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The Montague Reporter

YEAR 14 – NO. 14

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JANUARY 21, 2016

Health Department Moves to Board Up Fifth Street Property

By JEFF SINGLETON

TURNERS FALLS – Montague’s director of public health, Gina McNeely, told the town health board at its January 20 meeting that she planned to issue a “show cause” order to property owner Matt Robinson. The order will require that his building on 15 Fifth Street be “boarded and secured.”

The health department condemned the building for numerous health code violations last October 8, and tenants were ordered to vacate the 16-unit apartment within four days.

Since then, the health department and building inspector David Jensen have met

with Robinson to develop a plan to address the code violations in the building. Last week McNeely told the *Reporter* that she expected Robinson to “pull permits” for the work by January 27.

At last night’s meeting, however, McNeely said that although Robinson had begun some work on the building, he deemed the cost estimate of a general contractor unaffordable. “It’s the same old game we play,” said “McNeely. “He gets a plumber, and hopes to buy himself some time.”

The original order to vacate the building in October was not preceded by a hearing, but the order to board and secure the

see **HEALTH** page A8

Locals Honor Dr. King

By MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS – Braving wind chills in the single digits, about thirty local resi-

dents marched across the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge and rallied on the side of Route 2 on Monday in commemoration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

The slogans on their signs included “Martin Sought to Change the Systemic Racism in America” and “Celebrate Dr. King: Black Lives Matter – We Know, All Lives Matter.” A number of drivers in passing cars and trucks honked their horns to show their support.

A man named Abbazero, who identified himself as one of the event’s organizers, said the group was marching “because we seek justice, and the coming together of all people – recognizing the value of each other.”

see **KING** page A5



The group held a quick rally in Gill, at Route 2 and Main Road.

Recognizing Patterns, Seeing Intention in Stone Landscapes

By PETE WACKERNAGEL

WENDELL – Last Friday Sarah Kohler presented her findings on the geometry and semiotics of stones in the New England woods at the Wendell Free Library. Under the darkly curious gaze of the painting of Marion Herrick, library benefactor, and her Rasputin-like grandfather, a packed house addressed pre-presentation technical difficulties with shouted words of understanding like, “This is mercury in retrograde!”

As an introduction to geometry in the natural world, Kohler showed the 1959 Disney short *Donald in Mathmagic Land*. In it, Pythagoras is credited with discovering the musical scale. The film does, however, omit the death by drowning that the Pythagorean Hippasus received for his blasphemous discovery of irrational numbers.

Following this video, wildlife rehabilitator and educator Loril Moondream introduced the audience to the idea that stones can be used for communication between people. In what she called the “Apache Stone Game,” normal rocks from the ground are used to tell stories spatially – each rock represents a location in the tale such as home, a field, or the river. The game can also be a way of leaving messages, like an out-of-office autoreply, where a few unique rocks in conjunction can say things like, “I went to the North.”

Kohler launched herself into a study of the stones in her environment three and a half years ago. After a career as a stagehand with IATSE Local 232, she was injured at home, and was unable to return to work. Kohler



Sarah Kohler of Wendell recognized the profile of a face in this moss-covered stone.

spent a lot of time wondering what to do next, and considered going back to school to finish her degree.

During this process, she took a battery of tests administered by UMass, and scored in the 98th percentile in pattern recognition. Kohler explained that scoring this high was a great realization, that now she knows “why

see **STONES** page A6

Traveling the Country, Building Skateparks...



PLAYGROUND SKATESHOP PHOTOS

Grindline Skateparks worker Matthew Jordan sprays the final layer of concrete onto the Unity Skatepark’s 3” quarter-pipe in December.

By JEN HOLMES

TURNERS FALLS – This week, after 17 years of activism, 7 years of fundraising, and over three months of construction, the Unity Skatepark will finally be complete.

The skatepark committee, and other hard-working volunteers from the community, were instrumental in this endeavor, but the park would not have been possible without the tireless work of the eight crew members from Grindline Skateparks, a Seattle, WA-based skate park construction company, who have been out in the field, rain or shine (or snow), to bring a high-quality concrete park to Turners Falls.

Grindline is one of the top skate park construction companies in the country, having built parks in nearly every state in the US, as well as in Denmark and Israel. Nearly all the crew members are either current or former skateboarders, allowing their work to be informed not only by technical know-how, but also from personal experience. Their parks are creative, interesting, and, most importantly, fun to ride.

“I was ten years old when I got my first skateboard, so I’ve done it almost my whole life,” says Eddie

Lawrence, the foreman from Grindline who has led the construction at Unity Park.

“And now it’s a job, it’s my career. But it’s a labor of love.”

Lawrence began building skate parks 20 years ago in his home state of Florida, and joined Grindline 15 years ago when he was contracted to help them with a job on the east coast. Despite the company being based in Seattle, Lawrence has spent little time there.

“I’ve been out [to Seattle] once, but that’s it,” he explains. “I just work. I just keep all

see **GRINDLINE** page A7



Grindline supervisor Eddie Lawrence pours concrete into the transition between the park’s full bowl and the bowled portion of its street section in December.

Boys, Girls Basketball: Roundup

By MATT ROBINSON

Friday, January 15:
Pioneer Valley 86 – TFHS Boys 53

Although Turners Falls scored nine more points than they did in their last game against Frontier, seven more than they did in a previous game against Mohawk, and twelve more than when they played Greenfield, they weren’t playing any of those games against a team like Pioneer, with a player like Brad Hastings.

Hastings, the son of David Hastings, a 1981 graduate from Turners, needed just 23 points to reach the millennial mark. And in Friday’s game, he got that and more, finishing with 26 points giving him 1,003 career points.

Turners coach Gary Mullins again shuffled his starting lineup on Friday, adding Nick Croteau into the mix. Blue committed two fouls within the first minute of the contest, and Pioneer took a 3-0 early lead.

see **BALL** page A6



DAVID HOIT-PHOTO

Gravity Games: Tionne Brown goes to the hoop against the Pioneer Panthers last Friday. Brown led Turners in scoring, with a total of 15 points in the game.

The Montague Reporter

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Letter to the Editors

Former Selectboard Reporter: Paint of Democracy Still Must Dry!

I don't know how relevant my survey is given that I live in Maine, but here it is nonetheless. I will say that I think the paper in its paper form is invaluable (though the trees might disagree with me).

I think it's time the MR had some digital presence, which I'm so glad you're undertaking, and I also am one of those Luddites who loves a good newspaper.

You asked about the coverage of the selectboard meetings...

As someone who has had the experience of sitting through those beasts (and town meetings, too), for the sake of reporting the happenings in the paper, here's what I'll

say: I think your coverage of them is important. I totally get how hard it is to find people to sit through them and report on them – a lot of time for not a lot of money.

I know I would never watch a selectboard meeting on the TV or computer (part of the reason being we never had TV), but I read every word of the Reporter's coverage of them. I value the MR's reporting of those meetings so I don't have to sit through all 2+ hours of them!

And, as much as sitting through town and selectboard meetings was sometimes like watching paint dry, I never once forgot that what I was participating in was democracy in

action.

I now live in a city, albeit a small one, but we have a mayor and the opportunity to participate in the democracy feels more removed; the layers of the onion of bureaucracy are more difficult to peel away.

And there's my two cents. That, plus my complete gratitude for producing the paper, which I know is a complete labor of love. I value it so much, even from afar. Thanks to all of you – staff, volunteers, board – for all you do.

Best from Maine,

Joanna Frankel
 Portland

The Results are In!



Thank you to the 108 readers who completed the year-end surveys that went out with our December 30 edition. Reading through the responses has been very helpful to the Reporter's editorial staff.

We received 44 paper responses, filled out, clipped and returned to our office. Another 62 readers answered the survey online. (If you're already disagreeing with the math: two responses were from couples.)

We know that the voluntary nature of the survey means we can't take it for a cross-section of our readership, but we place a special value on the feedback we received from those who took the time.

Readers were generally very encouraging, reassuring us that we weren't too expensive, or unfairly biased, and that they would rec-

ommend us to others, and in fact frequently discuss what they read in our pages.

At the heart of the survey was a sort of content popularity contest: 27 questions asking respondents how frequently they read various parts of the paper.

We hope to publish content that appeals to a range of interests, and we won't be dropping anything just because it ranked low on this particular survey. In fact, we think features that are appreciated by a niche audience, or attract new readers to the newspaper, have their own value.

But it's still been useful to see who's reading what.

The section of the survey likely to have a more lasting impact was a

sequence of three open-ended questions: "Is there any content you'd like to see that isn't in the paper now?," "How might we improve our news coverage?," and "Are there other areas we can improve in?"

Some of you sent in quite a bit of advice in response. Several of the paper surveys came with attached letters and essay-length answers.

Readers called for "more investigative articles," "more photos to go along with the articles," "more civic education," "more in-depth articles," "more Briefs," coverage of "more events/issues/happenings," "more in-depth on what locals are up to," "more historical stories," "more letters to the editor," and "more reviews."

You also asked for "more information on local manufacturing," "more critical analysis articles," "more comics," "more from Montague Center," "more local writing (not news, not poetry)," "more local news," "more humor," and to rely on "more reporters," and in fact "better paid reporters," who were also encouraged to "lighten up" and show less bias.

Though one person called our detailed meeting recaps "dull and mechanical and totally unnecessary," calling for a more issue-based, investigative approach, another said the selectboard notes were the reason they read us, warning, "drop that coverage and I will drop the subscription."

Readers called for topics of interest to young people, a youth writing section, youth surveys, coverage of high school events as well as of "positive teen happenings (non school)," regular school news, the recruitment of high school reporters, and more focus on Franklin County Tech.

We saw this theme in a number of responses, and it's an area we agree we can, and should, improve in. We already have a few ideas about how to do that. For now, if you're under 20 (younger than all of our survey respondents), and you're interested in getting involved with a local newspaper, get in touch. If you teach or work with young people, we're also interested in hearing from you. You're officially a priority.

Sorting through so many recommendations of what we could

do more of, ways we can expand, was a little overwhelming, and provoked a certain anxiety.

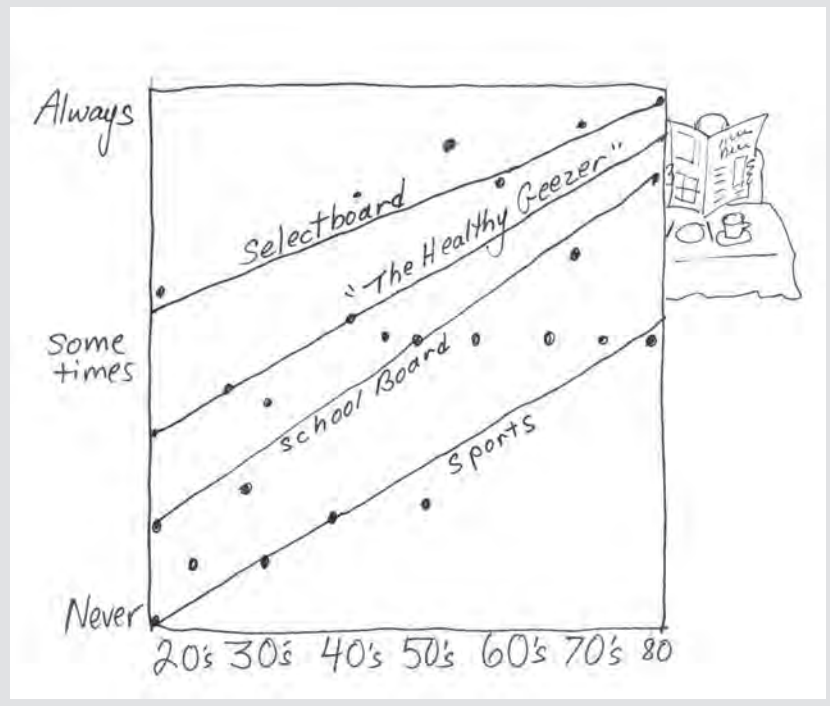
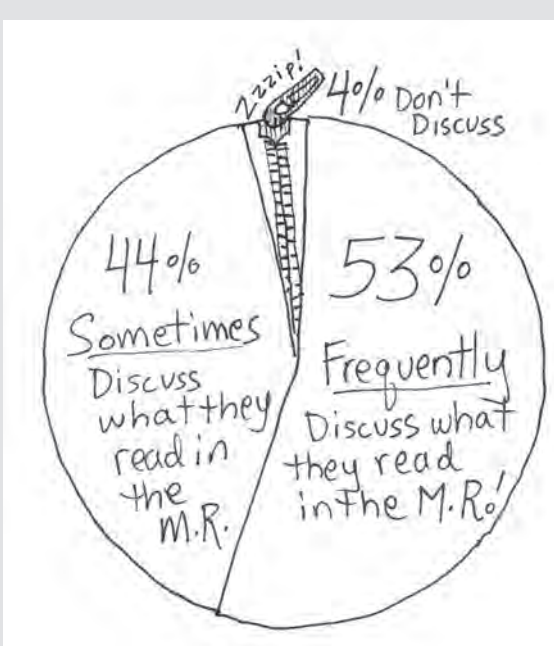
We're doing what we do on a shoestring budget, and a lot of what we publish reflects the interests of the pool of people who have the time to get involved. And only twelve responses indicated an interest in volunteering!

On the other hand, the way we set up the survey lent itself to this intimidating array of recommendations. We didn't really ask "Is there content you'd like to see less of?," "What are we doing way too well and intensely?," or "Are there other areas in which we can just relax?"

We saw some significant demographic trends in the pool of respondents. While there was a clear age difference in online versus print responses (see graph at top left), the overall sample was quite well-seasoned, with 63% over 50 and 43% over 60.

Our optional questions about gender and race were presented as fill-in-the-blanks. Around 90% of respondents identified themselves as some variation of white, Caucasian, European, or of an ethnicity related to one or more countries in Europe. The gender question came in 55 female to 37 male, with 14 other responses that included two couples, some

see **SURVEY RESULTS** next page



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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by DON CLEGG

The Salasin Project is hosting an open house on Friday, January 22, from 3 to 7 p.m. at 474 Main Street, Greenfield. Take a tour of their comfortable facility, meet the staff and Salasin Council, and learn about the supports and programs that the project offers.

The Salasin Project houses the Greenfield Women's Resource Center and the Family United Network (FUN) Center, and gives trauma-informed, individual and family support.

Special guest Robin Lane from

Songbird Sings will be present at the open house to celebrate the release of the latest A Women's Voice CD, created in collaboration with Songbird Sings and The Salasin Project. The CDs will be available for sale.

For more information, contact 774-4307 x4 or slangknecht@wmtcinfo.org. Snow date is January 29.

The Leverett Library is having two events this weekend. A free new Tai Chi class for beginners, with instructor Dennis Shapson, starts on Saturday, January 23, at 10 a.m.

Sunday, January 24, there will

be Music in the Community Room. *The Same Old Blues* return for a winter concert of ragtime, country and blues starting at 3 p.m.

For more information, or cancellations, contact the Library Director at leverett@cwmar.org.

Enjoy a Full Moon Family Adventure on Saturday, January 23, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center.

Join Northfield Mountain staff for a fun family adventure by the light of the moon. Learn how to navigate like nocturnal creatures, pretend to be predators sneaking up on prey and learn about the shocking scientific mysteries rolled up in Wintergreen Lifesavers.

A cup of cocoa and snacks around our wood stove will warm you on your return to the Center. No previous snowshoeing experience is necessary. Bring water, wear light-weight waterproof pants, warm socks and dress in warm layers that can be shed as we get moving. If the area is open for skiing, snowshoes are required.

Warm footwear is essential. All levels of experience are welcome. The program meets inside the cozy, pellet-stove-heated yurt behind the Visitor Center. For ages 7 and older.

Historic Deerfield will commemorate the 312th anniversary of the 1704 Raid on Deerfield with the free winter lecture series, *In Harm's Way: Conflict and Captivity Before the French and Indian War*.

The first lecture, on Sunday, January 24, at 2 p.m., will be presented by Peter Thomas, retired associate professor of anthropology, University of Vermont, on "Re-thinking King Philip's War in the

Connecticut River Valley: Pushing Beyond Old Assumptions."

Erving Elementary PTO is hosting their annual \$5 movie fundraiser, featuring Kung Fu Panda, at Greenfield Gardens Cinemas on Saturday, January 30, from 9:30 a.m. to noon.

Some among us might remember deliveries from the milk man, but how about from the ice man? Ice-boxes?

Join DCR staff at the Great Falls Discovery Center for a slideshow presentation on **ice harvesting, before the refrigeration era**. You will take a peek at ice harvesting where Unity Park is today, Green Pond near Lake Pleasant, and elsewhere in the watershed.

Event is held in the Great Hall on Saturday, January 30 from 1 to 2 p.m.

Girls and women ages 10 and up are invited to attend the Y's annual **"Girls Day Out"** event on Sunday, January 31, from 12 to 3 p.m. Over forty vendors will be selling products for women in the Y's gymnasium, plus there will be a variety of Y classes and activities to participate in.

This event is free and open to the public. The Y is located at 425 Main Street in Greenfield.

The Massachusetts presidential primaries are not until March 1, but the last day to **register to vote in primaries** is February 10, which is less than 3 weeks away.

Contact your local town hall for registration details.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.



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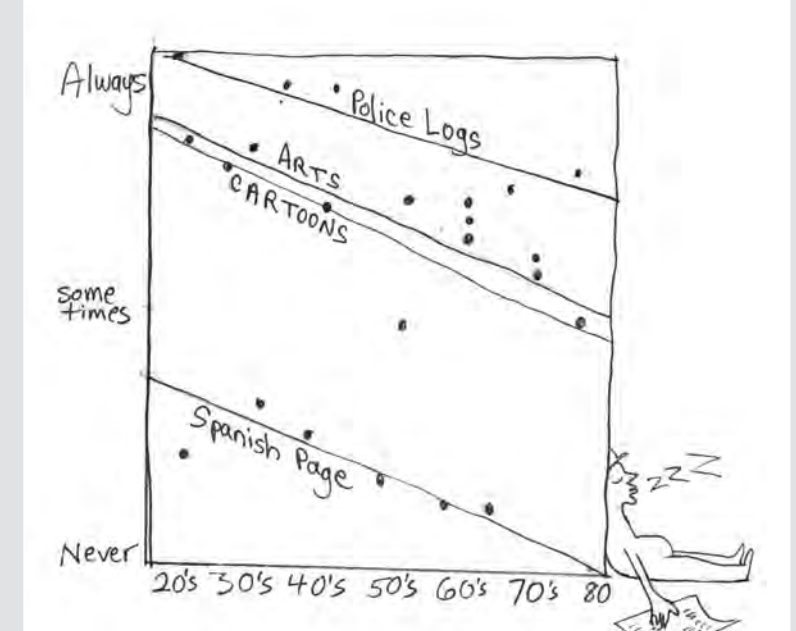
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SURVEY RESULTS from previous page

non-binary gender identities, and a handful of apparent non sequiturs.

We decided to compare the content preferences of those who identified themselves as female and male (giving "sometimes"-read content half the weight of "always").

When we crunched the numbers, these were the top five items women expressed stronger relative preferences for: the *Gardener's Companion*; the Poetry Page; *Oystergirl's Guide*; the Children's Page; and *West Along the River*.

Meanwhile, the self-identified males in the sample expressed stronger relative preferences for: sports articles; the Spanish Page; cartoons; guest editorials; and selectboard coverage.

We also ran a bunch of cross-tabulations on content preferences by age. Some noticeable age-related preferences showed up (see charts, at left and above).

We don't intend to draw any lasting conclusions from fiddling around with these numbers. The respondent pool was self-selecting, and the sample size was too small for it to matter that a

given female respondent indicated a 69% likelihood of reading our arts coverage while a given male indicated a 58% likelihood. (The figure was 86% for those who gave a different answer.)

We'll continue to profile artists, and cover art exhibits, because that reflects the interests of our current writers, not because the majority of respondents read it.

And on the flip side, we hope to expand our sports coverage, and continue our Spanish and Children's pages, despite the fact that most respondents said they skip them. We feel these things have inherent value, and we have added them specifically to begin to try to connect with new readers.



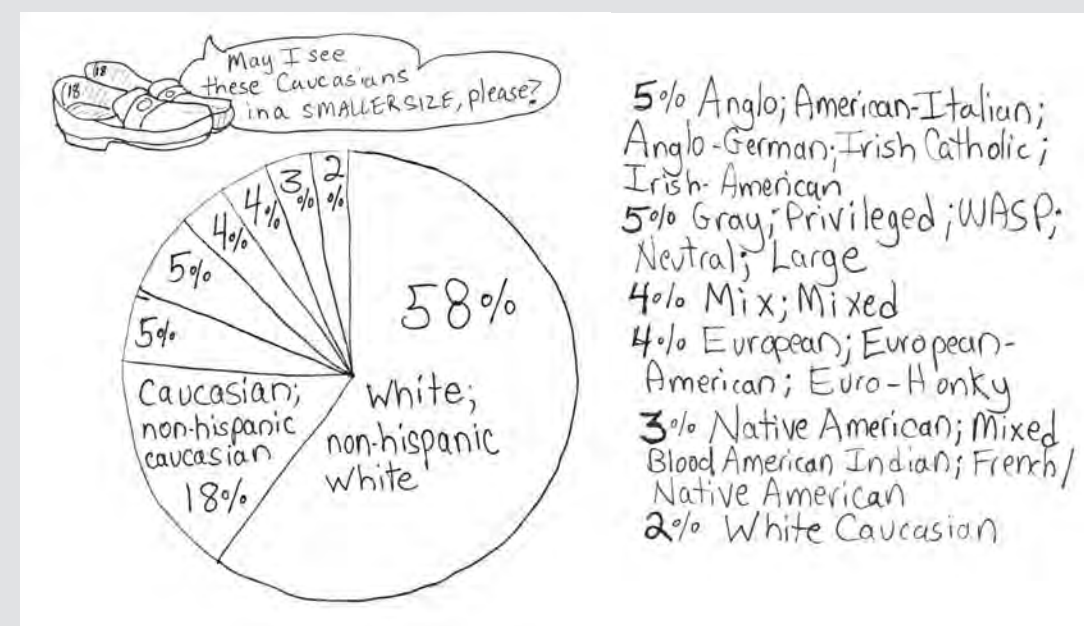
Since breaching the subject in our December 30 edition, we have received clear feedback – in the survey, in letters to the editor, and in person – that our core readership values our exhaustive selectboard coverage.

57% said they "always" read these meeting writeups, while another 34% say they "sometimes" do, and only 9% "never."

It will continue, though we are glad to have sparked some dialogue about the lengths to which our reporters go to provide this service to our communities.

If you feel you missed your chance to weigh in on the state of the *Reporter*, don't worry. This newspaper is a work in progress, and we always encourage feedback, advice and participation.

We'll probably run another year-end survey next December, and in the meantime, feel free to stop by our office at 177 Avenue A in Turners Falls to see what we're up to, or contact us at 863-8666 or editor@montaguereporter.org.



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EYE ON TOWN FINANCES

Part I: The Basics: Taxation, Town Meeting, and the Finance Committee

By MICHAEL NAUGHTON

At Montague's last annual town meeting last May, it was suggested that members of the finance committee try to get the word out about what we do.

I've been a member of the committee, except for a brief period, since around 2000, and I like to think that during that time I've learned a few things. This is the first of a planned series of columns where I will try to describe what we do and why. These columns will be from my personal perspective, so any opinions expressed are mine alone, and do not necessarily reflect those of other committee members, or the committee as a whole.

Let's start with the basics. Montague, like all Massachusetts towns (as opposed to cities) is run by its town meeting. Many towns have open town meetings, which means that any registered voter can attend and vote, but Montague has a representative town meeting, which means that the voters at large elect representatives (in our case, 126, a total of 21 each from six precincts) who meet and vote on their behalf.

When it comes to spending our tax dollars, the town meeting is the ultimate authority in town – nothing gets spent without its approval.

It's important to note a couple of things here. First, I say "tax dollars" because most of the money comes from collecting taxes – mostly real estate taxes, but also personal property and other taxes – but some of



it comes from state aid, and some comes from local receipts (things like excise taxes, trash sticker fees, dog licenses, etc.). "Tax dollars," or "taxation," are our shorthand term for money from all of those sources combined.

Second, the town spends a good deal of money that doesn't come from any of those sources. It comes from grants, and town meeting typically doesn't have much control over grants, other than authorizing the board of selectmen to accept them.

There are some exceptions, which involve cases where money must be spent before the grant is received, that town meeting has to approve, but there are many grants that are received and spent with no input from town meeting. The board of selectmen handles some; others are handled by the library director, the police department, the recreation director, and others in town government. They are a very big factor in helping the town to function as it does, but they are not under the control of town meeting.

As I said, though, town meeting does have control over what we're calling taxation, and it exercises

that control through its meetings.

The main meeting every year is the annual town meeting, which is held on the first Saturday in May. There are also typically two or three "special" town meetings that are held as needed throughout the year, at times chosen by the board of selectmen.

The annual town meeting is where the town's budget is set for the following year, and even though it's an all-day affair, there needs to be a lot of preparation done beforehand to prevent it from lasting a week.

That's where the finance committee comes in.

Montague's town bylaws call for the Town Meeting moderator to "appoint an appropriation committee ... which shall ... investigate the expenditures ... of the different departments of the Town and recommend in detail the amounts to be appropriated ... for the ensuing year. They shall also consider articles in Town warrants requiring the appropriation of money...."

Massachusetts General Laws (MGL) also grant town finance committees certain powers (notably, control over the Reserve Fund), but the wording in the bylaws pretty much sums up what we do: in a nutshell, we examine the various departments' budgets, and then recommend a budget at the annual town meeting. We also make recommendations on any town meeting warrant articles that require spending tax dollars.

In recent years, the finance committee has worked closely with the board of selectmen on both of these, though this is not required and has not always been the case.

I think this is generally very helpful, as information can be shared and discussed more easily, and if we can find mutual agreement I think that makes our recommendations sounder and maybe easier for town meeting to support.

But I think it's important for all of us to reserve our rights to disagree when necessary, and to bring those disagreements to town meeting for the final decision, and I think the current members understand that.

The process of examining budgets – actually, budget requests – begins in January of each year and lasts until early April, at which time the finance committee finalizes its recommendations for presentation to the annual town meeting.

This year, we've just started taking a look at FY2017 (next year), and in upcoming columns I'll try to describe the process and the major issues that we face. I hope that this proves helpful – feedback will be appreciated.

Mike Naughton has been a Montague resident since 1974 and a finance committee member most years since fiscal 2001. He can be reached at mjnaught@crocker.com or by looking in the phone book. The opinions expressed here are his own and are not necessarily shared by anyone else in town government.

GUEST EDITORIAL

Comcast and MCTV: Follow the Money

By GARRY EARLES

MONTAGUE – In his coverage of the January 4 Montague selectboard meeting, Jeff Singleton claimed that "when pressed," I "did not advocate refusing to transfer... \$34,000 to MCCI," the town's cable access provider. Actually, I raised legitimate questions and concerns about this issue to no avail.

The following editorial outlines these concerns and substantiates my position.

Montague recently signed a new 10-year license agreement with Comcast, which only applies to television services, not to cable telephone and internet.

While public entities – town hall, schools, libraries, etc. – benefit from the agreement, it is about 2,653 cable TV subscribers who foot the bill.

The license, under federal law, makes provisions for public access TV stations such as Montague's MCTV Channel 17, overseen by MCCI. So, where does MCCI/MCTV get money to function? It comes from Comcast, which gets it from its subscribers. Here's how:

1. Operational Expenses. MCCI, through the Town, and by the licensing agreement, receives 5% of Comcast's Montague annual TV revenue, roughly \$125,000. That money pays MCTV's operating bills, such as personnel, rent, and

utilities. In turn, MCTV broadcasts PEG, "public, educational and governmental," programming.

2. Capital Expenses. In addition to the operational costs, money is needed to replace and upgrade equipment or refurbish the facility. Section 7.5 of the license, "PEG Access Equipment / Facilities Funding," addresses this issue.

The previous 10-year license ran from August 25, 2003 through August 24, 2013. Under that license, MCCI was provided \$100,000 in "capital grant" money. That amount (plus a substantial interest charge) and the payment schedule (outlined in Section 7.5 of the agreement) was agreed to by both the town's cable advisory committee (CAC) and MCCI.

That amount, or any future capital grant amount, is a "pass through" to subscribers. The new 10-year agreement calls for a \$125,000 capital grant, to be paid out annually – \$12,500 a year for 10 years, which avoids interest charges.

While the previous contract expired in August 2013, a new one was not signed until October 2015. (Recall the "Fairbrother Affair" which resulted in several CAC resignations as a major contributing factor for the delay, an issue still not addressed by the selectboard.)

Until Montague signed the new license agreement, it operated under the 2003 one, with the excep-

tion that there was no capital grant money available – the last capital grant allocation of \$15,000 was in September 2009.

Comcast should not have been charging and collecting a monthly fee from subscribers for some "non-existent cost," but they did. The CAC attorney uncovered this "phantom fee" and notified the town, which resulted in Comcast giving the town a check for \$34,000.00.

The selectboard stated that the money was obviously collected by Comcast for MCCI for capital improvements. What's curious is that assumption was accepted by the board as fact when, had it not been for the CAC attorney, there's no telling what Comcast might have done with the money.

At their January 4 meeting, the selectboard, despite acknowledging that subscribers should not have been billed for capital funds for 25 months (the span of time between the expired license and a new one), voted unanimously to hand that money over to MCCI in one lump sum. Their reasoning was that MCCI had been without capital funds for an extended period of time to upgrade and purchase new equipment.

With that decision, MCCI was not only afforded \$125,000 in new capital money, but also an additional \$34,000, to apparently do with as they wish.

If they had such pressing needs, why not use some of the \$80,000+ they have in the bank? That in itself implies questionable financial management, and a lack of effective oversight.

Apparently, the \$34,000 (or \$17,000/year) of inappropriately collected subscriber money is meant to make up for the 2 years (2013-2015) the town was without a new license/contract.

But do the math: the new \$125,000 capital grant plus the \$34,000 is \$159,000.00. While I do not advocate any of the \$34,000 going to MCCI, at best, using the same annual rate (\$12,500) as in the new license, it should not be more than \$25,000 to cover funding missed during the gap.

The selectboard decided to hand over the money to MCCI outside the confines of the new license/contract agreement, and did not follow the guidelines established in the new contract with regard to the distribution of capital grant money.

In essence, there seems to be a lack of attendant oversight of the uses of that money. We need to trust that the selectboard is adhering to the ground rules, and not making them up as they go along. The long-sought opportunity to insure accountability with the selectboard and MCCI has been squandered.

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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Junk Bylaws, Anything Goes, Farm Plates, and Splitting Lots

By JOSH HEINEMANN

The entire highway commission – chair Mike Gifford, Harry Williston, Geoff Richardson, and highway superintendent Rich Wilder – met with the Wendell selectboard to discuss the proposed junk bylaw, whose details are still being developed.

Selectboard chair Christine Heard mentioned 250 square feet of stuff, and recommended instead of a “stick” approach, a “carrot” approach, in the form of a period in the spring when the WRATS would accept bulky items, appliances, and electronics without charging the normal fee.

She suggested a two-week period, and Williston suggested a Saturday in May, watching the weather to pick a good day. He added that Erving has a time when “anything goes”.

He said that the town pays for refrigerators, because the freon costs money to isolate and dispose, but other appliances just go into the metal. Bulk construction debris is charged by cubic foot, according to the best estimate of the WRATS attendant.

Heard asked town coordinator Nancy Aldrich to include details of a free WRATS day when she writes the next town newsletter, to come out in March or April.

Selectboard member Dan Keller also reported on his visit, with police chief, Ed Chase, to the home of Andy Hamilton, the one remaining property from which the town has received no response to letters about more than two unregistered vehicles on the premises.

Keller said there were four vehicles in sight of the road, and Hamilton said there were only two. Other vehicles on the property, including a school bus filled with metal that Keller noted, are covered by a farm plate. A farm plate may be moved legally from one vehicle to another, and so several vehicles may be registered with one farm plate.

At the meeting, Keller said he thought it took some proof of growing things to get farm plates. He also mentioned that Hamilton ordered him off his property, ordered Chase to arrest him, and said

he would have a no trespass order for the entire selectboard. At that point Keller and Chase left.

Chase said it would not be easy to check on the validity of Hamilton’s farm plates, but he said to Keller he would look into it.

Aldrich said that New Salem has a similar issue continuing with Hamilton, and that town has brought in their health agent.

The town bylaw that prohibits more than two unregistered vehicles in a yard calls for a fine of \$25 per day per vehicle, and selectboard member Jeffrey Pooser suggested documenting the days after this visit, and asking town counsel about the town’s options.

Cable Plan

Keller said he would respond, personally as a citizen, favorably to the Massachusetts Broadband Institute’s approach for extending internet coverage to all homes in town. He said it looks good and that progress can start on the early steps in construction, the pole survey and make-ready process.

Emergency Response

With notes from fin com chair Doug Tanner and fire chief Joe Cuneo that followed their meeting with the Orange ambulance service, Aldrich said that the annual fee for ambulance service in town, which now costs \$11,000 a year, will probably double.

The Orange fire department, which provides and staffs the ambulance, does not have precise figures yet, and may change the way the cost is figured. The cost for each town served could be based on mileage, population, or the number of calls the ambulance responds to.

Separate Lots

Marianne Sundell from the Friends of the Meetinghouse came in to start working out details involved in separating the meetinghouse lot from the adjacent town cemetery. Standing by itself, the meetinghouse lot would become a non-conforming lot.

She suggested that the town

could create a historic institution lot for the meetinghouse, and avoid asking for a variance from the zoning board of appeals.

To find the line that would separate the meetinghouse lot from the cemetery lot, she suggested that interested people could meet and locate the division.

Selectboard members agreed to meet on Saturday January 23, weather permitting, with members of the Friends of the Meetinghouse and the cemetery commission and define the border.

Other Business

Facilities engineer Jim Slavas billed the town \$973 to pay for maintenance of the town’s generators and the heating system in the library.

Pooser said he wanted to keep Slavas as a consultant to the broadband committee because Slavas has a good understanding of both the financial and technical issues. Pooser said he felt it would be cleaner to hire him and pay him in advance of work that he does.

Alistair MacMartin asked for, and got, approval from the selectboard to use town hall tables and chairs at a memorial gathering for Eddie Diemand at the Diemand farm on January 17.

Following a written request from the committee chair, the selectboard appointed Kathleen Leonard to the kitchen committee.

Selectboard clerk Laurel Brenneman brought in a bag of huckleberry licorice twists that a family member sent her from Idaho. She opened the bag, and one by one they were taken, until at the meeting’s end there were none left.

Pooser said that the licorice root is sweet, but does not have the anise-like flavor that most people think of as licorice. These twists tasted simply of huckleberry.

The *Recorder*, a newspaper based in Greenfield, sent Wendell a message that said it intends to increase its coverage of the north Quabbin region, and asked for selectboard input. Board members welcomed their interest, and said the newspaper could start by covering board meetings.

focus on “fair treatment of black people by the police,” as well as housing and employment issues. Madison himself is engaged in a campaign to require anti-racism training of all Montague town employees.

“Considering how windy and blustery it was, it was a fantastic turnout,” Madison said of the group’s action. “It seemed like great responses from people driving by.”

Jimmy from Springfield, who declined to give his last name, agreed that the public seemed supportive. “The type of response that we got when we walked out, it was a good feeling to know that there are supporters out there, unknown supporters,” he said. “Sometimes you get caught up in life, and then you get that dose of reality – to know that outside of how we feel, there’s other people that feel the same way. That’s a good feeling.”

Ezell Floranina of Shutesbury marched in character, wearing a gi-

ant head fashioned of clay and papier-mâché, until gusts of wind on the return trip nearly swept her over the rail. “I made her about 8 years ago for a Mother’s Day walk in Northampton. She’s kind of a Grandmother Earth,” she explained.

Floranina, who is white, recalled facing opposition from her Texas community when she went to her 1971 senior prom with a black friend. “We were the only biracial couple at the prom,” she said.

But, she reflected, times can change: “Years later, my dad called me and said, ‘maybe we didn’t really know how to support you then, but it was the right thing to do.’”

“We’ve been to the mountaintop,” said Abbazero, “and up there, we were very lonely. And we’ve come down from the mountaintop, facing each other in the oneness: Breaking the bondages of race and its construct. Breaking down the construct of white supremacy, and whatever

TOWN OF ERVING ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR

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

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

Application deadline is **February 8, 2016**.
Town of Erving is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Montague Nomination Papers Available

Nomination papers for the Annual Town Election, Monday, May 16 are now available at the Town Clerk’s Office until Thursday, March 24. They must be returned no later than Monday, March 28 by 5 p.m.

Seats are as follows:

- Selectman, Town Clerk, Treasurer/Tax Collector, Board of Health, and Parks & Recreation and Tree Warden, each for a 3-year term.
- Board of Assessors has 2 seats available, one for a 3-year term and one for a 2-year term.
- Library Trustees has 4 seats available, three for a 3-year term and one for a 2-year term.
- Montague Housing Authority has one seat for a 5-year term.
- Soldier’s Memorial Trustees has

a Veteran’s seat for a 3-year term.
• Town Meeting Members are strongly needed representing each precinct in Town.

The Annual Town Election will be held on Monday, May 16, 2016. The deadline to register to vote is Tuesday, April 26.

Nomination papers regarding school committee seats are provided by the Gill-Montague Superintendent of Schools at 35 Crocker Avenue.

The Town Clerk’s office is open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Wednesday 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Town Hall is closed on Fridays.

For more information please call the office at 863-3200, ext 203.

Montague Absentee Ballots Available

Absentee ballots are now available at the Town Clerk’s Office for the March 1, Presidential Primary. The deadline to apply for an absentee ballot is noon on Monday, February 29.

To vote absentee you must be out of town on the day of the election, have a religious belief that prohibits you from being at the polls or have a physical disability that prevents you from going to the polls. All absentee ballots must be returned to the Town Clerk’s Office by the close of the polls on March 1. The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Registered voters who belong to any one of the four parties, Republican, Democrat, Green Rainbow or United Independent Party must vote their party affiliation. Unenrolled registered voters and Political Designations can choose any one of the four party ballots.

The last day to register to vote or to change your party affiliation is Wednesday, February 10, therefore the town clerk’s office will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The Town Clerk’s Office is located at the Town Hall, One Avenue A, Turners Falls. For more information call 863-3200, ext 203.



JACKSON PHOTO

form it takes on.

“Breaking down racism and discrimination against all people – not just one people, all people: whoever

it is that feels any form of oppression, from whatever force, in whatever form it takes on.”



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ADVICE WITH PURPOSE

STONES from page A1

I'm so weird," and why she is able to see patterns that others may miss.

During this time, Kohler also spent a lot of time walking in the woods. One day, in September 2012, she was moving through the forest with the heightened awareness that comes through hunting for mushrooms. She stepped up on an elevated hummock in the forest floor, and saw that it was a perfect meniscus. It was not shaped like that easily tear-able part of your knee, but instead the curve that liquids make in a full container, like a lens.

Then she noticed more, identical menisci, arranged in concentric circles, centered on a white quartz stone. "I saw precise dimensions in a symmetry that does not occur in nature," she said. She describes the entire structure as 75 feet in diameter.

A System of Signs

Kohler's perspective on the forest began to change. The encounter encouraged her to throw out all the old frames and patterns that we normally see the forest through, giving her fresh eyes. She explains that she had to get rid of these learned preconceptions in order to "allow the stones to speak."

Kohler believes that many stoneworks like this were made by native peoples, and represent "a continuum of work beginning with the end of the glacial periods." This was 12,000 years ago. She thinks that they are part of a system of signs, like our road signs today, meant to orient people – to things like landscape features, food and water, nearby settlements, and other resources.

Kohler's next discovery was realizing that there is a common "key" to all of these intentionally arranged stones. The key is to find the "point of perspectivity." These sites are, on one level, just visual puzzles. From many places, the formation looks just like a random jumble of rocks, but from this point of perspectivity, the stones sync into a meaningfully discernible pattern. Kohler recognizes the point of perspectivity by locating on the forest floor its telltale "marker" stone, granite pegmatite – a rock made up of granite, quartz, and feldspar.

Kohler has a process for locating significant stone formations. She looks for marker stones, or stones arranged in straight lines or perfect curves. When she locates a marker stone, it is usually oriented in a way that directs her gaze toward the sign-stones.

"It took some practice," she says, "but eventually I learned that by matching up... marks (such as grooves, notches, lines, prominences, etc. – much like the reticule focus in an old-school 35mm camera), which are in evidence upon the surfaces of these aligned,

arranged or stacked stones, I can see – and thus photograph – what appear to me to be optical puzzles."

Conserving Landscapes

Kohler's goal is not to parse out the meaning of each stone structure. "I don't see it as my role to determine who, how, or even when, people built these stoneworks," she said.

She does, however, have concrete ideas about using them for conservation. Kohler has recently become secretary of Accessibility Alternatives Inc., a nonprofit affiliated with that is listed under the care of one Tashi Treechild. AAA has located multiple properties in Wendell, Shutesbury, New Salem, and Montague that it is interested in preserving as places that have significant stoneworks.

Kohler is currently raising money to purchase a drone equipped with LiDAR, a laser ranging technology, that would allow AAA to produce maps of possible stone structures underneath the forest canopy.

How and why we know things are big parts of communicating what we see as true to others. Kohler's understanding of rockscapes is, at least in its genesis, intuitive. Intuitive knowledge is based on information flowing from one's senses into one's emotional mind – epiphanies are an intuitive experience. Scientific knowledge, or secular logic, bases itself on its ability to *prove* its truth.

Faith and Determination

Tom Wessels is a naturalist and author of the landmark book, *Reading the Forested Landscape*, in which he explains how landscape features and evidence of disturbance can be used to infer what occurred on a site and when it happened.

Wessels discusses three different types of stoneworks found in New England. There are megalithic chambers, like those found in Shutesbury and Goshen, characterized by a single, huge stone as roof. These have been dated back to the Red Paint People, 5,000 years ago.

There are also latter Native American stoneworks – for example, a series of cairns on Glastonbury Mountain, near Manchester, VT, or the Stonehenge-like formation in Salem, NH. But he believes that the majority of the stone walls in our woods were made by colonial New England farmers in the 17th and 18th centuries.

Wessels can explain why this is true. Looking at a wall, Wessels knows what a field was used for. For example, fields plowed for grain or vegetables are virtually stone-free, and the stone walls enclosing them are full



Kohler investigates a flat stone with peculiar features in the forest.

of small rocks. For fields used for pasture, farmers left many of the rocks, and so the walls nearby are made up of only stones of a certain size. Often information like this can then be verified through sources like farmers' daybooks and other records.

Wessels has seen some walls that he believes to be of Native American origin. But he considers the great majority of stone walls in our forests – those that are straight, or that enclose space – to be built by New England's European farmers. "I've seen Native American walls: they're curved, they're not inscribing spaces, they're short," he says. "They didn't see things in straight lines."

For most of us, whatever we believe is still an issue of faith. It's easy to accept science because of its stature in our culture, its peer-review system, and ways of proving

why something is true.

But for most of us, not able to engage in inquiry about this and every other topic, deciding whose knowledge to go on is itself related to faith: do I put my faith in a system that is set up to seem accountable to the public, or in a member of our community whom I've seen and talked to?

In the past three and a half years, Kohler has produced an immense body of work, taking more than 30,000 photographs.

She is mainly concerned with increasing the public's awareness of this vast semiotic stonework, saying that, "It is my human duty to show that it exists."

Her blog containing photos of these stone formations can be viewed online at www.wiki-stones.org.

**BALL** from page A1

Josh Obochowski got the first bucket for the Tribe, making the score 3-2, but then the Panthers went on an incredible 21-2 streak. Tionne Brown and Jalen Sanders both got hoops at the end of the quarter, and the score was 24-8 after one.

Sanders, Brown and Croteau all scored field goals to open up the second period, making the score 24-14 midway through the second. But in the next four minutes of the period, Pioneer again went on a streak, outscoring Turners 22-5. The score at halftime was 46-19.

Turners kept pace early in the third, trading 7 points with the Panthers, but at 3:45 of the period, Hastings hit a 3, putting the score at 56-26. More importantly for Hastings, that 3-pointer gave him 1001 career points.

The game play stopped, pictures were taken, and congratulations given. Pioneer topped off the quarter with an 11-4 run, and when the buzzer sounded the score was 67-30.

Turners chipped away in the final quarter, outshooting the Panthers 23-19. The game's final score

was 86-53.

Brown led Powertown with 15 points, and Sanders put up 12. Croteau and Obochowski had 6 points apiece.

Anthony Peterson and Jeremy Wolfram both scored 4, and Rick Craver and Colby Dobias had 3 points each.

Turners was scheduled to host the Mahar Senators on Wednesday, January 20. They will travel to Athol to play the Red Raiders on Friday, January 22, and on Monday, January 25, the Mohawk Warriors come to town.

Turners Falls girls' basketball went 1-2 this week: a win against Mohawk, sandwiched between losses to Southwick and Ware.

Maddy Chmyzinski, who scored 60 points in those three games, might focus on her individual stats, but she seems more focused on the team's success. "I think our goal is 10 wins this season," she told me. "That way, we can make the playoffs."

After scoring just one point in the season opener against Lee, Chmyzinski has been a scoring machine. In the first 9 games, the

sophomore guard has scored 153 points, giving her a total of 410 career points.

Monday, January 11:

Southwick 64 – TFHS Girls 33

Turners benefited from Southwick's 3-point shooting early in Monday night's game, grabbing rebounds when the Rams missed the long shots and midway through the first quarter, the score was 6-6. But a line violation on a free-throw took a point off the scoreboard putting the score back to 6-5.

Then a series of loose balls, steals, and missed rebounds led to 10 straight points for the Rams, and after one period, the score was 16-5.

Southwick opened the second period by popping in 3 three-pointers, and before the Tribe could get their first point, the score had ballooned to 25-5.

Turners began to claw their way back with an 11-2 run of their own, but when Southwick hit another 3, the score was 30-16. Both teams scored 3 more points to finish the quarter and at the half, the score was 33-19.

The Rams continued to outscore

the Tribe, 18-11 in the third period and 11-3 in the fourth, putting the final score at 64-33.

Southwick hit 7 three-pointers, accounting for 21 of their points, while 10 of Turners' came via the foul line.

Chmyzinski scored 17 points, Nadia Hasan got 5, and Abigail Loynd 4.

Hailey Bogusz, Emma Miner, and Aliyah Sanders each had 2 points, and Lexi Lacey hit a free throw.

Thursday, January 14:

TFHS Girls 62 – Mohawk 31

The Turners Falls Lady Indians doubled up against the Mohawk Warriors 62-31, thanks to a strong second half.

Mohawk had outscored Turners 11-10 in the first quarter, and went into the half trailing by only 5 points, 24-19. But in the third, Blue pulled away, putting up 20 points to Mohawk's 7. Then they coasted to victory, outscoring the Warriors 18-5 in the fourth.

Chmyzinski again led the Tribe with 28 points, 15 of which came from the foul line. Sanders hit a three-pointer to end with 9 points.

Hasan scored 8, and Bogusz added 7. Emma Miner had 6, and Jordyn Fiske ended with 4 points.

Tuesday, January 19:

Ware 56 – TFHS Girls 40

On Tuesday, the Turners Falls Lady Indians fell to Ware 56-40. Ware pulled away in the second quarter and never looked back.

In the first quarter, the score was 15-11 Ware, but in the second, Turners could only manage 4 points to Ware's 19, and the score was 34-15 at the half.

Ware extended their lead to 45-24 after three quarters. Turners was able to outscore Ware in the final period, 16-11 but it wasn't enough and the final score was 56-40.

Chmyzinski scored 15 points, and Fiske and Sanders added 7 each. Nadia Hasan 6, Abigail Loynd hit a 3-pointer, and Hailey Bogusz added 2 points.

At 6 o'clock on Thursday, January 21, the Ladies host the Pope Francis Cardinals of Chicopee, and on Tuesday January 26, the Pioneer Panthers pay a visit for a 7:30 game.



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GRINDLINE from page A1

the equipment, and keep moving on.”

The crew at Grindline is in a unique position in this way. Hardly any of the builders stay in one place for more than a few months, and they move on to a new town or city when the job is complete.

While this would be exhausting for some, Lawrence and his crew appear to enjoy their nomadic lifestyle. Being able to see the country and immerse themselves in different ways of life for months at a time appears to be one of the perks of the job, and doesn't necessarily mean a lack of stability.

Lawrence, for example, has his wife and two children join him on the road frequently, giving his children the opportunity to learn about the country, and its history, first-hand.

“We built a park on an Indian reservation [in South Dakota] this summer... [We] went to Yellowstone, Devil's Tower, and my son would take pictures and write reports on everywhere we went,” he explains. “They've seen a lot of cool stuff this year.”

Having one's family moving to each job site is not the norm for most of the Grindline crew. More often, they try to find a shared house to rent for the duration of their job.

Lawrence explained that they found difficulty in finding housing when they first began work in Turners Falls. Initially, they stayed in motels – first in Brattleboro, and then in Greenfield – where they were surprised by the circumstances of many of their fellow motel occupants.

“We went to the Days Inn, and it was like a homeless shelter,” he says. “I've never been anywhere like that where it's... I don't



PLAYGROUND SKATESHOP PHOTO

Eddie Lawrence finishes off the coping for the park's staircase ledge.

know... I was surprised.”

Aside from that unfortunate aspect of Franklin County, Lawrence and the other Grindline crew members say they found Turners Falls, and its neighboring towns, to be rife with interesting places and events. Lawrence named the Discovery Museum, Pumpkin Festival, and local restaurants like Hubie's and The Rendezvous.

“It was cool to be here in the fall – there's a lot of fall festivals up here. Each little town seemed to have something going on,” he says.

“I even went square dancing! I've never done anything like that... But it was fun, because everyone was so cool, and no matter how I messed up, they were cool with it.”

That supportive attitude is something Lawrence and the other Grindline crewmembers are accustomed to, as skateboarding tends to have an atmosphere of encouraging camaraderie, especially when it comes to first starting out or learning new tricks.

“The first time I dropped in on a ramp like that,” Lawrence says, gesturing towards the el-

ement on the park, “I mean, it's intimidating, so you have to build up your courage, and everybody's pushing you to do it,” he explains.

“But really, to have a place where no one is judging you or saying you aren't good enough, it's a good thing.”

Lawrence is next headed to Texas to continue work on another skate park, while some of the other crew members are going to work in Wilmington, NC. Overall, Lawrence says that he and the crew enjoyed working in Turners, and were pleasantly surprised by the wide range of local skate park supporters.

“There's a lot of enthusiasm from the skate park committee, and there's really only two of the members, that I know of, that skateboard. The rest are much older, and you don't see that much,” he explains.

“They really seem to have a lot of interest in the town as a whole.”

Lawrence says the Grindline team were also pleased by the level of respect the town showed towards the park itself, explaining that in many other locations they often have to deal with cleaning graffiti off the structures, sometimes cutting into their work hours and slowing down their progress, but that such an issue never presented itself here.

That fact bodes well, Lawrence predicts, for the life of the Unity Skatepark, and suggests that if such an attitude continues, there will be little need for overly restrictive access or frequent maintenance of the park.

“Here, the kids can just come skate whenever,” he says.

“And as long as they take care of it and respect it, they'll get to use it, and enjoy it for a long time.”



In Their Own Words....

By MIKE JACKSON / Photo by NINA ROSSI

Matthew Jordan (left) started working with Grindline six years ago, when the company came to his hometown of Atlanta, Georgia to build a park. He had been working as a union ironworker for two years, but at the age of 20, he found himself laid off for a seven-month stretch.

“I was collecting unemployment, but I was kind of tired of it,” he says. “I just volunteered – they needed some people. And then they asked me if I wanted to go on the road, and I did.”

Jordan has been working for Lawrence since then, and is now the longest-standing worker on Grindline's east coast crew. He estimates Unity is about the fifteenth park he's helped build with the company.

“We all just do everything,” he said, “but nozzleman and welder are my two specialties.... I learned all my concrete skills doing skateparks.”

He described Unity as a “small to medium” park, “with a good bowl, and a very flow-y, transition-oriented street course. Everybody wants the best of both worlds – sometimes it's hard to combine them both.”

Jordan said he arrived in Turners the week before Halloween, and was able to take a four-day trip home for Thanksgiving, and a two-week break for Christmas and New Year's.

“I'm hoping to be out of here Saturday,” he said. “Eddie should be back this weekend, to do all the rough grading before the landscapers do their thing.”

“I swear to God, I see eagles here every day,” he remarks, as a bald eagle cruised toward the dam. “Somebody told me there's a nest right over there?”



Sam Thornhill (right), who hails from Nashua, New Hampshire, said Unity Skatepark was his first job with Grindline, but that he had worked for several other skatepark construction companies.

Like Jordan, Thornhill said he did “a little of everything.” He had past experience working with concrete – foundations, flatwork, pool repair, “whatever I could find” – and then found work with skatepark companies in Colorado and Oklahoma, before returning to New England to build a park in Lowell.

“I helped a friend out here who builds parks in New England,” Thornhill recounted, “and he introduced me to someone who was working here. He gave me Eddie's number. And now I'm on Eddie's crew!”

Thornhill said he has been skating since 2004. Growing up in New Hampshire, he and his friends would spend most weekends making three-hour drives to parks in other states, especially Connecticut.

On Tuesday he was staying warm, working under a blue ceiling: a tarp stretched over the bowl, with heaters running to prevent the concrete from freezing.

“We're trying to get this done, done, before the snow comes,” he explained, referring to a forecast for a Saturday storm. “We might have to do a little patching, or grind something down in the spring.”

Working in the industry is “for a certain type of person who knows why they want to do it,” he explained. “It's not about the money – it's about being able to make it happen, for something that you believe is worth your time.”

“Concrete skateparks that are made by skateboarders, who are making unique and interesting places to skate for a region of people, are a lot cooler, if you will, than just some basic stuff – like basketball courts, or tennis courts, where you can only do one specific thing.”



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HEALTH from page A1

property will require one. Robinson was not at the board of health discussion, and could not be reached for comment before publication.

McNeely also raised the possibility of putting the property in the state Attorney General's "abandoned housing" program. This is a process by which the AG's office identifies the owner of an abandoned property and, if the owner cannot afford to bring the property up to habitable standards, appoints a receiver to do the work. The receiver then finances the necessary repairs, and is granted the right to initiate foreclosure proceedings, and regain their investment when the property is sold at auction.

Food Fight

In other news, the board discussed a complaint by Ashley Arthur, owner of the Third Street restaurant Five Eyed Fox, concerning the manner in which her kitchen had been closed by McNeely during the holiday season in December. Board members actually had little to say during the discussion of the agenda item, which devolved into a contentious debate between Arthur and McNeely.

Arthur complained that the kitchen closing order, which required her to move food preparation to the front room, had cost her "thousands of dollars" in lost revenue. She portrayed the decision to close the kitchen due to the lack of a hand-washing sink as unreasonable, noting that the restaurant had been unable to schedule a plumber to do the work within the time frame set.

McNeely replied that the sink was not the only reason the kitchen was shut down, and reported that there was a number of other violations.

There was also a discussion of why permits had not been obtained to do the work that was being done. Arthur said she was not aware that their contractors had failed to take out permits until mid-December.

Both Arthur and McNeely raised questions about the professionalism of the other. Arthur claimed that the health director had a "terrible reputation" with local business owners, and "refused to do [her] job."

"Why don't your staff from Turners Falls know how to clean?" responded McNeely.

"Where are we now?" asked board of health member, and current selectboard chair, Michael Nelson. "The kitchen is up and running. We are working with [co-owner] Aric [Binaco]. The tentative date to fix the kitchen floor is February 8."

The board then voted to extend the time required to fix the kitchen floor until the end of February, and moved on to the next agenda item.

Jurisdictions

McNeely discussed potential action concerning a residential property owned by Peter and Jeanne Golrick in Millers Falls.

She stated that, although there were potential health code violations at the Golrick house, other problems needed to be addressed by the police department and building inspector.

The board briefly responded to the recent meeting of the Montague Center Water District. Local residents at that meeting, which attracted over twenty people, raised questions about the role of the health board in the recent finding of E. coli in the neighborhood's water supply.

McNeely and the board stated that this was not primarily a board of health issue, but rather a problem between that water district and the state Department of Environmental Protection.

McNeely had, however, initiated a reverse-911 "Code Red" telephone bulletin, through the police department, about the bacteria finding. Later the board of health requested that the water district officials attend one of their meetings, a request which was declined.



Dotty Janke of Greenfield reads the year-end issue of the Montague Reporter in Fakirpur, Keondhar, Odisha, India.

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YEAR 14 – NO. 14

B1

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OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER

JANUARY 21, 2016

Jinx: Hand Tools, \$100 and “Pestering” Spurs Family Move to Hill

This excerpt from “Jinx: A New England Mill Town Urobin’s Life, the Depression through 1952” was written by Jerry “Jinx” Collins about his youth growing up in Turners Falls.

Collins prefers to write in the third person, and in his memoir seeks to present “not just the pleasant memories showing him in a glowing light but also those that aren’t so favorable.”

This week, learn how the family moved from the Cutlery Block to “The Hill.” A copy of this book is available at the Carnegie Library.



In the early 1940s, Harold Collins built this house on a Coolidge Street lot.

By JERRY COLLINS

The Castle

With the depression coming to an end and World War II about to begin for the U.S., Jinx’s dad finally found steady work. Now, along with having a regular paycheck, came the ability to have a little discretionary income. He managed to save one hundred dollars, which he used to buy a building lot on “The Hill” in Turners Falls.

At this low price, Jinx’s dad figured he could keep it a few years and then sell it, making a profit significantly higher than he could from a savings account. Little did

he count on the continual pestering he’d soon receive!

Enter Aunt Maggie. Not really Jinx’s aunt, but his great-aunt and sister to his mom’s mother, she displayed a knack for constant sniping. When she heard that “Bimp” (Jinx’s dad) had bought the lot, she immediately started in on him. Why did he buy it? Why didn’t he just save his money in the bank like most people rather than squander it on some farfetched gamble?

Needless to say, this irked Jinx’s dad to no end. Having heard this enough times, and in order to get her off his back, she was told that

see **JINX** page B4



Going South

By LESLIE BROWN

FLORIDA – Three nights on the road and thirteen hundred miles later, we are here at lakeside in Georgetown, Florida. It’s a balmy, sixty-plus degrees and expected to reach seventy tomorrow.

It was an easy ride out the Pike to the Taconic in New York, down to Route 84. We made a sweet side trip down through the Delaware Water Gap and later stopped in Chambersburg, Maryland for the night.

Tuesday morning we were up bright and early, traveling down Route 81 to Interstate 95 the rest of the way to Florida.

A bit saddle sore, we stopped driving and spent the night in Fayetteville, North Carolina. Two days and six states.

In the morning I was looking forward to a nice hot muscle soothing shower, but there was no hot water. I reported our problem to the desk clerk, who replied rather laconically that “prob’ly” the pipes froze. Sure enough, there was a good layer of frost on the top of the car. Still, somehow that didn’t seem like a great excuse.

Oh well, onward with a black mark for them in the ledger.

This third day as we enter South Carolina, it starts looking like the south. The air has warmed up into the sixties, and we travel roadways lined by swamps of eucalyptus, yucca and the occasional palm. Spanish moss drapes any available branch. Despite a poor night and the lack of hot water, our spirits start to rise.

At one of the state rest areas, we see azalea in bloom along with poinsettias lingering after Christmas.

We see license plates from all over New England, the Midwest, even Alaska and fairly often, Canada. Ken is energized to have a short day’s drive on Thursday, so we press on through Georgia and stop for the night right over the Florida line in Yulee.

We take our time in the morning and leave our hot water accommodations around nine thirty.

We bypass Jacksonville and finish our travels on Route 17, which takes us through small Florida towns to Crescent City where we enjoy a long lunch break, shop for essentials and arrive to move into our home-away-from-home at two. Unbelievably, we are toasting the sunset outside on our porch. It’s after six, and still in the sixties.

see **GARDENER’S** page B3

An Interplay of Idea, Form, and Materials in Fafnir Adamites’ Art

By NINA ROSSI

GREENFIELD – For some artists, Idea implies Form. An abstract concept, existing in pulses of electricity inside the bony shell of the skull, takes material form from deliberate as well as intuitive decisions guiding a choice of materials, a process, and a structure or composition.

In her talk last Friday at the Stoneleigh-Burnham School’s Geissler Gallery, Fafnir Adamites illuminated this fascinating artistic process as it applies to her own work, on display in the gallery in an exhibit she calls “Becoming Unstuck.”

Photos of the large paper sculptures in “Becoming Unstuck” do not capture their live presence. They gently and soundlessly undulate to movement in the air around them – and perhaps they could also be exquisitely sensitive to sound waves?

As students and other members of Friday’s audience walked around the large black paper “husks,” as Fafnir calls them, they started a reciprocal gesture, a wobbling motion reminiscent of a soap bubble just prior to becoming airborne, or water quivering before the boil.

Also not evident in some photographs might be the size of these paper husks: almost five feet in diameter. They were molded around a very large rubber ball using layers of mulberry papers in her home studio in Turners Falls; transporting the large, delicate pieces to the gallery was a challenge, given their responsiveness to air currents on a windy winter’s day.

A Developing Theme

Adamites has recently graduated from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago with an MFA in fiber and



One of the five-foot-wide paper orbs that Fafnir Adamites created for her exhibit at Stoneleigh-Burnham’s Geissler Gallery.



Turners Falls artist Fafnir Adamites with “Fundamental Restlessness,” part of the “Becoming Unstuck” exhibit.

material studies. During her studies she became interested in trans-generational epigenetic damage: evidence that trauma can be embedded in DNA and passed down to further generations. She pondered personal patterns and looked at trends in her family, which led to working with a text dealing with her grandparents. Eventually she dislocated the text into artwork involving traced and embroidered words from the text and using light projection. She also used images of her predecessors transferred on muslin and felted onto wool that grabbed and distorted them with wrinkles.

Her work further evolved during a summer study in Berlin, Germany, where she was drawn to the Counter-Monument movement of artists who memorialized traumatic events using different types of voided spaces. For instance, one piece involved a fountain that was destroyed by the Nazis that was re-created and sunk into the ground at that spot. Another, “Monument Against Fascism,” consisted of people writing their names on a large, square column that was periodically sunk into the earth to cover the signatures.

Questions raised during this experience, such as “When is history covered up, and when is it displayed?”

see **ADAMITES** page B4

Achieving Serenity: A Well-Organized Home

By LEE WICKS

MONTAGUE CENTER – I once worked with a man who stacked all his paperwork on the floor in piles. It was an unsightly mess, but he knew where everything was, and would not let anyone try to rearrange his filing system.

He would not benefit from the services of Serenity Home Organizing, a business owned by Jill Bromberg from Montague Center. But I think he would be in the minority.

Jill’s firm is well named, because for most people, getting rid of clutter and finding ways to organize things brings serenity and peace of mind. It can be somewhat spiritual to sift and sort through a household, asking *what do I use, what do I need and what is no longer of use to me?* Ms. Bromberg said, “I love working with space. Often people discard some things, organize the rest, and discover they have more space than they thought.”

It can also be entirely practical and farsighted to evaluate the contents of a home in terms of the next generation. Ms. Bromberg works with numerous people who do not want to burden their children with a lifetime of possessions that may have no meaning to them. She can bring in shredders to help get rid of paperwork that’s no longer needed, or appraisers and auctioneers, and she is willing to haul things to recycling centers, charitable organizations, storage facilities, or the dump.

For the last two years she has been working with an elderly couple that is moving from a four bedroom house where they raised their children, into an apartment at a retirement community. They have been painstakingly sorting through everything. Ms. Bromberg went to the new apartment with them to



Jill Bromberg

take measurements and talk about pieces of furniture they will bring with them, and what they will offer to their children or sell.

She’s been working with them in three-hour sessions. “Any longer would be exhausting,” she says. “This is a very emotional process.” She has helped

see **BROMBERG** page B5

Pet of the Week

Hi there, I'm Laila! I'm a super cute little gal who is here because my family had a lifestyle change and couldn't keep me anymore. Right? I love people, my favorite thing is to be by your side, on your side, whether that's for walks, play time, or snuggling while you read or work at a computer. I am very energetic

for my size and like to be on the go! I've lived with children but would like to meet yours first before you bring me home. I can be a little rough when I really get into playing with you. I have lived with a cat and a dog before.

I used to chase the cat because I thought it was funny. I could still use some work on my house training, but I'm almost there! So if you're looking for a super awesome dog buddy for at home and on the go, I'm your girl! Come visit me today! We'll be famous!

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



LAILA

Senior Center Activities JANUARY 25 to 29

GILL and MONTAGUE

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

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

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

Tues, Wed & Thurs Noon Lunch

M, W, F 10:10 a.m. Aerobics, 10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise

Monday 1/25 1 p.m. Knitting Circle

Tuesday 1/26 9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga

Wednesday 1/27 12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 1/28 9 a.m. Tai Chi, Veterans Outreach

1 p.m. Cards & Games

Friday 1/29 1 p.m. Writing Group

WENDELL

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

ERVING

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

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

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

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

Monday 1/25

9 a.m. Tai Chi

10 a.m. Osteo Exercise

Tuesday 1/26

8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics

10 a.m. Stretching & Balance

12:30 p.m. Crafty Seniors

Wednesday 1/27

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing

10 a.m. Chair Yoga

Noon Bingo, Snacks

Thursday 1/28

8:45 Aerobics Advanced Class

10 a.m. Healthy Bones

12:30 p.m. Coloring & Snacks

Friday 1/29

9 a.m. Quilting

9:30 a.m. Bowling

11:30 a.m. Pizza, Salad & Dessert

MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

Ducks, Meetings & Spirit

Looking for something to do this week? There's a wildlife exhibition up at the Great Falls Discovery Center! This features duck stamp designs – as part of the Junior Duck Stamp Program – created by local young people. Come check it out through the end of January!

And don't forget to check out these new videos, now in the MCTV TV schedule & available online:

- **Montague selectboard meeting, 1/11:** Agenda items this week included a meeting with the Coalition for Racial Justice (CoRaJus) to discuss possible training options for town staff; a fund request from the IT Administrator; and several other items. 1 hr, 5 min.
- **Montague cable advisory meeting, 1/11:** This week's meeting opened with a discussion of the details of the MCCI (Montague Community Cable, Inc.) contract and modifications to be made. 47 min.
- **Gill-Montague school committee meeting, 1/12:** School committee goals were laid out, and the superintendent's contract was revisited. New business included introducing the FY'17 preliminary budget. 1 hr, 12 min.
- **Val's Valley News: Spiritual Alliance:** This week, Val interviews Joanne Matthews, Vice President of the National Spiritual Alliance, located on Lake Pleasant in Montague (pictured). Events hosted by the Alliance include development circles every Monday night, Sunday services every week at 10:30, workshops (see spiritualallianceusa.org), and finally, the Psychic Fair on the last Saturday of each month, which is featured in this segment of Val's Valley News! Watch this video to learn more. 4 min.
- **Montague finance committee meeting, 1/13:** Agenda items this week included a meeting with the IT coordinator, a reserve transfer request to information technology, a contract for the Public Works Feasibility Study, FY'17 capital requests, and preliminary use of FY'17 reserves. 1 hr, 45 min.

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

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

THE HEALTHY GEEZER

CPR Basics

By FRED CICETTI

Q. I watched a man fall unconscious on the sidewalk. A woman rushed up and started to do CPR on him and, later, I heard she may have saved his life. It made me sign up for a CPR course. You should tell your readers to take one of these courses.

If you would like to learn CPR, contact the American Heart Association at www.americanheart.org. Another CPR resource is the American Red Cross at www.redcross.org. Or, you can try a local hospital.

Here's a troubling fact that is a motivation to take a course: About 80 percent of cardiac arrests happen at home, near family members who often do not know CPR.

CPR, which stands for cardiopulmonary resuscitation, employs chest compression and mouth-to-mouth breathing to treat cardiac arrest, heart attack, drowning and electrocution. CPR can keep some blood flowing to the brain and heart during an emergency.

Maintaining blood flow can prevent brain injury and save a life. The brain suffers irreparable damage in a few minutes if it doesn't get oxygenated blood. An unaided victim of cardiac arrest will die in 5 to 10 minutes.

The most common cause of sudden cardiac arrest is an abnormal heart rhythm called ventricular fibrillation (VF), which can be treated with a shock from a defibrillator. Defibrillation is not effective for all forms of cardiac arrest.

There are devices called automated external defibrillators (AEDs) that are about the size of a laptop computer. AEDs analyze the victim's heart rhythm, determine if defibrillation is needed, then deliver a shock. There are training programs available that teach both CPR and operating AEDs. These portable defibrillators are available in many public places such as shopping malls, airports and stadiums.

To learn CPR properly, take an accredited first-aid training course that includes CPR and how to use an AED.

There is no substitute for taking a course from a trained instructor, but it would be helpful to understand the basics of CPR.

The University of Washington School of Medicine offers a free public service that explains CPR. Go to: depts.washington.edu/learn-cpr/

There are helpful illustrated guides and online videos on this website. The following is from one of these guides:

CALL. Check the victim for unresponsiveness. If the person is not responsive and not breathing or not breathing normally, call 911 and return to the victim. In most locations the emergency dispatcher can assist you with CPR instruction.

PUMP. If the victim is still not breathing normally, coughing or moving, begin chest compressions. Push down in the center of the chest 2 inches 30 times. Pump hard and fast at the rate of at least 100/minute, faster than once per second.

BLOW. Tilt the head back and lift the chin. Pinch nose and cover the mouth with yours and blow until you see the chest rise. Give 2 breaths. Each breath should take 1 second.

CONTINUE with 30 pumps and 3 breaths until help arrives. NOTE: This ratio is the same for one-person & two-person CPR. In two-person CPR, the person pumping the chest stops while the other gives mouth-to-mouth breathing.

There is also a hands-only version of CPR. You can learn this at: www.redcross.org/prepare/hands-only-cpr

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

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GARDENER'S from page B1

Friday wakes grey and heavy. Soon the wind comes up and whips the lake into whitecaps, then into waves. The rain pours down.

The motor boats rise and fall in their berths, and no one goes out to fish. Then a couple of hours later, in true Florida style, it stops. The sun comes out, and we have a warm, if heavy, day in the seventies. We take it slow just the same, as the long days of driving seem to have sapped our strength. On Thursday afternoon we were still buoyed by having arrived, and took our traditional two miles walk to see the donkeys and the cows and chickens up the road. This day we do the same.

Then it's a warm and partly cloudy Saturday. The fishermen are up early with the new, bright day and off to see what they can find. We go into town and walk, have some lunch and come back to the cabin and out to the bench on the pier. The fishermen return in bits but without a catch among them. The resident pelicans and herons gather, hoping for a change in the fishing luck.

Florida water smells like sulfur, and tastes worse. Most people buy spring water at the store or in the vending machines from which you can fill your own half or full gallon container. So maybe there is no incentive to improve. We are so fortunate at home to have fresh, sweet water from the tap or well.

By the roadside, Sandhill crane, heron, and egret feed together. They are so tame they wander through people's yards without comment.

Always the turkey vultures circle the skies, floating on the thermals. Everyone has at least one dog, and maybe a cat or two. Free range chickens are literally that, even on the edge of the highway.

Life takes on a different pace along with the drawl of southern speech. Down here Ken is "Kin." There is time to take time, and what's the hurry? If you think about it, it all makes sense. When it is warm and humid, hurrying is not a plan, rather a hustle developed by chilly Northerners who need to move more quickly to avoid freezing in place.

Another climate and another world of habit, culture and speech. Last year, we hardly felt accepted in this fishing camp. Who were we? Why weren't we fishing or staying elsewhere? Why did we seem to shun the late afternoon gathering at toddy time?

This season we return, and get some credit for that. We insist on smiling at and greeting everyone we meet, and because southerners are basically easy-going, friendly people, we get smiles or waves in return. After all, didn't we come back?

We look forward to making our own path: returning to favorite state parks to hike, enjoying other favorite landmarks and restaurants and just relaxing, soaking up the warmth, the slower pace and the beauty all its own of this southern place. Then we will also look forward to returning to the familiarity of home, friends and community, refreshed and ready for the first signs of spring.



Luck and Will: Surviving Near-Death Situations

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

Human beings can be pushed to their limits when certain situations cross their path. Sometimes they survive situations which should have killed them, by luck or their own will to survive.

I saw the new movie called *The Revenant* with Leonardo DiCaprio. The movie is based on some of the story of Hugh Glass, a guide to trappers who was left for dead by his companions when he was mauled by a bear.

Somehow Glass regains consciousness after he was ditched by these men. Then he underwent a journey to get to a nearby fort with the assistance of some friendly Indians and the use of his knowledge on how to survive in the wildness. Glass was called a "revenant," a French word meaning "someone who has returned from the dead," because of his survival. I think the title for this latest version of this man's story is quite a good fit for the movie.

The first time someone used this true story as a movie plot, was in 1971 and it was called *Man in the Wilderness*. It starred Richard Harris.

It's not like this was the last true story of unlikely survival that happened to a human being. There is a show called "I Shouldn't Be Alive" that featured human beings in more or less similar situations. This show was on Animal Planet, and ran for 6 seasons.

Some of the true stories really do involve sheer luck, and the people's own will to survive. One story from

the show that is a little similar to what happened to Glass involved two men who tried to climb Mount Everest in May 2008.

Believing his unconscious partner could not be saved, and knowing he was at great personal risk himself, one man left the other behind. But he regained consciousness, and was found in the morning by another party of climbers.

A story that I would call "surviving with the help of sheer luck" is a woman who was severely hurt in a fall involving a canyon, somewhere in Utah. This woman at one point had her skeleton split in two, and this woman had to deal with that pain on top of freezing weather.

She had brought her dog Taz for company, and Taz ended up leading her rescuers to her. It turned out to be a very lucky idea that she brought the animal with her in the first place.

A story from the series that I would call "surviving through sheer will" happened in January 2008. A man who was doing trapping in Canada lost control of his quad bike, and the thing fell on top of him. Both of his legs were badly injured, and he couldn't move at all to reach his survival. He was left to deal with the freezing cold and coyotes trying to eat him.

That life-or-death situation involves a lot of will to me, especially when it seems all he could really do was to hold on for the sake of his life. That individual's will must have gone through one huge test of strength in order to get through those days and still be alive.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Stuck In Snow On Seventh Street; Adderall Stolen Despite Camouflage; Car Hums Idly, Disturbing Sleep

Monday, 1/11

1 p.m. Party calling on behalf of friend whose dog is very ill; friend does not have means to lift or transport the dog to the vet to be euthanized and is looking for advice. Contacted animal control officer, who advised he will assist the dog owner.

Tuesday, 1/12

8:12 a.m. Officer reports that the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge is becoming very icy due to the dam being open and the spray coming up. MassHighway notified and will be en route.

8:21 a.m. Caller reports female slumped over in the front seat of a vehicle at Griswold and Davis Streets. MedCare and TFFD notified and en route. Officer reports that he is with the operator, no medical condition. Vehicle has a dead battery. Assisting motorist now. EMS cancelled.

9:58 a.m. Officer received report of coyotes or coydogs in area of Randall Road. Area search negative.

10:39 a.m. Caller reporting that a G Street property under foreclosure has been vandalized. Damage to interior door and drywall; several items stolen, including all kitchen appliances, cabinet doors, some flooring and trim. Report taken.

4:15 p.m. Party into station requesting to speak to an officer; he has been dating a woman for 3 months and is concerned that she may go to the PD with issues or allegations when he stops talking to her. He has her stepdad's GPS, which he was given permission to use, but he is concerned that she will say he stole it. Caller states he does not want any conflict, so he is leaving the GPS at the station and the other party will pick it up. Stepfather came in to pick up GPS; stated it is missing a "bean bag" piece it was mounted to. Property tag signed.

5:20 p.m. Two vehicle accident at Park Street and Unity Street. No smoke/fluids/injuries/airbags. Officer in area advises multiple vehicles off road. Road closed briefly. DPW was advised this was a first priority road. TFFD and tow company en route.

5:39 p.m. Caller advises slippery conditions on Rabbit Hill/Turnpike Road; vehicles spinning out. Same caller called back advising accident now at this location. DPW and TFFD advised. TFFD on scene; no injuries. Road closed briefly.

6:01 p.m. 911 caller, young girl, advising vehicle is

stuck in snow on Seventh Street. Sounded like parent was outside of vehicle. Girl stated they had not been in an accident and nobody was hurt. While on the line, vehicle was moved; girl advised they got it out and didn't need any help.

6:01 p.m. Single car vs. guardrail accident at South Prospect and Highland Streets. No injuries, but airbags did deploy. Vehicle towed.

8:27 p.m. Caller from F.L. Roberts requesting an officer to remove an unwanted male party from the store; they have asked him to leave and he is refusing to do so. Officer clear; subject, who had been standing inside reading the paper, has left the area.

11:29 p.m. Caller advises that she just left work at F.L. Roberts and discovered that someone had entered her car, stolen a backpack, and ransacked the rest of her belongings. Investigated.

Wednesday, 1/13

12:44 a.m. 911 call received from medical delivery person stuck in elevator at Farren Care Center. Officers and TFFD en route. Services rendered.

8:23 a.m. Report of an unshoveled sidewalk on Millers Falls Road; caller believes electric company owns land. Contacted Northfield Mountain Project and spoke with supervisor, who advised it would be taken care of. NMP supervisor called back advising that his agency checked the area, that the NMP sidewalk was shoveled, and further advised that it was the only sidewalk on that stretch of road that was shoveled. Officer checked sidewalk in affected area and advised it appears to be all set.

9:42 a.m. Officer removed two trash bags from Turners Falls Road.

4:19 p.m. Caller from Randall Road reports that one of his tenants is harassing the other; requesting to speak to an officer. Officer

spoke with tenants who are being harassed. The other tenant has been leaving unwanted religious materials on their cars and cars of guests that visit. Other party was at home, but refused to answer door. Officer will make contact at a later date.

11:17 p.m. Caller reports that her purse was stolen from her vehicle that was parked on Fourth Street: camouflage bag, pink wallet, debit and associated cards, a prescription for an antibiotic and a full prescription of Adderall. Report taken.

Thursday, 1/14

9:12 a.m. Caller from Randall Road advising attached female party is now outside this location hitting other tenant's truck. Caller cannot see what female has in her hand; some sort of bag. Officer in area, not seeing female or truck at apartment. Report taken.

7:05 p.m. Caller reports that a truck is parked next to his car behind an apartment building on Avenue A, and he believes a party jumped on top of the vehicle and onto the roof of Booska's Flooring and was somehow able to gain entry into the building. Officer checked exterior and advised it appeared someone did hop on the roof and make entry to the building. No signs of forced entry. Investigated.

10:09 p.m. Report of hay bales that were dropped in Turners Falls Road creating a traffic hazard. Services rendered.

10:23 p.m. Caller reports additional hay bales in the roadway, closer to the Montague side. Upon clearing, officer advises hazard removed.

Friday, 1/15

1:23 p.m. Party into station reporting that he believes someone "keyed" his vehicle yesterday on G Street. Report taken.

3:40 p.m. Two car accident at Third Street and Avenue A. TFFD and MedCare requested; one

party complaining of injuries (shoulder and chest pain); airbag deployment in both vehicles. Operator of one vehicle transported by MedCare. Both vehicles towed.

Saturday, 1/16

9:01 a.m. Vehicle into pole by the power lines on Wendell Road. No injuries reported. Officer requesting DPW be notified due to slippery conditions.

9:44 a.m. Caller reports a vehicle off of Wendell Road, approximately 1 mile down the hill from previous accident. No injuries reported.

10:22 a.m. Vehicle vs. tree on Route 63 south of Main Street; no injuries.

12:34 p.m. Caller reports he found a pooch, a brown and black shepherd mix, in the alley next to the Shea Theater; dog was in the roadway and was nearly struck a couple of times. Caller has dog and reports that it appears very hungry. He has fed it some and is requesting assistance with getting it to the kennel. No collar or tags. Pooch placed in kennel.

5:09 p.m. Party into station to report that he had stopped for a pedestrian in the crosswalk at Avenue A and Third Street when another vehicle passed by him, almost striking the pedestrian. Patrol units advised to be on lookout. Party also had other general complaints about vehicles on the Avenue. Party advised this would be on record.

Sunday, 1/17

12:22 a.m. Caller from Montague Center reports loud humming noise; unsure what or where it is, but it is disturbing his sleep. Officers clear; spoke to registered owner of vehicle running in a driveway on South Street.

9:58 a.m. Caller reports that someone picked up his medication from Rite Aid without his consent. Officer spoke to caller and advised him of options; officer will be following up at Rite Aid. Report taken.

MONTAGUE CRYPTOJAM !!!

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-EDS.

ADAMITES from page B1

Do we show the scars, or conceal them?" became the basis for an artistic exploration that led to a large, 7x7x4 foot sculpture entitled "What Conceals."

"What Conceals" consisted of felted burlap panels joined together to cover a pile of debris. Here, the concealment becomes more important than what is beneath.

Her process of construction was a "Sisyphian task" of laboriously felting wool into burlap, panel by panel, requiring great patience and physical stamina.

As she worked, she felt connected to history, to the trauma of labor throughout time, in particular the labor of women which has always involved working with fiber. She struggled with how to reconcile and accept this burden as a necessary part of completing the piece.

Also informing this felted burlap series was her research into materials. The contrast of felted versus woven materials is that of a chaotic versus controlled structure: woven material is striated, with a beginning and an end; felting is smooth and endless, a structure based on the chaotic entanglement of fibers.

An ordered space can represent safety, explained Adamites, who says she feels pulled towards that type

structure but tries to resist and find a balance between chaos and order.

"With a Single Gesture" was another piece completed during her Chicago studies. It consisted of 5 large spools of thread that were cut open in "a single, powerful gesture; aggressive yet also gentle." In this simple piece she managed to turn one thread on each spool into thousands, similar to de-contextualizing words from a narrative, or moments from time – many analogies can be considered here.

"Becoming Unstuck"

Adamites' sculptures are all black, a very purposeful choice. She finds the history of color fascinating. "For some people, black has 'gloomy' connotations. For me, black is absorbing: non-reflective, pulling in light: it enhances the other ideas in my work."

One can consider black in a subtractive way, as absence of color, or in an additive way, as a rich black full of all the colors. It definitely adds to the encompassing effect of her bowl-like forms, which stir up a secret desire to crawl inside and curl up, to be absorbed and comforted.

Each large piece is a world unto itself and contains interior details that give it an identity. These appear as though naturally-arising, geo-

JINX from page B1

he planned to build a home for his wife and his boys on the lot. It didn't work. Now she started constantly asking when the building would start and insinuating that he was all "bluff."

That did it. With thirty-five extra dollars, Jinx's dad went out and purchased shovels, pickaxes, and all the tools necessary to start construction.

Jinx figured that the whole family can thank Aunt Maggie for making their mom's dream of having her own home come true sooner, rather than later.

They started on "The Castle."

Crushed

Construction started in the early summer of 1942. The job of clearing the scrub brush from the lot fell to Jinx's three older brothers. The two eldest handled the grub hooks while the third piled the brush up for burning. Barely seven years old, Jinx would try to help, but thinks he probably only got in the way.

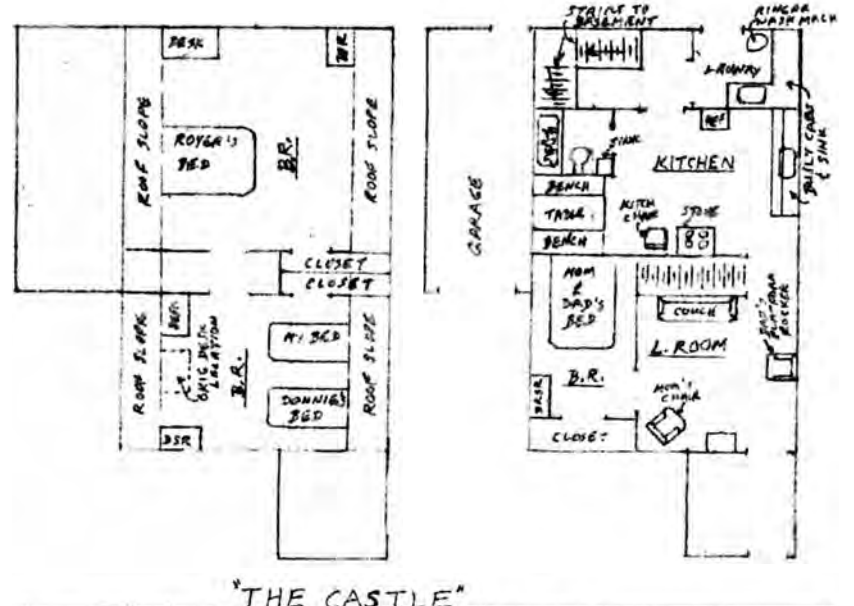
As the day progressed, so did the heat, and his brothers took off their shirts for a little relief. Needless to say, "Monkey See, Monkey Do," Jinx decided to follow suit. At seven years of age, to say his physique left a little to be desired would be an understatement. "Skinny as a Rail" fit the description better.

Jinx's dad, along with his mom's brother, had just completed putting in the stakes that would outline the exterior siting of the house. Upon his dad seeing Jinx there in all his bare-chested glory, he burst out in laughter and yelled over to him, saying "You'd better put your shirt back on before some dog comes along and thinks you're a bone."

Jinx is sure his dad only meant it in jest, but on that day he believed no one ever had their spirit lowered as much as he. He was CRUSHED.

About Jinx's Dad

Harold Collins, known as "Bimp," was born on June 8, 1900 and died October 13, 1952. From his youth, as the story told to Jinx goes, Bimp was a rather rambunctious boy. He left school in the eighth grade via the second-story window after hitting



Schematic drawing of "The Castle" from Jerry Collins' book.

the principal with a rock.

He went to work (no child labor laws back then) and lived at home until he was about seventeen. He left home at that time to see the country, working at all types of jobs from picking fruit in the south to working as a porter on the railroad. Finally, at age twenty-three, he met Jinx's mom, and a year later they eloped.

Jinx's mom told him that her father was not too happy. Not because he didn't like his father, but because Jinx's Grandpa Henry was planning a triple wedding for her and her two sisters. At the now double wedding, his Grandpa thanked Jinx's dad, as the double matrimony had cost a lot of money and he couldn't imagine how he could have really afforded the triple.

Where the nickname "Bimp" came from Jinx doesn't know. However, he's been told his dad was not very fond of it as a youngster.

4:30 to the Hill

Jinx's dad and mom worked every day in factories from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. After work, they rushed home and, while his wife was fixing him a fast dinner (Jinx's second-oldest brother had peeled the vegetables after school and before sports practice), he would load the car with everything needed for his second job building "The Castle."

He'd be off to "The Hill" by 5 p.m. where his work day continued until dark in the summer and until

the exterior was completed. After the electricity was hooked up, he worked at the house until 10 p.m., then went home to bed and started all over again the next day at 5 a.m.

He also spent from ten to twelve hours at "The Castle" every Saturday and Sunday. When the finished woodwork had been installed, Jinx's mom would go up with him and sand, by hand, all of it until it felt smooth as glass.

His brothers helped some after school and on weekends, but, being too young, Jinx was of no help until a couple of years later, when he would be involved with the ongoing maintenance.

There were only a few things his dad did not do himself. He had the electric hooked to the main fuse box – he did all the inside wiring and lighting – and had the water main and sewer line connected to his inside plumbing by a local plumbing contractor.

When you consider that power tools were not available in that era, and that all the work had been done using only hand tools, Jinx submits that this was quite a feat for one man to have accomplished.

The work completed, the tribe left "The Block" behind, and went forth to new adventures on "The Hill" in that modest 20 by 28 foot, one-and-a-half-story home they dubbed "The Castle."



Fafnir Adamites next to large paper sculpture "Fundamental Spaciousness" at the Geissler Gallery (Stoneleigh-Burnham School).

graphic features on a planet turned inside out. For Fafnir, "all inner stuff wants to be revealed. These are ways to make the black speak to these ideas of revealing and showing rather than the inwardness and absorption. Surfaces are a visual point of transformation."

Earlier work with spherical forms included a series of large, black paper orbs. The flexible, breathable structures needed constant life support: Fafnir found the maintenance of these forms exhaustive, as they constantly leaked air and moved about as they exhaled.

Smaller orbs in the Geissler Gal-

healing and a meditation; combining method and materials with intellectual and psychological inquiry – Fafnir's minimalist sculptures reward our careful contemplation. I greatly appreciated hearing Fafnir speak straightforwardly about her work; I wonder where I might have ended up in writing about them without such information.

While I suspect my mind would have turned to the same dualities of interior/exterior and the nature of a generative void, I greatly appreciated her story of how her ideas and forms evolved together through her research and experience, both before, during and after the MFA program.

"Becoming Unstuck" will be on view until February 17 in the Geissler Gallery at the Stoneleigh-Burnham School. The campus is at 574 Bernardston Road in Greenfield. The gallery is open Mondays through Fridays, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Fafnir Adamites will also be showing her work at Greenfield Community College from January 27 through February 23. These will be different work than the pieces shown at the Geissler. She will give a gallery talk at GCC on Wednesday, February 3 at noon.

You may also visit Fafnir Adamites online: www.fafnir-adamites.com.

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BROMBERG from page B1

them pack boxes, wrapping treasures carefully in layers of paper and taping the boxes securely. On moving day, she will be there with this couple, and she will help them move into their new home and arrange the space.

Not all jobs are this complex; many people schedule one session with her and then arrange a few follow-up visits to keep them on track. Sometimes the answer to a pesky mess, like that pile on the kitchen counter – the one with the mail, your house keys, your phone, some change from your pocket, and your sunglasses balanced on top – can be solved by creating a “command center” at the entryway to your dwelling.

But there is more to Serenity Home Organizing than practicality. Jill Bromberg has come to her work with a passionate commitment to helping others and with an aesthetic sensibility that allows her to create beauty. “I love to help people create beauty and order in their homes. In

a sensitive and nonjudgmental way, I work to create a space that is more functional and nourishes peace of mind.”

Room makeovers are one of the many services Ms. Bromberg offers, along with de-cluttering, storage solutions, paper management, downsizing and relocation. A client testimony on her website proclaims, “Jill has a gift for walking into a room, understanding what is out of place, and knowing how to set it right.”

People use Serenity Home Organizing before they list their house for sale in order to show it to its best advantage. People who are staying put might use this service to make a place feel clean and new. According to Jill Bromberg, “Getting organized is a lifestyle choice that helps people figure out what possessions add value to their lives. You can clear your space and clear your mind.”

To learn more about her services and professional associations, visit online at www.serenityhome-organizing.com.



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TECHNICAL SCHOOL
2015-2016 HONOR ROLL
TRIMESTER 1**

SENIORS

HIGH HONORS

- Fallyn Adams - Gill
- Zachary Barker - Sunderland
- Kaitlin Churchill - Shelburne
- Victoria Howes - Orange
- Hailey Lowell - Wendell
- Timothy Momaney - Montague
- Emily Sullivan - Colrain
- Teagan Valeski - Buckland

HONORS

- Culleen Ames - Orange
- Nicholas Baranoski - Greenfield
- Meagan Blais - Halifax, VT
- Brandon Boudah - Deerfield
- Adam Brennan - Northfield
- Thomas Burden - Greenfield
- Alix Burvnett - Erving
- Kate Burnett - Erving
- Vanessa Cannon - Orange
- Samuel Carpenter - Whately
- Daniel Chabott II - Northfield
- Nathaniel Crocker - Bernardston
- Ivy Cross - Montague
- Ciara Desrosier - Greenfield
- Megan Duga - New Salem
- Jeremy Durant - Deerfield
- Steven Easton - Bernardston
- James Holloway - Northfield
- Tala Houle - Greenfield
- Emily Jamieson - Greenfield
- Cody Johnson - Leyden
- Clay Kelley - Buckland
- Catherine Landers - Montague
- Samantha Macomber - Orange
- Stephanie Macomber - Orange
- Mitchell Mailloux - Erving
- Joel Monahan - Whately
- Haley Perkins-McCraw - Ashfield
- Walter Piela - Deerfield
- Morgan Plante - Orange
- Allyson Renaud - Montague
- Seth Rider - Greenfield
- Harley Robinson - Montague
- Nicole Rogalski - Shutesbury
- Matthew Smith - Conway
- Ciara Staiger - Montague
- Justin Thompson - Orange
- Derek Vaughan - Greenfield
- Gabriel Vorce - Orange
- Samantha Watson - Orange
- Mallory Willis - Charlemont

JUNIORS

HIGH HONORS

- Morgan Gradie - Colrain
- Whitney Huber-Browning - Northfield
- Hayley Hudson - Halifax, VT

- Michelle Leh - Montague
- Daisy Osowski - Northfield
- Sara Powell - Hawley
- Emilly Terrill - Colrain

HONORS

- Alexis Barrett - Orange
- Timothy Black - Montague
- Emmett Boyd - Northfield
- Thomas Chamutka - Whately
- Jennica Chapin - Greenfield
- Hailey Clark - Greenfield
- Erica Dean - Charlemont
- Ry-Ann Decker - Greenfield
- Shayla Demers - Montague
- Jacob Fuess - Northfield
- Victoria Geary - Wendell
- Colin Gould - Montague
- Riley Holden - Heath
- Ryan Howard - Orange
- Jacob James - Bernardston
- Levi Johnson - Leyden
- Dean LaClaire - Leverett
- Caleb Milton - Northfield
- Jared Nimt - New Salem
- Dakota Nye - Ashfield
- Chelsea Perras - Erving
- Alexandria Phelps - Orange
- Aric Profit - Orange
- Dylan Rogers - Northfield
- Joshua Rose - Bernardston
- Rachel Shearer - Northfield
- Katherine Sheperd - Greenfield
- Benjamin Sherman - Rowe
- Nicholas Tetrault - Greenfield
- Marybeth Weeden - Greenfield
- Nathaniel Wheeler - Northfield
- Brianna Wilder - Wendell
- Dustin Williams - Leverett
- Khrystyna Williams - Greenfield

**SOPHOMORES
HIGH HONORS**

- Hunter Sessions - Buckland
- Kristin Slowinski - Colrain
- Ashlee Townsley - Ashfield

HONORS

- Nicholas Baronas - Leyden
- Ryleigh Barton - Greenfield
- Samuel Bobala - Montague
- Korey Bousquet - Montague
- Matthew Brooks - Heath
- Kevin Cardona-Cruz - Montague
- Travis Cutting - Bernardston
- Adam DePretto - Deerfield
- Jacob Desbiens - Erving
- Martin Given - Northfield
- Todd Hathaway - Montague
- Jocelyn Holloway - Northfield

- Kurtis Kuenzel - Leyden
- Ian Lesko - Sunderland
- Matthew Lively - Heath
- Kailynn Mason-Emond - Greenfield
- Emily Mills - Montague
- Daniel Momaney - Montague
- Erin O'Neil - Bernardston
- Connor Powers - Colrain
- Cameron Richardson-Ellis - Erving
- Dylan Robinson - Orange
- Jaxon Rollins - Erving
- Hunter Taylor - Ashfield
- Spencer Telega - Deerfield
- Sohan Tyner - Leverett
- Brian Zamojski - Montague

**FRESHMEN
HIGH HONORS**

- Samantha Bocon - Bernardston
- James Fahey - Montague
- Rebecca Harrell - Greenfield
- Haley Kidder - Erving
- Noah LaRocque - Northfield

HONORS

- Brooke Adams - Orange
- Bryan Allen - Heath
- Nathaniel Bellows - Charlemont
- Jared Bergmann - Erving
- Alec Blake - Greenfield
- Alexandra Blake - Greenfield
- Daniel Boulanger - Montague
- Ciara Chagnon - Erving
- Anthony Ciolino - Orange
- Zackery Conway - Greenfield
- Joseph Dufresne - Greenfield
- Deven Goshea - Gill
- Kristen Griswold - Heath
- Hailey Holst - Orange
- Dylan Jordan - Whately
- Haley Kurkulonis - Conway
- Shannon Kurkulonis - Conway
- Alexander LaValley - Greenfield
- Cole Littlewood - Orange
- Elizabeth McLean - Orange
- James Morris - Greenfield
- Michael Patnode - Montague
- Jonathon Pichette - Montague
- Kyle Roy - Erving
- Isaac Savage - Erving
- Samuel Trudeau - Bernardston
- Tyler Trudeau - Greenfield
- Cameron Verdick - Orange
- Amber Westort - Charlemont

MODERN VOIDS



BY MADELINE LAPORTE

LOOKING BACK

10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was January 19, 2006: *News from the Montague Reporter's archive.*

Lake Grove Farm Program Draws Opposition

Lake Grove School at Maple Valley, home to 64 “emotionally disturbed” boys and young men, ages 10-21, in the heart of Wendell, plans to add a “therapeutic animal program” in a farm-like setting on recently purchased acreage on Wendell Depot Road, adjacent to the school’s administrative offices.

The school provides comprehensive “treatment services” for sexually abusive youths within a residential school setting. Past incidents of students going absent without leave from Lake Grove campus, coupled with a history of poor communications between the school, the police, and neighbors, led to the abutters putting safety concerns front and center at a continuation of the planning board’s site plan review hearing.

Resident Mary Gilman said, “It is clear that all the abutters’ emotions are running very high. There is our safety to consider. There is our liability. There are our property values. And there is the consideration of the rural character of our town. Is this the sort of thing we would sit down and plan for our town if it was up to us? It’s already a huge school, with problems keeping the students safe on campus, and working well with us as a community.”

“I absolutely understand your concerns,” Lake Grove executive director Roland Paulauskas told the nine residents at the hearing. “I also choose to live in Wendell, with my wife and three-year-old son. At Lake Grove we deal with emotionally disturbed kids. I know incidents happen. I am concerned about your emotional well being.”

Richard Mackey said, “I didn’t move here to join an advisory board on

a child prison. I haven’t heard anything about policing. You call the police chief and he’s too tired to come out. Are you supposed to get guns and stand on the edge of your property?”

Airport Extension Prompts Lively Debate

The Montague selectboard remained grounded during Tuesday evening’s presentation by the airport commission on proposed improvements, and a possible 1,200-foot extension to the 3,000-foot runway.

While the proposal was discussed in some detail, accusations of mismanagement were lobbed at the commission members, who refrained from responding due to a number of pending legal issues. The ensuing turbulence appeared to be a taste of things to come, as the proposal is yet to be debated by residents of the five villages and their town meeting representatives.

At issue is the condition of the 1978 runway and whether or not it meets federal standards. In his presentation to the selectboard airport manager Michael Sweeney outlined the work required to modernize the facility, including a new runway and taxiway, removal of aviation obstructions and the updating of runway lighting and navigation aids.

It is estimated that 175,000 cubic yards of soil will have to be moved if the runway extension is built. Scrub oak and pine will have to be cut down and replaced with grasses. This will provide grassland habitat for endangered species such as moths, butterflies and birds.

There are also three or four Native American archaeological sites in the area, which Sweeney said the commission has been working with the Narragansett Indian tribe on. “We will do all we can to not impact the sites,” he said.

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the poetry page

It is difficult
to get the news from poems
yet men die miserably every day
for lack
of what is found there.

- William Carlos Williams

edited by Patricia Pruitt
Readers are invited to send
poems to the Montague Reporter
at: 177 Avenue A
Turners Falls, MA 01376
or to: poetry@montaguereporter.org

CHRISTOPHER CARMODY PHOTO

Silhouettes and Dharma.....

.....Yet to grasp them both
They seem the same
in some mysterious way....
...and I am drawn in...

The pre-dawn hours when
stillness and Darkness are
One.

A time to connect to the Light within,
to what has heart and truth.
It is during these moments,
when we tap into the alchemy of life,
And focus on breath is strong, ...
... when senses seem heightened by the
Intensity of Stillness ...
... and I hear the sound of my words
scrawling across paper
and watch ballpoint ink dry
and the audibility of paper beneath
my hand echoes.

A day or two ago,
light
caressed my eyelids.
And there came a knowingness
Of being completely alone,
completely held, centered and cherished.
Held and loved....

As dawn breaks the light around the trees gets stronger
And the silhouette
changes into a tree.
Beautiful green against a blue background,
The stillness
is punctuated by
intermittent sounds.
Others are awakening too.
I watch the plants outside my window
move with infinitesimal breath,
the air caresses leaves.
There is a deep harmony in this relationship.

I watch an idea settle
as I don't see it fall.
It is gentler than that.
It settles like a snowflake ever so gently
And when it does so,
the electrical impulse in my head,
sizzles like cold water in a hot oiled frying pan

In this space of beauty and
Deep contemplation,
There is love, compassion and tenderness.
There is beauty and nurturing,
And there is Dharma.
In some mysterious way...

- Thandi Skye

Variety Is the Spice

No two suns are ever alike.
Each daily path patterns new lights and shades.
No two breezes are ever alike.
Each dances with whatever it touches.
No two snowflakes are ever alike.
Look at the differences, even on your mitten.
No two clouds are ever alike.
Sky-gazing is an infinite show of shapes, colors, actions.
No two trees are ever alike.
Their winter skeletons show every kind of shadow.
No two rocks are ever alike.
Millions of years added shapes, colors, textures unique.
No two robins are ever alike.
Each works its own way around the yard, the tree, the sky.
No two meadows are ever alike.
What grows, what blooms, what changes - what wonders!
No two brooks are ever alike.
Each ripple, each sparkle, each gurgle - each second changes.
No two minutes are ever alike.
This sight, this sound, this smell, this touch, this taste,
This thought, this emotion - always new, always different.

Variety is not only the spice of life,
It is the very essence of living. Relish it all!

- D.W. Peterson

From Octave

Now in the still bare branch of the New Year
Survey the mauve gray hills as lines
A pattern of hidden content drawn closer
In the cold to the slow river, a form to be
Deciphered as the movement of water And the saving
Grace of sight, the inner year and the heart's
Allegiance to the particulars and all Not a giving in,
Given to - a gift - the first cornerstone

Devotion, the art
rising out of disparate stones
the minutiae of waking, the savings
of the night Wide nets of love catching
here and here in a life stream,
dream and dross; line and shadow all
an architecture of light within, without,
within again. A place to live, endure
the shaking doubt, attendant tremors of the world

- Patricia Pruitt

Kaizen and Kairos

Two new words today, Kaizen and Kairos,
Which may help make sense of ambiguous cosmos
One Japanese and the other one Greek,
Both may add shape to the things we seek

The first is Kaizen, meaning "change for better"
Continuous improvement and a business trend-setter
Small steps taken toward desired goals
Working together as an incremental whole

The second is Kairos, that moment sublime
In but somehow more than time
The opportune moment when all things shift
Perhaps a focus or an end to drift

Or that moment when all things change
Conditions shift across the whole range
Defining moments when we know somehow
That was then; this is now.

So how do we use this in our daily life?
How is this helpful in our daily strife
In the gap between "want" and "lack"
How can these words direct our tract?

Kaizen is a process and a state of mind
The goal is out there waiting and may take some time
Each step taken, though it may be small
Is still a step forward, even if we fall

Failure is just feedback; we get up again,
And learn from experience as we find we can
Building on knowledge of the time before
Everyday improvement toward a golden "more"

While Kairos is awareness of a changing sea
A moment in a moment, thinking differently.
Whether it's from karma, or from growth, or fate,
We find that we are living in a brand new state.

Everything is different in our little pond
And then we have the question "How do we respond?"
How do we make choices for the life to be?
How do we make choices for eternity?

We know that life's a process and we all will die
But is that all the story as our time goes by?
A certain end we wonder and keep seeking "Why?"
Day by day our sojourn between earth and sky.

Step by step is kaizen toward our aim and goal
Kairos is the Godhead toward a larger whole

- Jan and John Haigis

A Victim of Literature

I feel like a catalogue
of Kierkegaard spine titles:

Either/Or,
Fear and Trembling,
Upbuilding Discourses,
Repetition,
Philosophical Fragments,
The Concept of Anxiety,
Stages on Life's Way,
Sickness unto Death.

- Christopher Sawyer-Lauçanno

The Poets

Happy New Year, and many thanks for the poems. There's quite a sampling of the spice of life!

Jan and John Haigis are singer, songwriter, poet, historian storytellers who divides their time between Pennsylvania and Turners Falls. John's great-grandfather came from Germany in the 1870s to work at the Russell Cutlery Company and his grandfather sold picture postcards of Turners Falls with Mr. Bardwell. Their web site is www.pasttimespresent.com.

Thandi Skye sends her poem to the paper from South Africa or perhaps from Montague where she also lives.

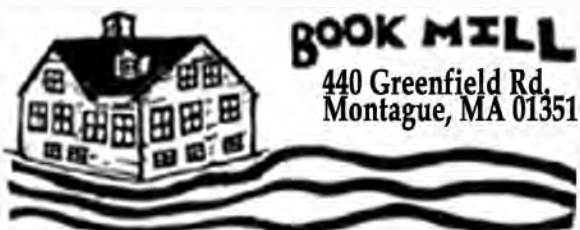
Poet D.W. Peterson of Leverett answered our call for a poem to start the New Year with a new vision. His is both playful and wise.

Christopher Sawyer-Lauçanno, of Turners Falls, has given the Poetry Page a poem from his soon to be published collection of poems, entitled *Remission* which records his experience with cancer. *Remission* will be published by Talisman Books.

Patricia Pruitt, Poetry Page Editor, offers an excerpt from her poem *Octave*.

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ONGOING EVENTS:

EVERY SUNDAY

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

ONE MONDAY EACH MONTH

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

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

EVERY TUESDAY

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

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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

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

EVERY THURSDAY

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

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

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

EVERY FRIDAY

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

Winter Art Exhibition will feature the artwork of Turners Falls artist Fafnir Adamites, who works in feltmaking, papermaking and other traditional craft processes to create large paper sculptures and installations. See Friday's listings for Gallery Talk and Reception. The exhibit runs until February 17. For more information, please visit sbschool.org or call (413) 774-2711.

Wendell Library, Wendell: *Dale Monette Wildlife* photographs from North Quabbin area. 1/4-2/29. Gallery Talk, 1/29 7 p.m.

CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS:

Dickinson Memorial Library, Northfield: Seeking artwork for their Doug and Marty Jones Art Space. Artists of any age from

on the Library Walls!

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

EVENTS:

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21

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

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Tommy Filiault Trio*, 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Josh Levangie and The Pistoleros* Hot country rock! 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Black Bears: An Introduction to your Neighbors* (talk) 1 p.m.

Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse, Town Hall, Wendell: *Zydeco Connection*. \$ 7:30 p.m. Open mic at 7.

Mocha Mayas, Shelburne Falls: *And The Neighbors* acoustic duo inspired by the sounds of Appalachia blended with the sonic grit of the Lower East Side. 8 p.m.

Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *Turn It Loose*, 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Glam Hearse* (death jazz) and *Matt Albertson* (experimental folk doom) 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Wishbone Zoe*. Indie-folkie sonic alchemist Wishbone Zoe makes loud and quiet sounds with banjo, vocal cords, guitar, melodica, bass, trash percussion, radio/old appliances and other noi. 8 p.m.

MONDAY, JANUARY 25

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Nora's Stellar Open Mic*, 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Marris Otter*. Original folk rock by Jenny Spingla and Alyssa Kelly. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29

Wendell Free Library: *Quabbin Seasons and Wildlife* Gallery talk by Dale Monette, photographer, in connection with his current exhibit at the library. 7 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Grave Diggers Union* Hard driving bluegrass and old time country. 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Ice Harvesting*, (talk) 1 p.m.

Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: Live at the Met: *Puccini's Turandot* \$ 12:55 p.m.

Mocha Mayas, Shelburne Falls: *Erica Wheeler* is an award-winning

songwriter and a sense-of-place speaker, educator and advocate. \$ 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Wildcat O'Halloran Band*. Blues. 8:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31

Leverett Library, Leverett: *Bethany Seeger, A Day of Storm Chasing* A day in the life of a Storm Chaser, the equipment used to study storms and the large meteorological experiment PECAN (Plains Elevated Convection at Night). Co-sponsored by the Rattlesnake Gutter Trust and the Leverett Library. 2 p.m.



Zydeco Connection - Mardi Gras is in the air Saturday, January 23, 7:30 p.m. at the Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse in the Town Hall on the Common. Decadently Delicious Dessert-o-rama. Large wooden dance floor so bring your dancing shoes and be prepared to boogie to the sounds of Louisiana zydeco, two-steps, waltzes, boogie woogie and a little bit of swing. 7:30 open mic; 8 p.m. Zydeco Connection. \$7 to \$15 sliding scale donation at the door.

CeCe's Chinese Restaurant, Turners Falls: Traditional Native American and improvised Asian flute music featuring *Eric Wolf Song*. 6 to 6:30 p.m. Free.

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

EXHIBITS:

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

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

Shelburne Falls Arts Co-op, Shelburne Falls: *The Red Show* Plus special Valentine's gifts from our jewelers. Group show 1/27 through 2/22.

Geissler Gallery, Stoneleigh-Burnham School. The 2016

Franklin County can submit application found at bit.ly/1SfZ7h8 or contact library.

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

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

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Wishbone Zoe

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Rare Views of the North Quabbin At the Wendell Free Library



Detail from "Northern Harrier" by Dale Monette, part of his photography show at the Wendell Free Library.

By RICHARD BALDWIN

WENDELL – Dale Monette of New Salem presents fifteen beautiful photographs of wildlife in *Wildlife in the North Quabbin* at the Wendell Free Library, now through the end of February. Dale's long history of wildlife involvement, and his extensive knowledge of the Quabbin, are joined by his keen eye and extraordinary patience to produce stunning images of animals and birds.

The prints range from close ups of a bee and dragonfly, to birds in all sorts of settings, to a sunrise landscape in Dana. Each print is professionally done and expertly presented

in beautiful mats and frames.

Dale has been both a birder and a photographer most of his life. On his website he writes that he has "spent the last 30 years of his career with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation working at Quabbin as an educator and a naturalist. He is presently involved in the common loon monitoring at the Quabbin Reservoir with the DCR and Biodiversities Research Institute of Maine."

Wildlife photography is a difficult process, to say the least. In addition to knowing how to handle the equipment, the photographer must deal with being in the right place

at the right time. Dale depends on his skills as an outdoors man to know about the habits of birds and animals in their environment, to understand the relationship between weather and wildlife activity, and to manage the relationship between himself and his subjects.

Since wildlife is wild, his subjects obviously tend to avoid photographers rather than pose for them. Lenses help shorten the distance between camera and subject, but wind and movement can easily command center stage and keep a good shot from happening.

An essential ingredient, patience is a skill this photographer has mastered and the photographs in this exhibit are testimony to his success.

Dale has been photographing nature since 1978 and in the past year and a half has devoted a great deal more time to his art. While he takes many landscape and animal photographs, he has focused especially on birds.

In this show there are two landscape prints, two of insects, two of animals and nine of birds. The prints range from close up photographs, a bee gathering pollen, a dragon fly on a branch, to those where there is more background surrounding the subject. In some prints the birds are caught in motion either flying, swimming, soaring or, in one, young herons are



Detail from Monette's photograph of a ruby-throated hummingbird.

flapping around in their nest.

Beginning in 2014, Dale displayed and sold prints at a variety of local venues including the Garlic Festival and the Wendell Christmas Crafts Fair. He also maintains a website, www.northquabbinphotography.com, which presents a wonderful wildlife and nature experience.

There he has dozens of excellent photographs ranging from "Bald Eagles" to "Moose and Deer" to "Cape Breton Island." His landscapes of the Quabbin are gorgeous. Since Dale presents notes on each page describing the photographs, the tour of the site is a virtual education about the area.

On Friday, January 29, at 7 p.m. Dale will present a talk about his work at the Wendell Library. *Quab-*

bin Seasons and Wildlife will focus on his images of the Quabbin area, its ample wildlife, and Dale's experiences there. This is an opportunity to experience our neighboring wildlife preserve through the eyes of an artist and naturalist. Please join us – after all, there's no need to sit waiting for the perfect experience out in the cold and wind when you can have it sitting comfortably in the Herrick Room.

Wildlife in the North Quabbin runs through February 29. Winter hours at the library are: Tuesdays 12 to 7 p.m., Wednesdays 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturdays 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and Sundays 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Richard Baldwin is on the Wendell Free Library's art exhibition committee.

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