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Montague Reporter

YEAR 14 - NO. 15

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JANUARY 28, 2016

Recent Inventory Finds Existing Downtown Trees in Good Shape

By JEFF SINGLETON

"You guys are way ahead of other towns," said Mary Praus, land use planner at the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG). Praus directed and authored the "Turners Falls Public Tree Inventory" that was published last November. The study lists nearly all the trees on public property in downtown Turners Falls, and evaluates their condition.

In a telephone interview Praus was particularly complimentary to Montague tree warden Mark Stevens, who she said was doing a "fantastic job."

The tree warden is an elected position that is currently an employee of the Department of Public Works. Last year, there was a public controversy over Stevens' decision to allow the electric utility Eversource to cut down what may have been "public shade trees" on Montague Street in Turners Falls.

The FRCOG study did not evaluate the public shade trees, a designation under state law, or the trees in the Montague Street neighborhood.

David Detmold, long-time advocate for tree planting in the downtown area (and a former editor of the Reporter) said that he felt the FRCOG report and its recommendations are "a good start," but voiced concerns that the study "does not take into account the trees that we have lost" prior to the inventory.

Detmold has estimated that of 183 trees planted during the original Avenue A streetscape project in 1983, "eighty are gone," according to a recent count. He noted that there are numerous stumps on side streets that do not seem to have been replaced, and that large





Avenue A's Trudel Block, in the early 1980s and today.

shade trees have been cut down next to the Carnegie Library, senior center, and Spinner Park.

Tree Warden Mark Stevens said he was pleased with the study's findings and had met several times with Praus. "Out of 440 or so trees, I think only eight

see TREES page A3

Don't Tempt the Bears!

By JULIE CUNNINGHAM

TURNERS FALLS - Ralph Taylor, district manager for the Connecticut Valley District of the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, said it's only a matter of time before a predatory bear attack in western Massachusetts.

"It's not a matter of if, it's a matter of when," said Taylor, who gave a public talk last Saturday at the Discovery Center in Turners Falls. That being said, the time frame for such an encounter is vast. "It could happen tomorrow, it could happen twenty years from now," he explained.

Taylor encourages people to learn how to co-exist with bears, arguing that through awareness of bear behavior, the risk to humans and their pets can be diminished.

"What happens," Taylor explained, "is people don't realize there is a bear in their backyard, feeding on their bird feeder or denning under their deck. They let the dog out at night, and don't see the bear. The bear sees the dog, though, and we have lost dogs that way."

According to Taylor, no human lives have yet been lost to surprise bears in the Connecticut River Valley.

"People just need to be aware and watch for bears.

Then, when they see one, don't let your dog out off the leash to go to the bathroom."

The reason behind this recommendation is pretty simple. Bears are afraid of humans, and a human



Bears can find more food in suburbs than woods.

accompanying a dog on a leash won't be a threat to a bear. An unleashed dog, however, will be a threat to a bear and may provoke a defensive

see BEARS page A4

Shea to Reopen in March With Weekend of Concerts

By MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS - "We've got a month and a half to get things going, and we wanted to set ourselves a goal," said Chris "Monte" Belmonte, "There's demolished sheetrock all over the floor, we've ripped up a lot of the carpet in the inner theater, and we're painting - but we didn't want to keep the theater dark for too long."

Belmonte, a Turners Falls resident and local radio personality, is spear-

heading an effort to bring fresh energy into the Shea Theater, a 330-seat performance venue owned by the town of Montague. He and a fledgling organization, the Shea Theater Arts Center (STAC), answered the town's call for a new operator last year, and they are working hard to prepare for an opening weekend of concerts on March 4, 5 and 6.

"We don't want to call it a grand opening, or grand re-opening, because I really think that the former

see SHEA page A8



The town-owned theater on Avenue A is under new management.

ERVING SELECTBOARD

Education Requests Drive Erving Budget Increases

By KATIE NOLAN

selectboard and finance committee worked to shape the town's unformed fiscal year 2017 budget. They had the raw materials: budget requests from town departments, the school committee and elected officials; and estimates of expected revenues from taxation, grants, new growth and free cash.

On Monday night, the board and fincom members, each with a 3-ring binder filled with detailed colorcoded spreadsheets prepared by assistant assessor Jacqueline Boyden, started paring, sculpting, and re-arranging the numbers to create the

final balanced budget.

Dan Hayes, chair of the Union On Monday night, the Erving 28 joint supervisory committee, commented, "Wow!" and said he was impressed by the town's budget process. He said he found the board and fincom "well informed" and having "good questions and a collaborative tone."

School Requests

School committee chair Scott Bastarache, Union 28 superintendent Jennifer Haggerty, business manager Aaron Osborne, and Erving Elementary School (EES) principal James Trill presented the \$2.8 million elementary education request

see ERVING page A5

Hockey Time: Greenfield 3 – TFHS 2

By MATT ROBINSON

GREENFIELD – Turners Falls got out to an early lead in last Saturday's game against Greenfield, when Chris Urgiel put one into the Greenwave goal with 3 minutes 37 seconds gone in the first period.

Throughout most of the first period, Green kept the goal in the Turners end as goalie Brandon Bryant began to amass save after save. With 4:23 to play in the first, Turners accrued a penalty and were forced to play short handed. They killed the penalty but were called for another at 2:39.

They kept Green from scoring for 1 minute and 26 seconds but with 4 seconds left on the penalty, Greenfield scored a power-play goal, knotting the score at 1.

Turners came out quick in the



his second goal of the night with only 33 seconds gone. But Green answered 27 seconds later and tied the game at 2.

Four penalties were called in the second period, and Urgiel scored second period, three on Blue and

one on Green. At one point, Greenfield had a two-man advantage, but through smart puck handling, icing and adept goaltending, Powertown killed all three penalties.

see HOCKEY page A8

LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Fire Chief Pushes Back **Against 2% Budget Cuts**

By JEFF SINGLETON

Leverett's library and fire departments presented their initial budgets to the town selectboard last night, responding to a request that all departments reduce their expenditures

Librarian Ashley Blais met the requested target primarily by reducing the "materials" line item by over 30%. She noted, however, that this could cause problems with state library aid, which requires that a minimum percentage be devoted to books as a precondition for state

Fire chief John Ingram's presentation touched on key budget items,

but was organized to show "reasons against [a] 2% budget decrease."

The selectboard's request that town departments cut budgets was primarily driven by concern that a disputed property tax abatement, which may be appealed to the state appellate tax board, could significantly reduce town revenues.

Selectboard members cited concerns that the town of Shutesbury could challenge the way the Amherst-Pelham Regional School District assesses member towns. If the regional district moves from the current "alternate method," primarily based on enrollment, to "statutory method," heavily

see LEVERETT page A6

The Montague Reporter

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Lead, Nowhere

With every passing year, we hear progressively more mind-numbing statistics measuring the global concentration of wealth.

None of us has any idea what the figure representing half of all people, 3.5 billion people, actually means. So last week, when Oxfam released a report estimating that a mere 62 individuals are as rich, in combined terms, as the lowliest 3.5 billion, we merely plopped the fact into a brain folder with "Rich Getting Richer" and went on with

Of course, some took the time to tremble in outrage, while others swallowed and grinned, and explained to whoever was lucky enough to be in earshot their daring contrarian viewpoints as to the deservingness of the anointed, and the contributions, innovations and investments the job-creators continue to make on our behalves, despite our narrow-sighted resentments.

Meanwhile..

The population of Flint, Michigan topped out around 200,000, back in the heyday of the great American automobile pyramid scheme. It's down to the 99,000 range. Flint is not simply in decline; it's a symbol of decline, a kind of condensation of it.

Hometown kid Michael Moore made Roger and Me in 1988, three years into the layoffs at General Motors. It's now thirty years, a full generation, later, and just about all the rest of the GM jobs are gone, along with some other ones.

Flight from Flint has a racialized dimension: between the 2000 and 2010 censuses, white residents vanished at twice the rate of African-Americans, who now represent 57% of the city's inhabitants.

The city is now perpetually in debt, and has been put into receivership twice - an arrangement under which the governor of Michigan appoints a kind of special city dictator to rule indebted cities. These "emergency managers" have been deployed to govern a number of other shrinking Michigan cities.

Wealth is not as evenly spread across the land as it once was, and where it's not, critical infrastructure is at risk. The American Society for Civil Engineers recently warned that much of the America's drinking water system is "nearing the end of its useful life."

A major public health emergency caused by tap water was bound to happen sooner or later

somewhere, just as certain as New Orleans' levees were bound to fail, or as a massive earthquake will hit the Pacific coast. And it was bound to happen somewhere that looked a lot like Flint.

Between April 2014 and last October, the city's drinking water was drawn from the Flint River as a cost-cutting measure; piping water in from Detroit was too expensive. The river water was saltier and more acidic. It corroded the city's pipes, and poisoned many thousands of its residents with lead.

The complete failure of government on all levels to acknowledge and correct what residents say was an obvious problem was chilling, and even now, the governor, emergency managers and Department of Environmental Quality are playing a game of hot-potato over who was responsible for the catastrophe.

It took an independent researcher from Virginia Tech, paying out of pocket, to prove that the city was being dosed with lead – sometimes nearly 1,000 times the recommended level. Now an online fundraising campaign is trying to repay him.

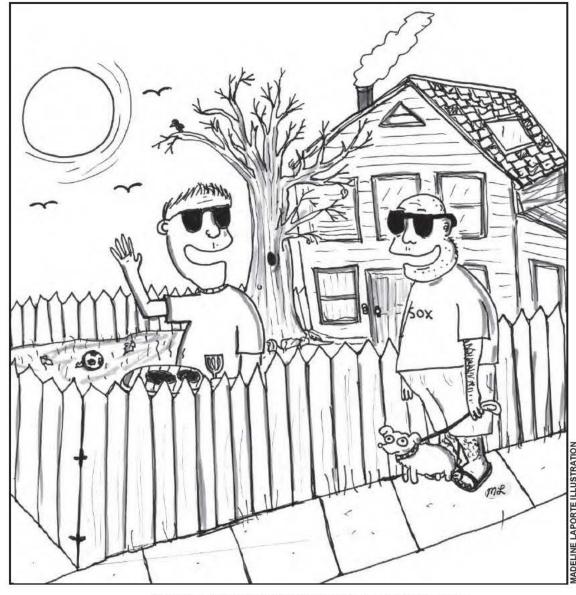
And that's not the only privatesector response. Celebrities (Cher, Pearl Jam), sports teams, and corporations (Walmart, Pepsi) are falling over each other to help, mostly by funding the delivery of bottled water to Flint residents while the city tries to restore protective phosphate coating to its water pipes.

This is all admirable. Rapper The Game gave \$500,000 this week, calling out his fellow celebrities for being stingy. But donations from the aristocrats will only ever patch the most visible holes in the system. Madonna can't give everyone water bottles.

Before it was brought, crashing, to its knees, like a wooly mammoth bleeding from one too many spear wounds, the American public sector may have been inefficient. And it was probably always discriminatory. But at least it was officially universal, and a venue in which to pursue grievances, and demand accountability.

Water is life. Sharing water is society, and purifying it is civilization.

And as wealth is sucked into fewer and fewer pockets, it will become an ever-greater challenge to insist that safe drinking water is a right – even for those left behind in the waste lands.



"Hey there, Frank! Beautiful spring we're having this January!"



Local Cable Advisory

Perhaps it is the unusual alignment of planets currently in the early morning sky, but whatever the reason, I write in support of Garry Earles' recent editorial regarding funding of MCTV.

Last May, town meeting voted to allow the selectboard to contract with MCTV, or anyone else, upon receipt (and approval after open discussion, one would think) of a fiscal/operational plan from whoever ends up with the contract.

Has this plan been received and approved? Barring this, no capital money should have been, or should be, released to MCTV.

Garry is right - MCTV should draw on their reserves to operate until a new contract is signed.

And while Garry is also right that

my action ended up causing a delay of several months, the process had already been unnecessarily strung out far too long by that time, and has continued to be strung out long after my departure. This does not reflect well on the Cable Advisory Committee in all its versions over the past several years, and by now it reflects negatively on the select-

I was deeply immersed in the process, so I can tell you that making a new contract with a Provider should have been completed long ago - and that if the selectboard had just gone the RFP route two years ago, it would have been.

> Mark Fairbrother Montague

Montague: Be Counted!

Did you get your annual census/ street list form? Montague's 2016 Annual Town Census/Street List forms were mailed out Wednesday, January 13.

Census responses are used as proof of residency to protect voter rights, veterans' bonus, to assist the Council on Aging with service projections and to assist the School with enrollment information and projections. Population figures are also used by the state in calculating state and federal aid monies to the town.

If you are a registered voter and do not respond to the census, the Board of Registrars is required by law to move you to the "Inactive Voter" list and risk being removed from the voter registration rolls. Please help us make the Annual Town Census as complete and accurate as possible.

If you did not receive a form you can download a form from the Town website www.montague.net or call the Town Clerk's Office at (413) 863-3200, ext. 203 and we will send out a blank form.

Please fill in the information for all members of the household and mail the completed form to the Town Clerk's Office at One Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376.

> Deb Bourbeau Town Clerk Montague

Local Cobbler Advisory

After many years of not having a local cobbler available, we now have Felipe in Downtown Turners Falls.

He is a skilled and experienced recycler in the best sense of the word, one who views a broken part as one he's willing to confront.

Zippers, straps, various foot gear are seen hanging or piled because he does not shy from the challenge. If you have extra shelving, or most relevant, any signage expertise, he might value your support, as there is not a sign large enough to alert the public to his expertise.

With appreciation to Felipe of the Mariachi Cobbler Shop, 111 Avenue A, for his belief in customers who want to reclaim rather than trash,

> Nina Keller Wendell

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Compiled by DON CLEGG

Joe Graveline and David Brule of the Nolumbeka Project will lead a presentation and discussion of tribal presence at the falls of Peskeompskut (Turners Falls and Gill) over the past ten thousand years at the Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls on Saturday, January 30, from 10:30 to 11:30 a m.

Included will be a recounting of the latest research on King Philip's War and on the May 19, 1676 massacre that ended the millennia-long era of the peace village at the falls. Status of the National Battlefield grant

application may also be available.

Local historians and interested public are welcomed and encouraged to attend this informative session.

Join in for Watershed Wonders: What makes a bird a bird?, at the Great Falls Discovery Center on Saturday, January 30, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Watershed Wonders is a story hour with crafts and games focusing on the many wonders of life in the Connecticut River watershed. Recommended for ages 6 to 8, with a parent or guardian. Children will work on bird fundamentals - while enjoying the Junior Duck Stamp Art Display in the Great Hall.

The Leverett Library is hosting a program titled "A Day of Storm Chasing" with Leverett resident Bethany Seeger on Sunday, January 31, starting at 2 p m.

Learn about the equipment used to study storms and the meteorological experiment PECAN (Plains Elevated Convection at Night). Co-sponsored by Rattlesnake Gutter Trust.

Sarah Doyle and her team of amateur and professional paleontologists will bring their Jurassic Road Show to the Greenfield Public Library as part of the First Wednesday Speaker Series on Wednesday, February 3, at 6 p.m.

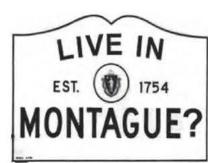
The presentation will feature real fossils from the local area, including dinosaur footprints, raindrop impressions, mud cracks and insect trails that tell us about life forms and climate during the Jurassic Period, when these fossil traces were formed. The Road Show team will share the history of their discovery, which took place on Bank Row in Greenfield in 1835.

Attendees will be able to touch the fossils, ask questions and are encouraged to bring fossils from home to show them off and learn more about them. The talk will be held in the LeVanway Room of the library, and is sponsored by the Friends of the Library in conjunction with the World Eye Bookshop.

The Carnegie Library is hosting a Valentine's Party on Saturday, February 6 from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

Make fun, valentine-inspired crafts, cards, and other heart-themed projects. Refreshments will be served. Designed for children of all ages and their caregivers.

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Over In Gill

NOTES FROM THE GILL-MONTAGUE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Preliminary Budget Approved

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

TURNERS FALLS - The Gill-Montague school committee voted unanimously Tuesday night to approve a preliminary capital and operating budget of \$18,681,793 for fiscal year 2017. Sandra Brown, committee chair, made clear that this was a place holder, not the final budget that would be sent to the towns for approval.

Superintendent Michael Sullivan said he was going to be meeting with Tupper Brown, member of the Gill finance committee, to "compare notes."

Joanne Blier, the school district's director of business and operations, said the governor's budget would be out on Wednesday, January 27, which would give the district more firm numbers on state revenues. She said there was an expectation local aid might increase.

Blier also said the budget is a "work in progress" and does not include changes that have been part of her discussion with school committee members. Included in the budget was an in-

crease of \$180,000 due to out-of-district special education costs, for which Blier said the district could be entitled to emergency relief.

At last week's school committee budget meeting, Blier went through the entire budget line by line with members, answering questions and explaining any expenditures she thought needed clarification. Michael Naughton, of the Montague finance committee, attended that meeting, asked questions and provided input to Sullivan, Blier and the committee.

The committee also approved unanimously, without discussion, the district staying within the school choice system. They also unanimously approved the high school curriculum for next year, with changes submitted by Turners Falls High School principal Annie

A public hearing on the budget will be held at Turners Falls High School at 6 p.m. on February 9. A regular school committee meeting will follow at 6:30 p.m. in the school's television studio.

LEVERETT HOMEOWNERSHIP PROGRAM LOTTERY

Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority ANNOUNCES an upcoming lottery for the Leverett Homeownership Assistance Program. The lottery date is April 6, 2016 with an initial application deadline of March 28, 2016. Applications received after the deadline will be processed on a rolling basis. The Leverett Homeownership Program provides up to \$50,000 to assist in the purchase of a house in Leverett. Homes purchased through the program cannot exceed \$250,000. A deed restriction is required

In order to qualify, your household income cannot exceed: \$52,010 for a household of one, \$59,440 for a household of two, \$66,870 for a household of three, \$74,300 for a household of four. Other requirements apply. There are currently three (3) slots available.

on the property to preserve the long term affordability.

Please call (413) 863-9781 x 111, or email mtaft-ferguson@fcrhra.org for more information. To access an application, please go to www.fchra.org or www.leverett.ma.us.

Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority

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Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week

week ending 1/15/2016:

Grade 6 Olivia Stafford

Grade 7 Isabella Johnson James Robinson

Grade 8 Karissa Fleming

TREES from page A1

percent are in bad shape," he said. He also stated that the number of trees on Avenue A "has not changed that much" over the past decade.

Stevens noted that some of the plantings associated with the original streetscape project were not realistic. For example, the town put "an 18-inch maple in a 24-by-24inch concrete flower pot," he told the Reporter.

The tree inventory listed 441 trees in an area of Turners Falls that coincided with the town's 2013 "Downtown Livability Plan". All the trees were on public property. The report found that 82% are in good condition, 15% in fair condition, and less than 3% in poor condition.

The study also found that less than 5% of trees in the study area are more than forty feet tall, with most between eleven and thirty feet in height. This, combined with the fact that three-quarters of the trees had a spread or canopy of between 15 and thirty feet, led to the conclusion that the tree population in Turners is "relatively young."

Using something called a "National Tree Benefit Calculator," the report found that the trees in the study area provided roughly \$46,800 in annual benefits to the town and its residents. The calculator takes several factors into account: the number of gallons of stormwater intercepted by a tree; the impact of shade on the amount of summer gas and electricity used; increased property values attributed to shade; the impact of trees on air quality; and the amount of CO2 sequestered by a tree.

The study found that two-thirds of the trees in the study were native trees, "which typically reach sizes substantial enough to provide significant shade":

"As Turners Falls plants more shade trees in the coming years, selecting native species that will grow to have a significant canopy is particularly important, especially given the anticipated impacts of climate change, such as more frequent and heavier rains. More research into climate change and

insect-tolerant native tree species cating. He noted that last spring, should be reviewed so that the Town can select trees that have the best possible chance of survival."

The study also found that, with approximately half the trees in the study area being either Norway Maples or crab apples, "Turners Falls' street trees lack the kind of species diversity that would help the tree population against disease." The report noted the impact of Dutch Elm Disease, introduced in the 1930s, on Turners' tree population. Only three Dutch elms were included in the inventory.

The report concluded with a list of recommendations, including using the inventory as a "baseline" to plan tree maintenance and planting; expanding it to include other densely-populated neighborhoods; and increasing DPW staffing devoted to trees. Praus indicated that she would work with the town to apply for funding to implement a "Phase 2" study.

These recommendations would appear to be consistent with the policies Detmold has been advoMontague town meeting members called for a long-term policy and plan to replace trees that have been removed over the past years. He stated that town administrator Frank Abbondanzio has been working on such a plan but that it has not been approved or reviewed by the selectboard. Abbondanzio has been on an extended leave of absence for medical reasons.

Detmold has also made several other recommendations not in the FRCOG report. He has called for the DPW budget to break out tree expenditures into two line items: one for tree removal and maintenance, and another for planting. He has also suggested that the town contact the Franklin County Technical School to explore the possibility of developing a "municipal nursery," as Greenfield is currently

Finally he believes that town meeting members and other citizens should advocate for more planting and maintenance at the neighborhood level.

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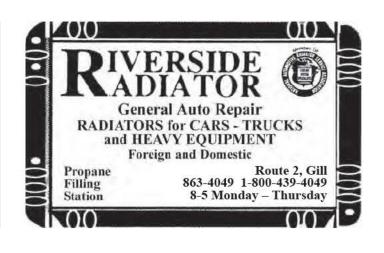
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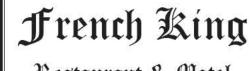


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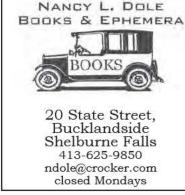
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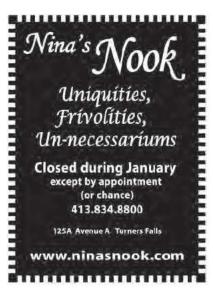


The Montague Reporter

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BEARS from page A1

Taylor said black bears are okay as long as they don't feel that they are being noticed or watched by humans. The minute a bear is aware of being observed, the bear gets nervous and may get defensive. A defensive bear may pop its jaw and make vocalizations that may seem scary to an inexperienced person. The bear may also "bluff charge," or retreat further up a tree.

Until a bear is charging, the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife recommends backing away slowly, and speaking in a calm voice to the bear. If the bear begins to charge, the recommendation is for people to make themselves as large as possible, placing arms in the air while continuing to back away slowly and speak in a calm voice.

According to an official statement by the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, bear pepper spray can be used when available, but training is required for proper use of the spray. If a bear makes contact, the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife clearly states to fight back with ev-

erything available.

Although a recent attack in Amherst was labeled a defensive attack, predatory attacks have taken place in New Jersey. Taylor said New Jersey doesn't necessarily have more bears than Massachusetts, and he isn't sure what makes a bear turn predatory. He urges caution, however, on thinking about black bears as predatory animals.

"A black bear wants to go for the easy meal. Chasing down prey simply isn't in a black bear's energy bank," said Taylor.

While humans are scary to a bear, dogs may remind bears of their old predators, wolves.

"It may be a biological instinct to be afraid of dogs, since in the old days wolves were a significant threat to a bear," explained Taylor.

During his talk at the Discovery Center, Taylor recommended that anyone with a dog who is approached by a black bear let go of the leash.

"The dog can outrun the bear," Taylor explained, "but you cannot."

Almost all bears are born during the last week in January and the first week in February, due to delayed implantation that only allows the female to become pregnant if she has enough food supply to sustain a pregnancy. However, mother bears with their cubs are not necessarily more likely to commit a defensive attack to protect their young.

"That's largely overblown," said Taylor. "Young males can defensively attack when they get surprised by humans. They are not used to people yet, and can get startled pretty easily."

While the black bear population in the area is growing, Taylor encourages drivers on busy roads to be aware of bears. Baby male bears are especially at risk, as their roaming

tendencies take them farther from the mother.

Taylor explained at his talk that the female and her babies will cross the road, and she will call for the male to cross. Drivers will have seen a mamma bear and her babies cross and won't realize one baby is still making its way, and the male cub gets hit. Large, adult bears are also hit on the highways.

For more information on black bear safety, visit www.masswildlife. org. Anyone with a black bear problem should remove bird feeders from their yard and keep trash in a secure container or locked building.



Ralph Taylor of DCR brought a stuffed cub, bear skull, bear footprint and bear scat to his Discovery Center talk last weekend.

and Wild: More on Bears

Intelligent, Thumbless

By KATIE NOLAN with JOSH HEINEMANN

TURNERS FALLS – About 60 people came out to the Turners Falls Discovery Center on a dark windy day to hear Ralph Taylor of the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation talk about black bears in the state and especially Franklin County.

The temperature was around thirty, not that low for winter, but the air was wet with the fringe of the snowstorm that hit Washington (good for them), and the wind off the canal made the downtown feel colder.

The heat in the Discovery Center was lost through the uninsulated brick wall behind Taylor, but no one seemed to notice, as he told amazing stories from years of studying bears.

As we left, Josh said, "If I were a large intelligent mammal without an opposable thumb, like a black bear, I would probably behave the way a bear does." I agreed, to the extent that Taylor had said that bears like high-fat foods and really love doughnuts.

We were both impressed by how intelligent, interesting and graceful these animals are. A black bear after sweet corn is smart enough to leave the edge of a cornfield alone and eat from a circle inside, so the robbery is hidden from the farmer by the tall stalks on either side.

Taylor showed an aerial photograph of a cornfield with flattened circles (ovals, really), and then he showed a video of one bear as she methodically pulled one corn stalk down to the ground and then bit the kernels off the cob as delicately as a young child might have done, with the exception that the bear did not husk or cook the corn first.

They are smart enough to realize that if they simply eat all the seed in a feeder, but leave the feeder intact, it may get refilled the next day. Taylor showed a photo of a bear drinking seed from a backyard feeder in broad daylight in a Northampton back yard. The human who lived there was away at work and had perfect

reason to think that the birds emptied the feeder during the day.

Taylor said he had seen suburban streets lined with trash as the bear had tipped and checked out each can in turn, starting its route before the slow and easily-tracked garbage truck.

Black bears are large – females are 135 to 345 pounds, and males 250 to 565 – and very strong, and equipped with long sharp claws they can't retract. In general they still prefer to avoid confrontation, and sometimes bluff charge a person they consider a threat, stopping just short of the person. However, they can be aggressive if provoked.

In winter, black bears den in various places: under a stone wall or a brush pile, fallen trees, in mountain laurel thickets, hollow trees, and in suburbs, under decks or porches.

Their metabolism slows into a state called torpor, but they are not true hibernators. If food is available in winter, they will go out and get it. Loud noises or bright lights can wake them up. Cubs are born in January, and they keep the mothers awake like demanding human babies.

According to Taylor, in evolutionary history they coexisted with the short-faced bear and dire wolf, both extinct now and both more aggressive predators than black bears. They learned to climb trees as a defense. They are still excellent climbers, and prefer to live among trees. Cubs are born with the ability to climb, and mothers send their cubs up when they sense danger, and call them down with an "all clear" call.

Black bears were plentiful in western Massachusetts before European settlement, but the bears moved on when the woods were cut down for subsistence farms. When settlers left for better farmland or to industrializing cities, the trees grew back on the abandoned farms, and black bears started to return to Massachusetts.

Taylor said that the black bear population in Massachusetts is officially about 4,500 individuals. DCR studies show that the population is casing by 90/ to 100/ per year a favor has had

increasing by 8% to 10% per year.

Surprisingly, the bear population in Northampton and Amherst is larger than in the more densely-wooded small towns in Franklin County. In the valley towns, sunflower seed, pet food, compost and garbage are plentiful, while in the woods, the fare is skunk cabbage in the spring, insect larvae and berries in the summer, and apples and acoms in the fall.

Because of the easily foraged fat and protein-rich diet in the suburbs, suburban bear litters are larger – often three cubs, rather than two – than those of bears living in wilder areas. The suburban cubs are much larger at birth, and grow faster than cubs in wilder areas.

Bears are not predators by nature, but they will take an opportunity when they find one, and have been tracked criss-crossing an area where a fawn has bedded down, which, despite the bear's excellent sense of smell, they cannot find, because fawns do not have a smell.

Taylor showed pictures of research efforts, including one bear as she investigated a barrel trap, and another as she was sedated in her den for tests on her and the cubs. The newborns, usually four to five pounds, are tame, and he showed a picture of one man holding two in his arms, like puppies. He showed one final picture of a cub.

Researchers finished their work, put the cubs back in the den, and covered the den with hemlock branches. As they were leaving, they looked back and saw that one cub had pulled the hemlock branches aside to take a curious look at them.



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 <code>www.umb.edu/cpm</code> and click on 'executive searches'. Please send cover letter and resume to <code>recruitment.umb@gmail.com</code>. 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 <code>www.umb.edu/cpm</code>.

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ERVING from page A1

to the board and fincom, a 5.2% increase over the current year.

The major EES budget drivers include new mathematics curriculum materials for all grades (\$28,500); special education transportation (\$17,500); additional library teacher hours (\$15,092); additional occupational therapy hours (\$10,600); and increased pre-school instructional coordinator hours (\$7,978).

Trill said that when he became principal in 2015, he formed a Mathematics Action Committee to review the school's math curriculum. That committee found the approach to teaching math at EES was "all over the place," differing from grade to grade. He said the proposed "brand new, cutting edge" curriculum has a problem-solving approach and will be consistent over all grades.

Selectboard member Arthur Johnson asked if the new curriculum was based on the Common Core, a set of national standards developed by the National Governors Association and Council of Chief State School Officers. Trill replied that the new program was aligned with those standards, but not based solely on them.

Bastarache assured the board that the decisions about the new curriculum were developed with open discussion at the local level.

Hayes said "one of the great things about Erving Elementary School is that the curriculum decisions were made from the bottom up, with teachers and parents included."

Bastarache told the board and fincom that money approved for a new generator for EES at the 2015 annual town meting had not been spent yet. The upgraded generator was recommended in order to outfit EES as a town warming station during power outages, but Bastarache wondered if it was still the designated warming station. "What do we need to sustain that building [during a power outage]?" he asked.

If the money were not needed for a new generator, he argued, it could be used for other capital improvements at EES – or perhaps even for the math curriculum.

Selectboard chair William Bembury said that, in town staff meetings, "the decision was made that the warming center be somewhere else."

For secondary education, the \$1.6 million request represents an increase of 42% over the current year. Much of the increase results from an increase in the number of Erving special education students tuitioned to the Gill-Montague school district. The number will increase from six to ten, as four students graduate from elementary school and start middle school. Special education transportation costs have also increased.

Pleasant Street Building

Haggerty also asked the board to consider improvements to the former Pleasant Street School building, which Union 28 rents for its central office. These include cutting back bushes at the entryway that snag people as they enter, removing vines climbing the building walls, removing the approximately 50-year-old carpeting on the second floor (a "trip hazard" according to Trill), refinishing the floor, repairing rotted door sills, painting the walls, sealing windows, and providing a buzzer system for opening the door to the building from the second floor offices.

Johnson asked, "How much rent are we getting on that building?"

Bembury said, "We would like

to bring that building up to code. I hope we can allot something." He observed that, "The first thing is to have someone come in and evaluate all the systems."

After the Union 28 staff left, Johnson asked again, "How much rent are we getting?" and commented, "It seems like Erving is footing the bill for the whole Union 28..." He suggested that it might be cheaper to renovate the office section of the former International Paper building, which the town took for back taxes.

Hammock replied that Union 28 pays \$5,500 per year to rent the second floor of the building. Finance committee member Eugene Klepadlo commented, "We own the building."

Bembury noted that the building needs a lot of maintenance, and said he felt it was in the town's best interest to keep it maintained.

Hammock suggested the town open a dialogue about the cost to the town of renting the second floor of the building to Union 28.

Selectboard Raises

Klepadlo questioned a proposed 38% increase in salaries for select-board members.

Bembury said he believed that the selectboard should have an increase, since there had been no increases for a number of years.

Klepadlo cited a report by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments characterized the Erving selectboard as the highest-paid board in Franklin County.

Johnson suggested that a larger salary might encourage more people to run for selectboard.

Klepadlo said, "Money won't motivate people... They run because there's an issue they're passionate about"

The board agreed to ask the finance committee to develop a recommendation for selectboard raises.

Funding the Gap

Early in Monday's meeting, Hammock said the town might be looking at a potential gap of \$1.6 million between proposed expenditures and estimated revenues for FY'17. By the end of the meeting, the participants were considering a potential \$300,000 gap, and were brainstorming ideas for filling that gap.

"We have more requests than we have money to fund. What can they [town departments] live with?" asked Hammock.

Selectboard member Jacob Smith said, "We have to take a hard look at all of this."

Klepadlo suggested that, for some of the requested capital improvements, the town could consider borrowing money.

Smith noted that the \$775,000 Park Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) grant for a portion of the former Usher Mill property envisioned that the town's share would be paid by a loan, but that the town had been planning to fund its share of the costs from free cash. "We can leave it as a loan and fund something else from free cash," he suggested. Another suggestion was transferring money from current accounts with unspent balances to capital improvements.

Klepadlo said that the \$7,000 in school construction account could be put toward windows and doors at EES.

The board and fincom will be meeting separately to consider the FY'17 budget over the next month, and plan to produce a final

balanced budget in March.

NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Proposal for Racism Sensitivity Workshops Moves Forward

By JEFF SINGLETON

At its meeting on Monday, January 25, the Montague selectboard made progress in implementing "racial sensitivity trainings" for town employees. However, the trainings may now be called workshops to avoid the impression that a particular ideology is being endorsed as town policy.

"Our role is not to set town policy," said Swan Keyes of Millers Falls, a member of the group promoting the workshop idea. "Not everyone will think the same. All people should feel welcome."

According to another member of the group, Don Wright, the goal will be to "create a space where that conversation [about racial concerns] can happen."

According to the selectboard agenda, the group making the proposal was called the CoRaJus, or Coalition for Racial Justice. However, at the meeting Avenue A resident Rodney Madison said that the proposal came from some former members of that group. "CoRaJus is no more," he stated.

Madison then introduced the group's plan that emphasized the need to promote racial understanding in the context of economic and cultural development:

"When tensions arise between people of different cultures — as they will — a healthy community has leaders that will embrace the opportunity to learn and grow from these challenges. When leaders show that they are interested in understanding cultural and ethnic differences, this community gains a reputation for being progressive and attractive to new businesses, residents, and visitors."

The group proposed that the town sponsor one workshop a month for six months. The initial group would include 12 participants, including the selectboard, chief of police and the fire chiefs, and would then expand to more participants during the course of the program.

Proposed topics of discussion include "the racial history and demographics of Montague," "how to build bridges across difference," "understand the needs of different constituencies and populations" and "principles and elements of creating a harmonious community."

There was some discussion of the cost of the workshops, and how they could be financed. One suggestion was that the funds might come from the Turners Falls River-Culture program. Mike Nelson suggested that Montague might want to collaborate with Greenfield on the project, but Wright noted that Greenfield was not at the "initial step" in a similar process.

One member of the group suggested that the six-month program could end in a block party.

The group was encouraged to come back in two weeks with a proposal that the board could vote on. According to selectboard member Rich Kuklewicz, "This is a start, not a training to solve [all] our problems."

Enhancements

In other news, Bruce Hunter of

the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority came before the board to authorize several disbursements and a change order for the Avenue A Streetscape Enhancement project. Hunter was accompanied at the front table by Frances Pheeny, the new executive director of the agency.

The disbursements approved by the selectboard totaled nearly \$4,000, and the change order was for \$3,664.

Tom Bergeron, head of the Department of Public Works, came before the board to execute a task order with the engineering firm CDM Smith for \$30,000. This will pay for sewer lining work on Turnpike Road, Ninth Street and Montague City Road. He also noted that the DPW would soon begin work on the clogged stormwater siphons that go under the power canal behind Food City.

Bergeron asked the board to execute an inspection report and approve a corrective action plan mandated by the state involving the transfer station on Sandy Lane. The Department of Environmental Protection has cited the town for failing to lock the gate to the facility, leaving a box with used fluorescent lights on the grounds, and for an "old shed" with a rotted-out floor. "As Tom knows I've locked some people in there," said selectboard member Chris Boutwell.

Bergeron was asked about the status of the skate park, and he responded that the concrete had been poured and all that was needed was spring landscaping. "Almost every day they're kicking the kids out," he said.

Washouts

The subject of potential litigation over the Millers Falls Road drainage project was raised. Last year the project, which was supposed to withstand a very large "rain event," washed out almost immediately during a relatively normal downpour.

Board member Michael Nelson said he and a small committee of officials had met and determined that a lawsuit was not "fiscally responsible." There were many "moving parts" to the problem, he explained, and legal fees might absorb most of a settlement.

Instead, the town had induced the contractor and engineer partly responsible for the washout to donate \$5,000 to the RiverCulture program. Some of this will be used to hire an artist to upgrade decrepit signage in Turners Falls.

The board voted to dissolve the "planter committee," and appoint Av-

enue A business owner Gary Konvelski as "planter coordinator." Building inspector David Jensen, who has been coordinating planter activities, argued that the planter committee was an "ad hoc" one created to draft planter guidelines, a task which was completed months ago.

According to those guidelines, a group of "planter participants" was to recommend the planter coordinator to the Selectboard. However, the planter coordinator was also supposed to convene the planter participants, so the town was faced with a classic Catch-22 situation.

The selectboard solved the problem by appointing the coordinator, who will convene the participants next fall.

Executive Discretion

As the meeting ended, the selectboard began to go into executive session to discuss minutes involving the Millers Falls Road Project, and strategy for an intervention before the state Department of Public Utilities involving the Tennessee Gas Pipeline.

Nelson said the Millers Falls minutes did not have to be discussed in executive session because they had already been discussed at the meeting.

Regarding the pipeline, Nelson responded to a question from the *Reporter* as to whether a DPU pipeline intervention request was actually "litigation" strategy, a valid executive session topic under the state open meeting law. Nelson stated that "counsel" has told him that it was allowed.

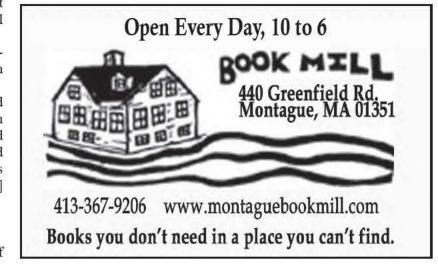
Counsel in this case turned out to be Richard Kanoff, the lawyer hired by towns in the region to address pipeline issues. Kanoff had sent the following email in response to an inquiry from Nelson:

"All other municipalities treat regulatory litigation (which is what this is) as properly subject to executive session. We are talking strategy and next steps among other things and the practice is to do this in exec session."

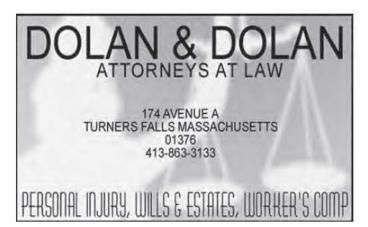
Other News

Nelson announced that town administrator Frank Abbondanzio would return from extended sick leave next Monday. Abbondanzio will work part time, steadily increasing his hours over the next months. He will not initially attend select-board meetings.

Abbondanzio is "very enthusiastic" about returning to work, according to Nelson.



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NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Board Signs Emergency Bus Plan, Eyes Extra Cash

By AIDAN BELANGER

The Gill selectboard meeting began this Monday with a visit from Michael Perreault, assistant administrator of the Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA), and Gene Beaubien, Gill's emergency management director. The two brought forward a memorandum of agreement for "emergency response transportation".

This agreement would provide a plan in the event of an emergency situation which required the use of transit buses for purposes such as evacuations and warming shelters. The usual drivers of these FRTA buses are not required to respond to these situations, as it is not a part of the job description, but this document would make the FRTA's equipment available to firefighters and other emergency responders in the case of such events.

The two needed the document signed by the selectboard in order to add Gill to the list of participating towns. It was a non-binding agreement, meaning that if the town needed any changes to the document to be made after the signing it could be done.

The selectboard found no issue with taking part in this, and passed the document.

Sirens and Phones

Beaubien stayed to update the selectboard on the donation of the Vermont Yankee's emergency preparedness siren to Northfield Mount Hermon (NMH). NMH said it would accept the donation, and the selectboard motioned to pass it on to the school.

Additionally Beaubien received a letter from the state that the town will receive \$3,337 in SAFE (Student Awareness of Fire Education) and \$2,417 in Senior SAFE grants. The money will go toward paying firefighters for public education.

Beaubien updated the selectboard about the search for a new phone system for the public safety complex.

He had called Crocker Communications to obtain a quote on the installation of a broadband telephone system. This came to be \$1,289, with one monthly fee of \$70 for tying into the broadband and another of \$78 for hosting the system. Crocker brought test phones to the firehouse and found that the firewalls in the firehouse were so tight that they couldn't connect through the broadband system.

After that, Beaubien called Valley Communications to obtain a quote for a POTS (Plain Old Telephone System) line. Valley quoted this project to be \$5,586, with a monthly fee of \$30 to \$40.

The selectboard were surprised at the large difference in costs, and decided that a large capital expense made sense, as currently available grant money could be used for that but would not stick around to support large monthly expenses. The board decided to take \$3,200 out of the Vermont Yankee fund to supplement existing emergency management grant money.

Board member Randy Crochier brought up the need to talk about regionalizing small-town fire departments, because millions of dollars' worth of equipment are wasted in supplying each department with their own equipment which is then not used.

Highway Department

Mickey LaClaire provided an update on the repairs made to the 2009 Sterling used in snow plowing, and the repairs made to sewer pump #1. LaClaire voiced great satisfaction with the repairs to the plow, saying it worked great with only a few little quirks that could be addressed in the spring.

He additionally voiced satisfaction with the relationship between the town and J.C. Madigan, Inc., which made the repairs. LaClaire stated the bill for the truck came in only \$25 over the quote, even while adding lots of little repairs to the vehicle.

The total cost came in at \$15,350, not including the \$9,800 snow plow and about \$2,800 for new automatic chains.

The town allocated \$50,000 last May for the truck purchase, and about \$10,000 remains in the budget. This leaves about \$18,000, which LaClaire suggested could come from NMH's public safety donation. The selectboard took it under advisement but did not yet make a decision.

LaClaire went on to announce that the repairs to the sewer pump were complete. After having its seals, bearings and shaft replaced, the pump leaked worse than before. The technician rechecked everything then put it all back with another kit and it still leaked. Then he looked at everything again and found that a steel sleeve had a split in it so minute a magnifying glass was needed to see it. Once that was replaced, the pump stopped leaking.

LaClaire and the selectboard agreed that it was not a good sign that both new pumps have broken, while the older systems worked for so long. LaClaire added that he believed the second pump broke because something went through the line and split the propeller.

FY'17 Heating Oil

Last winter, Gill used about 5,000

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influenced by relative wealth, Leverett's assessment could increase significantly.

library The department's projected FY'17 budget, as proposed by Blais, would be \$69,157, down from \$70,569 in the current year. The largest line items are for salaries, which totaled \$53,250, and which increased by approximately 1.5%.

The biggest line item increase was the fee for the C/W MARS system, which was projected to rise from \$3,452 to \$4,629. C/W MARS is an online database that links libraries in central and western Massachusetts, providing an extensive library loan system and allowing access to books and periodicals.

These increases were offset by a cut in the materials line item from \$10,625 to \$7,258. Blais said the cut could bring materials spending below the state mandate, but that the town could also apply for a waiver from the state library

The fire chief did not present a budget with a 2% cut, but rather a PowerPoint presentation showing why such a cut was unrealistic. For example, he noted that there had been an increase in the number of calls to the department from 138 in 2014 to 147 in 2015. This was estimated to increase the department's costs by approximately \$357.

A more substantial problem is the testing of equipment. Ingram said the testing of hoses and ladders, which he estimated could cost \$1,728 annually, and pump

testing (\$1,000) "has not been performed consistently year after year." Other large projected increases involve the cost of telecommunications equipment, and two vehicles to be acquired from UMass-Amherst.

Ingram ended by suggesting that it was his "job" to make the case against the proposed reduction. "Your message has been delivered loud and clear," responded selectboard member Tom Hankinson.

Selectboard chair Peter d'Errico noted funding support the library had received from a volunteer group called the Friends of the Library. He suggested that some "old farts" who like to hang out at the fire station might want to establish a similar committee.

Several bemused members of the audience appeared to feel this idea was directed at them.

Other News

The board appointed Roberta Bryant to the position of animal control officer, and Tom Masterton to the Council on Aging. Rich Brazeau was suggested as a replacement for Michael Fair on the board of health. The selectboard will meet with the health board in early February to confirm that appointment.

Barbara Tiner was appointed to a group called the Massachusetts Committee Against the Pipeline (MCAP).

The selectboard discussed an information technology grant under the state "community compact." Town administrator Marjorie McGinnis said the grant, which will be developed by a consultant, is due on February 29. The community compact is an initiative by Governor Baker to promote partnerships between the state and local communities to implement so-called "best practices."

The board discussed the "timing of regionalization," that is, whether a Leverett vote to expand the Amherst-Pelham regional school district could take place at the spring's town meeting. Board members expressed doubts that this was realistic, due to opposition in Shutesbury and uncertainty over the configuration of Amherst's elementary schools.

The decision about the regional district's expansion will actually involve two votes: one to change the regional agreement to allow local elementary schools to join the middle/ high school district, and a second to determine whether a particular town would join. In theory, a town could agree to expand the district, but not join at the elementary level.

The meeting ended with a discussion of the potential appointment of David Finn as the new town highway department head. It was decided to arrange a meeting with Finn on Friday morning or Monday as an alternative.

In response to a question from the audience, the board said the new chief would have a six-month probation period.



gallons of heating oil, not counting the Riverside building; administrative assistant Ray Purington estimates it will go through around 4,400 this season. Through the Lower Pioneer Valley Educational Collaborative (LPVEC), the town had locked in a bid for 3,800 gallons of this year's oil, at \$2.27 a gallon.

So far this season, the town has taken delivery of about 1,500 of those gallons. By comparison, last winter it had used 3,800 gallons by February 12, and then had to pay market price. which wasn't much more.

Oil prices now are well under \$2.27. The selectboard approved a motion allowing Purington to coordinate with the LPVEC to lock in 3,800 gallons of oil for next winter soon, while prices are still low.

The Riverside building's two 275-gallon oil tanks still have threefourths of their oil left.

Special Town Meeting

The town raised about \$45,000 more from new growth this year than was expected. That money can be spent on one-time projects authorized by a special town meeting without affecting next year's tax rate.

Selectboard chair Greg Snedeker suggested money could go to a new police cruiser or backhoe, both

in next year's capital requests. Other ideas included funding for litigation around the region's proposed gas pipeline, or finishing payment for the new highway truck.

The board is looking at February 17 or 22 for the special town meeting.

Other News

Purington updated the selectboard on the Green Community Grant projects. Most of the work on the new building was complete and well done, but he had some questions about the boiler.

The police department was happy with the replacement LED light on the front of the public safety

Jane Pfister of the state Department of Energy Resources said Green Communities approved the town's proposals for electric water heater for town hall and window inserts for the library.

Purington informed the selectboard of quotes to insulate the top of a 5-foot wall on the safety complex building. One quote was \$6,352, while another was \$14,680 to \$17,000. The roofing company will give \$1,000 credit, but there is no incentive money available through either Eversource or CET.

There is still enough money in the building maintenance project to cover this project, and the selectboard decided to move forward in insulating that part of the building, with the cheaper quote.

With new state animal control laws, training is needed for town animal control officers. Even though Gill has no current ACO, the town needed to send the state a form that stated the ACO had received that form.

The selectboard passed a motion to designate historical commission members Lynn Stowe Tomb, Pam Shoemaker, and Ivan Ussach "special municipal employees" so they can be granted stipends of \$250 to \$275 for their work on the Riverside history book.

Daniel Botkin was appointed to the cultural council, through June

Ed Golembeski was appointed as an election worker through June

Lissa Greenough resigned as a Library Trustee. She was the library director from 1995 to 2005, and served as a trustee since then. In her letter of resignation, she stated she was honored to have served at Slate Library for so long, and feels she is leaving it in good hands.

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Aquí se habla español

Esta es la página en español del Montague Reporter.

Aquí podrá encontrar cuestiones acerca de la comunidad hispana en el área, eventos de interés, curiosidades, y noticias mundiales en español. Si quiere participar o compartir alguna sugerencia, envíenos un correo electrónico a: spanish@montaguereporter.org



Un desayuno con Mr. G., ganador de un **Grammy Latino 2015** por mejor álbum infantil

Por VICTORIA MAILLO

Hace unas semanas tuve la ocasión de entrevistar a Mr. G, el ganador de un Grammy Latino 2015 por su álbum Los animales que es una fusión de estilos como salsa y jazz y realizado en colaboración con otros artistas.

Contacté con él, ya que vive en el área y muy amablemente se prestó para una entrevista. Me citó en Jakes en Northampton para desayunar. Acudí temprano a la cita puesto que había visto muchas fotos de él, pero no estaba segura de que él pudiera reconocerme a mí.

Estaba un poco nerviosa, mi fuerte no es la música y no sabía cómo se iba a desarrollar la entrevista. Me senté en la mesa más cercana a la puerta y esperé.

A los pocos minutos apareció Mr. G., o mejor dicho Ben Gundersheimer. Había leído sobre él y sabía que había estudiado en Berklee College of Music y llevaba muchos años dedicándose a la música. Nada más verlo supe que todo iba a ir bien, se mostró sencillo y con una gran sonrisa.

Empezamos hablando de su relación con el español. Mr. G. me explicó que de niño quería ser jugador de béisbol y músico, por ello pensó que saber español lo ayudaría en ello.

Empezó a estudiar español antes del escuela secundaria y rápidamente se sintió atraído por la lengua y la cultura. A partir de este momento la entrevista se desarrolló en español y en inglés, o en ambos a la vez.

P. Yahora, ¿practicas español?

R. No mucho, no hay mucha gente en mi comunidad que hable español, pero escribo las canciones en español.

P. ¿Y no es dificil escribir las canciones en español?

R. No, es bastante fácil porque las canciones son sencillas, y tomo mi tiempo para encontrar las rimas, v el ritmo.

P. ¿Qué hacías cuando trabajabas en la escuela en Smith College mientras estudiabas tu Master?

R. Me contrataron para ser el profesor de música. Nunca antes lo había hecho y no tenía entrenamiento para enseñar a niños, así que empecé a escribir canciones con los niños. Tenía una gran experiencia en escribir canciones, así que hice eso. Escoger una palabra y escribir una canción todos juntos. A los niños les encantaba porque se divertían y aprendían al mismo tiempo.

P. ¿Has tenido alguna influencia



Mr. G. y su Grammy, en 2015.

en tu carrera tu madre que es escritora (Karen Gundersheimer) e ilustradora de libros para niños?

R. En mi casa siempre se respiraba un ambiente lleno de creatividad, imaginación y cuentos. Hemos tratado de hacer algunos proyectos juntos, pero no lo hemos conseguido.

P. ¿Cuéntame un poco sobre tu provecto The Roots Music Collective?

R. Durante años actué en locales como Iron Horse con mi banda, y aprovechando esa experiencia fuimos a las escuelas y hablamos a los niños de rock, jazz, soul, rap, country, etc. Entonces elegíamos una palabra, por ejemplo, tortilla y creábamos una canción con esa palabra y luego elegíamos un estilo que darle, por ejemplo, ópera. Esta fue mi primera experiencia enseñando a niños. Y esta experiencia hizo que decidiera estudiar el master en educación, cambiar la orientación de mi carrera y dedicarme a los niños.

El desayuno fue interrumpido por algunas madres con niños que reconocían a Mr. G. y saludaban amablemente. Su otro álbum Chocolala recibió un premio por ser el favorito de los padres.

P. ¿Cómo te sientes al haber recibido un Grammy?

R. Me siento increíble. Es llegar a otro nivel ya que empecé a escribir música desde niño, he hecho diferentes cosas, y recibir este premio es una reivindicación del trabajo que he hecho junto con músicos de México, Cuba, Argentina.

P. ¿Piensas que la música debe ser parte de la educación?

R. Creo que se debe enseñar música desde el jardín de infancia ya que es el momento en que los niños tienen su mente abierta para aprender.

P. ¿Y qué piensas sobre la educación bilingüe?

R. Pienso en muchos niveles que en este país el aislamiento no es algo bueno, se necesita tener una mente más abierta a otras culturas, a viajar, a otras lenguas.

P. ¿Cuándo actúas en español para niños que no hablan español, ¿es complicado?

R. No, al contrario. Las canciones son pegadizas y es algo natural para los niños. Utilizo la respuesta física, y la diversión para atraer su atención. Hay que incluir humor, juego, y ritmo. Es un reto interesante actuar para los niños, pero también lo es actuar para los padres que están

P. ¿Cuál es la diferencia de actuar para niños o para adultos?

R. Los niños son mucho más honestos y dispuestos a colaborar. Los adultos están más preocupados por otras cosas y les cuesta moverse e

P. Fue dificil colaborar con otros músicos?

R. Bueno, depende del lugar, y del colaborador. En mi álbum Los Animales colaboré con muchos artistas diferentes y fue una experiencia fenomenal. A veces cuando estás en el estudio echas de menos el factor humano. Y si estoy escribiendo una canción que imagino como salsa, y un gran artista cubano que hace salsa, puede colaborar, es perfecto. Cada músico puso su acento y su alma en el proyecto. Sin ellos, el álbum hubiera sido diferente. La forma de crear cuando es en equipo es distinta, pero eso le hace ser especial.

P. ¿Qué proyectos tienes para el futuro?

R. Muchas canciones, muchos proyectos. Ahora mismo el mundo de la música es complicado, muy competitivo, también el mundo de la música para niños.

Terminamos de desayunar y me despedí de Mr. G. deseándole mucha suerte en su gira y lista para aprenderme sus canciones.

SECCIÓN DEL **LECTOR**

Ha llegado a nuestra redacción un poema escrito por una lectora que queremos compartir con todos ustedes. Esperamos que esto les anime a seguir enviando sus contribuciones.

PAPAGAYOS

desayuno

Quiero imaginar alguna cosa alegre siempre y siempre, una cosa alegre papagayos rojos y azules en libertad en el patio del hotel rosa y verde en algun país ahora olvidado el patio rosa y verde donde comimos panqueques para el

y otras cosas deliciosas mientras intentamos hablar en español al camarero amable que nos saludó con una sonrisa radiante como el sol caliente de la mañana.

Dorothy J. McFarland, Leverett

El culebrón real de Kate del Castillo

Por VICTORIA MAILLO

En las últimas semanas no se habla de otra cosa en los canales de televisión en español en Estados Unidos que sobre la noticia del culebrón entre Kate del Castillo y el Chapo Guzmán. Los tertulianos de dichos canales se preguntan por qué la única persona que va a ser investigada es dicha actriz aunque había otras personas que la acompañaron en ese viaje a la sierra de Durango: Sean Penn, el famoso actor estadounidense y dos productores, uno español y otro argentino.

Kate del Castillo interpretó una telenovela basada en el libro de Arturo Pérez Reverte, La Reina del Sur. La protagonista del culebrón, Teresa Mendoza, es una mujer que entra en el mundo del narcotráfico después de la muerte de su pareja, un poderoso traficante de drogas. Además la actriz se habría significado en los últimos tiempos criticando abiertamente al gobierno mexicano en diversos medios de comunicación.

El Chapo Guzmán es un poderoso narcotraficante mexicano que protagonizó el año pasado una fuga espectacular de una cárcel de alta seguridad del Altiplano en México. Las circunstancias de su huida y la ayuda recibida desde la propia prisión o desde fuera no han sido aclaradas por el gobierno mexicano.

Hace unas semanas el Chapo Guzmán fue apresado de nuevo tras un encuentro con Kate del Castillo y el actor estadounidense Sean Penn. Ambos estaban tratando de convencerlo para conseguir los derechos para hacer una película sobre su vida y realizar una entrevista para la revista Rolling Stone. La policía tenía pinchado el celular de la actriz y gracias a ello consiguieron saber dónde se encontraba el traficante.

Todavía quedan por resolver muchas incógnitas en este caso, en primer lugar cómo fue posible la fuga del Chapo Guzmán y cómo es posible que Kate del Castillo y sus



Kate del Castillo

acompañantes llegaran hasta él pese a los estrictos controles policiales. La actriz que posee doble nacionalidad, mexicana y estadounidense, no se ha pronunciado públicamente hasta el momento.

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SHEA from page A1

Shea board has brought amazing programming to that theater," said Belmonte. "But it's the beginning of something - we're 'lighting it up."

Northampton-based production company Signature Sounds, which also runs the Green River Music Festival, has lined up performers for each of the nights: New York-based world fusion dance band Red Baraat on the 4th; '90s indie-rock revivalists Speedy Ortiz on the 5th; and singersongwriter Heather Maloney on the 6th. Advance tickets go on sale this Friday morning.

Signature Sounds president Jim Olsen sits on the STAC board of directors, but Belmonte says the company will "get the same deal that everybody who gets a commercial deal gets" for use of the stage. He says he reached out to Olsen when he was preparing the group's proposal as someone who "intimately knows the theater," having booked a number of concerts there over the past few

"Anybody can approach us and say they want to book something," Belmonte explained, adding that the theater would have a "community mandate" to continue existing traditions and draw in more local residents, as well as an "economic mandate... to reach out for some events that may generate more revenue, and keep us in the black."

Opening Doors

Existing plans for the spring include plays by Franklin County Technical School and the Young Shakespeare Players, as well as the beginning of a partnership with the music, theater and dance departments at Greenfield Community College (GCC).

"While we've worked with the Shea in the past, I think this new collaboration opens up some possibilities that just weren't feasible before," said Leo Hwang, dean of humanities

"GCC is the only community college in the state that doesn't have a full-fledged performance space," added Hwang. "We have the very small Sloan Theater, which is wonderful within its limits - but not really a performance space, in the sense of a stage and a proscenium. The Shea Theater really is an opportunity for our students to experience a professional atmosphere for doing their art."

Hwang said that the dance department's end-of-semester performance, in collaboration with other area colleges and dance schools, would be held in Turners Falls this spring, and that the music department is also planning a showcase of student work.

"It is a wonderful step forward for all in the community," said GCC president Bob Pura. "At the heart of our work at the college is opening the doors to opportunity, and I think the Shea is doing that, in a most literal way."

Pura said the college is "committed to seeing those doors open," and to keeping performances accessible: "Ticket prices are what they are, all over the country; for some, those dollars are hard to find, when you're trying to make the rent, and trying to put food on the table...

"To have the opportunity to see, hear and experience music and arts, it's just a win-win-win for the community, for the people at the theater, and certainly for our students."

According to Belmonte, the challenge for his organization will be to balance those ideals with events that drive revenue. "We want to work with the Brick House," he said. "We want to reach out to the Spanishspeaking community that's a block away from the Shea, but may have never been there, because they may not have any sort of programming that reaches out to them ...

"But we have to figure out the commercial events, and the fundraising, that can underwrite the events that are maybe a little bit of a risk."

A Homecoming

The first weekend in March may

provide a taste of that. Advance tickets through Ticketfly.com are \$23 for Red Baraat, \$15 for Speedy Ortiz, and \$17 for Heather Maloney. Belmonte says the \$2 per ticket that will go directly into the current renovations actually comes to more than the commercial rental rate. "I hope the community will buy the tickets, because that's what's going to push us further on," he said.

The Shea date is Red Baraat's debut in Franklin County. Speedy Ortiz's star has risen, in terms of critical recognition and national fanbase, since their last local show, back in September 2012 at John Doe Jr. Records in Greenfield.

And for Heather Maloney, it will be "a sort of homecoming." The singer-songwriter is a former downtown resident herself, and has played both opening and headlining slots at the Shea before.

The Reporter spoke with Maloney this week as she rode in a van along the Gulf Coast, somewhere between gigs in New Orleans and Clearwater, Florida, on a tour supporting former Men at Work frontman Colin Hay.

"I thought Turners was a great place for me to kick off my music career," she said. "I found a cheap apartment, and started pouring all of my resources and time into recording and writing. Turners has always had a very special place in my heart - a place for me to kind of incubate things, and grow them."

Maloney is a full-time musician these days: she finished a 40-city tour in the fall, and will be on the road through the end of February. This tour has had its ups and downs: in San Antonio, thieves smashed into the van and made off with "a whole lot of expensive gear," but fans donated nearly \$5,000 in two hours of online fundraising to help her replace it. "It went from pretty rough to pretty magical," she said.

Maloney will be accompanied by multi-instrumentalist Brendan Leeds. "As a duo, we've kind of pushed into trying different ways to fill the sound out, including some non-traditional

HOCKEY from page A1

Then the puck was lost. An official timeout was called as the Greenfield goaltender, Jack Richardson searched his pads. But the puck was never found. For the rest of the period, Richardson periodically shook out his equipment, looked in his leg pads, and took off his gloves but he never found it.

Neither team could score in the third period until, with only

seconds left on the clock, Green stole a clearing pass, came in on a 2-on-1 and scored the winning goal with only 16 seconds left in the game.

Bryant had a 91% save percentage, turning away 30 shots on goal. Urgiel scored both of Powertown's goals. Ryan Lenois, Alex Smiarowski and Cul-

len Wozniak each had assists for the Tribe.



Somewhere under a soft blue sky Is a place where angels fly We know this place you did go Even though we miss you so You gave us joy through the years A memory for each new year A special place within our hearts There will always be for you It's filled with joy and love In sweet memory



We love and miss you lots. Fern Gallison 4/28/64 - 1/31/14

ones; he brings a drum machine in on some songs. It can be really highenergy as a duo, and really stripped down for ballads. It feels really dynamic."

And there you will forever be

"I'm so psyched to be coming back to Turners," Maloney concludes.

Good Investments

One event not on the theater's schedule for this year is the Upper Valley Music Festival. UVMF organizers Tommy and Jess Byrnes announced this month that they plan to move the summer festival to early spring, but will be taking 2016 off, saying they "never want to compromise quality for time" in planning the festival, which benefits cancer

Also pushed back has been a project by the town to work on the building's roof and HVAC system. "We didn't get any bidders to do the roofing job, so we have to rebid it," said town planner Walter Ramsey. "We're looking at doing it in the summer."

In the meantime, according to Ramsey, the town has been working on "some items on which maintenance had been deferred," including plumbing fixtures and lighting.

He spoke highly of the new organization. "I really like what they're doing with the place," he said. "They're making a lot of good investments into the theater.

"I look forward to what they're going to bring to the community."

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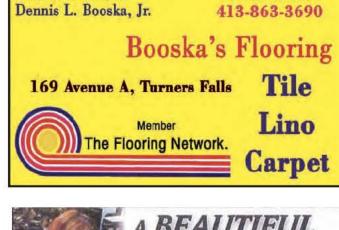
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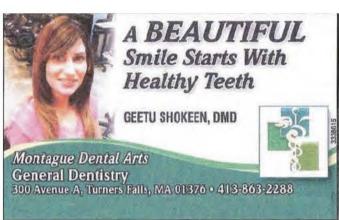
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OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER

JANUARY 28, 2016

B1

Hal Bosco: Crafting a Musical Life



Hal Bosco, of Uncle Hal's Crabgrass Band, in his jewelry studio.

By JOE KWIECINSKI and NINA ROSSI

GREENFIELD - Hal Bosco's artistic career began in the early seventies, when craft fairs were still a novelty.

Inspiration came from the West Coast, via "a remarkable fella from California who made layered candles. He was everybody's idol: he had the longest hair, the best grass, and he was doing very, very well as a hippie, which was sort of an oxymoron. "We started making candles with 30 layers of color. From a distance it looked like 3 colors, then if you got closer it looked like six, and so on, and we made a lot of money selling these.

"I got through college that way,"

up with degrees in math and music, as well as a Ph.D. in education, during his years studying at UMass in Amherst.

The candle business was booming in those days. He would load up a Dodge Dart with \$500 worth of candles, and sell out of them by mid-afternoon. When one of his partners in wax began making sterling hoops and rings for sale, it didn't take long to realize the benefits of loading up the glove box with 500 dollars of silver items instead of toting around the equivalent in heavy candles.

After 1973, Hal apprenticed with a silversmith from New York, Rubin Golder. "When I finished my education I was 31. That might

explained Hal, who ended have been 1978 or so. At some point I stopped going to school. I thought, if I was to pass away today I would have nothing! So I started working, and I either taught or did the silver accordingly from then on."

Hal used to do quite a bit in gold, but now the work he makes for craft shows and sells in his online store is mostly silver, which has remained more affordable in price. A gold ring set with amethyst at \$145 used to be a money maker at craft fairs, but that same ring would now retail at over \$600. "To say that you can't separate art from its time, you might say in precious metals, I just do 'what's happening,' and silver is having a real renaissance right now."

Hal works in upper rooms of his Greenfield home at a wooden tool bench he acquired in 1983. The tools he uses are the torch, the hammer, and the saw. "There's just five

see BOSCO page B6



The Crabgrass Band, at the Rendezvous in Turners Falls. Left to right: Dennis Avery, slide guitar; John Kunhardt, mandolin; Hal Bosco, lead guitar; Jim Bonham, bass.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH: TEN LOCAL EVENT

By REPORTER STAFF

TURNERS FALLS -During the month of February, in recognition of Black History Month, Turners Falls RiverCulture is pleased to announce a full roster of exciting programs. Music and Diversity II is a series of events that educate, entertain and build community awareness of diversity through the arts. This includes free field trips for schools, lectures, themed art exhibits, live music, spoken word poetry, documentary film, workshops and storytelling.

The February programs started as "dream events" that RiverCulture director Suzanne LoManto, Richie Richardson, and Anne Harding set their sights on back in October. LoManto welcomes collaboration with community members

who have "bigger ideas" that they need help realizing. "As long as they can volunteer their help – and assist in fundraising if necessary - or even if they just want to contribute to a brainstorming session - I could use the input," she offered.

A couple of very successful events in February of 2015 encouraged the "dream team" to think big for this year. "Let's have an art exhibit, an historical component, a lecture, jazz, workshops - we just came up with a list of everything we'd like to have back in October when we started planning this thing," explained LoManto, who



This portrait of pioneering blues singer Ma Rainey, "The Mother of the Blues," was painted by Nell Koenings of Turners Falls for the "Call and Response" art exhibit, premiering in February at the Great Falls Harvest Restaurant & the Rendezvous. Over thirty artists have painted portraits for the exhibit, which will ultimately be donated to the Gill-Montague school system.

credits Turners Falls resident Harding with securing donations from many local businesses.

Harding also submitted grant applications to local cultural councils, which resulted in funding from a total of ten towns: Montague, Bernardston, Deerfield, Erving, Gill, Leyden, New Walem, Northfield, Shutesbury and Wendell.

Sponsors include the town of Montague, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, FirstLight Power, Greenfield Savings Bank, the Montague Elks, and the state Department of Conservation and Recreation.

see CALENDAR page B3

West Along the River:

THE CATTLE RAID 1676



By DAVID BRULE

PESKEOMPSKUT - For many of us who love to explore the improbable twists and turns of history, there is adventure, tragedy, irony and contradiction to be found in all our sleuthing.

A deep study of the most significant and important historical event that occurred on our doorstep, and in our own front yards, has been evolving over the past two years.

The National Park Service grant, awarded to the town of Montague, has brought together the most significant brain trust of experts ever to study the context and events of the massacre at Turners Falls which occurred during King Philip's War (1675-76).

Events during that period of time gave our region many place names that we use regularly today, three hundred and forty years later: Bloody Brook, Beer's Plain, Turner's Falls, Pocumtuck, Peskeompskut.

But one of the lesser-known events – one that proved to be the flashpoint that led to the massacre and annihilation of more than three hundred native people on

the site now known as Riverside - was quite possibly a total fabrication.

The cattle raid of May 13, 1676, cited so often by Yankee historians, may have been invented after the fact to justify the massacre at the falls. It was quite likely one of the many manipulations and lies that led to King Philip's War, and in this case, to the beginning of the end of tribal resistance to the land grab in the valley.

It probably never happened.

The official version tells us that on May 13, 1676, Indians encamped in the falls area (modern-day Riverside and Montague's Unity Park) raided Hatfield and drove seventy horses and cattle north to deserted Deerfield and their encampment, to be eaten. This raid purportedly enraged the settlers who had been continually harassed and driven from their homes in Deerfield and Northfield. The ensuing murderous attack on the Indian encampment at the falls was directly provoked by the Indians themselves, by their brazen raid on the cattle. Apparently.

The venerable George Sheldon, historian of Deerfield

see WEST ALONG page B4



Detail from John Foster's 1677 map of New England. "The figures that are joined with the Names of Places are to diffinguish fuch as have been affaulted by the Indians from others," the map's legend explained.

Love Letters Needed!



Elizabeth Mattern admires a Valentine made by a student at the Franklin County Technical School. She packs it, along with a meal, into a cooler in the Meals on Wheels kitchen in Erving to head out for delivery with a volunteer driver.

ERVING - This Valentine's Day, Meals on Wheels recipients in Franklin County and the North Quabbin region will receive handmade cards from local volunteers as part of Franklin County Home Care's (FCHCC) annual "Love Letters" initiative.

Meals on Wheels provides nutritionally-balanced meals to adults aged 60 or older who are unable to prepare a meal for themselves and are unable to attend congre-

gate meals. Additionally, Meals on Wheels provides regular "wellness checks" to ensure that clients are in good physical and mental health.

Last year's community effort inspired folks young and old to create cards for the homebound elders who receive Meals on Wheels. The elders who receive homedelivered meals felt a special sense of value and appreciation for the cards. A card from Petersham Montessori School, decorated with kitten stickers and well-wishes, read, "Enjoy your meal!"

One Meals on Wheels recipient, af-

ter receiving his valentine's card, wrote to say, "Dear Meals on Wheels, thank you so much for the Valentine's Day card.... Glad to see you are all so caring. Sincerely, Rick."

Love Letters is a national campaign developed DoSomething.org in partnership with the AARP Foundation's Mentor Up program and Meals on Wheels Association America that

see LOVE page B3

Pet the Week

truly domesticated animals, as different from wild rats as dogs are from wolves? They are extremely social and personable animals that bond to their humans. Some rats are more intelligent than cats and dogs!



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4. Able to learn their own names and come when called.

5. Love to be petted.

6. Love to play! Tug-o-war, hide-n-seek and peek-a-boo.

7. Lots of personality, great companions.

8. More than one from the same litter will be wonderful playmates for each other.

9. Easy to feed on grains, seeds, fruits and veggies, setting a healthy example.

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Senior Center Activities FEBRUARY I to 5

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 am. Aerobics, 10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise

Monday 2/1 1 p.m. Knitting Circle

Tuesday 2/2

9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga 12:45 p m. COA Meeting

Wednesday 2/3

12:45 p m. Bingo

Thursday 2/4 9 a.m. Vets Outreach (NO Tai Chi) 10:30 a.m. Brown Bag

1 p.m. Cards & Games Friday 2/5

1 p.m. Writing Group

LEVERETT

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

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

WENDELL

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

ERVING

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

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

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

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

Monday 2/1 9 a.m. Tai Chi

10 a.m. Osteo Exercise Tuesday 2/2

8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics 10 a.m. Stretching & Balance 12:30 p.m. Crafty Seniors

Wednesday 2/3 8:45 a.m. Line Dancing 9:30 a.m. Blood Pressure 10 a.m. Chair Yoga

Noon Bingo, Snacks 1-3 p.m. Veterans' Meet

Thursday 2/4

8:45 Aerobics 10 a.m. Healthy Bones 12:30 p.m. Cards; Creative Coloring

Friday 2/5 9 am. Quilting 9:30 am. Bowling

11:30 am. Pizza, & Movie 12:30 p.m. Painting Class

TFHS Basketball Roundup

Due to space limitations, we were unable to print full game reports from sports reporter MATT ROBINSON this week. Here are scores and highlights from Matt's notes. - Eds.

Boys Team:

Wednesday, January 20 Mahar 66 - TFHS 46

"The Mahar Senators jumped out to a 12 point lead, 19-7 after 1 quarter and expanded the lead to 33-17 at the half. Turners was able to get some of the points back in the last quarter but eventually fell to the Senators 66-46."

Friday, January 22 TFHS 73 - Athol 33

"Fundamentals won the game for Powertown. Of their 73 points, they only had 1 threepointer and 14 free throws. They out rebounded Athol, 38 to 27 and had an amazing 19 steals."

Monday, January 25 Mohawk 66 - TFHS 55

"To counter Mohawk's height advantage, Coach Gary Mulls shuffled his starting lineup. His starting 5 were Tionne Brown, Rick Craver, Josh Obochowski, Anthony Peterson, and Jalen Sanders

"Turners did pull within 6 points, 59-53 with a minute left in



It's in!: Anthony Peterson (left) watches as teammate Kyle Bergmann (center) shoots during Turners Falls High School's 73-33 win over the Athol Red Raiders last Friday.

the game. But with so little time left, Blue was forced to foul and Mohawk kept sinking the 1s. As a result, Turners was unable to make up the deficit and the final score was 66-55."

Upcoming:

Thursday, January 28 Narragansett @ TFHS Monday, February 1 Greenfield @ TFHS

Girls Team:

Thursday, January 21 TFHS 53 - Pope Francis 40

"Coach Wilcox's starting 5 were guards Aliyah Sanders and Maddy Chmyzinski, center Hailey Bogusz, and forwards Emma Miner and Nadia Hasan. ...

"Aggressive team play; steals by Chmyzinski and Lexi Lacey, strong rebounding by Sanders and smart passing gave the Tribe a 43-33 lead after 3.

"The Cardinals played just as aggressively but were unable to make up the 10 point deficit....

"Chmyzinski, who was a foul magnet, scored a game-high 29 points, 7 of which came via the foul shot."

Tuesday, January 26 TFHS 61– Pioneer Valley 55

"Chmyzinski led Powertown with 27 points including a threepointer and 12 free throws. Aliyah Sanders hit 8 free throws and ended with 10 points. Emma Miner scored 9 points.

"Loynd and Dabney Rollins each put up 6 points. Lexi Lacey contributed 3 points. Hailey Bogusz, and Nadia Hasan also helped out on both sides of the ball."

JILL BERGMANN PHOTO

THE HEALTHY GEEZER

Peace Through Strength



Q. I'm a 61-year-old woman and I've been experiencing some incontinence lately. A friend told me there are exercises I can do to help the situation. Do you know what she's talking about?

By FRED CICETTI

First, talk to your doctor about the incontinence. Don't begin any exercise program without a check-up.

Your friend is probably referring to "Kegel exercises," which were developed 60 years ago by Dr. Arnold Kegel to control incontinence in women after childbirth. These exercises are now recommended for both women and men who experience urinary or fecal incontinence.

Kegel exercises strengthen the muscles of the pelvic floor. The exercises improve the functioning of both the urethral and rectal sphincters.

The muscles that are developed through the Kegel program are the ones you feel when you try to stop

the flow of urine. After about eight in nine women will have corrective weeks of exercising, you usually see results, such as less frequent urine leakage.

Urinary and fecal incontinence are examples of "pelvic-floor disorders." Others include constipation, rectal pain, vaginal prolapse, rectal prolapse, pelvic pain and sexual dysfunction. In medicine, prolapse means that an organ has slipped out of place.

The pelvic floor is a network of muscles, ligaments and other tissues that hold up the pelvic organs - the vagina, rectum, uterus and bladder. When this network - often described as a hammock - weakens, the organs can shift and create disorders.

Women who delivered several children vaginally and suffered tissue damage during childbirth, are at higher risk for pelvic-floor disorders. Another risk factor is obesity, because added weight strains the pelvic floor. A predisposition to have weak connective tissue can add to the problem.

Aging and menopause contribute to disorders. More than half of women age 55 and older suffer a pelvic-floor dysfunction.

About one in three women in the U.S. will have one of these dysfunctions in her lifetime. One

surgery for one of these problems. Because women are embarrassed by pelvic-floor disorders, they underreport them.

It should be noted that men can suffer from pelvic-floor disorders, but they are much more common in

In severe cases of pelvic dysfunction, women feel pressure or a pull in the vagina or lower back. The opening of the uterus may stick out from the vagina.

There are many ways to treat pelvic-floor problems.

Some women relieve their symptoms with Kegel exercises. Eliminating caffeine - a diuretic - can help. Eating more fiber can improve bowel function. Pessaries, plastic devices that come in many sizes and shapes, can be inserted into the vagina to support pelvic organs.

And then there is surgery, which can be done vaginally or through the abdomen. The surgical method is determined by the type of problem. More than 200,000 American women have corrective surgery annually.

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

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Sharon Cottrell

Property Manager

CALENDAR from page B1

Richardson, who splits his time between Turners Falls and New York City and knows many musicians and artists there, got commitments from world-class performers Vienna Carroll, Bob McNeil, and Kim Kalesti to come to Turners Falls to perform.

Here is the schedule of events for Black History Month: Music and Diversity II. Additional information may be found online at turnersfallsriverculture.org. In subsequent issues of the MR, we will present more in-depth previews of these events; keep an eye on these pages, and enjoy some of these special events.

Sunday, 2/7

Art exhibit and reception for Portraits of African Americans, Past and Present, featuring the work of Louise Minks of Leverett (painted portraits) and Belinda Lyons Zucker of Montague (sculpture). Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls, 1 to 3:30 p.m.

Lecture: A Web of Community Slavery in a Rural New England Town by Tim Neumann, executive director of the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association, 2:30 p.m. at the Discovery Center. Learn about the complicated social interactions and economic relationships between free and enslaved African Americans during the mid-eighteenth century, when 38% of Deerfield households included slaves.

Wednesday, 2/10

Art exhibit and reception: Call and Response: Portraits of Influential African American Blues and Jazz Musicians. Portraits by local artists of African American musicians who were central to the development of blues and jazz. Great Falls Harvest Restaurant, 50 Third Street, Turners Falls, 6 to 9 p.m. Exhibit is also showing at the Rendezvous (see 2/27 event).

Performance: Vienna Carroll (vocals) & Keith Johnston (guitar): Folk First: Black Roots Music 7 p.m. "Before there was jazz or blues or gospel, there was Black folk music, the foundation of American music today. Come enjoy songs from a time when you had to make music to hear it." Suggested donation \$5 to \$10, also at the Great Falls Harvest Restaurant.

Saturday, 2/12

Performance and Meal: Western Massachusetts Black History Celebration. Soul Food and Music,

Spoken Word Performance, African Drumming and Dance.

Suggested donation \$10. At St. James Church, 8 Church Street, Greenfield, 6 to 10 p m.

Sunday, 2/14

Documentary: Ferguson: A Report from Occupied Territory (2015, 53 min). Sponsored by Cosa Rara. For information see "Black History Month Racial Justice Film Series" on Facebook. At the Brick House Community Resource Center, 24 Third Street, Turners Falls, 4 pm.

Saturday, 2/20

Community Workshop: A unique opportunity for individuals to change through self-reflection and interpersonal dialogue in a safe, facilitated environment. Participants will share their own experiences about race in a circle process which encourages respect and honesty.

Led by Don Wright of the National SEED Project. Register at (413) 835-1390, or riverculture@ gmail.com . At the Brick House, Turners Falls, 1 to 4 p.m. Free.

Saturday, 2/27

Lecture: From Africa to Hip Hop by New York spoken word poet, Bob McNeil. "This program will celebrate music from Africa to American hip hop. Through essays, poems, stories and quotes the audience is going to hear the history of music." At the Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls, 4 to 6 p m. Free.

Performance: Jazz singer Kim Kalesti (NYC). "Kim Kalesti packages her bright octaves around an often vibrant, often haunting, repertoire. She's a straight-ahead singer who needn't and doesn't over-embellish her delivery with pretentious drama. No show and tell animation, just the succinct storytelling ability of a fine phraser." Stuart Troupe, News Day. Event is also a reception for Call and Response (see 2/10 event). Suggested donation \$5 to \$10. At the Rendezvous, 78 Third Street, Turners Falls, 9 p.m.

Sunday, 2/28

Documentary: The Mike Brown Rebellion, (2014, 63 min). Part of the Black History Month Racial Justice Film Series (see 2/14 event). Sponsored by Cosa Rara. At the Brick House Community Resource Center, 24 Third Street, Turners Falls, 4 p.m. Free.



LOVE from page B1

encourages individuals to make Valentine's Day cards for older adults. Donating a Valentine's Day card lets local Meals on Wheels recipients know that fellow community members want them to feel valued and loved.

This year's goal is to provide each elder who receives Meals on Wheels through FCHCC with a Valentine's Day card. In order to achieve this goal, FCHCC seeks to partner with local schools, afterschool programs, youth groups, and nursing homes,

If you know of a group that would like to participate, or if you would like more information, please contact Marcus Chiaretto by email at mchiaretto@fchcc.org or by phone at (413) 773-5555 x 2304.

As an added bonus, young people who sign up at dosomething.org/ loveletters and include proof of their participation in the campaign will be eligible to win a \$5,000 scholarship.

Valentine's Day cards can be mailed to: Attn. Marcus Chiaretto, FCHCC, 330 Montague City Rd., Suite 1, Turners Falls, MA 01376-2530. The deadline for submitting Valentine's Day cards to FCHCC is Friday, February 5.

There are more ways to help out - volunteer drivers are needed! Drivers receive training, a small stipend, and mileage reimbursement for their service. For information on becoming a Meals on Wheels volunteer, call (413)773-5555 x 2272 or (978) 544-2259 x 2272. or visit www.fchcc. org/MealsonWheels.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Creepy Twig Man; Squirrel in Dish Drainer; Soft Opening at Skatepark

Monday, 1/18

11:52 a.m. Chief Dodge re- owner of other vehicle ceived an email from a resident reporting that there is marked lanes violation. a "creepy twig man" wear- 11:53 a.m. Caller reporting ing a sweatshirt hanging a scam that is going on, along the bike path behind advises he has been receiv-Food City by the steel ing numerous calls from bridge. The figure appears a man who claims that to have been staged to look an important legal matlike he is jumping. Figure ter needs to be resolved. removed by officers.

Tuesday, 1/19

1:58 p.m. Caller from Lake be made. Caller searched Pleasant Road advises that her dog recently received blood transfusions at the claimed the same type of vet; when she let him outside earlier today he ran off into the woods and has not record to make others in come home. Animal control officer advises that the 3:22 p.m. Caller advising dog returned as he was ar- he has been outside Gary's riving at the residence.

2:45 p.m. Caller request- proximately 10 minutes; ing to speak with an officer the store was open, lights about repeated calls she has are on, owner's vehicle been receiving since De- is parked outside, but no cember from a restricted sign of owner. Officer en number. When the caller route. Caller called back answers, a male voice calls advising that he can see her a bitch and then hangs up. Officer advised caller street; no need for officer of options.

7:18 p.m. Report from taxi 3:38 p.m. Caller requesting driver that he brought a to report a laptop stolen; fare from Colrain to a Wal- states that on January 5, nut Street address and the she placed the laptop out to person went into a resi- be picked up by FedEx to dence and has not paid the

arrested on two default not received laptop back, warrants; additional sum- and FedEx states they mons issued.

was

8:37 p.m. Caller from Con- spoke to caller; she is going Wine reports that a male just left the store with a Friday, 1/22 bag containing 2 pints of Hennessey, 1 750ml bottle of Hpnotiq, and 1 25 oz. Natural Light beer. Officer been parked out front checked area and spoke to since 4 a.m. with a female

clerk; report taken. Wednesday, 1/20

11:14 a.m. Report of an il- Caller advises he recoglegal burn; resident burn- nized the party as someing trash in a barrel in a one he has had to ask to yard on Federal Street. leave the store/restrooms Fire appears to be under before. Gone on arrival. control, but unknown if 9:40 a.m. Caller from someone is outside moni- Montague Catholic Social toring it. Shelburne Con- Ministries reports that trol advised.

Thursday, 1/21

suspicious males on Third Street. Upon clearing, officer advised that one male states he has permission to be at the laundromat from Housing Authority as the couch for a couple of days until his new apartment is ready. Other male no suspicious activity at

confirm male's story. 7:51 a.m. Two car accident a snowbank in the front on Avenue A; report of a yard of the house across child striking her head on the windshield. Conscious and breathing, no visible downtown. Unknown if lacerations. Fluids from at least one vehicle. MedCare and TFFD notified and en vehicle went off the road. route. Owner of one ve- Officer checked property;

for following too close; given verbal warning for

Caller states that the man keeps demanding payment the number online and several other people have scam from this number. Caller just wants this on the area aware.

Coins and Antiques for apthe owner walking up the response.

return to Walmart. Caller received her bill today which shows Walmart has never picked it up. Officer necticut River Liquor & to bring pertinent info to the station to file a report.

7:11 a.m. Caller from Cumberland Farms reports a blue van that has inside that he believes is engaged in drug activity.

the business was broken into overnight with entry 12:26 a.m. Officer out with made through the front door; handle has been forced off. Unknown if anything is missing. Officer will follow up with the owner; he is staying on they may have cameras that caught this on tape. Report taken.

12:14 p.m. Caller from on his way. Officer notes Millers Falls Road reports seeing a new model the building. Left message Ford Mustang, orange for owner of laundromat to with black racing stripes, go off the road and strike the street from him. Car then took off towards there is any damage to the property where the hicle given verbal warning states it appears that just a snowbank was struck. Saturday, 1/23

9:39 a.m. Report of smoke billowing out of a fan/ vent above Riff's North on Avenue A. TFFD advises no fire, smoke determined to be normal, coming from an exhaust fan. 2:02 p.m. Caller requests removal of her son's exgirlfriend's brother and mother. Caller advises she is OK with her son's ex-girlfriend being there to remove her belongings but does not want the brother or mother on the property; advises they are refusing to leave. Unwanted parties left property. Peace restored.

2:17 p.m. Caller's mother's caretaker called him advising that there was a raccoon in the basement and they now believe they can hear it scratching inside the walls. Officer clear; advises there were signs of an animal being inside, but it could not be located. Caller called back of his tenants reporting advising that approxi-

Appeared to be carrying a soda bottle or similar; ran towards the river. Caller advised to call back if the male came back into sight.

Sunday, 1/24 10:20 a.m. Cash reported stolen from caller's room in a communal house on Greenfield Road. Report

1:21 p.m. Caller from Turners Falls Road reports that a subject came to his house looking for him; caller was not home, but caller's son observed a vehicle parked in the driveway for approximately 10 minutes at which time he went outside to speak with the operator. Subject stated that he was looking for the caller; left the residence but advised that he would be back later. Officer advised caller of options and advised him to call immediately if the subject returns.

1:57 p.m. Landlord has received calls from several that someone is dumping



Ouick, someone email the police chief.

mately 20 minutes after items in a dumpster ilnoise in the kitchen and er. Caller and other party were able to get the squirto let MPD know.

2:46 p.m. Caller from Avenue A reports that 5 minutes ago, his friend broke into his apartment, choked/strangled him, and left. Caller conferenced with MedCare and transported to hospital. Officers en route attempting to locate subject with probable cause for arrest. Unable to locate. Summons issued.

4:17 p.m. Caller from East 8:33 p.m. Truck vs. tree at Mineral Road advises that corner by Country Creesomeone was on his property and has walked off into the woods. Caller described subject as a white male, 30s, wearing a red jacket, no hat, and glasses.

the officer left the resi- legally on Turners Falls dence, they heard a loud Road; this is reportedly the third time the party found that a squirrel had has returned. Landlord fallen into her dish drain- advises that he has instructed tenants to call MPD directly when they rel out; they just wanted observe this, but they continue to call him instead. Officer on scene requesting second unit. Units clear; peace restored; mediated a verbal argument at another lot while investigating this call.

2:39 p.m. Report of a large group of youths skateboarding in the skate park that is still under construction. Group dispersed. Group consisted of adults and youths.

mee; male operator has severe facial injuries but is responsive and able to move on his own. Caller transferred to MedCare. Vehicle towed.

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LOOKING BACKS 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was January 26, 2006: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Gill Board Supports Ag Commission

On Monday, with cars off Main Road to the left and right after a day of driving snow, the hardy members of the Gill selectboard held their regular meeting, with Lee Stevens striding in only a few minutes late. Upinngil's Cliff Hatch came before the board to seek support for forming a town agricultural commission. Appointed agricultural commissions are cropping up in many towns throughout the Commonwealth, as Pete Westover crisscrosses the state like a modern day Jonathan Chapman for the Mass Department of Agricultural Resources, sowing seeds of farmland preservation, tolerance for slow moving tractors and malodorous fields, and right to farm bylaws.

"Most of these agricultural commissions are appointed by select boards," Hatch explained. He would like to see the Gill annual town meeting formally discuss the proposal and approve the new town board, which would give a voice for agricultural concerns at the level of town government.

TFHS Students, Staff Organize Recycling

At Tuesday night's Gill-Montague school committee meeting, Lauren Tela, a junior at Turners Falls High and a member of the student council, walked in breathless from her rehearsal of *Grease* to announce a breakthrough in efforts to create a comprehensive recycling program at the 'green' high school / middle school complex.

"Thanks to Lynn Bassett and

principals Rob Morill and Jeff Kenny, the program will begin soon, hopefully by the end of the week," Tela said.

In other news, Tela said the students were planning to initiate a Safe Homes program in the district, to establish a network of safe homes where parents sign a pledge "not to serve alcohol or drugs to children, to supervise parties, and not to allow children to attend unsupervised parties." Tela said, "Usually the Safe Homes program is initiated by parents. We thought it would be neat to have students imitate it to help our peers stay safe."

Doctors Speak Up For Single Payer

When was the last time you were able to get a doctor to talk to you about health care problems for more than five minutes? How about two doctors?

A crowd of seniors at the panel discussion at the GCC downtown center on Wednesday afternoon got more than an earful for Drs. Sarah Kemble and Richard McGinn, who joined retired social worker Mary Siano to compare the ailments of America's present health care system with the alternative all other industrialized countries on the planet employ.

They talked for a solid hour and forty five minutes.

"Of all the forms of injustice, inequality in health care is the most shocking and inhumane," began Siano, citing January's favored sage, Martin Luther King, Jr.

"We spend one billion dollars a week in Massachusetts on health care. We pay more than anywhere else in the entire world for health care, right here in dear old Massachusetts."

WEST ALONG from page B1

(1818-1916) wrote in his *History* of *Deerfield* that "Pessacus (a Narragansett sachem), learning that the Hatfield people had turned their stock into the north meadows to feed, promptly sent a party to secure that prize, and that very night seventy or eighty head were brought off." This led, according to Sheldon, to "a great feast held at Peskeompskut, where the Indians gorged themselves, without posting a single sentinel..."

However, none of that may be true.

We are learning that this Battlefield grant is an exceptional opportunity to coax out other perspectives on the event, and on the War in general.

Howard Clark, researcher and historian for the Nolumbeka Project, proposes that:

"The Second Puritan War of Conquest, mislabeled King Philip's War, was not a conflict between two cultures, but a deliberate conquest of one culture by another for the greed of land and slaves."

Consider that this War, and indeed all the other so-called Indian Wars for the next three hundred years, was perhaps not one of valiant settlers beset by savages, but rather the beginnings of a rolling conquest controlled by a handful of manipulative businessmen and politicians, bent on grabbing the land of the original inhabitants and selling them into slavery.

Just as the English had done to conquer and subjugate Scotland and Ireland, they proceeded with the same techniques of conquest (and with many of the same armies and mercenaries) to subjugate the native peoples of our region.

As described by the historian Francis Jennings, these techniques of conquest were:

"(1) A deliberate policy of inciting competition between natives in order, by division, to maintain control.

(2) A disregard for pledges and promises to natives, no matter how solemnly made.

(3) The introduction of total exterminatory war against some communities of natives in order to terrorize the others.

(4) A highly developed propaganda of falsification to justify all acts and policies of the conquerors whatsoever."

These techniques of conquest proved effective and painfully true for the indigenous Irish, Scots, and Indian victims of the English drive to dominate.

Local historians Joe Graveline and Howard Clark, in their case study of the cattle raid of 1676, illustrate how the above techniques of conquest were applied in the English drive to acquire Indian lands and slaves through the process of provoking a "Just Warre".

For in fact, the English Crown would not tolerate the acquisition of land and slaves unless this came about as results of a justifiable war. More than once, the Crown's commissioners rapped the knuckles of the Massachusetts Bay authorities for illegally acquiring tribal lands, which they were forced to give back. So the colonial leaders and capitalists had been hard at work to create the acceptable conditions.

John Pynchon of Springfield, the prime mover and shaker in this valley, repeatedly tried to acquire the deeds to Indian lands, and he saw another opportunity in the advent of this war. However, by 1676, both sides were exhausted, and the Connecticut colony at Hartford, the rival government to Massachusetts Bay Colony, was actively negotiating a peace treaty and land deal with the river tribes in late April of that year.

As Graveline states, the Massachusetts Colony and Pynchon, as their agent, would have been cut out of the peace-in-exchange-forland process.

Enter Captain William Turner, who had his orders from Massachusetts to defend the remaining settlements in the valley, and wipe out tribal resistance to English expansion.

Turner needed an excuse to

obstruct the peace process of the rival Connecticut colony. He needed to move on the attack, with or without Connecticut's permission. The alleged Indian raid on Hatfield cattle and horses was the excuse Turner needed.

However, according to Graveline and Clark, no documents exist to support the contention that the cattle raid actually happened.

No recounting of the attack at the Falls by the surviving participants mentions any cattle or horses on the attack route in Deerfield or on the site of the attack.

Graveline writes that "It is unlikely the tribes present at Great Falls would have put at risk a peace treaty with Connecticut by making a raid on Hatfield to acquire cattle, since they had all the protein they needed from the ongoing fish harvest."

Without the cattle raid given as a condition provoking a "Just Warre," Pynchon and the Massachusetts Colony would not have been able to justify the massacre while peace negotiations were ongoing. A further fact is that the sachem Pomham, accused of leading the raid, was actually at Mount Wachusett with Philip on that very date, negotiating a peace treaty with the Massachusetts Bay Colony!

Graveline and Clark contend that the cattle raid never happened. By extension, the massacre could have been avoided. It is written that Turner, aged 63 and frail from sickness brought on by years of being in a Boston jail for being a Baptist, asked to be relieved of his command well before the massacre. His request was turned down. He rode to his destiny on May 19, 1676.

With no Captain Turner, and no massacre, the single-most important historical event of our region may well have ended differently.

Thanks to our local historians and tribal partners in this study, the cattle raid that likely never happened is only one of the many stories from this war that is being coaxed out of the darkness into the light of historic scrutiny.

The Wounded Warrior Project: Service to Vets

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

"The greatest casualty is being forgotten," says the Wounded Warrior Project, a charitable organization that helps veterans.

The organization doesn't want vets to be forgotten. It was created in 2003 in Roanoke, Virginia, by a man named John Melia.

According to Wikipedia, Melia "was injured in a helicopter crash in Somalia in 1992". His family and friends helped him put together backpacks containing items that would be

Renaissance

Builders

of comfort to the injured vets getting them. These items were "shorts, T-shirts, socks, underwear, toiletries and hygiene items, CD players, CDs and playing cards" and they would go to vets staying at "the former Bethesda Naval Hospital which is now Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and Walter Reed Army Medical Center."

The program is still active today. There are many other programs within the Wounded Warrior Project that are used by veterans. Some of them focus on their minds, others their bodies. Some help them find employment, or general support from others who are dealing with similar problems.

When it comes to their minds, one program is the Independence program, which helps people with issues such as brain injury live their lives to the fullest. A second program that has this kind of focus is the Combat Stress Recovery program, which also deals with brain injuries along with PTSD from "a warrior's perspective".

The physical focus of the project has programs where people do sports as part of their rehabilitation, including scuba, paddle boarding, and rock climbing, as well as learn how to eat nutritiously.

The project has the Transition Training Academy, which explores

the IT field as a career choice for the vets. Warriors to Work is also around, to help vets who want to move into jobs for civilians. This program consists of employers connecting with people qualified for open jobs, and educating them on combat-related issues that the vets may be suffering from.

Lastly, this support element comes in one form through a peer mentoring a warrior. The hope is that the one being mentored will in turn do the same for someone else.

A vet I interviewed, who wishes to remain anonymous, said, in reference to "the greatest casualty is being forgotten": "I think these organizations are trying to get the public more aware of what's going on. All organizations are working together for one common goal:

so vets are not forgotten. Soldiers coming home should not be forgotten. They should be respected for what they did."

He also said about organizations like Wounded Warrior project, "I think these programs like Disabled American Vets and Wounded Warriors are excellent supplements, along with Veterans Affairs office and vet agents from cities and towns. All work together as a team."

I hope that the public continues to be aware of veterans who have done their job and supports organizations like these to help them help themselves.

For more information on the Wounded Warrior Project, see *www. woundedwarriorproject.org*.

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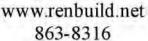




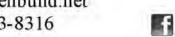








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Salmon Falls Artisans Gallery,

Shelburne Falls: Life After Life by Ken Kipen. Images depicitng the

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Shelburne Falls. The Red Show

Plus special Valentine's gifts

from our jewelers. Group show,

Geissler Gallery, Stoneleigh-

Burnham School. The 2016

Winter Art Exhibition will feature

the artwork of Turners Falls art-

ist Fafnir Adamites, who works

in feltmaking, papermaking and

Age. February 4 - March 12.

forces in nature. Until 2/15.

1/27 through 2/22.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

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.

MONDAY ONE **EACH** MONTH

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

Carnegie 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. musicians, comedians, magicians are welcome! 8 p.m.



Portrait by Louise Minks of Mary Wyatt, a spirited church and social justice activist. Part of the "Portraits of African Americans, Past and Present" art exhibit at the Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls. Life-sized portraits by Minks and mixced media sculpture by Belinda Lyons Zucker representing historic African Americans, family members, and people she has known. Through March 31. Reception with the Artists, 2/7 1 - 3:30 p.m.

EVERY FRIDAY

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

CeCe's Chinese Restaurant, Turners Falls: Traditional Native American and improvised Asian 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: Portraits of African Americans, Past and Present. Louise Minks and Belinda Lyons Zucker presents large paintings by Minks and sculpture by Zucker. Opens 2/2 - 3/31. Reception 2/7 from 1-3:30 p.m. Part of the Black History Month: Music and Diversity II series of February programs. Winter hours, Wed-Sunday 10 - 4 p.m.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: 17 Mysteries and Signs by Ruth

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.

Von Auersperg Gallery, Hess Center for the Arts at Deerfield Academy: Question Bridge: Black Males, a five-channel video installation that aims to represent and redefine black male identity in America. Through 3/4.

CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS:

Sawmill River Arts, Montague Center: All artists, all ages are invited to provide art for the 3rd Annual Community "6X6" Show. www.sawmillriverarts.com, call: (413) 367-2885. \$5 fee per person for 1 or 2 pieces. De-

livery date: by Sunday, 1/31, 5 p.m. Opening reception Saturday, 2/6, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30

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 on the Library Walls!

EVENTS:

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28

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

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 Cener, 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.

Mocha Mayas, Shelburne Falls: Long Journey, Artist residency with Amrita Lash, Tony Pisano, Karl Mullen, Daniel Grip, Genre: New Folk, Old Folk, No Folk. 2 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: John Sheldon. Enjoy the amazing talent of John Sheldon up close and personal. 8 p.m.

Brick House, Turners Falls: Alyssa Kai, The Good Grief, Rushell Frasier, and Fern. Substance free/ all ages space, \$, 8 p.m.

CALL 863-8666

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: QUIZNITE with Quizmasters Michael and Heather.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Falltown String Band, 8 p.m.

Mocha Mayas, Shelburne: Poetry Reading by Abbot Cutler and Penelope Scambly Schott. 7 p.m.

Gill Tavern, Gill: Trivia Night to benefit the Opiod Task Force. Free popcorn, discounts, \$5 to



Thursay, 1/28 - 8 p.m. Marris Otter Friday, 1/29 - 9 p.m. Grave Diggers Union Saturday, 1/30 - 8:30 p.m. Wildcat O'Halloran Band Sunday, 1/31 - 8 p.m. John Sheldon

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nal pioneers of rock. The women's

groups. Progressive rock, like Simon

and Garfunkel and Jimi Hendrix."

BOSCO from page B1

techniques we use: saw, hammer, form, file and finish." The marks of process, the heaviness of real silver and creative designs set hand crafted jewelry apart from machine made or assembled pieces.

Hal also works with couples to make wedding and engagement bands. He can design new bands and set diamonds and other gems, as well re-size or re-configure heirloom sets. He enjoys the special customer relationships that grow out of custom work like this and at this point, Hal has worked on wedding bands for three generations of local families.

Hal's choice of craft is more than just what he does – being a craftsman is a lifestyle. "I was a math major, a school teacher, a music teacher for ten years, but I am happiest being an artist, a craftsman... I am a fun-loving guy, a laid back artist having a fun loving time - and I'm dead serious about this!" laughed Hal.

"I think a holistic approach has worked for me. When I feel like doing something I just do it. Forget what day it is, what time it is, and just do those projects. I can make three or four kinds of earrings in two or three days that will last me for a year or so. Between the shows, the shops and the Etsy online store, I wake up every morning and go, consumer. I haven't been too greedy about things. I've never had a crisis with money. If I have enough dough to eat for a month, I'm okay."

Hal's love of music dates back more than six decades. He took his first piano lesson at the age of 7, starting on the road that would lead him to his present musical venture, Uncle Hal's Crabgrass Band.

Hal earned a bachelor's in math at Central Connecticut State University, studied trombone at UMass-Amherst while achieving a master's degree in education for music, and studied piano for a year at the famed Berklee School of Music in Boston.

Bosco was a full-time music teacher in the Connecticut public schools for a decade.

"After I finished college, the guitar in America and in the world became very influential. As a schoolteacher, I was spending a lot of time utilizing the guitar as a teaching tool," said Hal, noting that his generation was lucky: "Somewhere in the mid-1960s, rock and roll got real good. We had everything: The origi-

'Wow.' I haven't been too much of a

Hal Bosco has some unique philosophical ideas about the creation of and pleasure derived from music. "During my journey through music," he said, "I've found that the talent doesn't lie in rehearsing or playing, but rather in the enjoyment of the music. Deriving emotions is the art of music. I believe anyone who is getting feelings and emotions from the music they're listening to is part of the art of music in the deepest way

"Some people have to get up and start playing a drum or whatever instrument. Running around with an instrument in your hand without the feeling is not what I'm talking about. I'm blessed because I truly love the music. It's a blast whether I'm listening or playing."

A member of one band or another since eighth grade, Hal notes that passion for music is critical to putting together a group. "What's important to me when forming a band is finding people who love music and love coming to rehearsals, not just focusing on the performances and the gigs."

While raising his family, Bosco played bass guitar as a professional and studied piano at home. Later, with the children grown, Hal fell in love with acoustic guitars, spending three years learning how to play

Uncle Hal's Crabgrass Band started in 2010 and has had solid bookings for the past five years. The ensemble enjoys wonderful receptions from the audiences and receives many visits from other

"We're a string band," said Hal. "We use string instruments and have no drums. Without drums, it allows our string instruments to create their own rhythms. We're kind of a fusion band. We have the sound of bluegrass with flat picking and slide guitar. However, we draw most of our music from the jazz idiom....

Turners Falls Fire District Nomination Papers Available

Nomination papers for the Annual Turners Falls Fire District Election are now available to all district residents from the District Office located at 226 Millers Falls Road until Friday, March 4. Papers must be returned no later than Tuesday, March 8. The District Office is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p m.

All potential candidates need to obtain 30 signatures from registered voters of the Turners Falls Fire District.

Offices are as follows:

• Prudential Committee, for a

three-year term · Water Commissioner, for a

three-year term

The annual election will be held on Tuesday, April 26 at the District Office located at 226 Millers Falls Road. The polls will open noon to 7 p m.

District residents wishing to register to vote may do so at the Town Clerk's office located in Town Hall, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls. For more information call the District Office at 863-4542.

2016 Montague Dog Licenses

Montague dog licenses are now available at the Town Clerk's Office. All dogs 6 months and older must be licensed and tagged each year.

A license for a neutered or spayed dog is \$5. A license for an unaltered dog is \$10.

The clerk's office requires proof of rabies vaccination and also requires proof of spaying or neutering unless already previously provided.

There is a late fee of \$20 after Tuesday, May 31. If you no longer have your dog, let the town clerk know by calling 863-3200, ext. 203.

License renewals may be obtained through the town's website, www.montague.net, only if your dog's rabies vaccination that was used for last year's registration has not yet expired.

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

"We love to play Billie Holliday, Count Basie, Duke Ellington, and Django Reinhardt. We also play straight bluegrass, country, Beatles, Dylan, John Prine, and Elvis."

The other talented members of the band are John Kunhardt on mandolin, Dennis Avery on slide steel guitar, and Jim Bonham on a German stand-up bass that dates back to the 1930s.

The Crabgrass Band usually plays the second Friday of the month at the Rendezvous in Turners Falls at 6:30 p.m. Uncle Hal's next show there is on February 5. They also appear in standing rotation on Friday nights at the Shutesbury Athletic Club.

"We've known each other," said Bosco, "for years and years. This Crabgrass Band is as much fun as I've ever had. I get to run around on stage, tell my jokes, and have a ball. It's more fun than I've ever had with any band I've been with."



Bosco designs, fabricates and repairs necklaces, rings and earrings at a traditional wooden jeweler's bench he acquired in 1983.

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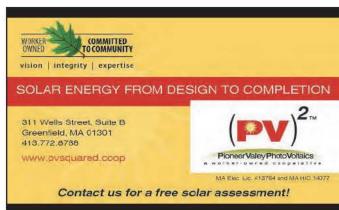














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