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The Montague Reporter

YEAR 14 – NO. 17

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

FEBRUARY 11, 2016

LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Asked to Make Cuts, Leverett Departments In Uproar over Rising School Budgets

By JULIE CUNNINGHAM

Tempers ran hot at Tuesday night's Leverett select-board meeting when the topic of school budgets arose. As police chief Gary Billings told the board he absolutely could not afford to cut any more money from his department's already bare-bones budget, the select-board was grappling with astronomical raises in costs for school-related expenses.

As much as \$60,000 in additional costs is estimated to cover an out-of-district placement for the Leverett Elementary School. Other additional costs include

raises for unionized school employees, and the possibility of a much higher assessment to the Amherst regional school system.

Selectboard member Julie Shively explained to the finance committee, which was on hand for last night's meeting, that the selectboard did not want to "stiff" other town employees while unionized school staff got raises. While the finance committee agreed with this logic, members questioned some specific school expenses.

"It doesn't make sense to raise the school budget by \$60,000 when the police are cutting their budget by

see LEVERETT page A4

Bird's Yellow Legs Bring Throngs to Unity



ANNE JEMAS PHOTO

Birders ogle the gull as it stands on the ice above the Turners Falls Dam.

By MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS – While his son was checking out the brand-new Unity Skatepark last Monday, Gill's James P. Smith wandered over to the river in pursuit of his own passion – and made a sighting that brought fellow birders flocking from all over the Northeast.

Smith, a professional bird tour leader who moved to Franklin County a decade ago, has already had luck on the section of the Connecticut River between Barton Cove and the Turners Falls dam. Back in 2009, he spotted a slaty-backed gull, a bird usually found in Asia, in the

see YELLOW LEGS page A4

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Millers Falls Rehab Project Nears Completion

By JEFF SINGLETON

At the Montague selectboard meeting on Monday, February 8, the board approved a request from developer Robert Obear, Jr. to issue a "certificate of substantial completion" for three buildings in downtown Millers Falls under the town's urban homesteading program.

This seemingly technical request is in fact an important milestone in the history of Millers Falls. The town has struggled to develop the Powers Block and its adjoining buildings at

the southeast corner of Bridge and East Main streets. For over a decade, the blighted structures have been an eyesore in the heart of the village, greeting visitors coming into town from Route 2.

After the long effort to develop the building, which involved court action against a former owner and a somewhat controversial town takeover, the selectboard was still cautious.

"I have been inside and they look fantastic," said selectboard chair Michael Nelson. "But anyone driving

by would say 'what the hell are they talking about? Those buildings aren't ready.'"

"Well, the insides are a lot better than the outsides," responded Obear. "But we actually made a little progress on [the outside of] 34 today."

The request by Obear concerned 30, 34, and 34R East Main Street. The structures are being developed under Montague's urban homesteading program. This allows the town to sell buildings, generally acquired through tax default, for a nominal

see MONTAGUE page A5

Headed in the Right Direction

By MATT ROBINSON

TURNERS FALLS – It wasn't supposed to go this way. Not this year anyway. This was supposed to be a rebuilding year for Ted Wilcox and his Lady Indians. And it certainly looked that way, after a 0-3 start.

And then came the injuries: Jordyn Fiske, Jordan Meatty, Maddie McCassie and Chloe Ellis were all sidelined.

But Maddy Chmyzinski and Aliyah Sanders kicked into gear. And players like Emma Miner, Hailey Bogusz, Nadia Hasan and Abby Loynd stepped up. Now, three quarters into the season, the Turners Falls girls' basketball team just might make the playoffs.

It's a stretch, and they'll have to play superbly, but they just might make it into the postseason.

The past four games have been challenging for the Blue Ladies. They lost a heartbreaker to Frontier, were outshot by league-leading Greenfield, then bounced back against McCann Tech and went on to defeat Smith

see BASKETBALL page A8



DAVID HOIT PHOTO

Aliyah Sanders scored 7 points for the Indians as Turners Falls High School defeated McCann Tech 56 – 34.

Gas Country Dispatch



EMORY KETCH PHOTO

Activists gather at a camp on the edge of a Cabot Oil & Gas easement in New Milford, Pennsylvania, where tree cutting began last week in preparation for the construction of the Constitution and Northeast Energy Direct pipelines.

By MARK HUDYMA

HARFORD TOWNSHIP, PA – "The plan for the action is... Those who want to will stand in the right-of-way. People can also stand here on the edge. It's private property, and you have permission to be there."

Alex Lotorto, an organizer with the Energy Justice Network, greets newcomers and gives them a tactical briefing. Activists from around the Northeast have answered the group's call to help protect the North Harford Maple farm from the proposed path of two natural gas pipelines.

The projects' 125-foot easement passes through an active sugarbush on Cathy Holleran's land here in Harford Township, a village in Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania. One of the projects, known as

the Constitution pipeline, has been approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Committee, and the route has been extensively surveyed, including a second space adjacent to the Constitution.

This is the planned location for the Northeast Energy Direct pipeline, which would parallel Constitution's path before turning east toward Franklin County, Massachusetts.

Last week, logging crews began felling trees on the projects' easement. Lotorto explains that for safety's sake, the contractors will not cut trees with people nearby, such as those downhill on the Hollerans' property.

We arrive early on Monday to find the field adjacent to the easement deserted. A few tents sit on the site, including one marked "press"

see DISPATCH page A4

GILL-MONTAGUE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

School Committee Looks at Closing Budget Gap; Endorses Minimum Wage for Food Service Workers

By MIKE JACKSON

The Gill-Montague school committee was well into the third hour of its meeting Tuesday night when it heard a proposal from superintendent Michael Sullivan to voluntarily comply with the state's minimum wage law, which rose to \$10/hr last month.

The first three wage steps for district are \$9.52, \$9.71, and \$9.89 an hour, and four employees are currently at those levels, Sullivan said. He recommended paying them \$10 an hour, effective immediately, though he said the district believed it was exempt from the law.

No committee member spoke against the proposed raise at the public meeting, though several expressed concern over its effect on negotiation of the rest of the unit's pay scale. "We're going to have to

find some kind of rationale for doing whatever comes next," said Michael Langknecht of Montague. "I just want to make sure we have the room to do that."

Timmie Smith of Gill pointed out that the state minimum wage would rise again to \$11 next January. "It's going to be complex in negotiations, I would think," she said.

Business manager Joanne Blier said that the proposed raise to \$10 for the four employees would cost the district about \$700 a year.

The committee voted 7-0 for the proposal, with Lesley Cogswell absent, and Joyce Phillips indicating she was "recused" from the discussion and vote.

Expenses Pared

The meeting was preceded by a public hearing on the district's see GMRSD page A5

The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

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Breaking the Seal

In December, the *Reporter* published a three-part history article on Edward Pressey, an educated young minister whose participation in the the settlement house movement, one of the major vehicles for urban social activism in his era, inspired him to head out to the country to open up new fronts of reform.

Pressey's noble experiments in education and unalienated labor proved little-wanted in Montague, and his New Clairvaux group is now mostly remembered as a clique of gentleman farmers dabbling in Arts and Crafts.

But while it's easy to imagine the locals' skepticism toward his bold utopian rhetoric, it's also worth wondering how his contemporaries who taught, nursed, organized and muckraked among working-class immigrants in the city slums might have viewed his retreat.

More than a century later, a series of electoral accidents have landed rural progressivism, and its suspicious appearance, at the center of the national political stage.

Against the safety of a Republican party in cosmic disarray, Bernie Sanders, who describes himself as a democratic socialist, is exceeding all expectations in his primary challenge against the candidate favored by the Democratic party establishment.

The *Reporter* does not intend to endorse any presidential candidate, either during the primary and general elections. But part of the value of a campaign like Sanders' is to broaden and improve the terrain of political discussion, and we are grateful for the opportunity.

The Clinton camp will naturally do everything in its power to frame Sanders' landslide victory in the New Hampshire primary as his inevitable high water mark.

This puts into broad circulation political talking points about that state's Democratic voters' status as demographic outliers unnaturally susceptible to his campaign.

Political stats cruncher Nate Silver ran the figures on the quotients of 2008 primary voters in each state who identified as white and liberal, and multiplied them to get a back-of-envelope "white liberal" ranking. Iowa and New Hampshire were Surpassed only by Sanders' own Vermont, and our own state came fourth.

While this line of intentionally provocative reduction must rankle Sanders' supporters, there is more than a grain of truth to it.

One fascinating consequence

of this framing is the way this sets up the rest of the primary around a competition to court black and Latino voters – particularly the younger ones whose age cohort is most prone to feeling the Bern – with arguments that their economic interests are best served by either an insider or outsider, gradual or abrupt, approach to political reform.

This in turn triggers a set of debates around the intersections of race and class in America. Suddenly, black public intellectuals like Michelle Alexander and Ta-Nehisi Coates are enjoying an influence beyond their usual readership.

It's a rare opening – but a darker reading is also necessary. Seen from another angle, the primary is becoming a race between two camps of white progressives to show that the other betrayed Civil Rights-era alliances a generation ago.

By immersion in urban, and then state and federal, political machines, one camp says, the other was led down a road of compromise with the rich, and ultimately acquiesced with slashing safety nets, gutting working-class family assets, and mopping up the fallout with a brutal expansion of incarceration.

But a finger is pointing back. On Sunday, Bill Clinton described Sanders' politics as a "hermetically sealed box". (He was stumping for Hillary, who was at a Baptist church in the neglected, poisoned and majority black city of Flint, Michigan.) The intended resonances are clear; it's as much a social criticism as an ideological one.

Sanders was no hippie, and never lived in a commune. But he was of a generation of white progressives who identified with and even contributed to the Civil Rights movement who happened to migrate from racially diverse cities – like his native Brooklyn – to segregated white rural areas just as those struggles got too complicated, too heated.

From 1964 to 1968, Sanders, already an avowed socialist, spent his summers in Vermont. In 1969, he moved to the Northeast Kingdom. What sort of socialist is motivated to spread his gospel where there are as few people as possible? What sort of democrat is drawn toward a more homogenous state?

Over the next several months, if indeed a new radical alliance is forged at the Democratic Party base, it will have to address the legacy of this white flight to greener pastures, and contend with the betrayal it meant to so many left behind.



MADLINE LAPORTE ILLUSTRATION

Letters to the Editor

Thanks for the "Eye"

Thanks to Michael Naughton for his informative, easy-to-read explanations of how a town finance committee works. The details and numbers will be different for each town, but the process and the nature of the deliberations and problems are similar for all towns.

Michael performs a public service on the finance committee and again by helping people understand town finances. Would that every town board had a scribe as able as he to help us see the inner workings.

Perhaps Michael's columns will help someone thinking about getting involved with town government see what the burdens are... and what satisfaction comes from helping carry those burdens.

Peter d'Errico
Leverett

Overlooked A Sum

In my haste to get data about Public Access financing to your readership, I failed to look deeply enough at the full history of capital funding for MCTV.

The result was some faulty information in my last submission to the *Reporter* ("Cable Access: Getting Some Facts Straight", February 4), for which I apologize.

In relation to the capital grants from the 2003 cable license agreement, MCCI received \$50,000, not the \$30,000 I cited.

The \$20,000 payment from 2005 that represents the balance was placed in escrow by Greenfield Community TV at a time when Montague was re-evaluating who would be its access provider. When MCCI was chosen, those funds were given to us to use for MCTV.

(Indeed, GCTV comported itself professionally throughout the selection processes and during its years of providership for Montague, and is a valued partner, to this day, for MCTV and the other providers of the region!)

Thanks again,

Mike Langknecht
President, Board of Directors
Montague Community Cable Inc.

Removing Trees: Bad for Climate, Too

The so-called shelterwood cut on the Montague Plains referenced in the last issue of the *Reporter* came as a bit of shock to this reader, if for no other reason than I don't believe the Climate Crisis was part of the conversation.

It seems obvious this critical issue for the survival of future generations wasn't much on the mind of the Mass Division of Fisheries & Wildlife, either, when they signed off on what amounted to the clear-cutting of an intact forest on public land.

The preservation and planting of trees is one of the few things we can do as a people to address climate chaos. Putting aside expensive techno schemes of carbon capture, it is trees and forest soils (as well as undisturbed grasslands and oceans) that are the natural CO2 sequestration options at hand.

We have been trying in vain for years to get Massachusetts decision makers and agencies to realize this,

most recently at the Quabbin Reservation, where the Department of "Conservation" and Recreation has allowed commercial logging to take place for years.

It's no exaggeration to state that outmoded thinking within our state government is actually a threat to all of life on the planet.

Readers can go to our blog and see the "To the Woods" page (enviroshow.wordpress.com/to-the-woods/) for an extensive list of scientific studies on the vital need to protect and preserve our forests and forest soils, as well as the individual trees in our community.

But all one needs to do is walk through the devastation of a clearcut to know something is very wrong.

Don Ogden
Leverett
The Enviro Show
WMCB & WXOJ

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by DON CLEGG

“Start Spreadin’ the News”: Rob Fletcher and Laura Herbert will present a tribute to Frank Sinatra this Friday night, February 12, at the Erving Community Center.

The event, which starts at 7 p.m., is sponsored by the Erving Cultural Council and Friends of the Erving Library. The venue is located at 1 Care Drive. Admission is free.

Mary Todd Lincoln comes to life in the persona of Kathy Kennedy at the Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls this Saturday, February 13, starting at 10 a.m.

Mary Todd was the wife of President Abraham Lincoln, whose birthday happens to be on February 12. Come and hear excerpts from Vaughn McBride’s commissioned work, “Pass My Imperfections

Lightly By.” Capture that historical time through the memories and perspective of Mary Todd, from the couple’s courtship to the President’s initial foray into politics.

Ms. Kennedy is a professional actress and this is truly an amazing opportunity for a rich performance completely free for the community.

On Monday, February 15 at 6 p.m., the Wagon Wheel Restaurant on Route 2 in Gill will host its **Wagon Wheel Word poetry open mic**, featuring poet Paul Richmond. All are welcome to come prepared with up to 5 minutes of poetry, or performance art goodness.

At the previous reading the audience heard incredible poetry by local poets, as well as a compelling dramatic monologue, excerpts of novels-in-the-works, and even spiritual rantings. Who knows

what’s next?

Bring your new stuff, or old stuff, or just come and be part of the audience as open mic participants pour out their hearts.

Next week, you can help this paper out just by eating dinner! The Ninety Nine Restaurant, located just past the rotary at 17 Colrain Road in Greenfield, has made **the Montague Reporter** the beneficiary of a **“Dine for a Cause”** event on Wednesday, February 17, from 5 to 8 p.m.

This week’s issue includes a flyer with a coupon for the evening. If you present this with dinner, 15% of your party’s bill will be donated to the newspaper. If you misplace the flyer or wish to pick up another, visit the *Reporter* office at 177 Avenue A in Turners Falls. (You can also find one on page B5 of our February 4 edition.)

Members of the *Reporter*’s Board of Directors will also be at the restaurant with a great raffle!

The New Salem Agricultural Commission begins its 2016 educational workshop series on Thursday, February 18, at 6:30 p.m., with a screening of the film *Root Hog or Die* at the New Salem Library.

The 1978 documentary, which

focuses on farming in Franklin County over the years, will be followed by a discussion with filmmaker Rawn Fulton.

This event is free to the public and supported by a Garlic and Arts Festival grant. The Agricultural Commission has plans for a robust 2016 calendar including workshops once per month through June.

The Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife) invites the public to an informational meeting about the state’s plan to establish a small population of **endangered rattlesnakes at the Quabbin Reservoir**. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 23, at 7 p.m. at the Mahar Regional High School in Orange.

The Timber Rattlesnake is listed as an endangered species in Massachusetts, and has experienced the greatest modern decline of any native reptile. As part of an overall conservation strategy, MassWildlife is planning to establish a small number of rattlesnakes on Mount Zion, a large island closed to the public on the Quabbin.

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GUEST EDITORIAL

By JEFF SINGLETON

David Brule’s January 28 “West Along The River” column may have given some the impression that the Turners Falls battlefield study, which David has played a big role in, is one source for his interpretation of the origins of King Philip’s War and the attack on the Indian encampment at Great Falls.

David argues that King Philip’s War was deliberately started by English colonial leaders and “capitalists” to obtain land and slaves.

He also argues that the story that Indians stole English cattle in Hadley just prior to the 1676 massacre may well have never happened. He suggests that this incident, which appears in most accounts, was a fabrication to justify the land grab.

Brule relies on the work of local activists, Joe Graveline and Howard Clark, who put forward a version of the land grab theory at a battlefield meeting I covered a few weeks ago. I do not recall anyone else at the meeting, including the researchers who wrote the Phase 1 study, supporting this interpretation. It certainly does not appear in the study itself.

The notion that conflicts between whites and Indians were caused by the white desire for land is certainly not new. It was recently put forward, in a different form, by Eric Schultz and Michael Tougas in their book *King Philip’s War: The History and Legacy of a For-*

Was King Philip’s War an English Land Grab?

gotten Conflict (2000). (See pp. 17 to 21)

But I believe Schultz and Tougas, along with most other historians who have studied the war, portray it as an Indian insurgency which the English colonists then used to grab land and slaves.

The war began with devastating Indian attacks on English settlements, including here in the Connecticut River Valley, in the summer and fall of 1675. (See Battlefield Technical Report, pg. 21) It then escalated with the English decision to attack the Narragansetts, who until December of 1675 had remained more or less neutral. It culminated, after Philip’s death, in an Indian uprising on the northeastern frontier (now primarily Maine).

The loss of traditional Indian lands was no doubt part of the mix of grievances, but the war was also a product of the treatment of Indians by English courts and officials.

There were legitimate suspicions that the English had murdered Philip’s brother, Alexander, in 1662. In 1675, the Plymouth colony had executed, based on very questionable evidence, three members of Philip’s tribe for the murder of a Christian Indian named John Sassamon.

A related source of conflict involved attempts by the English to bully and disarm the tribes. Philip seems to have sold a good deal of land to buy weapons after being humiliated and disarmed by the

English in 1671. Attempts to disarm native tribes also played a role in encouraging Indian resistance in northeastern New England.

Then there were incidents that reflected simple English racism. On the northeast frontier, a group of sailors had drowned an Indian child, purportedly to test a legend that Indians did not sink in water. (The extended insurgency in Maine, by the way, is not well explained by the colonists’ desire for land.)

Graveline, Clark and Brule seem to have a different view of the origins of the war, which is fine. Debates like this are central to the study of history, and should be part of the collaborative battlefield research process. But I do not think the current literature or the battlefield study supports their view at this point.

I would urge them to present their research, which appears to be extensive, in a written narrative with standard citations of the sources.

The same would apply to the cattle-stealing incident in May of 1676, which most accounts say played a role in encouraging the English to attack Indians at Peskeomskut. Brule frames his article around the idea that the incident may not have happened, but was a fabrication to justify the war and undermine peace negotiations. But he presents little if any direct evidence to support this view.

The battlefield study does not support Brule’s theory either. The study

presents primary source evidence that the cattle-stealing incident occurred, and that the English were motivated partly by the desire for revenge for Indian attacks on their towns (Battlefield Phase 1, pp. 29, 195).

I hope David does not dismiss this research as the biased work of “Yankee historians,” as he portrays the literature on the war in his article.

Of course, just because the battlefield study draws a certain conclusion does not mean this is the final word on the matter. Primary source evidence for the cattle stealing incident – and virtually everything else about King Philip’s war – is limited. These sources certainly have their biases. The historian Jill Lepore has written a whole book on this issue (*In The Name of War*, 1999).

But I don’t think you can just cherry pick one incident and declare it probably never happened because the colonists wanted to take Indian land. One needs a bit more than this sort of circumstantial evidence.

And why bother? What is so implausible about the Indians seizing the colonists’ cattle? The Indian communities were certainly short on food in the spring of 1676, and cattle roaming on Indian lands were a common source of conflict.

More broadly, I do not see why we need to make Indians out to be total victims. They had good reason to rebel, in the seventeenth century and after.



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NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT

The Franklin County Transportation Planning Organization (FCTPO) will open a **45-day public review and comment period** for the draft **Public Participation Plan**. The comment period will begin on Monday, February 8, 2016 and will end on Wednesday, March 23, 2016. Copies of the draft documents are available for review at the Franklin Regional Council of Governments located at 12 Olive Street, Suite 2, Greenfield, MA, by calling (413) 774-3167 x 132 to request a copy, or by going to www.frcog.org.

Please provide any comments to Megan Rhodes
by email at mrhodes@frcog.org or by mail at
12 Olive Street, Suite 2, Greenfield MA 01301.

LEVERETT from page A1

\$4,000," said one finance committee member. Others questioned the logic of retaining certain full-time employees, like a full-time psychologist and a full-time nurse.

"We want to clarify our approach," explained selectboard chair Peter d'Errico. "Julie Shively was at their budget meeting. Our approach is to tell them we simply do not have the money – this is going to have to come out of the school budget."

Adding to the pressure, Leverett will have to defend its stance on the Amherst Regional School District budget Saturday, February 27. With rising costs in that district and tensions over how costs are assessed to its member towns, d'Errico said unless towns like Shutesbury have "done their homework," an easy agreement is unlikely.

"After cutting the budget year after year for the past several years, we are simply at the bottom, with no place left to cut," said Billings about

his proposed police department budget.

Billings had cut ten eight-hour part-time shifts to meet the 2% reduction requested of all departments by the town. While the state police will pick up these empty hours for the town, other expenses, like training, won't be so easily recouped. After a reduction of \$500, Billings was left with just \$576 to provide the department with all required training.

Billings told the board his department has to re-certify their weapons every year, and he must pay for hours and supplies for that training. "I'll blow through that \$500 just on ammunition," he said.

He also told the board he needs to repair the department's telephone system. "Every time it rains we lose our phone," he complained. "Unfortunately, the police department has reached the point where finding acceptable cuts is now almost impossible."

Transfer station coordinator Anan-

da Larsen told the board she would have to cut service on Wednesdays in order to meet the 2% reduction. This cut in hours was met with some concern.

"I'm just cutting hours, not salaries," Larsen reassured the board.

Larsen also proposed raising fees for the electronics shed to cover costs of disposal.

"We just need to make sure the public knows the cost of disposing electronics is constantly fluctuating," said d'Errico.

The board debated different ways of recouping their costs, and the bag vs. sticker question came up briefly as a possible method to raise funds.

"We need to have a minimum purchase if we have stickers," said d'Errico, explaining that this would ease the burden on the transfer station employees, who may be trying to coordinate sales of the stickers while tracking deposits in the electronics shed at the same time.

Nothing was settled at Tuesday's

meeting regarding the possible use of stickers, or the transfer station budget.

"The stickers are not in the budget for this year," said Larsen, "but they need to be for next year."

Following Larsen's budget proposal, town administrator Margie McGinnis asked the board if there was a point at which she would not make the 2% budget cut.

"The Council on Aging is refusing to make the cuts," she explained.

The board authorized to set a minimum of a \$500 dollar budget for the 2% reductions, due to the fact that 2% at that point would only be a couple of dollars. This minimum resolved the issue of the Council on Aging.

The Massachusetts Municipal Association presented Leverett with a Municipal Innovation Award for its broadband network. Tom Hankinson accepted the award on behalf of the town.



YELLOW LEGS from page A1

same place. Massachusetts' rare birds committee verified his sighting, only the fourth in the state and the first inland.

Last week, Smith found himself scrutinizing the gulls again, when he noticed something out of place: what looked like an exceptionally clean herring gull, with a herring gull's general shape and gray wings, but with yellow, rather than the usual pink, legs.

Was this really what it looked like – *Larus michahellis*, a yellow-legged gull? Such a find would be "exceedingly rare," says Smith – "new to the state and possibly new to New England." The yellow-legged gull is generally a Mediterranean and Middle Eastern species; their closest known breeding site is nearly 2,500 miles away, in the Azores.

Smith posted photos of this bird, standing idly on the mud flats among dozens of pink-legged compatriots, to his blog, pioneerbirding.blogspot.com. As the news spread online, it began to attract pilgrims: curious locals, and then dedicated birders from as far away as New Jersey hoping to add an exotic specimen to their "life lists," began turning up in Turners Falls and Riverside,

bearing cameras and binoculars. On Tuesday, Smith was joined by "a small group"; by Thursday their numbers had swelled to 60. But a controversy was also blossoming.

As any observant beachcomber will tell you, gulls with yellow legs are hardly unknown in New England. The legs of the lesser black-backed gull, a bird that winters on our coasts, are yellow.

When these interbreed with herring gulls, they can hatch hybrids that look remarkably like yellow-legged gulls. These false yellow-legged gulls have tricked humans before.

As Smith explains it, "individuals cannot be safely separated in the field and may even require genetic analysis to sort them out... The entire status of the [yellow-legged gull] in North America is clouded by the difficulties in separating YLGU from hybrids."

Even Smith himself, when pressed, is equivocal. His initial posting even discussed the difficulty in making a positive identification – though, he wrote, "if I was sorting through Yellow-legged and Armenian Gulls on a beach in Northern Israel I doubt very much if I'd consider this bird to be a hybrid..."

Smith says "the vast majority on both sides of the Atlantic" think our gull is the real deal. The bird's plumage checks out, though skeptics wonder whether its legs are too short, or its wings too long.

In the meantime, another rare sighting – dozens of hobbyists, with backpacks and tripods, lined up along the canalside bike path attentively peering at birds – is keeping onlookers curious.

Short of capturing the gull at Barton Cove and testing its DNA, we may never know the truth about the bird they are pursuing, a fact the man who first spotted it finds frustrating.

"I don't mind being wrong," Smith says, "but my biggest concern is never finding out."



DISPATCH from page A1

in black paint. My photographer and I, who had left from Turners Falls in the middle of the night, set up next to this tent and doze off.

Soon after, Cathy's daughter, Megan Holleran, shows up with Lotorto, and they are soon joined by another local named Kelly Finnan. I learn that the three had been there every day for 8 days, with other allies stopping by to deliver fresh coffee, shoot the breeze, and make syrup.

As a freezing Monday morning progresses, a crowd of about two dozen gather around the fire. They came from all across Pennsylvania, New York, Virginia, New Jersey. We meet a woman who made the trip from Boston.

The Holleran family and their visitors haul buckets of sap out of the easement. The land is the only source for sap that they own; the other stands that feed their sugar shack are rented. The family has been producing maple syrup on this land for three generations, and have been carefully expanding the slow-growing trees the whole time.

During the day, Finnan, who has a forestry background, sections off grids of the easement to take an inventory of the forest species. She plans to calculate the estimated timber value of the lot, which the Hollerans argue they are entitled to before their property can legally be seized by eminent domain.

The Energy Justice Network, Lotorto's group, helped the family send a cease and desist letter to Cabot Oil & Gas. "Most importantly, we assert our Fifth Amendment rights, enshrined in the U.S. Constitution, that we must receive compensation before eminent domain condemnation," the letter reads. "As compensation hearings have yet to be held, we find any action to develop our property to be unconstitutional."

Megan Holleran and Finnan met

the advancing logging crew at the beginning of their work day, approximately a mile from the camp. "It's been a conversation with them, and we want to keep it that way," Megan explains at the cookfire.

Logging company trucks have been driving past the Hollerans' property every morning, and once approached the camp with a private security detail, though they have not requested any police presence.

"We tried to offer them maple candy," she says, "but they said they couldn't take gifts."

Tree cutting in Pennsylvania is limited to the winter due to the international Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and the season ends on March 31. "We have an endgame," Holleran explains. If the family can prevent the clear-cutting of the right-of-way until then, the pipeline's time table will be set back, victim to a season of uncertain natural gas futures.

"We got to talk to them without the foreman around," she adds. "One of them said he understood – that if it was his ranch..."

Susquehanna County is deep in shale country. Less than a mile away, we drive down a stretch of road with seven sealed natural gas wells – "gas pads," as the locals call them – scattered between houses. Roughly every hour, a tanker truck drives by, full of wastewater contaminated with hydrofracking chemicals.

When talk at the campfire turns to fracking, a man named Craig Stevens pulls out a plastic bottle full of shimmering, brownish liquid, and passes it around for the tourists. According to Stevens, this was water drawn from a well on his property, three townships over.

We leave before noon, and hit the snowstorm a few hours later, right around the Massachusetts line.

As of press time on Wednesday, logging crews have not attempted to enter the Hollerans' land.



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MONTAGUE from page A1

sum, but then closely monitor their rehabilitation process through a land development agreement (LDA). "It gives the town much more control," town planner Walter Ramsey told the *Reporter*.

Ramsey sat down at the front table with Obea on Monday night to review the LDA. The clean-up of the property is being monitored by the state Department of Environmental Protection. The developer has invested \$446,000 in the three buildings, 50% more than was required by the LDA. Building 34R is a garage that is being linked to building 34, a decision that went through the town's Zoning Board of Appeals. Two additional lots in the rear of the property will be developed for parking.

Three other buildings are part of the Millers Falls project, including the main brick structure on the corner of East Main and Bridge Street, the historic "Powers Block" itself. Obea said the target completion date for these buildings is the coming summer, ready to lease in the fall.

Obea has also submitted a proposal for Building 11 in the town-owned Strathmore complex in Turners Falls. That proposal has been taken "under advisement" by the town, according to Ramsey.

Enter the Matrix

Rob Steinberg and Kevin Hart of the town broadband committee came before the board to request support for their choice of a company, Matrix Design Group, to build a proposed fiber optic network for underserved areas of Montague.

The project will receive substantial state funds, and a state organization called the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) put out a request for proposals to serve a number of towns in the region. Both Matrix and Comcast, the town's current cable television provider, responded with proposals for Montague.

At a meeting on Wednesday, February 3, Eric Nakajima, director of MBI, stated that the Montague broadband committee's desire to negotiate a contract with Matrix should be brought before the town selectboard.

Before the selectboard on Monday, the two broadband committee members compared the Matrix and Comcast proposals on a number of criteria. These included the number of homes each proposed to serve; download speed; cost; long-term viability; and willingness to cooperate with their committee.

On every measure, they argued, Matrix's proposal exceeded that of Comcast.

[Ed's note: In last week's Reporter it was incorrectly stated that Steinberg had criticized, before MBI, Comcast's suggestion that it would install its DOC SIS 3.0 system in Montague, when in fact that system had not been installed "in rural areas anywhere." Steinberg actually referred to the DOC SIS 3.1 system.]

During the discussion, town plan-



Work on 34 (left) and 30 (center) East Main Street is nearing completion.

ner Ramsey noted that under the Matrix proposal, the town would eventually own the broadband network "for the life of it." This would take staff resources as well as legal counsel, "just so you are aware of it."

Steinberg said that "operationally," these tasks might be performed by Municipal Light Plant, an entity required by state law to receive broadband funds. Formation of the MLP was approved by a fall town meeting, and requires a second vote, presumably at the spring annual town meeting.

The board voted to "authorize the Montague Broadband Committee to enter discussions with Matrix, along with MBI, with the goal of completing the broadband network for the underserved."

New Trainings Offered

In other news, Don Wright, who promotes a racial sensitivity program called SEED Project, proposed that the selectboard avail itself of his organization to implement trainings for town staff. He stated that SEED was a national organization that implements diversity trainings, particularly for teachers.

Wright stated that the SEED approach had originated at Wellesley College, influenced by a "woman who has been working in this field for 40 years" named Peggy McIntosh. McIntosh is famous for her essay *Unpacking the Invisible Backpack*, which Wright said is about "white privilege and what that looks like." The history of the SEED Project is described on its website.

Wright said that the program used to be only for school teachers, but the new directors wanted to expand to involve "communities." He handed the board a proposal with between twelve and thirteen topics, each one session.

Several weeks earlier a broader group of local residents, which seemed to include Wright, came before the board with its own proposal for workshops under a somewhat different format. Wright stated that "if any other diversity group wants to be a part of what SEED is doing, then we welcome that... As Western Mass SEED leader, I propose that SEED become the standard, and that the rest follow behind that."

Nelson asked what would happen if the two groups merged. Wright said SEED would allow the other group to have one of their own training sessions.

Rich Kuklewicz stated that he was at first confused by the existence of two groups, but now he realized they had the same goals but advocated different approaches.

"Give us some time to check it over," said Nelson, noting that there would not be another selectboard meeting for two weeks.

New Coordinator Offered

During the public participation period at the beginning of the meeting, Rodney Madison spoke again about the issue of the board's dissolution

of the downtown planter committee, which he had chaired. He stated that he still believed the committee had been a "standing committee," and its demise was "premature."

Madison also said he had someone he would like to propose for the position of planter coordinator, and wondered how that could be done.

Nelson responded that he had met with Madison and building inspector David Jensen. They had later met with current planter coordinator Gary Konvelski, who had agreed to "pull together" a meeting of local business people and planter volunteers as soon as possible to discuss this and other issues.

Concerns Elaborated

Charles Kelley stood up to once again raise concerns about the Comcast cable contract and the proposal of the broadband committee. He asked if the board had heard anything from the Department of Telecommunications and Energy, where he has filed a complaint. The board had not.

Kelley stated again that the cable advisory committee (CAC) had failed to hold a required hearing before signing the cable contract with Comcast.

Rich Kuklewicz replied that the CAC would ask for the opinion of cable legal counsel on the matter.

Mr. Kelley also complained that a quorum of the broadband committee had met with MBI the previous week, in violation of the open

meeting law. Several members of that committee denied this.

Other Biz

In other news, the board approved a one-day liquor license request from Lefty's Brewery for an event at the Shea Theater on April 29.

Bruce Hunter of the Franklin Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority requested that the end date for the Avenue A Streetscape Enhancement Project be extended from December 31, 2015 to June 30, 2016. The board agreed to this.

The board voted to appoint David Harmon as interim library trustee, to replace Barbara Stewart.

It also voted to revise the language of the Five Eyed Fox's petitioned article for a liquor license.

Ariel Elan, the town's official pipeline liaison, requested that the board request a \$5,000 reserve fund transfer from the town finance committee for legal work before the Department of Public Utilities. She gave the board an update, emphasizing the importance of the DPU case in the context of the federal decision on the proposed pipeline through Montague. The board approved this request.

Finally, the board voted to set the deadline for articles for May's annual town meeting for March 15 at 4 p.m.

The next Montague selectboard meeting will be held February 22.

**GMRSD** from page A1

preliminary budget.

Sullivan gave a presentation on the state of the budget since the committee's January 26 meeting.

Reductions in insurance, transportation costs, special education assessments, and the incoming assistant principal at Sheffield Elementary added up to nearly \$19,000, while state revenue projections, mostly from Chapter 71 aid, increased by a total of over \$11,000.

This would have closed the gap of around \$70,000 over the towns' affordable assessments discussed at the January 26 meeting to around \$42,000.

Under the budget's current iteration, the district is hoping for \$10,293,621 from the towns of Gill and Montague.

At the same time, though, it appears that gap is also widening, in the form of probable reductions in the towns' calculated affordable assessments. One factor has to do with the number of students from each town enrolling at Franklin County Tech: Gill's are increasing from 5 to 10, while Montague's are decreasing from 70 to 54.

Sullivan estimated the net loss to the district next year from charter school assessments and school choice, "conservatively," at \$1.7 million.

"Our fiscal sustainability is really dependent on improved enrollment trends over time," Sullivan

offered, by way of conclusion, "and us looking really strategically at controlling our costs."

Assessments Unclear

Tupper Brown and Michael Naughton from the towns' finance committees were on hand, representing the "tech panel" established by the 2010 community-school compact. Naughton presented the committee with the working version of "Table B," the mechanism by which the towns and district have allocated assessments under the compact.

"As you can see, based on these figures, right now we're looking at being under by in the neighborhood of \$90,000," he said. Naughton said he anticipated state aid to Montague under the governor's budget would increase that town's affordable assessment by "a little under \$20,000."

"There's another aspect to things," Naughton added. Montague tends to assume a certain sum of its assessed taxes will be abated or otherwise not collected.

In recent years, he said, "we have a significant taxpayer in town, who every time they get revalued, challenges the new value," bumping the estimated revenue loss from \$120,000 to about \$400,000 should the town lose on appeal.

Naughton said he did not anticipate the revenue to come in during the coming fiscal year, due to the

taxpayer in question's ability to appeal. Naughton did not refer to FirstLight Power Resources or its parent companies by name.

Naughton proposed the district "should be comforted that, based on history, the problems we think we're facing in the future aren't any bigger than the ones that we have already solved in the past."

Transportation Reimbursements

Tupper Brown of Gill pointed out that the compact assumed Chapter 70 transportation funding from the state would increase by 3% a year, which "hasn't happened — we've ended up with less than a half of percent a year, about. And it's not going to happen, under the current Chapter 70 regime."

Brown said that this has "unbalanced Table B," and praised the district for "absorbing" the impact of this by reining in costs. "To the extent that it's done by cutting is, of course, dangerous," he said, urging the school committee to "keep an eye on" the compact's various assumptions.

Langknecht urged the committee to also pay attention to the state's formulas for school funding. "The funding for charter schools doesn't work," he argued. "The Chapter 70 formula basically assumes that the cost per child of education does not depend on the density of the district."

see GMRSD page A6

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT

The Franklin County Transportation Planning Organization (FCTPO) will hold **public meetings** on its draft **Public Participation Plan**. There will be two public meetings on Wednesday, March 9 at the JWO Transit Center to provide opportunities for comment. The first meeting will be from noon to 1 p.m. and the second meeting will be from 5 to 6 p.m. Both meetings will be held in the First Floor Meeting Room at 12 Olive Street, Greenfield, MA.

In case of snow or hazardous weather, a snow date for the meetings will be held on March 16 at the same times, but upstairs in the FRCOG Library. Please check www.frcog.org or call (413) 774-3167 ext. 153 to find out about weather cancellations. If you are unable to attend the meetings, comments can be sent to Megan Rhodes by email at mrhodes@frcog.org or by mail at 12 Olive Street, Suite 2, Greenfield MA 01301 until March 23, 2016. Copies of the draft documents are available for review at the Franklin Regional Council of Governments located at 12 Olive Street, Suite 2, Greenfield, MA, by calling (413) 774-3167 x 132 to request a copy, or by going to www.frcog.org.

GMRSD from page A5

Jeff Singleton, former member of the tech panel, urged the school committee to again consider ways the district might lobby for Chapter 70 reform at the state level. "It's over 30% of your total revenue," he said. "It's huge."

Singleton said he left the tech panel in part because of "deep disagreements" within the panel about Chapter 70.

"This issue is not going to go away statewide," he argued. "I know you're busy, and you can't spend a lot of time bickering over Chapter 70, but I think it would be great if you could find a way to keep it on your radar."

Other Business

The committee also heard a presentation from Donna Fitzpatrick, director of teaching and learning,

on the school's strategy for improving its performance on standardized testing.

It also approved a field trip to Hyannis for nine students who wished to attend the annual conference of the Massachusetts Association of Student Councils.

It tabled an evaluation of its own performance, as it was getting late.



NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Gill Town Meeting to Debate Funding Pipeline Opposition on February 22

By AIDAN BELANGER

Last Tuesday, John Ward represented Gill's selectboard at a meeting of the Municipal Coalition Against the Pipeline (MCAP). At this meeting the town of Montague announced that they had been granted intervenor status before state Department of Public Utilities hearings over local gas distribution companies' contracts with the proposed pipeline.

Montague, which had previously been rejected by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission when it requested intervenor status over the pipeline itself, spent its own money in the process, and is asking for other MCAP members to help defray costs.

Ward said that having a town-wide conversation might get more individuals involved, and that he felt there were lots of reasons for locals to oppose the pipeline. He described reimbursing Montague as a good opportunity for Gill to help its neighbors.

An article about the funding efforts concerning the pipeline – including legal representation and technical assistance – is headed for the upcoming special town meeting, but no dollar amount is currently attached to it. People on both the selectboard and finance committee have suggested town voters should guide the process of fixing a dollar amount.

Selectboard member Randy Crochier expressed that this would be a hard decision for the board to make without input from the finance committee, and pointed out that some residents might not support funding the effort at all.

Ward said he felt the potential pipeline was important to Gill, as the town is "in the middle" of two towns, Montague and Northfield, that would be "physically changed."

He also explained that MCAP had formed because the support offered by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) is only aimed at mitigating the impact of the pipeline, but speculated that the FRCOG's tactics may be shifting toward opposing the pipeline due to a shift in opinion among its staff.

The selectboard asked town administrative assistant Ray Purington what he believed should be done. Purington responded that one option was to bring it before town meeting with a blank for the dollar amount, and asking citizens what they thought an appropriate sum would be.

Ward suggested it would make sense for one of the selectboard members to do research into other towns' actions.

Crochier added that he could

see both Northfield and Montague spending the money, and that what happens in those towns does affect Gill.

The selectboard motioned for selectboard chair Greg Snedeker to do research and propose a dollar amount for the town meeting article.

Building Maintenance

Last Thursday a leak was discovered in the town hall well, caused by a split in the plastic casing around the well. Line Well Drilling fixed the leak for \$1,163.

The building maintenance budget had \$11,866 before that expense. The insulation needed for the safety complex roof is projected to cost \$6,352, and could also come from that budget.

Purington recommended using this fund for the insulation and "hoping" that the remaining \$4,371 would be sufficient for any further building maintenance issues this fiscal year. The selectboard approved this.

Elementary School Water

Last Thursday, Purington, along with town health agent Glen Ayers, Mike Leach of the Massachusetts Rural Water Association, and GMRSD facilities manager Jim Huber held a teleconference with two engineers from Wright Pierce about the proposed water purification system at the elementary school.

The company's engineers have proposed filtering all the water coming into the building from its well for iron and manganese, and then treating it with UV light.

Huber said he felt this would be very expensive, and suggested reducing costs by treating it with UV but only filtering the water destined for drinking.

This group agreed to run this proposal by the state Department of Environmental Protection.

Special Town Meeting

The special town meeting (STM) has been scheduled for 7 p.m. on Monday, February 22. Purington informed the selectboard that the Department of Revenue gave the town the OK to hold a tax rate classification hearing before the town meeting.

That hearing would be based on assumptions about the spending figures approved at the STM, and if those change, another classification hearing would have to be scheduled.

If the figures hold, the tax rate could be submitted as early as the following Tuesday or Wednesday.

Costs of Living

On January 20, the town's person-

nel committee meeting voted 2-1 to recommend 1% cost of living adjustments (COLAs) for fiscal year 2017.

There are two predictors of inflation that usually guide this decision: the Consumer Price Index, which this year is projected at 0.4%, and an index produced by the Social Security Administration, which projects 0% inflation this year.

Members of the personnel committee felt that the Social Security estimate was simply incorrect, though the dissenting voter felt it should be followed for continuity's sake, as it had been used for the last few years.

On Monday night, the selectboard felt this recommendation ran counter to the methodology they had established, but Crochier stated that as a town voter, he would vote for the 1% adjustments.

The board then discussed different factors that might distort these inflation indexes. Purington mentioned that the CPI averages a national figure with a regional one. Ward argued that abnormally low energy prices nationally might be deflating prices of goods.

Purington, who is working on the FY'17 departmental budget spreadsheets, asked whether he should be using 0% or 1% figure.

Crochier responded that he would feel comfortable with a 1% increase being used because it could be changed back in the future.

Ward voiced worry that adding the 1% to the preliminary budget would send the message that the town was ready for the 1% increase.

No vote was taken, but Purington planned to pencil 1% COLAs into the department spreadsheets.

The board also asked him to send a letter to the Franklin Regional Retirement system urging them not to adopt a 3% COLA.

Other Business

Farm field lease renewals for both the Boyle and Mariamante fields were approved.

Steve Damon resigned from the agricultural commission effective February 29. The selectboard accepted his resignation with regret, while acknowledging his work all across the state.

The window inserts for the library have been ordered, though there is no delivery date set. The electric water heater for town hall has been installed; the next step is to have a plumber test it out. Both of these improvements are being paid for from the Green Communities grant fund.

Gill's heating oil prices for the 2017 fiscal year have been locked in at \$1.56 per gallon. The price for FY'16 was \$2.26.

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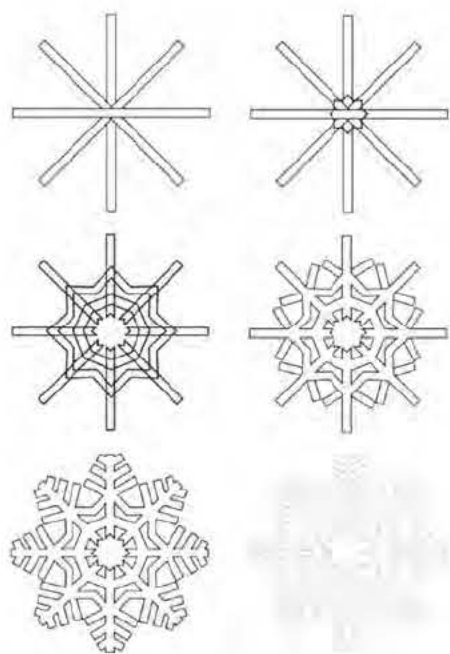
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Children's Page

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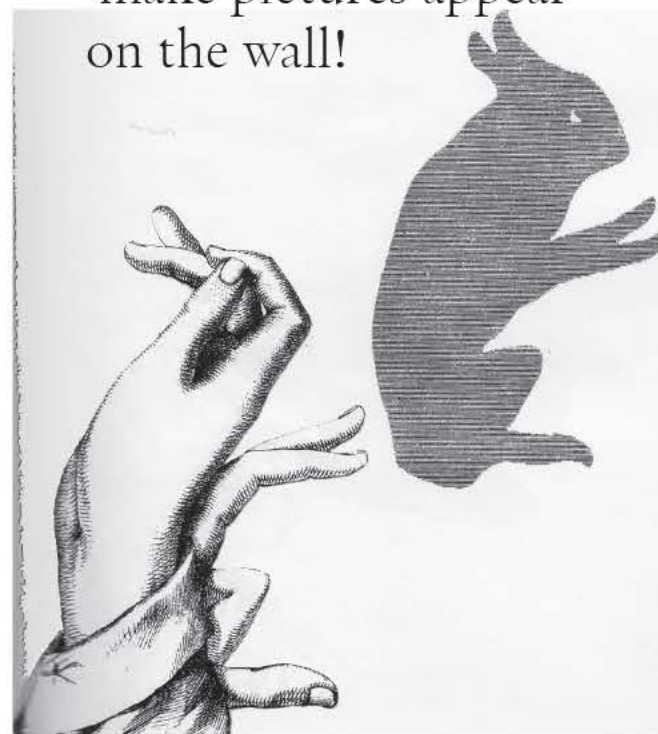
Make some paper snowflakes.

1. Find a square piece of white paper.
2. Fold it once, then fold again.
3. Cut the corners off.
4. Cut triangles where there is a straight edge.
5. Open up the piece of paper and see what you get!



6. Paste what you get on a black piece of background paper for added effect.

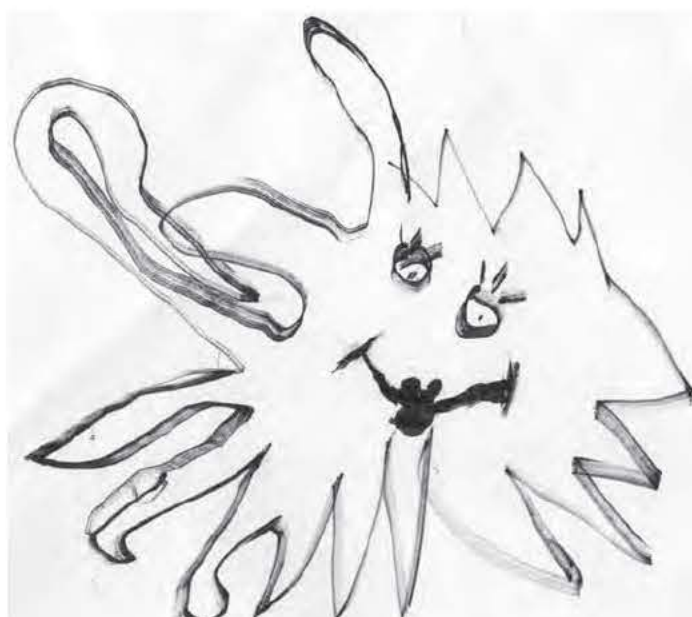
Hand shadows make pictures appear on the wall!



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JOEL PAXTON ILLUSTRATION

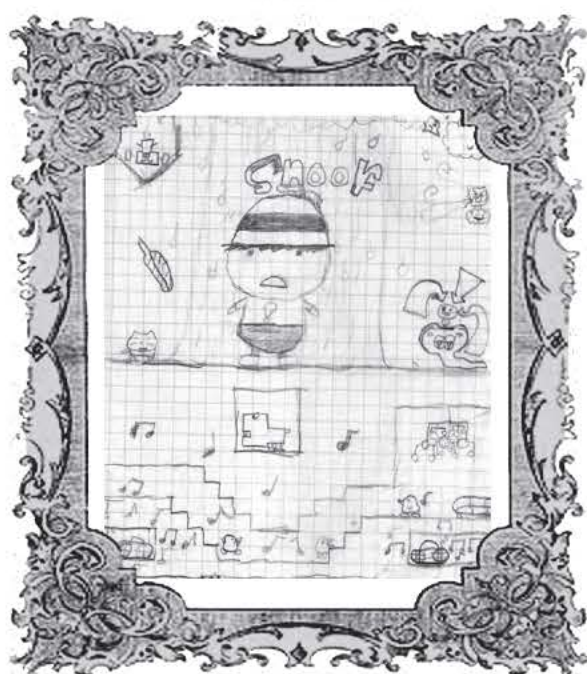
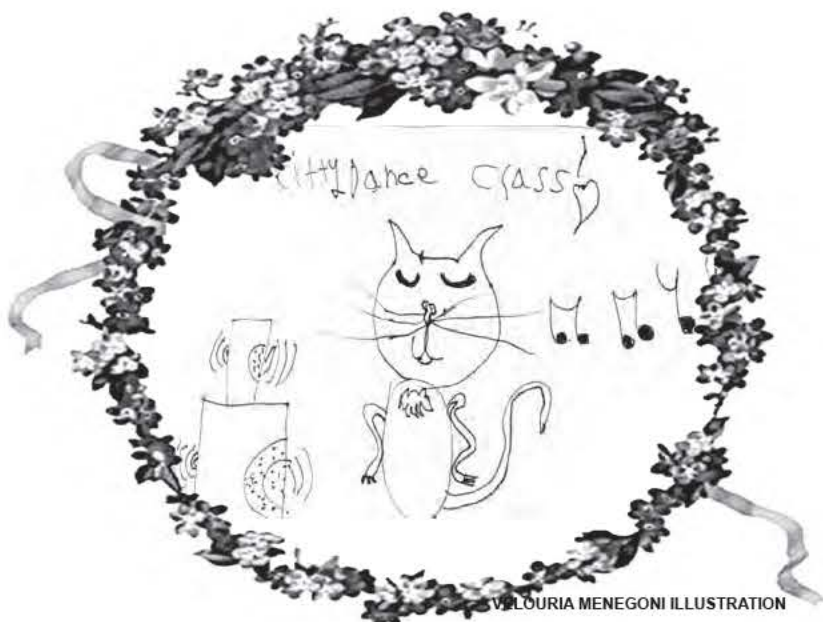
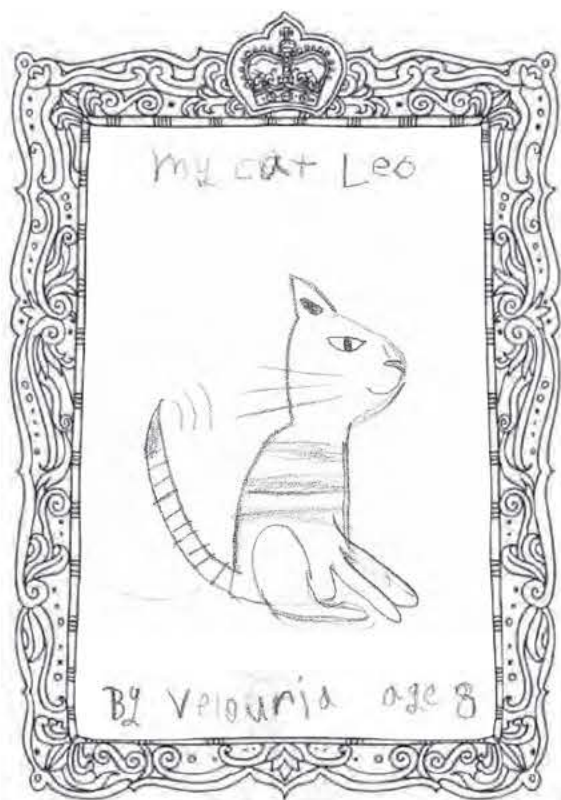


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Another Turners foul put the Hawks on the

On February 4, the Turners boys played top-ranked Hopkins. The game was one-sided, but

Maddy Chmyzinski was on fire, putting up 35 points. Aliyah Sanders scored 7. Hailey Bogusz hit 3 free throws and a field goal. Emma Miner sunk a field goal and two foul shots.

On Monday, February 15, the Lady Indians travel to Southwick to play the Rams. On Wednesday, they travel north to play Mohawk, and on Friday the 19th, they host the other Indians, from Ware.

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YEAR 14 – NO. 17

FEATURES@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER

FEBRUARY 11, 2016

B1

Jinx: An Alleyway Duel, a Flying Thief, and Some Major League Cinders

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

Collins prefers to write in the third person, and in his memoir seeks to present “not just the pleasant memories showing him in a glowing light but also those that aren’t so favorable.” This week: a few more memories of escapades in the old downtown.

A copy of this book is available at the Carnegie Library.

NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION



By JERRY COLLINS

Bow and Arrows

The boys had a Great Uncle Jake Haigis, their maternal grandmother’s brother, who owned a bar called the “Bridge Cafe” – today known as “Between the Uprights” – located at the corner of Avenue A and Second Street. During Prohibition, Uncle Jake operated it as a speakeasy (an illegal liquor establishment).

As he had never married and had no children of his own, he took to favoring Donnie, and one year, for Donnie’s birthday, bought him a bow and arrow set.

Two doors up from Jinx’s apartment in “The Block” on Third Street lived a family whose son the boys called “Crazy Joe.” Always doing something different, it seemed that Crazy Joe also had a bow and arrow.

The rear yard of The Block was a

long alley with the apartments forming one side and a row of connected woodsheds on the other. It was here that Crazy Joe and Donnie decided to have a duel – *whose idea it was, Jinx doesn’t know*. There they stood, back to back; bows at the ready, they began to pace off (twenty paces each, Jinx thought).

The only problem was that Crazy Joe must not have known how to count that high, as at about ten paces he turned and fired at Donnie, who was still pacing off. As the arrow pierced Donnie’s temple, just above his ear, down he went in a heap. Royer and Jinx, having witnessed the event, thought he’d been killed.

Crazy Joe’s mother, who had been watching the whole thing from her back porch, came running down the stairs and bent over Donnie and as he was coming to, she picked him up – he was bleeding considerably – and, in a

heavy Polish accent, said, “He be O.K.” And off she walked with her Crazy Joe in hand.

Fortunately for Donnie, the arrow had glanced off and not entered his skull. Royer stopped the bleeding and got him cleaned up. When “Jo” [the boys’ mother] came home from work, she read him “The Riot Act” – *very unusual, as normally in her eyes, Donnie was the perfect child*.

Bicycles

By now, you’re probably curious as to how he came to be called Jinx. Well, before explaining that, you need to know about one of the little idiosyncrasies about Turners Falls. It seems that almost everyone in town had a nickname. Remember “Bimp,” “Ripper,” and “Smeeks”? There’s even a book in the town library, written by Harold Fugere, a high school teacher in Jinx’s day, titled “Nicknames of Montague.”

So let’s set the scene.

A young urchin, about 5 years old living in the Third Street block, is playing barefoot out front on the sidewalk this warm summer day. His brother “Buddy” is talking with one of his friends. This friend, the urchin thinks, is rich, as he has a brand new bicycle.

The youngster pleads with him to be taken for a ride. Reluctantly, Buddy’s friend submits. He instructs the urchin to get up on the crossbar, and be sure to keep his feet straight out.

Yep! You get the picture. He doesn’t, and one of his feet goes into the wheel’s spokes, causing a great crash.

Even though the youngster’s foot is badly hurt, the “rich kid” looks at the now non-mobile bike, and staring down at the now crying, dirty excuse for humanity lying on

see JINX page B6

Black History Month: A Chance for Conversation

By PENNY RICKETTS

GREENFIELD – Black History Month has become a very important month in my life. I know the children in our county will be taught that African Americans contributed to the world we live in. Without this month, many people may base their knowledge of Black people from news stories. Yikes!

Growing up in Wendell and attending school in Orange didn’t present me the opportunity to meet many people of color. I distinctly remember that whenever a black person was performing on one of our limited TV channels, we would call each other to tune in. If there was a news story regarding a crime, I remember hoping it wasn’t someone black.

Actually, that hasn’t changed for me.

When you live in a predominantly white community, the comments and perceptions are very hurtful. Hurtful is my nice way of saying that their comments are actually racist.

My parents brought us up to be very respectful to everyone. They wouldn’t allow us to participate in high school sit-ins, and we always wore clean clothes. Not at the age when of course we wanted to, but when we were small and played outside – my mother would make us come in to change, only to have us go back out to play in the dirt. I know it was because no one was ever going to talk about that black family on West Street.

We were a well-respected and see RICKETTS page B2



Marcy Ricketts, Everett Ricketts, Sr., Cynthia Long, Jackie Ricketts, Everett Ricketts, Jr., and the author in a photo from the early 1970s.

Gluten-Intolerant ... Tolerant

By ERIC DAMKOEHLER

TURNERS FALLS – Every professional cook has his own brand of catchphrases. Some get worldwide fame: “Bam!” (queue applause), “Shut it down!” (and some hack goes crying out of Hell’s Kitchen), “Take a picture!,” “They’re gonna love it!,” and one of my personal favorites, only for its obnoxious repetitiveness and way of sticking in your head like Gerry Rafferty’s “Baker Street”: “Beauteous, baby!”

I’ve adopted several such phrases over the course of my career: “I’m a cook, not a magician,” or “I invented it.” In the latter, I’m not referring to the steak, but rather the ground upon which the cattle graze.

The catchphrases are as predictable as the job itself. They are the same, day in and day out.

That is, until some gluten-freak* walks in the front doors and ruins

the day – the boring, frustrating, tiresome, monotonous and predictable day – of any dozen restaurant workers.

The gluten-freak has forced me to coin yet another catchphrase, “I’m a cook, not a doctor.” I don’t need to see his medical records, or hear a list of his physical symptoms, if he happens to eat something that bothers him. I don’t care if he ate something at another restaurant with another cook who thought he was a faker.

Just tell me what he wants to eat. I will cook it for him, because that’s what I do.

Here we go, right? Another attempt to pick on people who are not actual celiacs. Another attempt to curtail the world’s most popular diet since man discovered fire. *Absolutely not*. There are plenty of those sorts of articles out there. They all

see GLUTEN page B4



DAMKOEHLER PHOTO

WEST ALONG THE RIVER: MID-WINTER NOTEBOOK



POLLY FRENCH ILLUSTRATION

By DAVID BRULE

MILLERS RIVER – February 1. “How can I have spring fever, when it isn’t even Spring?”

So poignantly whispers Nina Simone in a bluesy love song of long ago. She got that right, but she had a different reason in mind.

This past night, opening the month of February, it didn’t even freeze. The morning is quite balmy and spring-like, giving us all that springtime aching feeling.

A goose couple, caught up in that amorous mood, has been winging over the yard, up from the marsh each morning in nuptial flight, clamoring and trumpeting as if it were truly Spring. The skunks are up and about in the nighttime thinking about shagging and busy copulating near the thawing compost pile. The remnants of the one snowfall we’ve had coat the back yard with spots of ice and bare ground, vaguely recalling what winter’s really like.

This winter has been kind to my friend Fodder-Wing. He (or she) is a winsome little sparrow, a white-throat, who is surviving the winter here sticking close to my February chair on the back porch, to the seed tray under the picnic table, near his basin of drinking water. Those are all the creature comforts he needs to get through this non-winter, so far.

see WEST ALONG page B3



LOUIS AGASSIZ-FUERTES ILLUSTRATION

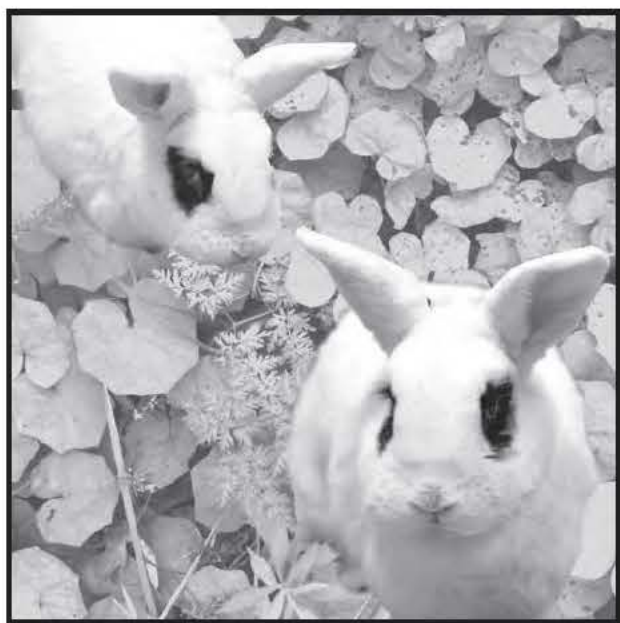
White Throated Sparrows – Zonotrichia albicollis

Pet of the Week

Hey there, my name is Clover! I am a sweet bunny who is looking for a quiet home. My favorite treats are apples and carrots, but not

strawberries. I'm very good about using my litterbox and like to be groomed. I enjoy playing with wicker balls and toilet paper rolls for fun. My daily requirements include rabbit pellets, hay, fresh fruit and veggies, water and friendship. Come and meet me as soon as you can!

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



“CLOVER”

Senior Center Activities FEBRUARY 15 to 19

GILL and MONTAGUE

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

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

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

Tues, Wed & Thurs Noon Lunch
M, W, F 10:10 a.m. Aerobics,
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise

Monday 2/15

Noon Potluck & Bingo

Tuesday 2/16

9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga

1 p.m. Knitting Circle

Wednesday 2/17

9 a.m. Veterans' Outreach

12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 2/18

9 a.m. Tai Chi

1 p.m. Cards & Games

Friday 2/19

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 congregating 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 Beters, 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 2/15

9 a.m. Tai Chi

10 a.m. HBBO Exercise

Tuesday 2/16

8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics

10 a.m. Stretching & Balance

12:30 p.m. Friends Meeting

Wednesday 2/17

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing

10 a.m. Chair Yoga

Noon Bingo, Snacks

Thursday 2/18

8:15 a.m. Foot Clinic

8:45 Aerobics (fast moving)

10 a.m. Healthy Bones

12:30 p.m. Creative Coloring

Friday 2/19

9 a.m. Quilting Workshop

9:30 a.m. Bowling

Noon Out to Lunch - Tech School

12:30 p.m. Painting Class/workshop

RICKETTS from page B1

loved family, and there were no ripples until my brothers and I entered our dating years. It was then that our good family friends showed their true colors.

In retrospect, I realize how this shocked some of my classmates, and wonder how they dealt years later realizing what their parents were all about. Having this happen to my brothers and me in the '70s helped me 15 years ago when it began happening to my son.

My childhood experience of being around black folks who weren't my immediate family was when we went to my parents' hometown of Boston. I had so many cousins, and they lived in predominantly black neighborhoods. It was so surreal, exciting, new and overwhelming.

I was a simple country girl who could not imagine this life: Ebony Magazine, The Jackson 5 and listening to gospel music on Sunday mornings (before going to a church where I would not hear that music) were my only connections in my youth.

I didn't even have a voice back then. I vaguely remember my Black History class at Mahar. I don't remember ever being outspoken in high school. My mother's upbringing of not causing waves obviously stayed with me until I became an adult.

As an adult living in a community I love, I knew it was time to speak up. I stayed silent my whole childhood.

There is a difference between respect, disrespect, and racism. A grocery shopping trip and doctors' appointments had me trying to convince them I had a job, so no, I don't have food stamps or a Medicaid card.

I truly believed that my voice would encourage my kids to find theirs. Race is unfortunately still a difficult topic to discuss. All communities are divided into those willing to join in the conversation and those who don't think we need a conversation.

We have come a long way, but still have so far to go.



poetry corner!

(We were going to pretend there was no holiday this week, but Poetry Page editor Patricia Pruitt forwarded this along for the occasion. – Eds.)

beyond

just as Vermeer painted the perfect pearl
that dangled from her ear
in a round luster with mystery of content

he could have eyed an orange that hangs
its shiny surface – smooth across the eye
with uncertain feel behind its brilliant hue

the color of work seen by the sweat of men
who pick and lift the globes of sunshine
across the equatorial fields of desire and
discontent

he could have chosen to brush a trinket
of glittering copper or gold or glass
instead – he eyed that singular aspect

beyond his retina's gaze – the hottest ember
found pearl-deep
in the resplendence of romance

Alice Thomas

THE HEALTHY GEEZER

Heart Attacks: Part II

the arteries, which constricts the flow of blood. High levels of these substances are dangerous to the heart.

Smoking. This habit damages the inside walls of arteries, allowing cholesterol to collect on them. And, smoking can increase the risk of clots forming. The risk of getting coronary artery disease is two to four times greater if you smoke.

High blood pressure. Also known as hypertension, this can damage arteries and speed up atherosclerosis. High blood pressure makes the heart work harder. The added effort makes the heart thicken and become stiffer. The risk of high blood pressure increases as you age.

A sedentary lifestyle. Insufficient exercise contributes to high blood cholesterol levels. Exercise also prevents obesity and lowers blood pressure. The more vigorous the activity, the greater your benefits, but any exercise can benefit your health.

Obesity. Obesity is associated with high cholesterol levels, high blood pressure and diabetes. In addition, excess weight forces the heart to work harder.

Diabetes. This disease accelerates atherosclerosis. Diabetes strikes more often in middle age. It is also more common in people who are overweight. About three-quarters of people with diabetes die of heart or

blood-vessel disease.

Stress. This can elevate your blood pressure. It may also lead you to gain weight from overeating, and make you smoke to relieve tension.

Alcohol. Too much drinking can raise blood pressure and triglyceride levels. However, the risk of heart disease in people who drink moderately is lower than in nondrinkers. Moderate drinking means one to two drinks a day for a man, and one drink daily for a woman. A drink is equivalent to 12 ounces of beer, 4 ounces of wine or 1.5 ounces of an 80-proof liquor.

Diet. Too much saturated fat and cholesterol in your diet can narrow the arteries to your heart.

Age. More than eight out of ten people who die of coronary heart disease are 65 or older.

Gender. Men are at greater risk than women of having a heart attack.

Race. African-Americans suffer from higher blood pressure and a higher risk of heart disease than Caucasians. Heart-disease risk is also higher among Mexican-Americans and Native Americans.

[In our next column, we'll discuss treatment for heart attack victims.]

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



JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

By FRED CICETTI

[In the last column, I wrote about heart attack symptoms and what to do when you feel them. Today, we'll discuss the causes of heart attack.]

A blood clot in a narrowed coronary artery is the usual cause of a heart attack. The clogged artery prevents oxygenated blood from nourishing the heart. This can lead to pain, the death of heart cells, scar tissue and fatal arrhythmias.

There is a variety of causes that lead to the narrowing of arteries, which is called "atherosclerosis." This, in turn, increases the likelihood of a heart attack.

The following are some of the leading causes of heart attacks:

Genetics. If early heart attacks run in your family, you may be at risk to have one. You may have inherited the tendencies to have high blood cholesterol and high blood pressure.

Cholesterol and triglycerides. These can lead to deposit build-up in

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LOOKING BACK 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was February 9, 2006: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Lake Grove School Hearing Continues

The Wendell planning board's site plan review for the Lake Grove School at Maple Valley's proposed therapeutic farm animal program continues. This week's continuation was held to allow time for Lake Grove's executive director, Roland Paulauskas, enough time to gather supporting documents.

Lake Grove at Maple Valley provides on-campus programs and comprehensive treatment services for up to 71 emotionally disturbed boys and young men, ages 10 to 21, at the school on the corner of Depot and Mormon Hollow Road.

Planning board chair Deirdre Cabral said the applicant had forwarded structural information on the proposed barn. He also submitted a supportive letter from TMG Architects and Planners.

Anne Diemand, speaking for the Wendell police department, said she had consulted with chief Ed Chase several times about the school's expanded use of property. She said, "As far as the expansion due to animal therapy, Ed is not opposed to it at all."

Security was still on the minds of residents, who showed up for the hearing. Abutter Richard Mackey said, "Last week, there was another escape from the school. A car and an individual on foot appeared in my driveway. I have requested that Mr. Paulauskas instruct his staff not to trespass on my property."

Zen Peacemaker Center Opens

The old barn has been beautifully renovated, and that is putting it mildly.

Channel steel reinforced beams reinforce the old chestnut timbers, drawing the eye up to old skip sheathing through which the white underbelly of the new roof shows through. New energy-efficient windows in every wall hold the cold out and let the sunshine in. The bamboo floor gleams with a natural finish, a staircase of eight-

quarter sawn chestnut trees leads part of the overflow crowd up to a spacious balcony, from which they get a barn swallow's view of the dais where the opening ceremony of the Maezumi Institute at the House of One People is about to take place. A statue of Buddha forms a centerpiece on the altar strewn with flowers, candles and peacock feathers.

Old friends greet new; Buddhists from far and near bow in reverence; locals on bicycles shake the afternoon mud and rain from their coats; everyone takes off their shoes. Someone plays a melodic raga on the guitar as the gathering takes their seats for the launch of the Zen Peacemakers' new educational center on Ripley Road, in what is undoubtedly the most beautifully appointed and serene conference space in Franklin County, a converted dairy barn.

Former Montague selectboard member Sam Lovejoy gave an opening oration to the gathered Buddhists, providing a bridge from past to present. "I want to welcome you to the latest reincarnation of the Farm. Hopefully it will be a long one," he said.

Roof Collapse Closes Power Street

Across the power canal in the Patch, an abandoned building struggles to stand against the odds. The surrounding yard is overgrown with weeds. Strewn across the blacktop lie mounds of garbage. Graffiti tattoos fading paint on brick walls with random messages.

Last week, following a routine inspection by the fire department, the town learned that after years of rain damage, a large section of the former Railroad Salvage building's roof has collapsed.

"A big chunk, 50 feet by 70 feet, went through five floors and into the basement," said Montague building inspector David Jensen. According to the official report, three other roof sections, 50 feet by 50 feet, have also collapsed onto the upper floor. Inside the building advanced decay threatens to bring the entire structure down.

The town has ordered the Power Street bridge and road closed.

Reflections on Writing for the Montague Reporter

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – I have always written short stories like crazy. In fact, I have written so many of them that I should be called Scheherazade. She was that woman from *Arabian Nights* who kept spinning story after story to keep her husband, the Sultan, from killing her.

I have experience writing articles from a little in high school and then more in college when I took a journalism class. I got a B in the class.

Then I got two articles published in the college newspaper. I had submitted some of my work before, with the goal in mind to just be published. The second time I tried to do this was just with the goal of extra credit for another class. But I got lucky, and I was thrilled.

I tried again with something else I had written, and was like "they like me, they really like me!" when they published a second article of mine.

Then after college, I got assis-

tance in finding a job from a life coach named Sue. She learned that I tried to get work with the *Montague Reporter*, and she managed to talk them into giving me a freelance gig with them.

Over the last year, I have written articles on topics from the Unity Park and the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls, to a review of the Upper Valley Music Festival – where I got my own press pass – to reviews of movies and television shows. The movies have included *Avengers: Age of Ultron*, *Antman*, and *The Finest Hours*.

But I have been given a chance to do articles and reviews of topics of my choosing. My choices have been National Crime Victims Week, National Breast Cancer Month, a Relay for Life event that took place in Greenfield, the Salvation Army, and a profile essay on the history of *It's a Wonderful Life*.

That doesn't mean I haven't had a little bit of an issue with things. It

has been kind of hard to come up with topics that focus on things in the areas of western Mass. that the paper covers. Sometimes the topics I propose work for my editors, and sometimes they don't.

I also did have one issue where I interviewed a woman for a piece, and then she decided she didn't want it published. I already had written up a draft to send to the editor. The end result meant that I had basically written that for nothing.

But despite these slight difficulties, I have enjoyed writing for this paper very much.

In fact, this freelance gig has accomplished the desire I have in mind of what's possible for me to realistically get work in the fields I love. Thanks to the *Montague Reporter*, I am officially working in one of the two fields I very much want to work in. The other one is TV production, which happened when I ran a camera for a sporting event at UMass one weekend last June.

MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

Music, Meetings, and Local History

For those of you who love the snow, winter has finally arrived! This week, don't forget to check out some of the many local events as part of Turner Falls RiverCulture's Music and Diversity II series.

And don't forget to check out your own community TV channel! Tune in Monday, February 8 at 7 p.m. for a live broadcast of the Montague selectboard meeting – then Wednesday the 10th at 6 p.m. for the finance committee meeting.

Agenda items for this week's selectboard meeting include broadband committee updates and a letter to MBI from the selectboard, discussion on racial training program options, pipeline intervention updates and a reserve fund transfer request for pipeline legal expenses.

Items for the finance committee meeting include the fund transfer request for pipeline legal costs, a review of the tree warden's budget and stipend requests, and a review of DPW budget requests.

Finally, the Nolumbeka presentation at Greenfield Savings Bank, which aired on TV last week, is now available for download on our website, under the topic "10,000 Years at the Falls."

Something going on you think others would like to see? Get in

touch and learn how easy it is to use a camera and capture the moment!

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



GLUTEN from page B1

went viral, received the praise of the internet. And the scorn, no doubt, of the subjects of their frustration.

So what do I mean when I say, "I'm a cook, not a doctor?" I mean I'm not qualified to prescribe medication or diagnose your allergies. I mean I don't know, or for that matter *need* to know, how the human body metabolizes your food.

I mean that I don't know, or wouldn't have known, how New Variant CJD affects prions in the brain leading to signs of dementia, if I hadn't been paid by a fellow culinary student to write a term paper about Mad Cow Disease before dropping out of culinary school.

That's right – college for cooks. Not med school.

One year of cooking school is hardly enough education to even have a conversation about an allergy with someone who has access to WebMD.

Perhaps there's more, though.

Have you ever heard someone yell, "Is there a cook in the house?" when someone's choking? Or have you ever been in such unbearable pain that you shamefully admit, "I need a cook?" There is my role, defined. A cook cooks; a doctor treats.

Knowing my role is important. I know my role when I buy my wife jewelry: I buy jewelry afforded by a cook's salary. I know my role when my kids are sick: I make soup, but they need medication.

So why is it, then, with my industry booming, from high up on the pedestal and looking down on all of the other blue collar workers making ends meet just the same as I am, that when the gluten-freak walks through the front door I suddenly forget my role?

The hospitality business has lost its way.

There are the two operative words, hospitality and business; we are fighting both. First, we must remember the customer is always

right, no matter how wrong we think they are. We must make money. We have thousands of customers who are dining out after previously being forced to stay home due to their allergies and sensitivities. They are coming in droves, and we have catered to them!

We have changed menus and recipes to accommodate them. They spend 23 billion dollars a year on gluten-free products. There hasn't been as much money in a fad since the invention of the kids' menu.

And yet, we fight. It seems we'd rather they take their money elsewhere.

The operative word, "hospitality," is what we do. It's the reason we have business, the very root of our livelihood. To loosely define it, hospitality means giving people what they want.

Would you like a drink? Dessert? Let me get your chair. You're special, my guest, and I'll do anything in my power to please you. The

only difference between going to your grandma's house and coming to my restaurant is you will pay me, and I won't send you a card with a five-dollar check on your birthday.

Somehow we have forgotten this. Somehow the gluten-freak has managed to drive a dry, flavorless, gluten-free cracker between the two most important things in our lives – hospitality and business.

To my fellow cooks: I understand that they are frustrating. But I say, for the sake of the 23 billion dollars they have to spend, *stop*. Stop posting the articles, stop making jokes in the back, stop teasing the waitress about her questions about the difference between wheat and whey.

Try teaching a waitress about FODMAPs, or Fermentable Oligosaccharides, Disaccharides, Monosaccharides and Polyols. I'll take gluten any day.

Give me dairy allergies. Just imagine how much worse life would be if all of the gluten-freaks became

soy-free. When diet fads run their course they're replaced with something else. Brace for the next one – it will happen.

In the meantime, cook whatever it is they want. Make them feel special. Make them happy, and they will come back for more. And when you cash your paycheck, and spend what little you have left after rent, utilities and slip-resistant shoes, remember that you're doing so because of them. Because they are entitled, and because they are obnoxious enough to make themselves known, here they sit, waiting for a good meal and wanting to give you their money. Take it.

Treat the gluten-freaks like everyone else; that is, treat them like people who pay you to feed them.

**The term "gluten-freak" is used here in the place of a more offensive piece of restaurant vernacular.*



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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.

ONE MONDAY EACH MONTH

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

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*. All

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

EVERY FRIDAY

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

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

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

1/27 through 2/22.

Geissler Gallery, Stoneleigh-Burnham School. The 2016 Winter Art Exhibition will feature the artwork of Turners Falls artist Fafnir Adamites, who works in feltmaking, papermaking and other traditional craft processes to create large paper sculptures and installations. Through 2/17. 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.

The Art Garden, Shelburne Falls: *Winter*. Over 60 works of art created by more than 30 artists.

Avenue A Storefront Galleries, Turners Falls: Rodney Madison: *"Of African Influence."* Madison's paintings are paired with

www.rattlesnakeguttertrust.org)

EVENTS:

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Surly Temple*. Rock the night away with Jim Henry, Guy DeVito and Doug Plavin. 8 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Dave Houghton*. Indie Folk Rock. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12

Frontier Regional, S. Deerfield: Ja'Duke presents *Disney's Aladdin, Jr.* \$ 6 p.m. Also 2/13 @6, 2/14 @ 2.

Erving Library, Erving: *The Sinatra Sound*. A tribute to Frank Sinatra with Rob Fletcher and Laura Hebert. 7 p.m.

Great Falls Discovery Center Coffeehouse, Turners Falls: *David Fersh* performs from his recent album "Songs of Peace, Protest & Spirit." He will be joined by performer-

friends who will sing, play and read spoken word pieces. There will be many chances for the audience to join along on easy choruses. \$ 7 p.m.

Brick House, Turners Falls: Wastelands benefit concert featuring *Ashes to Ashes, Bucket*, and *Rachel Laitman*. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Kinks on Camels*, Gypsy and R&B, 8:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Barret Anderson*. Hypno-boogie blues, 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13

St James Church, Greenfield: *WMass Black History Month*

Celebration with soul food, music, spoken word, African drumming and dance. \$ 6 P.M.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Mr Noisy & the Sparkplugs*. Rock-n-Roll for your soul, 9 p.m.

Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *Groove Prophet*, Rock-n-Roll covers. 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Groove Night with DJ Drew*. Hip hop, funk, R&B. 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Laughing Dog Farm, Gill: *Secrets of Seed Saving*. Hands-on workshop with Daniel Botkin on seed saving, gleaning, drying, and storage techniques. Reservations, 413-863-8696. \$ 10 a.m.

Canal Stroll along Migratory Way, Turners Falls. Dress warm with winter boots for a moderate walk along Migratory Way for about 2.5 miles. For adults and sturdy



The Arts Block will welcome Jumaane (JEW-MAH-KNEE) Smith, a jazz trumpeter and vocalist who has completed his debut record "I Only Have Eyes For You." A celebration of the Great American Songbook with the theme of love and romance, the album includes interpretations of classic tunes full of personal emotion. Jumaane's collaborations range from pop idols to jazz legends, and the list reads like a lineup for the best New Orleans Jazz Fest ever. He's worked with Stevie Wonder, Quincy Jones, Michael Buble', Jackie Evancho, Alicia Keys, The Jonas Brothers, and many more. Saturday, February 13, 7 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 to 3:30 p.m. Part of the *Black History Month: Music and Diversity II* series of February programs. Winter hours, Wed-Sunday 10 to 4 p.m.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *17 Mysteries and Signs* by Ruth West. Tintypes for the Digital Age. February 4 - March 12.

Salmon Falls Artisans Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Life After Life* by Ken Kipen. Images depicting the forces in nature. Until 2/15.

Shelburne Falls Arts Co-op, Shelburne Falls. *The Red Show* Plus special Valentine's gifts from our jewelers. Group show,

traditional African fabric, which has served throughout his life as inspiration for his art.

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.

Sawmill River Arts, Montague Center: 3rd Annual Community "6X6" Art Exhibit. Small works by area artists.

CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS:

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. Deadline 3/15. Info at

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young hikers with an adult. Meet at the Great Falls Discovery Center. 1 p.m.

Brick House, Turners Falls: *FERGUSON: A Report from Occupied Territory*. Documentary, part of Black History Month Racial Justice Film Series. 4 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Crow's Rebellion*. Steve Crow, Peter Kim, Joe Fitzpatrick. Warped Americana. 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18

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

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Tommy Filaunt Trio*. Original guitar music with Doug Plavin and Klondike Koehler. 8 p.m.

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Thursday, 2/11 - 8 p.m.
The Surly Temple

Friday, 2/12 - 9 p.m.
Barret Anderson

Saturday, 2/13 - 9 p.m.
Mr Noisy & the Sparkplugs

Sunday, 2/14 - 8 p.m.
Crow's Rebellion

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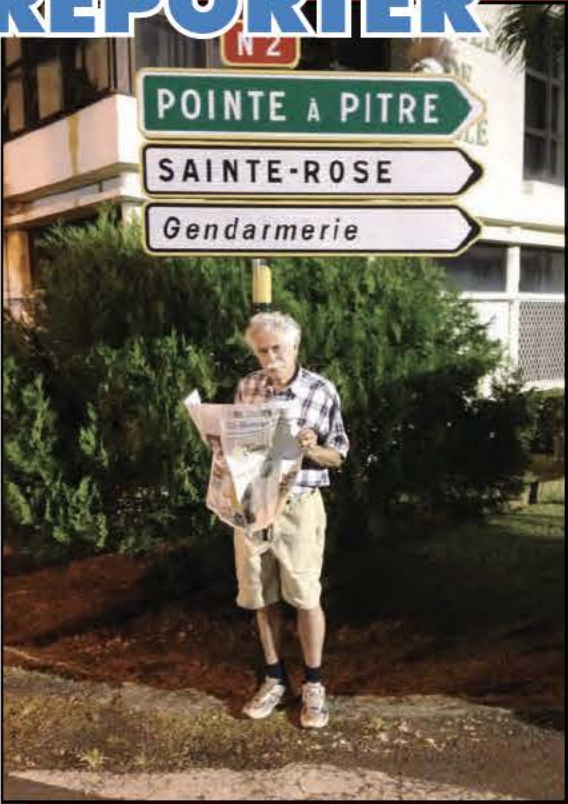
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MONTAGUE REPORTER



ON THE ROAD

Escape from Montague Center: At left, Ferd Wulkan clutches his Reporter in Guadeloupe, one of the nicest parts of France to visit in the wintertime. And at right, our contributor and volunteer Jeri Moran does her duty at the famed Cambodian temple city Angkor Wat.

REMOVE RACIAL HATRED

In the beginning God created man. At that point there was no prejudice, hatred, no racial tension. All this entered man's heart after the fall of man. From that point forward history was plagued with evil, sinful hearts.

In our time, God raised up individuals who fought this plague: Abe Lincoln, Martin Luther King to name two. Following their lead, we have tried to erase this evil curse from the depths of man's heart. We have had success and failures, but the curse remains in man's heart.

How can we rid ourselves of deep-seated hate?

The Bible says:
"Create in me a clean heart, O God;
And renew a steadfast spirit within me."
(Ps. 51:10)

Does man think he can remove this type of sin without divine intervention? For us to ever come close to the removal of racial hatred is to go to the Savior and invite Jesus Christ into our hearts.

This is as written.
We are Calvary Baptist Church in Turners Falls.
God's blessings are yours.

JINX from page B1

the pavement, yells "You're a jinx!" And that's how he got his nickname.

And speaking of bicycles, he doesn't remember any of the four brothers ever having one. In fact, Jinx bought the first bicycle he ever owned after he had been married over twenty years...

Which leads him to another event. With this one, you will note, as told in the introduction, not all things about him would be positive. Jinx didn't always do the right thing, nor act in a way he was proud of.

Again, let's set the scene. In the beautiful New England fall of 1945, at the start of Jinx's brother Royer's senior year of high

school, every afternoon "Ripper" has football practice and his younger brother goes over from his fifth grade school next door to the high school, to watch his "Hero."

On one particular day the youngster, while walking over, spots a rack of bicycles, one of which belongs to Royer's friend "Snuffy" (Francis).

Not really knowing why ("the devil made him do it?") he wrongfully decides to take it for a ride without permission - first mistake!

Leaving school grounds, he heads toward Seventh Street - second mistake!

The street runs down a very steep hill and has a sharp left turn half way down. When the turn ends, Park Street enters Seventh from the right. The only thing separating

Seventh from Park is a three-foot-high fence located about fifty feet before the start of the turn.

Yup! Just before that, he loses control and slams into it. When he awakes, lying in the middle of Park Street, a lady bending over him asks if he is alright. Though bruised and scraped considerably, he's petrified at the thought of facing "Snuffy."

Getting up and assuring the lady he is O.K., shakily he proceeds to push it on the functioning rear wheel back up Seventh Street and into the bike rack.

He never tells "Snuffy" or anyone else for that matter, but carries that guilt around all the rest of his life until now. Undoubtedly - the worst mistake!

Cinders

At about age seven, when the family lived in The Block, the high school baseball team was provided with new uniforms, which was a fairly rare occasion for the poor town of Turners Falls. Uncle Earl came to the tenement and gave Jinx one of the old ones.

Feeling like he'd made the major leagues, hardly able to contain his excitement and wanting to show off the new prize to the world, Jinx quickly put the uniform on and raced out into the cinder-laden alley where he proceeded to imagine himself a great hitter. After every "over the fence" home run, he'd tear around the bases. Of course, he never struck out!

After about a dozen such tri-

umphs, he decided that he would show the invented fans that not only was the great new major leaguer powerful at the plate, but that no other player could steal second base faster.

Remembering how he'd seen it done at high school games, Jinx took off running down the alley and proceeded to slide into the imaginary second base. It proved to be a very wrong move, as he not only ended up tearing his prize baseball pants, but was left with blood seeping out from the whole right side of his now very painful leg. In baseball, that's what is known as a raspberry.

Lesson learned: Never slide on a yard full of coal cinders.



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