all this" at the previous meeting, said Fairbrother.

"But we got no answers," the DPW chief responded, "so no one is running to do favors for the sheriff's department."

Also, "we had a water break up there that became very chaotic." Apparently a water line to the kennel broke during the recent cold snap.

The DPW or the Turners Falls Water District (it was not clear which) ran a temporary line from the Judd Wire Company next door to the kennel.

But that line also froze and broke several times, so Judd Wire "said

'no more'."

Then the water department attempted to tap the main source line, but the probe encountered an unmarked electrical line. The resulting explosion "almost killed the guy."

Finally the old water line was fixed, but remains vulnerable to more breakage. Bergeron then raised the issue of who would pay for all this.

Fairbrother then replied, "My response... was 'go fix the water line, and we'll talk about the financing later.'"

Selectboard member Mike Nelson rescued a somewhat frustrated Fairbrother: "I think there was a communication lapse from both sides, so let's get together and make it happen."

Fairbrother agreed: "So there needs to be a meeting. There's just a question of who, with who, and when. I'll get back to you."

ily of Man media literacy project to first bring the proposal for a skatepark to the Montague selectboard, on a night when the board was meeting at the Hillcrest School.

More than a dozen teens were there to speak for their passion for skateboarding, and they won the commitment of the selectboard at that time to work with them to build a temporary park.

**"He was honest, and earnest, and tried to give everyone the best of himself."**  
**Justin Smith, of Turners, recalling his friend Greg Ellis**

Two of the boys from that group - Chris Gallagher and Winter Orion Clark - drowned at the Rock Dam in the Connecticut River in July of 1998, before that dream could be realized, and Ellis was among the teens who carried on and completed the project, at least partly in their memory.

Ellis wore an original t-shirt, printed with photographs of Gallagher and Clark, when he spoke to the Montague selectboard on August 5, 2013, more than fifteen years after that tragedy, as plans for

a permanent skatepark were again on the town's agenda. (See sidebar.)

At the Rendezvous, where Ellis was being mourned on Saturday, Anja Schutz said, "He was such a solid presence in the neighborhood. I felt like I saw him three different times today, walking by."

But, though our memories of him are strong, and our love for him undimmed, we will never see Greg Ellis again, and for that we are the sadder, and the lesser, for his loss.

Ellis's community of friends and family are now attempting to ensure that Anthony will have some slight financial security.

A fund to raise money for Anthony and Greg's family has been set up by Tim Gochinski at [www.gofundme.com/66040w](http://www.gofundme.com/66040w).

Kostanski Funeral Home in Turners Falls is handling funeral arrangements. Sympathy messages may be sent to [www.kostanskifuneralhome.com](http://www.kostanskifuneralhome.com).

A wake will be held Friday, January 17, from 4 to 8 p.m., followed by a funeral service Saturday at 11 a.m., both at the funeral home.

The discussion then turned to other water main breaks in town during the recent radical temperature shifts.

Selectboard member Chris Boutwell noted that Springfield had been having big problems with water breaks, so "we're not alone."



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*Last August 5, in what would be his last public speech on the cause to which he had devoted much time and volunteer energy for the last decade and a half, Greg Ellis told the Montague selectboard:*

"My name is Greg Ellis. I haven't been involved in a skate park committee meeting in a long time.

"But... 15 years ago, I was in this room going over the same thing. It seems like the circumstances are different. However, it seems like the playout's not much different.

"As young kids in the community, we made the skatepark. We did benefit shows to raise money. We went down there every Saturday to help build the ramps.

"And over time, it looked like the money started disappearing. And then people in the town are no longer working, and the park has changed, and all this stuff.

"I can just assure the committee, and everyone in this room, that a concrete skatepark is not just like a fun little thing you're going to make just for the skateboarders.

"A concrete skatepark, of the design that they have, is going to bring people in from all over. It's going to bring professionals in. It's going to bring money in. The skate shops in the communities around us are going to be supportive if we continue that effort.

"Essentially, it's not like the town is doing a favor for us. We're doing a favor for the town. It's 15 years later. The effort's still there on the committee's part.

"I think it is something strongly to suggest, to think about."

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## Leverett Voters Approve Zoning Bylaw Change

By CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUCANNO

At a special Town Meeting on Tuesday night, December 14, about 150 Leverett voters approved changes to the town's zoning by-laws to allow for a 15-kilowatt array of solar panels on land between Leverett Elementary School and the Public Safety Complex. The meeting, originally set for December 17, had to be rescheduled due to inclement weather.

The bylaw changes were necessary because of a recently enacted solar bylaw that prohibited photovoltaic installations larger than 10 kilowatts in a rural village zone. The land along Montague Road, like most lots that have frontage on town roads, lies in a rural village zone. And the only way to amend that bylaw was through the approval of town meeting.

Town Administrator Margie McGinnis said the project will cost \$98,016. The entire amount will be funded by a \$138,750 grant awarded the town last year by the Massachusetts Green Communities Program.

The Solar Store in Greenfield, selected to provide and install the panels, plans to place the array on a south-facing slope behind the public safety complex and the elementary school. The array consists of five 13-foot long solar panels mounted on 16-foot tall poles. The energy collected will help offset energy costs at the safety complex.

The amended bylaw will also waive a requirement that the free-

standing array be subjected to a site plan review that would ensure conformance with local zoning ordinances and the town's setback requirement.

This requirement currently requires a pole-mounted array to be at least 100 feet from the road. Instead, the panels will only have to be placed within the normal 40-foot requirement applicable to all town buildings.

The new bylaw reads: "Any installation larger than 10 KW or occupying more than 2 acres of land and located on the Town of Leverett municipal complex parcel (the parcel of land upon which the Town Library, Elementary School and Public Safety building are located) shall be allowed as of right and without the Site Plan Review required under this Section 4970 for a smaller installation."

**Other Articles:** The collapsed barn at 1 Dudleyville Road will not be removed immediately. Voters decided to delay action on the demolition to allow the barn's owner, Steven Blinn, more time to clean up the debris.

The article would have allocated \$10,000 for the barn's removal. The matter will be revisited at the annual spring town meeting.

Leverett voters also approved a transfer of \$13,406.16 in Federal Emergency Management Agency reimbursements to the Highway Department's equipment account.

\$214.24 was also allocated from the town's available funds to pay a Zoning Board of Appeals bill from a previous year.

### LEVERETT from page A1

and Shutesbury have approved this rate, and that "standardizing pay will help the U28 schools as well, since some nurses might turn down work at one school because of the pay difference."

Substitute teachers will also be making more. The School Committee also unanimously approved a hike for certified or retired teachers from \$65 to \$80 per day. For half days, substitutes will be paid \$70, up from \$55.

The pay for non-certified teachers will be raised from \$60 to \$70 for a full day (\$50 to \$60 for a half day).

Although the assessment is presently deemed affordable, the School Committee is continuing to develop a budget for FY 2015.

They will meet with the Select-board within the next few weeks to present and discuss the budget as it now stands, and a final budget will be voted on at Town Meeting in May.

The school budget has been level-funded for the past five years.

Leverett Elementary was elevated in 2012 by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education from a Level 2 to a Level 1 school, the highest level possible.



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"A house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this government cannot endure Permanently half slave and half free."

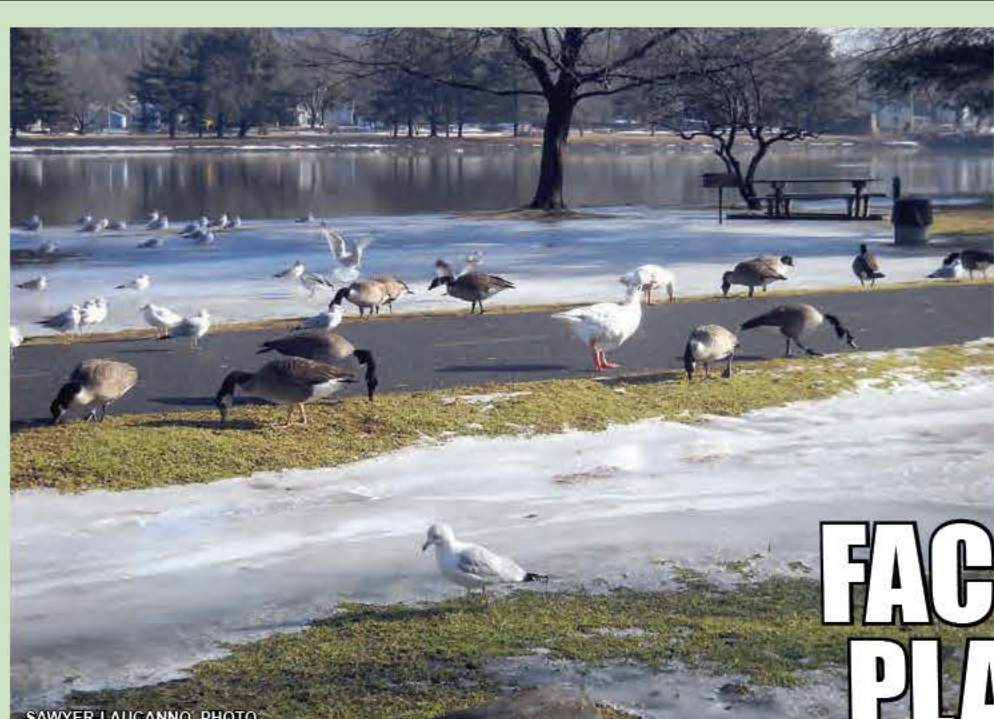
This quote is absolute truth. United we stand, divided we fall.

The Bible says: "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and a house divided against itself falls."

This Biblical truth applies to all areas of life; nations, business, marriage. Greatness in a person comes when we unite with God and His word.

Unite with God through Jesus Christ.

This is: As written.  
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A gregarious gaggle of geese, and a group of gulls, grope for grubs on what may or may not be a battlefield at the Great Falls.

## FACES & PLACES

SAWYER-LAUCANNO PHOTO

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# MoRe

YEAR 12 – NO.13

B1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER

JANUARY 16, 2014

## FILM REVIEW Turners Gets The Hollywood Treatment

By DAWN MONTAGUE

Turners Falls is quite gorgeous on the big screen, and Shelburne Falls looks pretty good too. *Labor Day*, a movie with some prominent footage filmed in town, screened at the Colonial Theater in Keene last Sunday. It opens nationwide on January 31.

Joyce Maynard, author of the novel the movie is based on, attended Sunday's screening and spoke briefly afterward. A New Hampshire native, Maynard now lives in California. She said that much of her work is informed by the character of her home state, and the film adaptation of *Labor Day* is no exception.

Maynard emphasized to her hometown audience that she had hoped director Jason Reitman would be able to film the movie in New Hampshire, but tax incentives provided by Massachusetts turned the location-siting in this state's favor.

On film, the role of New Hampshire is played by Massachusetts, with Shelburne Falls standing in for the fictional small town of Holton Mills. Turners provides a number of atmospheric exterior shots, and the setting for one particularly pivotal scene.

Locals may recall the film crew working down by the canal bridge and at the river's edge in June 2012. Reitman has made good use of several locations in Western Mass to bring the story to life.

*Labor Day* has a distinct New England feel, capturing those close hot days at summer's end when

see MOVIE page B4

## Better Start Saving Your Quarters



By MIKE JACKSON

**HADLEY** – Since time immemorial, if a traveler followed Massachusetts Route 47 south from Montague Center, passing by Mount Toby and through the sleepy village of Sunderland, she might eventually travel off the edge of this newspaper's map and into an indistinct and bewildering zone of strip malls, college campuses, potato fields and gourmet pet bakeries.

Last weekend, all that changed. A viable destination has appeared at the extreme southern end of this winding rural road -- just before it crosses Route 9, the traveler can now bang a right onto Railroad Street, and another right, and find herself in the parking lot of an unassuming-looking spot called The Quarters.

Part arcade, part bar, part diner, and part churn of flashing lights, nerds, babes, and pulsing late-20th-century underground and popular recorded music, The Quarters is

exactly the kind of dream business a couple of UMass alums might have cooked up as part of an unrealistic plan to stay in "the Valley" forever and become its benevolent rulers.

Instead of sleeping the dream off, owners George Myers and Greg Stutsman worked for the last five years to make it a reality.

Their saga included "a few close calls" with other locations, a successful crowdfunding campaign using websites Indiegogo and Fundable, old-fashioned investment, and a steadily-building buzz of excitement (the business had amassed an enviable 3,000 "likes" on Facebook even before they opened to the public this weekend).

The nearly 20 stand-up arcade games lining The Quarters' walls range in vintage from 1978 (Space Invaders) to 1996 (Street Fighter Alpha 2), skewing wonderfully toward the early '80s (Dig Dug, Joust, Crystal Castles, Galaga).

see QUARTERS page B6

## The Millers Falls Scrapbooks The Short, Extraordinary Life of Willie Strong

By DAVID BRULE

**MILLERS FALLS AND ERVING** – Two scrapbooks made their way into my hands a while back. For the time being, the person who collected all the clippings and photos some time in the 1950s, remains unknown. No one had signed the collection, donated to the Erving Historical Commission. But it did wind up in the right hands. The following is another story gleaned from those pages.

You never know, when you put things away for safe-keeping or for some future remembrance, how, years hence, your souvenirs could become the source of fascinating tales.

That is the case here, where in the anonymous scrapbooks, a page or two of random clippings tell the story of young Willie Strong.

William Lester Strong was born in Erving on January 25, 1874. Nothing perhaps would have indicated that he was destined for an exceptional yet short life. But the signs were not long in becoming apparent: within ten years after his birth, Willie began publishing his first newspaper, the *Erving Gazette*.

We can assume from the artifacts left in our collection that he published his *Gazette* on a monthly basis, and based on the few remnants saved in the scrapbooks, he provided his readers with pages of informative and varied entertainment.

He filled his editions with diverse small-town news items such as, "There will be a masquerade

ball at Union Hall next Tuesday evening," and, "We were visited by one of the most severe storms of the season yesterday. People are now out with their sleighs again." (January 28, 1884)



Willie Strong's Erving Gazette, January 28, 1884 edition.

He peppered this breaking news with poems, anecdotes, advertisements and jokes such as,

"A lady having remarked in company that she thought there should be a tax on the 'single state'."

"Yes madame," rejoined an obstinate old bachelor, "as on all other luxuries!"

Such was the innocence of humor in 1884.

By 1885, Willie had moved to Millers Falls from Erving and he began publishing the *Millers Falls News* in our village. Published weekly, Strong's newspaper cost 25 cents for a one-year subscription!

Willie attended local schools here and also served as correspondent for the *Greenfield Gazette* and

see STRONG page B4

## Dear Clio,



The holidays are over, but the aftermath lingers. For almost all my life my one sister, two brothers and I have celebrated at mom and dad's house.

They are getting older, and it's obvious it's getting harder for them. The problem is that my siblings seem totally oblivious. They still expect our parents will do everything.

What is even worse is that my sister and her husband, along with my oldest brother, shut everybody out. My little brother just plays with his phone. Meanwhile, the kids run loose, and our folks are also expected to look after them. I try to help out mom and dad but they just tell me to hang with my siblings.

Clio, I have nothing much to say to any of them and even if I did, they wouldn't listen. So what to do? I feel like boycotting next year.

P.S.: We are all in our 30s.

### Recovering from the Holidays

Dear RH,

Many people are breathing a sigh of relief that the holidays are over. Hopefully we experience some joy, too, but most of us have holiday issues that recur year after year. At this time of year many people are saying, "Next year I'll..." but eleven months later we forget our intention to make things different. We remember the particular holiday issue only when it is too late to take action—maybe the day before the holiday.

Holiday family dynamics are particularly hard to change because of that time lag. If I make the same mistake every day, it will be maybe three or four days before I learn not to do it. If I make the same mistake four Christmases in a row, well, that's four years.

I have a friend who has a problem similar to yours. Every year in November she tells me about her latest plan to get her siblings to help with cooking. Every year in December, she is frustrated because her plan did not work. I think it may be that you will not get your siblings to help either.

I suggest that you start by finding ways that you can help your parents by yourself. This will make you feel a little better about their situation. In addition, who knows, your siblings may see you helping and decide to step up themselves.

It is hard for many parents to accept help from their adult children. If I ask my mother, "Can I do anything to help?" she will either say that she does not need help or else assign me a small job like asking whether anyone wants a beer.

What I have started doing is calling my mom a week ahead and saying, "I was thinking of bringing the dessert for Tuesday night. Is that OK?" She has always said yes when I suggest bringing a specific food item for a specific meal, but I have to talk to her when she is still in the planning phase.

As your parents age, they will probably need help with more than just holiday meals. Often this is hard on sibling relationships. Siblings feel like someone is not doing his or her share. I have known families that have stopped speaking to each other over this issue. It sounds like your sibling relationship needs strengthening before it

see CLIO page B3

## Wendell: Poetry Reading to Benefit The Montague Reporter

By CHRISTOPHER  
SAWYER-LAUCANNO

**WENDELL** – "Money is a kind of poetry," wrote poet and Hartford Insurance executive Wallace Stevens. The organizers of a poetry reading at the Deja Brew pub in Wendell to benefit the *Montague Reporter* are hoping that poetry can also equate with money.

The reading on January 27 at 7 p.m. will feature a host of prominent local poets, all giving of their time and words, to add some cash to the paper's coffers.

The idea for the reading came from Wendell poet Ray DiDonato. He spoke with Patti Scutari, owner of Deja Brew, who readily agreed to allow her Wendell gathering spot to be used for the event.



Mike Mauri (l) and Charles Bado (r) at a reading last fall. Both will read at the January 27 event.

Deja Brew, as many know, is also the venue on the last Monday of the month during the warmer months for the long-running and popular All Small Caps Poetry Reading Series.

But as ASC is on winter hiatus, Scutari was happy to turn on the house lights for the benefit and donate a portion of the proceeds of the bar to the paper.

All Small Cappers, however, will not be absent. Jess Mynes, Wendell poet and publisher, is the featured reader.

In addition, ASC poets and poetry impresarios Charles Bado and Paul Richmond will also read.

The reading will also feature Mike Mauri, Lea Banks, Edward Foster, and the editors of the *Montague Reporter*, Patricia Pruitt and Chris Sawyer-Laucanno.

The first half-hour will feature 5-minute open mic slots. All are invited to bring a poem or two to share with the gathering.

Donations are happily accepted in any amount, but \$3 to \$10 is suggested. Those who pay highest scale or more will be entered in a raffle for books of poetry.

Along with the proceeds from the door, Deja Brew has also generously agreed to donate ten percent of their take at the bar. A limited pub menu will be available.

Bring your ears, love of poetry, and appetites for an enjoyable evening of poetry to benefit the *Reporter* and provide a warm respite for the body and soul!

# Pet of the Week

Are you looking for a cat that will sit in your lap? Greet you at the door? Then look no further! Here I am! I am a beautiful mid-aged cat that is looking for a great home. I love all people. I am very active as well! I love having toys to play with and I am very affectionate.



**"NIYA"**

Pet me and you will see! I may even melt your heart when we lock eyes. Just come in and see.

Roses are red, violets are blue, I am a kitty that is looking for you! Contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or [info@dpvhs.org](mailto:info@dpvhs.org)

## Senior Center Activities January 20 through 24

### GILL and MONTAGUE January 20 through January 24

**Gill / Montague Senior Center**, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at Noon. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11:00 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 not open.

#### Monday 1/20

- 10:10 AM Aerobics
- 10:55 AM Chair Exercise
- 12:00 PM Pot Luck & Bingo
- 1:00 NO Knitting Circle
- 3:00 PM Balance Class

#### Tuesday: 1/21

- 9:30 AM Chair Yoga
- 12:00 PM Lunch
- 1:00 PM Knitting Circle

#### Wednesday: 1/22

- 10:10 AM Aerobics
- 12:00 PM Lunch
- 12:45 PM Bingo

#### Thursday: 1/23

- 9:00 AM Tai Chi
- 12:00 PM Lunch
- 1:00 PM Pitch

#### Friday: 1/24

- 10:10 AM Aerobics
- 10:55 AM Chair Exercise
- 1:00 PM Writing Group

### LEVERETT

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

Take-It-Easy Chair Yoga – Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at the Town

Hall. Drop-in \$5 (first class free).

Senior Lunch – Fridays at noon. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.

### 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 congregating meals. Lunch is at 11:30 a.m., with reservations required 24 hours in advance. Call Mealsite Manager Rebecca Meuse at (413) 423-3308, for meal information and reservations.

For information, call Polly Kiely, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3649. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity. Call the Center to confirm activities, schedule a ride, or find out when is the next blood pressure clinic.

#### Monday 1/20

CLOSED – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

#### Tuesday 1/21

- 8:45 a.m. - Chair Aerobics
- 10:00 a.m. - Steve Damon – Name That Tune
- 10:45 Senior Business meeting

#### Wednesday 1/22

- 8:45 a.m. - Line Dancing
- 10:00 a.m. - Chair Yoga
- 12:00 - Bingo

#### Thursday 1/23

- 8:45 a.m. - Aerobics
- 10:00 a.m. - Healthy Bones & Muscles
- 12:00 - Cards

#### Friday 1/24

- 9:00 a.m. - Bowling

### 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.

## Relay For Life fundraiser kicks off

The American Cancer Society Relay For Life of Franklin County kicks off its 19th annual fundraiser on Saturday, January 18th at 9:30am at St. Kazimierz in Turners Falls. Anyone interested in forming a team this year is highly encouraged to attend. There will be a continental breakfast for all who attend. Teams can be made up of families, community groups, schools, businesses, and everyone in between.

This event kicks off the Relay 2014 season which will culminate with a two-day overnight camping event at the Franklin County Fairgrounds on June 13-14. On average there are 80 teams of people with 1,500 participants. This year's campaign is being led by Sue Pennison and Michael Nelson.

"We traditionally raise about \$270,000 every year," Nelson said. "Money raised is used to finance programs for cancer survivors and for ongoing cancer research. The more money we can raise, the greater services we can provide to those affected by cancer."

"Everyone knows someone who has had cancer. Relay For Life is a way to bring our cancer survivors together and for our community to celebrate the progress we are making in the fight against the disease" said Pennison.

"You don't need to have a team to make a difference though," said Nelson. "People who wish to make a donation to the fundraiser can do so easily and securely online. Gifts of any size are greatly appreciated."

On the web:  
[www.RelayForLife.org/franklincountyma](http://www.RelayForLife.org/franklincountyma)

JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION



### THE HEALTHY GEEZER

## Menopause at Home and Abroad

in 2004, when the researchers concluded that estrogen alone increased the risk of stroke and blood clots.

below deck where your body feels movement, but your eyes don't see it. That difference is what makes you seasick.

By FRED CICETTI

*Q. What is the value of taking hormones for menopause?*

To help control menopause symptoms, there is Hormone Therapy (HT) or Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT).

The most comprehensive evidence about taking hormones after menopause comes from the Women's Health Initiative Hormone Program sponsored by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute and the National Cancer Institute.

The WHI Hormone Program involved two studies—the use of estrogen plus progestin (a synthetic progesterone), and the use of estrogen alone. Women who have undergone a hysterectomy are generally given estrogen alone. Women who have not undergone this surgery are given estrogen plus progestin, which have a lower risk of causing cancer of the endometrium, the lining of the uterus.

The estrogen/progestin study was stopped in 2002, when investigators reported that the overall risks outweighed the benefits. The estrogen-alone study was stopped

I have read comments from doctors who say that HRT may be okay for some women. The best course is to get a personal assessment from your own physician.

*Q. Any advice about how to stay healthy during a trip abroad?*

Here are a few tips:

- First, see your doctor and your dentist to make sure you are starting the voyage in good condition. You may need vaccinations.
- Guard against infection by washing your hands often, especially after you've been on a plane, train or bus.
- If you are in a country where traveler's diarrhea is common, avoid street vendors, uncooked food, unpasteurized dairy products, tap water and ice.
- To battle jet lag, drink a lot of water on your flight.
- Get up and walk on a plane or train to protect yourself against blood clots forming in your legs.
- If you suffer from motion sickness, make sure your eyes are seeing the same motion that your body senses. For example, on a rocking boat, go up on deck and watch the horizon. Don't sit in a windowless room

*Q. What exactly happens during LASIK eye surgery?*

LASIK, which stands for Laser-Assisted In Situ Keratomileusis, improves vision by reshaping the cornea, the clear covering of the front of the eye. Using a laser, an eye surgeon can free patients of eyeglasses and contact lenses.

During the eye exam prior to LASIK, the surgeon charts your eye to determine which areas of your cornea need to be altered. The surgery is then done with a laser programmed to remove the right amount of tissue in each location on the cornea.

During the surgery, you lie on your back in a reclining chair in an exam room. The surgery usually takes less than a half-hour. Often, LASIK is done on both eyes in the same sitting. In most cases, your vision won't be better at first. Vision improves over several months.

Questions? Send them to [fred@healthygeezer.org](mailto:fred@healthygeezer.org)

If you would like to read more columns, you can order a copy of "How to be a Healthy Geezer" at [www.healthygeezer.com](http://www.healthygeezer.com).

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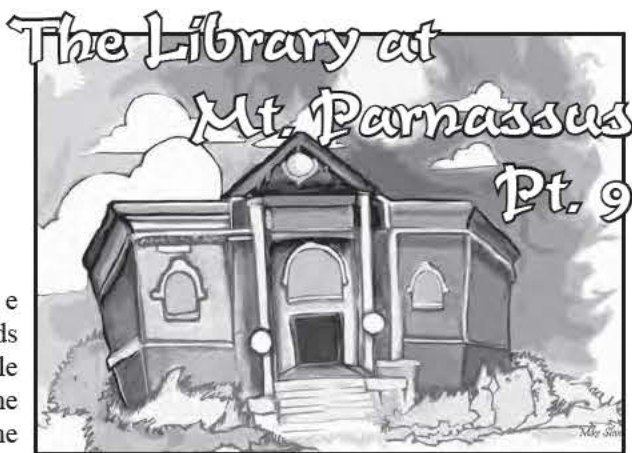
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The children's librarian comes to our narrator's assistance in...

By DAVID DETMOLD



MIKE SLIVA ILLUSTRATION

Penelope clapped her hands and a bevy of little barefoot girls came rushing in from the children's room. They ran in holding hands in twos and threes and bubbling with laughter. Their hair hung loose and swinging as they gathered round their mistress in a rush, some jumping up and down with glee.

But at a sign from Penelope, they ceased their antic play and all sat down around her, their frocks spreading on the marble like flowers on a reflecting pool.

A moment later, two older girls came in carrying a brimming silver bowl of water. They set it gently on the desk, then took their places on the floor beside the other girls.

Penelope beckoned silence. She wore a diaphanous gown of powder blue, worked with cut glass beads and silver threads that shimmered as she moved.

She cupped her hand in the air, and a crystalline powder of the same hue as her dress appeared to materialize out of the air itself and filter into her palm.

Then she stooped and blew the powder lightly over the surface of the water, and took hold of the silver bowl. With a twist, she set the water spinning.

The liquid in the bowl now seemed heavier than water. It began to seethe and roil; steam rose from its surface. In the air above the water, Penelope moved her hands outward in horizontal circles, then she clapped and raised her left hand above her head.

A baton appeared as if by magic in her fingers.

"Ah! There it is," she cried. She tapped the rim of the bowl with her baton. It made a dull ping, a sound that traveled slowly to the far corners of the building where it remained suspended, ringing softly in the dusty air.

The sound grew clearer and sharper as it reverberated, echoing back into the lobby while the smoke rising from the bowl curled heavily along the walnut desk and fell in curling tendrils to the floor.

Over in the reading room, the patrons had fallen into a doze, except for Ulysses, who had hopped onto the back of the chair when Cadmus put his head down on his book.

The crow turned his head at odd angles to his squat body, and eyed the proceedings darkly.

All at once, the girls rose to their feet and arrayed themselves about their mistress.

In the wavering light from the sputtering fluorescents they circled in a stately dance, bending low to drop beneath the kneehole of the desk.

They sang:

*By the moonbeams in her quiver  
by the starlight on the water  
of her well  
a shore of dreams we keep  
by the waterfall and river  
where the maiden naiads dwell  
in the rushlight tallow  
old Peneus weeps his daughter  
his tears the springs that leap like  
laughter  
the mossy stones where gather we  
these simples for a shepherd's  
purse  
the which we offer thee  
skullcap, lady's slip and mallow  
a tisane steeped of dew and furze  
with which we woo ye down to  
sleep  
that's all, that's all, that's all!*

Penelope smiled and scooped up a handful of pebbles from a cubbyhole; they looked like agate chips. She cast them in the bowl, and blew gently to clear the steam off the surface of the water.

Just then a gust of wind came rushing through the foyer; I must have failed to pull the outside doors all the way to when I came in, and now they had blown open. I went over and closed them quietly. The room fell still.

Faint and far off, I thought I could hear pigs squealing.

Like a priestess, Penelope held her hands above the bowl. She peered into the water, observing the pattern the pebbles had made as they settled to the bottom. Then she looked at me.

"You will pass through many obstacles," she said.

"Narrow straits and dire passages. Beware the clash of personalities that may beset your path. Long years will pass, and you will lie becalmed. Let not the siren song of vain ambition sway you.

"Your friends, companions of your youth, these all will fall away. Persevere. You will find that which you seek: she awaits your long return."

"Does it say anything about take home pay?" I asked.

"Must you be an ass?" said Penelope, raising her wand above her head.

"Whoa.... just kidding," I laughed. "It's just that I read that same fortune in my horoscope this morning."

"What more do you want?" She raised herself up to her full height. "The fates are not wont to vouchsafe proofs to fools!"

"No, no. Certainly not. But on the other hand, why do they issue such boilerplate nostrums? Don't they ever get specific?"

### NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

## Burst Pipes, Icy Roads, Warrant Arrests

**Saturday, 1/4**  
 4:39 a.m. Burst pipe on Avenue A.  
 10:42 a.m. Funeral home reported that a male was holding a fallen wire up in the air in front of their business. Determined to be cable wire. Comcast advised.  
 12:59 p.m. 911 call from child playing with phone.  
 1:51 p.m. Suboxone reported stolen from purse. Report taken.  
 5:06 p.m. Burst pipe on Randall Road.  
 9:36 p.m. [redacted] was arrested on two default warrants.

**Sunday, 1/5**  
 12:25 p.m. Two car accident at Lake Pleasant Road and Millers Falls Road. Verbal warning for unreasonable speed given road conditions. Snow buildup in road noted.  
 3:45 p.m. Shoplifting at Rite Aid; suspect stole a netbook and ran out of the store. Report taken.  
 11:28 p.m. Burst pipe on Fourth Street.

**Monday, 1/6**  
 10:19 a.m. Caller requested police send Department of Public Works to sand privately-owned driveway so he could get out. Caller advised that DPW does not maintain private property and given other options. Caller rejected other options and insisted that DPW respond. Caller given DPW's phone number.  
 10:41 a.m. Complaint that DPW driver had run stop sign and nearly hit caller's vehicle. Driver spoken with.

**Tuesday, 1/7**  
 3:27 a.m. [redacted] was arrested and charged with operating under the influence of liquor; marked lanes violation; possessing an open container of alcohol in a motor vehicle; and having an unregistered motor vehicle.  
 4:39 p.m. [redacted] was arrested on a straight warrant.  
 5:58 p.m. [redacted] was arrested on a straight warrant.

**Wednesday, 1/8**  
 12:26 p.m. Report of large blue dumpster in the middle of the road in Millers Falls. Unable to locate.  
 3:24 p.m. Complaint that dog on West Chestnut Hill Road was loose again and may have been chasing chickens. Services rendered.  
 4:30 p.m. Syringes found in rest room at F.L. Roberts. Services rendered.

**Thursday, 1/9**  
 11:33 a.m. Hit and run accident on East Main Street, across from Carroll's Market. Written warning issued.  
 1:50 p.m. Report of party leaving drug paraphernalia in rest room at F.L. Roberts. Paraphernalia removed. Party verbally trespassed from store.  
 8:48 p.m. Hit and run accident at F.L. Roberts. Gill and Erving PDs notified; suspect believed to hang out at Dunkin' Donuts in Erving. Suspect located. Summons issued.

**Friday, 1/10**  
 10:17 a.m. Officer requested to respond to Franklin County Technical School, where a student had threatened to shoot people. Student removed to hospital.  
 10:55 a.m. Burglary/breaking and entering (forced entry) on Union Street. Report taken.  
 2:46 p.m. Burglary/breaking and entering (no forced entry) on Park Street. Report taken.  
 4:57 p.m. [redacted] was arrested for probable cause.  
 7:01 p.m. Report of attempted breaking and entering on Second Street. Investigated.  
 10:10 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Bridge Street. Advised of options.  
 10:10 p.m. Report of someone throwing snowballs at windows at Sheffield Elementary School. Area search negative.

**Saturday, 1/11**  
 9:01 a.m. Report of several dangerously icy roads around town. DPW notified; responded that they were waiting for temperatures to come up.  
 10:06 a.m. Rollover vehicle accident on Wendell Road caused by hazardous road conditions; both vehicle occupants uninjured.  
 10:12 a.m. Report of several vehicles skidding and one off road at Meadow Road and Old Sunderland Road.  
 10:16 a.m. DPW notified again about icy road conditions; advised that a crew would be coming out to sand.  
 2:38 p.m. Vehicle into tree on Turners Falls Road. Road closed temporarily. Driver transported to hospital.  
 4 p.m. Malfunctioning traffic lights at Third Street and Avenue A. DPW notified.  
 6:09 p.m. Second report of malfunctioning traffic lights at Third Street and Avenue A. DPW notified again. Portable stop signs deployed.  
 11:20 p.m. Loud party on Grove Street. Verbal warning.  
 11:44 p.m. Second complaint regarding people screaming on Grove Street. Sturner verbal warning.

Penelope tapped the tip of her wand impatiently on the walnut desk and glanced briefly in the bowl again.

"Wandering. Wandering and lost in the midst of the Cyber Sea. You will log on manfully. Finally you gain access. Beguiled for ten long years, seeking the universe in a grain of sand. Lost." She shook her head.

"Should I consider opening an IRA?"

"Oh, go to hell," said Penelope cheerfully. She laughed and clapped her hands together.

I didn't notice what she did with her wand.

"Come on, girls!" she cried. "We've got more work to do!"

Two by two, her handmaids followed her back into the children's room, the last pair struggling not to spill the brimming bowl they carried between them.

*Continued next week.*

**CLIO from page B1**

can weather the changes to come. You write that you don't have anything to say to your siblings. Is this equally true for all of them? Maybe there is one among the three you can identify with a little more?

Maybe you can call that sibling and mention your concern about holiday meals and childcare. Brainstorming together could strengthen your overall relationship, while also improving the holiday situation.

It sounds like it won't be easy, but connecting with even one sibling would be worth the effort. Even though they don't always show it, your siblings must care about your parents.

Maybe if you start now, while they don't need a whole lot, your parents' need for help could bring you together instead of increasing

tensions. Supporting your parents as they age is a challenge that the four of you will face together, but there could be others, as well.

If you can practice sharing responsibilities during the holidays, you will be more ready to come together to face other challenges when they arise.

I can tell that you care about your parents, and it sounds like they really want the best for you, too.

May you build on this positive relationship in order to create happier holidays and closer relationships with the family throughout the year. Good luck!

Yours,  
Clio

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MOVIE from page B1

everything shifts, and the light is golden. This is a coming of age story, a romance, and a little bit of a thriller. In this film, everyone sweats.

It is a relatively quiet movie, revolving around the intertwined stories of a depressed, reclusive woman Adele (Kate Winslet, nominated for a Golden Globe for her role), her adolescent son Henry (Gattlin Griffith), and the injured fugitive Frank (Josh Brolin) who forces them to take him into their home while he hides from the police.

The film veers perilously toward romance novel territory at times, and enlists some heavy-handed flashbacks to fill in the backstory, but is steadied by nuanced and vulnerable performances by the three lead actors, deft yet dreamy cin-

ematography, and a lovely attention paid to details of the 1987 setting.

To see our bridges, canal, and river on screen was exciting. I cheered just a little the first time the camera showed us that long view down to the Connecticut, the view we all see driving into town over the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge.

Between this film and *The Judge*, also shot in Shelburne Falls and Millers Falls, and slated for release this October, it seems that location scouts have an eye on Franklin County.

Overall, *Labor Day* is a beautifully shot and well-acted drama. Depending on your taste, you may or may not find the novelty of seeing our local towns on the big screen outweighs the movie's flaws.



NOTES FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Bicycle, Kayak, Tree

Monday, 1/6

8:48 a.m. Report of subject riding a bicycle on Route 2 near Farley Flats.

9:58 a.m. Assisted on scene of medical emergency on Warner Street.

2:40 p.m. Report of kayaker in Millers River. Caller was concerned to see him kayaking solo. Gone upon arrival.

Tuesday, 1/7

12:45 a.m. Motor vehicle rollover on Route 2, Farley area. Assisted on scene. State police took report.

2 p.m. Report of deceased cat on Old State Road. Animal control officer handled; no rabies suspected.

Wednesday, 1/8

3:05 p.m. Assisted on scene of medical emergency on Mountain Road.

5:05 p.m. Arrested [redacted] for operating under the influence of liquor, second offense; operating under the influence of drugs; and negligent operation of a motor vehicle, Route 2 at Freight House.

Thursday, 1/9

6:30 p.m. Motor vehicle with hazards on at French King Bowling parking lot. Located owner. Advised was an electrical issue with car.

Friday, 1/10

5 p.m. Arrested [redacted]

[redacted] for operating under the influence of liquor; child endangerment; resisting arrest; failure to use a directional signal; and no inspection.

6 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Gunn Street.

6:45 p.m. Arrested Gunn Street man for domestic assault and battery.

Sunday, 1/12

1:16 p.m. Tree in roadway at Old State and Ridge Roads. Removed same.

7 p.m. Possible breaking and entering at River Street residence. Report taken.

10:50 p.m. Motor vehicle crash, North Street. Accident report taken.

LOOKING BACK 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on January 15, 2004: News from The Montague Reporter's archive.

Enrollment Decline at Gill-Montague

Over ten percent of the students have left the Gill-Montague school system in the past year.

With each student who leaves the district taking an estimated \$5,500 to \$11,000 with them, in a tight budget year, the sharp decline has school administrators and town officials worried.

"I think it's a very highly mobile district," said superintendent of schools Sue Gee. "This part of Massachusetts has a highly mobile population within the low income level of our communities."

"It also relates, a lot of the time, to jobs and housing."

OxyContin Overdose

Alfred Gowey, 43, of 80 Second

Street, Turners Falls, died early Tuesday morning in the brick apartment building he called home, the victim of an apparent drug overdose.

He leaves behind a wife and four children, the youngest five years old.

OxyContin pills reportedly sell in downtown Turners for \$1 a milligram, or between \$5 and \$10 for 10-milligram pills.

Old Roads, New Growth in Wendell

Officials from FRCOG met with Wendell's economic development committee and interested residents to discuss abandoning old roads, and new potential for economic growth.

Wendell's population has more than doubled since 1970, with the largest increase taking place in the '70s.

Of the workforce, the largest component works in town, with

the next largest group commuting to Amherst, followed by Montague and then Greenfield.

Median household income is higher than in Franklin County overall, and the number of individuals below the poverty line is also slightly higher than in the county.

Gill Transitional House Closing

The Gill Transitional House on River Road is closing after 14 years of service to kids in crisis.

Rising costs of utilities, employee salaries and insurance doomed the program, along with a reimbursement level from the Gill-Montague school system that never fully compensated for the special education teachers provided at the Gill House classroom.

The nonprofit agency will have the River Road buildings appraised and seek to sell them.

STRONG from page B1

Courier, and for the Orange Enterprise.

Clearly a young man of extraordinary ambition and intelligence, he graduated from the Powers Institute in Bernardston in 1892. He then attended Hinman's Business College in Worcester and graduated from there in 1893.

Strong was quickly snapped up by the management of the Boston and Maine and Albany Railroad, and began rising to the upper ranks of that company. Willie was on his way.

Then, just as suddenly, he died. That was on January 10, 1902 at the tender age of 28. But why, and how, we are not able to ascertain.

Several hours spent scouring the microfiche archives of the Gazette and Courier for 1902 reveal nothing. No obituary, no mention in those pages of the untimely death of their former correspondent and the Boy Wonder of Erving, Willie Lester Strong.

Except that is, for a single sen-

tence buried under the Births, Marriages, Deaths rubric of the January 25, 1902 edition.

It reads simply: "In Troy, NY, W.L. Strong January 10, 1902, the only son of W. Strong of Erving."

So, could we let our young Willie, so full of promise, a writer, newspaperman, publisher and correspondent, have his extraordinary life and his passing noted only in a single sentence? Not at all. He deserves better.

We will get to the bottom of the full story, and perhaps, write the final sentences on this native son. Stay tuned.

RIP

Willie Lester Strong 25 January 1874 - 10 January 1902

My candle burns at both ends, it will not last the night. But, oh my foes, and oh my friends, It gives a lovely light.

Edna St. Vincent Millay



Strong's Millers Falls News, February 27, 1886 edition.

Franklin County Tech School Students Earn Honors at Leadership Conference

TURNERS FALLS - Several Franklin County Technical School SkillsUSA students earned honors including gold, silver and bronze medals, at the Fall State Leadership Conference in Marlborough.

Fifteen FCTS students participated in the event, which was the largest Fall State Leadership Conference with 579 competitors from schools throughout the state. Students competed in a variety of team events, assisted in a service learning project for the Hopkinton YMCA, and worked diligently to earn leadership pins, signifying their mastery in SkillsUSA knowledge and leadership qualities.

Approximately 70 Franklin

County Technical School students will participate in the Western District 6 SkillsUSA Conference in North Adams in March.

Below is a list of FCTS students who won awards in the SkillsUSA Fall State Leadership Conference:

- Stephen Carlton of Greenfield, Culinary Arts
Colton Tarbox of Wendell, Programming and Web Design
Brandan Tarbox of Wendell, Machine Technology
Lindsey Malloux of Erving, Cosmetology
Rayanne Mercure of Turners Falls, Culinary Arts
Anna Vasquez-Wright of Colrain, Health Technology

Julia Lingwall of Sunderland, Plumbing and Heating
Lauren Hansen of Leverett, Health Technology

- Samantha Hayes of Orange, Collision Repair and Refinishing - Alyssa Gaudet of Orange, Cosmetology
Trevor Blake of Northfield, Electrical
Steven Easton of Bernardston, Electrical
Elizabeth Saulnier of Greenfield, Health Technology
Cheyenne Edwards of Greenfield, Electrical
Hailey Lowell of Wendell, Machine Technology - Seventh Place ribbon in Overall Team Quality.



Back row, l-r: Stephen Carlton of Greenfield; Colton Tarbox of Wendell; Brandon Tarbox of Wendell; Lindsey Malloux of Erving; Rayanne Mercure of Turners Falls; Anna Vasquez-Wright of Colrain; Julia Lingwall of Sunderland; Lauren Hansen of Leverett; Samantha Hayes of Orange; and Alyssa Gaudet of Orange. Front row, l-r: Trevor Blake of Northfield; Steven Easton of Bernardston; Elizabeth Saulnier of Greenfield; Cheyenne Edwards of Greenfield; and Hailey Lowell of Millers Falls.

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

**ONGOING:**

**EVERY SUNDAY**

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

**EVERY TUESDAY**

The Millers Falls Library Club: Free after school program. 3:30 to 4:45 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: Free *Texas Hold 'em Poker tournament*, with cash prizes.

**EVERY WEDNESDAY**

Carnegie Library: Children and their families are invited to come enjoy stories, crafts, music and snacks. 10:15 to 11:30 a.m.

**EVERY THURSDAY**

Arts Block, Greenfield: Thursday Night Jazz, *Ted Wirt and John Harrison*, 5 to 7 p.m.

Montague Center Library: *Music and Movement with Tom Carroll & Laurie Davidson*. Children and their caregivers invited. 10 o 11 a.m.

**EVERY FRIDAY**

Between the Uprights, Turners Falls: *Karaoke with Dirty Johnny*. 9 p.m to midnight. Free.

**ART SHOWS:**

Augusta Savage Gallery, UMass, Amherst: Jose Tonito Rodriguez: *Inkterventions* on display through February 14th.

**AUDITIONS:**

Mutton and Mead Medieval Festival seeks Actors, Singers, Musicians and other performers for Shire Cast. Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: Feb 7th, 4 to 8 p.m. Feb 8th & 9th, 10 to 6 p.m.; Feb. 10th & 11th, 4 to 8 p.m. [www.muttonandmead.com](http://www.muttonandmead.com).

**EVENTS:**

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 16**

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Open Mic Night*, hosted by Pamela Means, 7 p.m.

The Loft at the Clarion Hotel, Northampton: *Freedom Song A Concert in Honor of Martin Luther King Jr. & Nelson Mandela* with Moonlight & Morning Star and the Charm Brothers, special guests, 7 p.m.

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

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Tommy Filiault Trio*, Acoustic Rock with Sturgis Cunningham & Klondike Koehler, 8 p.m.

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 17**

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *McCabe & Mrs. Miller*, 1971, color rated R. Julie Christie & Warren Beatty, \$, 7:30 p.m.. Music before the movie, *Mohawk High School Select Chorus*, eclectic mix, 7 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Patty Carpenter*, jazz/blues singin', 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Josh Levangie & The Pistoleros*, out-

law country, 9 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Fancy Trash*, indie folk rock, 8 p.m.

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 18**

Dodgeball Tournament, Turners Falls High School Gym, 6 to 9 p.m.

Montague Community Hall, Montague Center: *Gender Role Free Contra Dance*, \$, 7 p.m.

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *McCabe & Mrs. Miller*, 1971, color rated R. Julie Christie & Warren Beatty, \$, 7:30 p.m.. Music before the movie, *Uncle Hal's Crabgrass Band*, jazz, blues, country, 7 p.m.



*Singer-songwriter Livingston Taylor plays at the Full Moon Coffeehouse in Wendell on Saturday, January 18. Proceeds to benefit Orange Friends of the Library.*

Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse, Wendell: *Livingston Taylor*, \$, 8 p.m. with open mic at 7:30 p.m. Benefit for the Orange Friends of the Library.

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Impulse Ensemble* creates an earthy fusion of World Music, jazz and spoken word, \$, 8 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Eric Kehoe* pop rock, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Eva Cappelli & The Watershops*, Bluesy Eclectic Rock made for dancin', 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *RockIt Queer* with DJ Just Joan, \$, 9:30 p.m.

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 19**

Deja Brew, Wendell: *John Sheldon - Up Close & Personal*, 8 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Myra Flynn*, indie, soul, folk, 8 p.m.

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

Flywheel, Easthampton: *Mal Devisa*, amazing solo vocalist from *Who'd A Funk It* with looped beats, sounds, noise and rhythm, 8 p.m.

**MONDAY, JANUARY 20**

Greenfield Community College, main dining hall: *Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration*. Community invited to our annual event celebrating the legacy and birthday of civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr. 10 to 1 p.m.

Green Fields Market, Greenfield: *Complementary Care Clinic* in honor of Martin Luther King Jr Day of Service, free seated bodywork sessions. Acupressure, Cranio-Sacral Therapy and Energy Healling. Walk-in, free, 11 to 2 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *BINGO!* 8 p.m.

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 23**

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Thursday Night Jazz Ted Wirt and John Harrison* play every Thursday night from 5-7 p.m.

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 24**

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Suitcase Junket, Matt Lorenz, Audrey Ryan & Jenee Halstead*, singer/songwriter, 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Wishbone Zoe & Lisa Marie Ellingsen*, 9:30 p.m.

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 25**

Trivia Night to benefit Big Brothers Big Sisters of Franklin County. Guest caller State Rep. *Paul Mark*. Teams consist of 8 to 10 people. Prize awarded to winning team, \$, doors open at 6:30 p.m., trivia starts at 7 p.m. St. Kazimierz Society, Turners Falls. Reservations encouraged, (413) 772-0915.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Andres Wilson & Asia Mei*, 8 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *All Fired Up*, classic rock, \$, 9:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Maybe Marlene & Friends!* 9:30 p.m.

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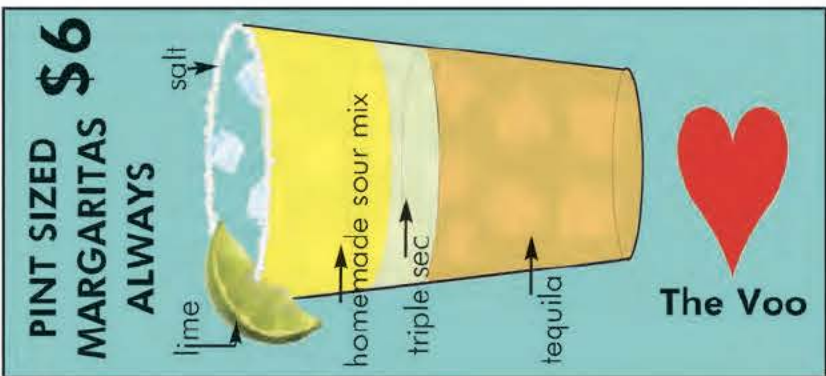
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**QUARTERS** from page B1

The games all cost a stagflation-era 25 cents a play.

The crowning glory are three Williams Electronics solid-state pinball games, shoulder to shoulder in the southeast corner: the lurid 1979 Gorgar, which “speaks!,” 1980’s multiball-capable Firepower, and this reviewer’s favorite, 1987’s spectacularly complicated, four-flipper Big Guns.

The music and refreshments are, like the games, perhaps not for everyone, but very well-curated. The menu is snacky, centered on french-fries and hot-dogs -- the latter are small, inexpensive, either local or vegan, and stylishly topped. Fried pickles, fried brussels sprouts, sweet potato fries...

To wash it down there is a limited selection of fancy soda, or, since it’s a bar, a limited selection of fancy cocktails, and beer taps, many serving local craft brews, including Green River Ambrosia’s Ginger Libation mead. According to Myers, The Quarters “will likely be 21+ in the evening, after 9 p.m., though we’re still working out the logistics of that decision.”

Though Myers and Stutsman wear many hats, both also work as DJs and promoters (their DJ alter egos are Snack Attack and Greg2000, respectively), and their knowledge and love of music were evident in the selections booming over the sound system.

“We’re still building up our playlists,” said Myers, “but we want it to represent a cross section of styles. We try to build the music around the time of day and tone of the room. We have a love of all types of music, so you’re as likely to hear chip-tunes as you are Iron Maiden.”

By 8 p.m. on Sunday, as a cut from ‘60s synth-rock pioneers the Silver Apples led seamlessly into ‘80s roller-rink electro jams, the tone of the room was already full-on zonked-out sensory overload.

While the arcade theme is a throwback, and the room is decorated with relics of a now-adult generation’s childhood mass culture, The Quarters does not feel kitschy or put-on. The focus on stand-up single- and two-player games makes it an accommodating space for stimulated introversion, or a thrifty date.

The venue can be rented out for private events, and will surely be ideal for some people’s birthday parties. Myers explains that he was “really excited by the possibility of creating a space that doesn’t have a core [demographic], but instead invites all types of people.”



CANDACE HOPE PHOTO

30 years old and obsolete: do we feel nostalgia, or solidarity?

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system depressants; hanging out with friends and geeking out over games.

None of these elements is new, but what feels novel is the decision to combine them into a space in which their total effect can be sought out and celebrated socially.

Maybe this is the only culture we are left to produce: the perfection of our own adolescence, as the adult world slowly fails.



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Angela Taylor of Leverett pauses in Kissimmee, FL, to read the Reporter after a train trip to visit cousins. Traveling this winter? Take us with you!

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