



LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 14 – NO. 18

also serving Erving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

FEBRUARY 18, 2016

BASKETBALL

Turners Boys' Playoff Hopes Brighten

By MATT ROBINSON

When the Turners Falls Basketball Indians defeated Smith Academy on February 9, something wonderful happened. And although the victory was followed by two losses, that game became the linchpin upon which Powertown's 2016 post-season hinged.

A few days after that game, I spoke with Nathan Bonneau of the MIAA. Mr. Bonneau confirmed that the MIAA received a tournament application from AD Adam Graves, and that Director Graves had checked the "Sullivan Rule" box.

Bonneau explained that the Sullivan Rule, or 70% Rule, was put into place so that smaller schools, who compete against higher-division schools and beat equal-sized schools can enter the tournament.

He also said that the "Walker Instrument" is used to seed schools once they qualify for the tournament. For Turners Falls and the rest of western Mass, the seeds will be done on February 27.

The Walker Instrument takes many criteria into consideration, including record, strength of opponents, and head-to-head games. So Blue may not win ten games, and they will neither win nor be the runner-up in the Hampshire League, but come February 27, it's a whole new ball game.

Good Sportsmen/Fun Game: Hopkins 94 – TFHS 56

On Thursday, February 4, the Hopkins Golden Eagles continued their unbeaten streak by outshooting Powertown 94-56. But even though the game was one-sided, players, coaches and fans kept the mood positive and the atmosphere fun. During breaks, a jazz band played the theme to Pulp Fiction, and cheerleaders threw prizes into the bleachers.

And Turners never gave up. Trailing 31-9 after a quarter, they kept pace in the second, putting up 17 points to Hopkins' 20. With seconds left in the half and Gold clock-killing, trying for one last shot, leading 51-23, Jalen Sanders stole the ball, laid it in, was fouled and sunk the free throw.

The Eagles outscored Turners 21-8 in the third quarter, but in the fourth, Blue again kept pace, 22-22,



Nick Croteau drives the ball to the hoop during last Thursday's 2-point loss against Frontier.

much to the credit of Nick Croteau's hot hand.

Against an opponent like Hopkins, Turners needed to hit every shot, but many bounced in and out of the hoop, while Hopkins answered with 2 or 3 points on their end. Hopkins was so hot on the outside that 39 of their points came from 3-point land.

For Turners, Croteau arced in four 3-pointers and a field goal for 14 points. Josh Obochowski hit 5 from the floor and 1 from the line for 11 points, and Kyle Bergman also hit double figures by putting up 10.

Sanders hit 5 foul shots and two 2-pointers. Tionne Brown and Jeremy Wolfram each had 4 points, Anthony Peterson got 2 points and Colby Dobias and Ian Moriarty both hit foul shots.

see HOPES page A3

Gill Residents Summoned To Special Town Meeting

By REPORTER STAFF

Next Monday evening, February 22, Gill voters are invited to a special town meeting to consider articles that would finish outfitting a new highway department truck, deal with wetness in the Slate Library basement, shift money into sewer and stabilization funds, and fund "legal representation and technical assistance" for area towns that are dealing with a proposed natural gas pipeline.

Five articles are on the warrant for the meeting, which starts at 7 p.m. at town hall, following a selectboard meeting.

Article 1 would restore \$15,017.20 to the operating budget for the Riverside sewer system that was accidentally counted as free cash at the end of the last fiscal year. This move is unanimously endorsed by the finance committee and selectboard.

Both boards also back Article

see GILL page A6

Propane Train Derails in Montague

By JEFF SINGLETON



On Wednesday, these four tank cars sat on the track.

MONTAGUE CENTER – The derailment of several freight cars containing liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) between the Connecticut River and Greenfield Road last Monday has raised local concerns about hazardous materials and the protocols for dealing with accidents involving them.

The derailment, which occurred at approximately 1:50 p.m. according to Pan Am Railways spokeswoman Cynthia Scranio, occurred just on the Montague side of the Connecticut River. It involved eight cars on a 41-car train. Two of the eight LPG tank cars were empty, and all were eventually pulled back onto the tracks. All the derailed cars remained standing upright.

Scranio said there was no evidence of gas leakage, although an investigation of the incident has not been completed. She suggested that the cause could have been a broken rail, the road bed, or the bitter cold. "It could have been anything," she said.

The derailment was not the result of a high-speed train attempting to stop or navigate a curve. The accident occurred just east of the Deerfield rail yard, where trains are loaded, unloaded and sorted. Cars on

see TRAIN page A6

Selectboard Meeting Derails in Erving

By MIKE JACKSON

Tuesday night's Erving selectboard meeting had already dragged on for nearly three hours when all hell broke loose.

Up until then, the board was on a roll: approving a hire onto the police force; naming an owner's project manager for the planned park on the Usher lot; hearing updates on renovations at the town historical building and cost assessments for regional ambulance service; and even discussing the proposed gas pipeline in some depth with visiting selectmen from Northfield and Wendell.

But politics reared its ugly head around 9:20 p.m. Forced to appoint only one of his fellow selectboard members onto the screening committee that will narrow a range of candidates for the town administrator position down to three finalists, chair Bill Bembury announced he had chosen Jacob Smith.

This set the snubbed Art John-

son off on an angry, shouting tirade that developed into a bitter argument among the board's members. "That's how you cut me out of the last one!" Johnson began.

Over the next 30 minutes, he argued that he should have been appointed given his seniority on the board, alleged Smith was "tucked

under the wing" of Bembury, referred to the chair as the "king of Erving," described the board as "broken," insisted that he had a mandate from town voters to supervise each step of the hiring process, and threatened to attend the committee's executive session interviews.

see ERVING page A5



Before the storm: Jed Proujansky of Northfield's selectboard talks pipeline politics with Jacob Smith, Bill Bembury and Art Johnson of Erving's. Betsy Sicard takes notes.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Montague Broadband Effort Moves Forward, Despite Resignation of State Official

By JEFF SINGLETON

MONTAGUE – The Massachusetts Technology Collaborative (MTC) announced last Friday that Eric Nakajima, the director of the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI), had tendered his resignation effective immediately. MTC is the parent organization of the broadband institute, which is charged with distributing \$40 million in state bond funds to help finance broadband service to unserved and underserved communities in the state.

The announcement contributed to growing uncertainty about state broadband policy. Last fall, MBI rejected a broadband proposal from a coalition of towns in western Massachusetts called WiredWest. The action led to sharp public criticism of MBI by a number of local officials in our region, and raised questions about MBI's criteria for allocating

the \$40 million in state bond funds.

Two weeks ago, officials in the Baker administration requested a "pause" in MBI's process while they reviewed the financial viability of proposals for unserved communities and residents.

The announcement of Nakajima's resignation came four days after the Montague selectboard, acting on the advice of its local broadband committee, had sent a letter to MBI stating its support for a company named Matrix Design Group to provide broadband service to unserved residents in Montague. The statement of support was recommended by Nakajima at a meeting with the Montague committee on February 3.

Montague is not a member of the WiredWest coalition.

The only other provider to respond to the MBI bid, or "request for qualifications," to provide service to Montague was Comcast, Montague's

current cable provider. At their meetings with Nakajima and the selectboard, broadband committee members Rob Steinberg and Kevin Hart were sharply critical of the Comcast response to the RFQ.

Steinberg and Hart have stated that the Nakajima resignation will not affect the broadband committee's decision to move to negotiations with Matrix, which is also negotiating with the towns of Hardwick and Petersham. Matrix has completed a fiber broadband buildout in the town of Leverett, which owns the system and contracts with third parties for its operation.

The Montague committee announced that it will hold a public meeting at the Montague Center Fire Station on Tuesday, February 23 between 6 and 8 p.m. The meeting will include a presentation of the Matrix proposal, and a discussion of

see BROADBAND page A4

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MADELINE LAPORTE ILLUSTRATION

Letter to the Editors

Restored Plains Habitat May Sequester More Carbon

One thing that struck us, about twenty minutes into the Erving selectboard's Tuesday night shouting match, was that it was essentially a family argument behind closed doors.

According to MGL c. 30A, § 20(f), anyone is permitted to record an open meeting in Massachusetts, provided they notify the chair, who is supposed to inform attendees the meeting is being recorded.

Montague and Gill selectboard meetings are recorded for television, and the files are put online for anyone to review. Sometimes this makes for more political theater, but it also comes in handy with fact-checking, and holding officials accountable to their words.

Only municipal clerk Betsy Sicard, fire chief Philip Wonkka, our own managing editor, a reporter from the *Athol Daily News*, and selectboard member Jacob Smith's wife Debra Smith, who serves on the planning committee and as a library trustee, witnessed the conversation, and one of those five left while it was still in full swing.

If the aspirations of some Erving residents come to pass, these meetings too will soon be videotaped, broadcast and archived.

But for now, if any of Erving's roughly 1,800 other residents are suspicious that the power structure at town hall is doing things in their name and against their interests, they should get better involved, and better informed.

Art Johnson seems like a personable, funny, sharp and energetic guy, and we would be relieved to see him coming, first and foremost, if we were being attacked by a dog in the town of Erving.

But his sustained emotional outburst on Tuesday veered into paranoid territory, and could not have been the best way to carry forward whatever valid kernel of criticism he may have as to how his colleagues are conducting the business of the board.

If anything, it seemed to reassure onlookers that chair Bill Bembury made a wise choice by opting to place Smith, rather than him, on the screening committee for the town's next administrative coordinator – a body tasked with conducting high-stakes interviews with candidates, and deliberating to whittle the field down to three finalists.

Indeed, Bembury, who as the board's chair could have reined in the discussion at any point, seemed

more than content to let Johnson and Smith spar for the benefit of the scant handful of us in the room.

Anyone who has been impaneled on a jury knows that not everyone has developed the fine balance of honesty and tact, arguing and listening necessary for effective group decision-making.

Erving's town government may need mavericks, willing to speak truth to power and resist the lure of popularity. And maybe that's Johnson's lane to play.

But Tuesday night's meeting was a bad look for Art, as he oscillated wildly between allegations of conspiracy, grandiose implications that a popular uprising would oust his foes, and more mundane complaints that he felt personally disrespected.

If anyone is planning to run against him this spring, they missed their chance by not being in that room with a tape recorder.

And in the end, that could actually be a good thing. No one should be judged forever by their worst nights. Johnson clearly cares about his town, and should have a shot at re-election, to serve a full term, and to better learn two core skills of governance: working despite disagreement, and working despite disappointment.

The town is turning a major page. How exactly Bembury could be fixing the hiring process, as Johnson repeatedly implied, is unclear: An independent agency designed the position, advertised it, and ensured that only qualified candidates will go before the screening committee.

If Bembury and Smith have a shared reason to oppose a given finalist, they will not vote to hire him or her. If indeed they are of one mind, then Johnson could only have stood to benefit (or to defend the town's interests) by his appointment to the screening committee by swinging a vote of that committee to eliminate a given candidate.

Is there something else going on here that we're missing? What kind of qualified candidate would he so badly need to stop before the majority of the selectboard could vote to hire him or her?

Johnson's tantrum only makes sense if he saw Bembury's choice as a vote of no confidence in his skill in town governance. Sadly, all he really needed to do then to cast it into question was nod, smile, and turn to the next item on the agenda.

The concerns voiced by Don Ogden in his February 11 *Letter to the Editor* regarding the removal of trees from the Montague Plains failed to recognize that the Montague Plains are a rather unique pine barren habitat.

A pine barren/scrub oak ecosystem is usually found on acidic, sandy, low fertility outwash soils that were deposited by water action. Our Plains are a habitat that supports many unique species of insects, many types of birds, areas of wild blueberries, and especially, "fire pine" trees, that require occasional fires to make the seeds from their pine cones viable.

Over the course of thousands of years the ecosystem of the plains was sustained by nature as well as the first human inhabitants of the valley, by the use of fires that would burn through the low underbrush leaving some of the taller trees with little damage.

The quick-burning underbrush fires would kill back and/or blacken the scrub growth and deposit ash and charcoal onto the soil. These nutrients would then spur vigorous growth of many other plants like blueberry, scrub oak and seedlings of the fire pines.

Because the fires were quick and did not have a very dense fuel source, the heat from the fires did not penetrate deeply into the soil. This left the soil's living structure of insects, micro-organisms, molds and fungi more or less intact.

In recent decades, ideas of conservation and land management did not recognize the important role that natural fires play in ecosystems, especially important in a pine barren system, and the forests were allowed to grow and grow.

If such a forest continues to grow without the natural check and balance that fire provides, it will progress to a full-fledged climax forest that would completely dominate and

eliminate the unique pines and other species that characterize our Plains.

As an unintended consequence of the "no fire" policy, a huge amount of potential fuel has been building up in the Plains. If a wildfire did break out in the dry conditions that are normal in the summertime, it would burn with ferocious intensity, destroying all of the trees, the berries, the soil structure, and even human habitats like Lake Pleasant. All of the fire departments in the Valley combined would have little hope of stopping such a blaze.

Mr. Ogden has characterized the recent cutting operations in the Plains as "clear cutting". As a person who has spent a very great deal of time running, skiing, walking and marveling in the Plains for nearly 30 years, I can happily report that this clear-cutting characterization is not accurate.

The operation has left standing many taller trees, at intervals that are intended to mimic the natural pine barren ecosystem that had existed for thousands of years. The operation left a lot of small debris on the soil that is intended to break down quickly and be reabsorbed into new growth. The cutting has been done in a manner that has resulted in minimal soil compaction, and has not left many ruts or tracks in the ground.

The areas that have been cut under the program, and that have had a growing season or more since the operation, have generated a lot of low scrub oak growth and many tracts of blueberry and grasses that were previously shaded out by the bigger trees.

My unscientific observation is that the land is producing very abundant growth that probably represents a lot of carbon sequestration.

And, clearly, if a wildfire were to take place now, the amount of CO₂ released to the atmosphere would be significantly less than a similar event in the past would have re-

leased, and the damage to the ecosystem's ability to regenerate itself would be far less severe.

Mr. Ogden is correct in his concern about reckless clear-cutting of any forest land that chews up the landscape leaving desolation in its path. But responsible cutting in forests like the Montague Plains Habitat Restoration Project are important steps in maintaining a diverse ecosystem, and are part of effective actions to address the climate change crisis.

Mr. Ogden also notes that we have few personal options outside of tree planting to address climate change, but he has overlooked one simple action that we can all take to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

That action is to stop eating meat. By chewing up the flesh of other animals, people not only threaten their own health but they contribute to the release of much more CO₂ than if they ate a plant-based diet.

Paul Voiland
Montague Center

LAKE PLEASANT – The 40th annual Ice Off the Lake contest is waiting in the wings for its moment in the winter sun to shine.

The date range this year is from February 22, the earliest ice has been judged gone since the contest began in 1977, to April 19, the latest ice melt date in contest history. Pot-luck draw tickets are available at the Lake Pleasant Post Office.

Thus far, in keeping with the tradition of Spiritualists who founded Montague's smallest of five villages in the 1870s, two tickets have been sold to spirits of former crossed-over residents and one ticket to the spirit of a dead cat.

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by DON CLEGG

Wendell resident Mara Bright will lead a free two-part workshop on Sundays, February 21 and 28 from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Wendell Free Library on how to make **traditional American braided rugs**. Beginners and those who want to refresh their skills are welcome.

Participants will learn how to select and prepare materials, how to braid and how to stitch braids together to make an oval or circular rug.

Rug braiding is a simple process, relatively easy to master, and can lead to fairly quick and satisfying results. Basic tools will be provided. Participants should bring old woolen clothing or wool yardage that can be made into strips as well as sharp fabric scissors.

Mara Bright is a long-time rug braider who enjoys making beautiful and functional rugs out of recycled materials. This free program is funded in part by the Wendell Cultural Council and the Friends of the Wendell Library. Space is limited so please call the library at (978) 544-3559 to register.

The Montague broadband

advisory committee is hosting a public forum with Matrix Design Group, the designated vendor selected by the town's selectboard to provide high speed internet service to the unserved areas of town. Forum is Tuesday, February 23, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Montague Center Fire Station.

The forum's agenda includes a Matrix presentation from 6 to 6:45 p.m., a question and answer with Matrix until 7:15 p.m., and a public dialogue without the company for input and comment on the plan until 8 p.m. Please RSVP to lisa.enzer@gmail.com or call (413) 367-2658.

Senior Class at Baystate Franklin Medical Center will host a program, **"How to Put Your Doctor out of Business,"** on Tuesday, February 23, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in BFMC's main conference rooms. Guest speaker Seth Kupferschmid, MD, a primary care physician at BMP – Deerfield Adult Medicine, will lead an interactive discussion on how to seize control of your health care destiny.

While it's true that everyone needs a primary care provider to help monitor overall health, there are steps you can take to reduce the

need for frequent visits. Learn how to live healthier to reduce your risk or the severity of chronic conditions, like high blood pressure and diabetes; increase your overall wellness; and potentially reduce your reliance on medications.

Pre-registration is required; light refreshments will be served. To register, or for more information on joining Senior Class, call Baystate Health Link at (413) 773-2454 or 1 (800) 377-4325.

Greenfield High School Student Council invites all Franklin County high school students and their families to a **free prom fashion show** in the GHS Auditorium Thursday, February 25 at 7 p.m. Featured in the show will be GHS students modeling donated prom attire, gowns that will be given away to students in need.

Admission is free, but donations will be accepted to help defray the cost of prom for GHS students in need. Have a suit or gown to donate? Contact the Greenfield High School student council at ghsstudentcouncil@gmail.com, or call the high school at 772-1350.

Thursday, February 25 at 7:30 p.m., **Green Communities regional coordinator Jim Barry, will be in Wendell** to present information about the state's new solar loan program.

Barry will also explain how the Solarize program can help towns band together to get lower solar prices. The towns of Warwick, Northfield, Leyden, Wendell and Shutesbury have been exploring the Solarize program.

Sponsored by the Wendell En-

ergy Committee. For more info, call Nan at (978) 544-2741.

The **Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter** and **Mighty Clean Mutts** will be holding a nail trim clinic on Saturday February 27, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. This event is for dogs only and the cost is \$10 per dog. Nail Trims are on a first-come, first-served basis, and all dogs must be on leash.

100% of the proceeds from this event go directly to the Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter. Special Thanks to Megan of Mighty Clean Mutts for donating her time and expertise for this event. For more information, please contact the shelter at (413) 676-9182.

Members of the Business Professionals of America are collecting donations for **care boxes** at the Franklin County Technical School that will be packed and **given to members of the military** in March. Donation boxes will be located in the Programming and Web Design and the Business Technology Shops of FCTS. Donation deadline is February 29.

Please support our military by donating the following items: snacks (candy, cookies, nuts); flavor packets (kool-aid, crystal light); spicy condiments; reading, writing and drawing materials; batteries; and of course toiletries. Please note: no chocolate covered (it melts) or pork (for cultural reasons).

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

HOPES from page A1

Into the Second Season: TFHS 73 – Smith Academy 42

On Tuesday, February 9, the Indians defeated the Smith Falcons, and by doing so, qualified for the playoffs via the Sullivan Rule.

Turners held an 8-point lead at halftime, 36-28, but in the second half, they held the Falcons to just 14 total points while putting up 37 of their own.

Once again, Powertown had multiple players in double figures: Obochowski (22), Tyler Lavin (14), Brown (11), and Sanders (10).

Bergman added 9, Peterson 5, and Croteau Wolfram each contributed 2 points.

Aw, Hawks! (Apologies to Mark Twain.)

Frontier 54 – TFHS 52

On Thursday the 11th, the Frontier Red Hawks once again found a way to beat Turners Falls. And once again, Turners lost by just one basket.

Early in the game, it looked like Powertown might run away with it. Although leading by a point, with 2:55 left in the first quarter, the Tribe went on a 7-0 late-period sprint and led 17-9 at the end of the first.

They expanded the lead to 10 points, 21-11 with 4:53 left in the

second, but after that the Hawks pecked their way back into the game, going on their own 13-6 late-period run pulling to within 3 points, 27-24, at the half.

Frontier scored the first 2 buckets of the third, and the two teams saw-sawed back and forth for the rest of the quarter with the Hawks coming out on top, 38-37.

Steals, throw-aways, traveling calls and fouls dogged both teams in the fourth and they played to a stalemate, 52-all, with seconds left in regulation.

But the Hawks had the rock. As Frontier was going for the last shot, Jalen Sanders committed a clock-stop foul with only 10.8 seconds left. Coach Mullins called a timeout to try to freeze the shooter.

He sunk one freebee, but Red got the second-shot rebound, and Turners was forced to foul yet again.

Again the Hawks sunk one foul shot putting Red up by 2. Turners was unable to get the ball back and with 1.8 seconds left, Blue committed another desperation foul. Powertown was unable to chase down the ensuing rebound and the game ended with the Red Hawks ahead by a deuce – again.

Two of Turners players, Sanders (15) and Obochowski (14), accounted for more than half their points.

The other 23 were scored by

Bergman (9), Brown (8), Dobias (2), Lavin (2) and Wolfram (2).

Bad News / Good News: Pioneer 101 – TFHS 71

Well the bad news is, Powertown will not be able to get their revenge against Pioneer. Not this year, anyway.

The Panthers, like many of the Tribe's regular-season opponents, are in a higher division, and the two teams won't cross paths in the second season.

The good news? Turners put up 71 points against a very good team, and come playoff time, they'll have a new lease on life against DIV teams.

A wise coach once said, "You can't coach height." And Pioneer certainly had the height advantage over the Tribe: All ten of their players are over 6 feet tall.

You may not be able to coach height, but you can defend against taller players. Boxing out under the boards, smart passes to open men, and accurate shooting frequently offset against a taller team. And for the first 3 and a half minutes, Turners did just that, and led 9-5.

But then the fouls came, as Turners fought for rebounds and contested shots. The Panthers started hitting from the line and from 3-point land, and grabbing rebounds. By the end of the first quarter, Pioneer led

24-13.

Turners did their best to answer, but Pioneer was so proficient from the floor that they hit 14 three-pointers. Halfway through the fourth quarter, the question was, "Would they or wouldn't they score 100?"

Pioneer kept in most of their starters, and who could blame them? It's not often a high school team scores in triple digits.

Jalen Sanders tried his best to keep up, cracking in four 3-pointers of his own, pounding on the boards, moving inside and drawing fouls. His point total was an amazing 31, including 9 foul shots.

Obochowski was challenged in the paint but managed to score 15, often as the open man underneath.

Brown, using expert dribbling to keep the bigger kids out of his way, hit two 3-pointers and finished with 8. Croteau also hit a three and ended with 6. Bergman (5), Lavin (4), and Dobias also scored for Blue.

So the Turners Falls Basketball Indians will live to play another day. But who will they play in the second season? Nothing official from MIAA yet but according to MassLive, Hopkins is ranked #1, and Franklin Tech #2. Another team they played well against is Lee, ranked #5.

Next week: Player stats for season and career.



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EYE ON TOWN FINANCES

Part III: A Department Head Requests More Staff

By MICHAEL NAUGHTON

The by-laws of the Town of Montague state that the finance committee “shall... investigate the cost of maintenance and expenditures of the different departments of the Town.” What does that mean, in practice?

It does not mean that we spend much time reviewing expenditures during the current year. We do receive monthly reports showing total dollars received, and dollars spent, in the various categories, but we don’t tend to discuss those reports at our meetings, and we don’t review the warrants (lists of bills to be paid) that the treasurer requires before she will issue any checks. (Reviewing warrants is largely the job of the selectboard.)

Of course, town departments are not allowed to spend any more money than town meeting has appropriated for them. It’s the town accountant’s job to make sure that doesn’t happen, and our current accountant has what I think is a well-earned reputation for being thorough and meticulous.

If questions come up, they tend to involve how best to manage real-world situations within the limits of the approved budgets: if more is spent in one area, can it be balanced by spending less somewhere else? That sort of management is not one of the finance committee’s functions; that’s the job of the department head, along with (if necessary) the appropriate oversight board – again, usually the selectboard.

So instead, the finance committee focuses primarily on the upcoming fiscal year, and it does so



by examining the various departments’ budget requests. Most of the time, that means going through each budget, line by line, and raising questions if we see a request that seems out of line with past practice and/or our understanding of the department’s mission.

The examination typically happens between meetings, by members individually; the questions are sent to the chair, who passes them along to the appropriate departments, and then the answers are brought to our meetings.

Sometimes, we invite the department head to come talk with us – that’s typical for the larger departments. Other times, if we believe that the written answers are sufficient, we just go with them. The goal is to try to balance our need to gather information with a desire to not unduly burden already-busy town employees (and others) with one more meeting to attend.

Sometimes, though, there is more to it, and our meeting of February 17 provides an example.

Our agenda called for a discussion with the department of public works (DPW) superintendent and

the tree warden, an elected position whose incumbent happens to be a DPW employee. Several interested residents attended, and when the time came, they voiced their concern that tree removals have been outpacing tree replacements, especially in downtown Turners Falls, despite the fact that there is money designated for planting trees that remains unspent.

The residents noted they were following up on a discussion at the previous annual town meeting, when the issue of planting trees was raised and members seemed to support increased attention to this area.

Subsequent discussion established that the tree warden depends on help from other DPW employees for both tree removal and tree planting, and there seemed to be general agreement that staffing reductions at the DPW in recent years have led to the department’s being understaffed.

In other words, the situation is not the result of anyone’s not doing their job; it’s the result of not having enough resources for the job that needed doing.

As I mentioned in my last column, the DPW superintendent has asked for two additional grounds workers in next year’s budget, and he confirmed at our meeting that among their other duties, those people would be doing a significant amount of tree work. The residents in the audience made a strong plea for us to find a way to fund the superintendent’s request.

So here we seem to have a fairly clear-cut case: an examination of this area of the budget seems to make it clear that more money needs to be

spent to meet town meeting’s expectations and get the job done. But for the finance committee, our job has just begun, because at the moment there doesn’t seem to be any obvious source for this money.

Adding two new employees to the DPW will increase that budget, not just next year, but in years to come, and as I mentioned last week, the superintendent has also asked to add a third employee to provide increased capacity for building maintenance, which arguably is just as necessary as the others.

The total cost of adding all three employees, including benefits, is estimated to be almost \$150,000. For comparison, that’s a little more than half of the share of our additional expected revenues that we have allocated for operating expenses, and it’s about the same as the total cost of the implementation of the pay and classification study that happened a couple of years ago.

It may be necessary, but that’s a lot of money to add to the budget at one time. It will likely be easier if we can find some reductions in other areas, but those still need to be identified and discussed. More examination is definitely in our future!

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

BROADBAND from page A1

the process moving forward.

In announcing the meeting, the committee noted support for the Matrix option from both the Montague selectboard and state representative Steve Kulik. “With Rep. Kulik’s strong support we’re now on the move,” the group said. “Now’s the chance for the public to voice their concerns.”

One of those concerns will no doubt be state policy, which appears to be in flux. MBI’s policy statement, for example, is ambiguous about the role of the state agency as opposed to the role of local committees in determining a local option. It states that the MBI will “assist in identifying and/or qualifying an operator(s) and service provider, as necessary...”

The policy statement is quite clear that MBI will “analyze the sustainability of all proposed operating plans and provide guidance, support and advice to promote the sustainability of local and regional broadband services.”

Thus at the meeting on February 3, Nakajima closely questioned the Montague representatives about whether Matrix could realistically

sign up 1,000 residences, the threshold he claimed Matrix needed in the three towns of Montague, Petersham and Hardwick to make their proposals viable.

At the Montague selectboard meeting the following week, Matrix representative Chris Lynch was asked if the company was confident it could sign up sufficient subscribers given the initial requirement for a \$500 payment to buy into the system.

In both cases, the Montague broadband representatives and Lynch have said their research shows that the “take rate” would make the plan viable. They also cited Matrix’s success in providing broadband to rural communities in Vermont as evidence of the Montague proposal’s viability.

Officials in the Baker administration have expressed similar concerns. According to Rob Steinberg, the administration has asked for a “pause” in the MBI process because it wants to look at whether local communities have sufficient “free cash” to finance their share of the broadband buildouts. However, free cash is normally defined as balances left at the end of the fiscal year which are then

certified by the state for local expenditure. It is not at all clear that towns would rely on this revenue source for a broadband build-out.

To further add to the confusion, the MBI policy statement suggests that towns will initially fund its share of the build-out through property tax increases through a Proposition 2.5 debt exclusion, rather than with free cash.

It is not clear whether the concerns expressed by the Governor even apply to Montague. The town’s broadband committee has stated that, in the end, property taxpayers will not fund any of the proposed project beyond some legal costs. They argue that the combination of state bond funds and local assessments on broadband users will be sufficient to finance service to the unserved.

Another issue that may concern both the state and local residents is the future administration of the new system. Broadband committee members have stated that Matrix’s proposal to sell the network to Montague after twenty years for a nominal sum was a major point in its favor. Comcast would retain ownership of its cable network.

However, at the February 8 meeting of the selectboard, town planner Walter Ramsey tried to make sure the board was aware of the new responsibilities town staff might be taking on in administering a broadband network. The broadband committee’s response was that administration would probably be the responsibility of the co-called “Municipal Light Plant” (MLP), a committee charged with oversight of the proposed system.

State law requires that town adoption of the broadband committee’s proposal requires two consecutive town meeting votes in favor of an MLP. The first such vote occurred last October, and the second is expected to take place at the annual town meeting in May.

The broadband committee hopes that the complexities and uncertainties of state broadband policy will be reduced by then. But one thing is certain: whatever happens will be without the assistance of Eric Nakajima, who is leaving MBI for “a new opportunity” according to the MTI press release.



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ERVING from page A1

"I'll ask legal if anybody can stop me from going to it anyways," he said.

Much of the dispute revolved around last winter's process of hiring an interim senior / community center director. That screening committee only sent two finalists before the selectboard, and one withdrew — a process, and outcome, that Johnson was outspokenly critical of at the time.

After the surprise resignation of administrative coordinator Tom Sharp last summer, Erving opted to hire a team from UMass-Boston's Collins Center for Management to oversee the process of his replacement, in an effort to avoid another controversy. The Center's consultant, Richard Kobayashi, last week culled 17 applicants to nine that made the "basic qualifications".

Complicating the reopened dispute over the senior / community center hire was Johnson's feeling that a family member had been qualified for that position.

"There was zero respect then," he said. "Think about the common courtesy in the town — you have a newly elected selectman; his wife applies for the job, and she doesn't even get an interview?"

"That sounds like you're looking for preferential treatment," Smith replied.

"You can say it any way. I call it respect," answered Johnson.

Johnson abstained from the vote to hire Paula Better for the then-interim position, as Bembury and former selectboard member Margaret Sullivan voted in her favor. On Tuesday, Johnson compared the two hiring processes by focusing on Bembury's roles in disregarding his objections last year and passing him over for the screening committee this year.

"If we both want it, I've been on the board longer, I should get it," Johnson, a selectman since October 2014, argued. (Smith was elected last May.) "That's the way all of them work, okay? I've got a number of selectman friends, and that's the way it works."

Bembury eventually wedged his way in to the extended back-and-forth between Smith and Johnson to criticize Johnson's professionalism and work ethic on the board, and claim he had "alienate[d]" groups around the library and senior center.

"You don't do your work. You come here unprepared," Bembury said.

"You don't even know what you're talking about! That's your opinion," Johnson shot back. "When have I ever sat here and been lost on something?"

Johnson, who faces reelection this spring, expressed sympathy with town citizens' distrust of the "clique" at the town hall. "It's not what you know — it's who you know," he complained.

"I'm so tired of when everything

like this takes place, it never makes the paper, it never makes the minutes," he added later.

Smith promised that if the screening committee did not send three finalists to the full selectboard, he would join Johnson in refusing to approve any hire. He objected to what he felt was Johnson's implication that he would further an agenda of Bembury's on the screening committee.

Besides Smith, the committee will be comprised of fire chief Philip Wonkka, water department supervisor Pete Sanders, Beth Lux from the personnel relations review board, and assistant assessor and planning board chair Jacquelyn Boyden.

Visiting Dignitaries

The selectboard was visited by Jed Proujansky and Dan Keller, selectmen from Northfield and Wendell, representing the Municipal Coalition Against the Pipeline (MCAP).

Proujansky presented at length about Kinder Morgan's planned Northeast Energy Direct gas pipeline, which would pass through a corner of Erving. At last spring's annual meeting, Erving voters indicated their opposition to the project, in an article that also prohibits the selectboard from taking action on the issue without a town meeting vote.

"I will say quite clearly, Erving Paper sees benefit to the pipeline, and that, you recognize, is a valuable employer to your town and to the region," said Proujansky. "I don't deny that for a moment — [but] I wonder if, in fact, they will receive near the benefits that have been promised."

The MCAP is a coordinating and information-sharing body with no budget of its own, he explained. The group opposes both the planned project and a moratorium on new gas customers placed by local distribution company Berkshire Gas.

Montague, an MCAP member town, has been granted intervenor status before the state Department of Public Utilities over Berkshire's contracts with Kinder Morgan, which will grant it access to documents that are not publicly available.

Proujansky discussed the risks of emergency gas blowouts at compressor stations, such as the one Kinder Morgan plans to build in his town. He said the gas released during a blowout, which could pass over Erving, contains volatile organic compounds, which "settle on the ground" and pose potential health risks, a concern echoed by Cyd Scott of the Erving board of health, who was also in attendance.

Proujansky also described rarer scenarios in which gas transmission pipelines explode, leaving a "half-mile blast radius" with few expected survivors, and said that in his estimation, the company intended to profit from gas destined not for New England but for export to the global market via Canada.

"I encourage you as a selectboard to join the coalition," he said,

later adding that Erving could send non-member delegates as observers, and might also "consider funding at least a token payment" to help defray Montague's expenses.

Keller said he largely agreed with Proujansky, and added a "footnote" from the perspective of Wendell. The pipeline's proposed route does not pass through that town, but Keller recounted the history of the construction demolition landfill which was overbuilt and judged to be at risk of collapse into the Millers River.

In the 1990s, Keller said, the state Department of Environmental Protection intervened to push the landfill further from the river and build protective berms. The mass eventually stabilized, he said, but the department has warned that an earthquake could destabilize it. Keller pointed out that the pipeline construction would take place a mile away, and involve blasting rock and drilling horizontally under the Millers, which he said is of concern to Wendell.

The board and audience discussed the consequences of the 2015 town meeting article, which Scott said were "unintended" and Proujansky characterized as "a dilemma."

A general consensus emerged that it could be fixed by a rewritten article, but that it should go again before annual town meeting rather than a special town meeting on March 7, so as to avoid the appearance of a subversion of democratic process.

Ambulance Costs

Fire chief Philip Wonkka was on hand to discuss ambulance service to the eastern part of town, which is contracted from Orange.

Orange's assessment for FY'17 would rise slightly to \$25.74 for the half, or 900, of Erving's residents who live nearest Orange, for an estimate of \$23,166, which is \$1,881 higher than FY'16. Wonkka described this as "pretty good insurance" and much better than the town could do setting up its own service.

In FY'18, however, the assessment would jump significantly to \$41.39 per person, because a new assessment for capital improvements (i.e. ambulance purchases) would kick in that year.

Wonkka said he would be meeting on March 3 with MedCare to discuss the possibility of that company extending their coverage, which includes Erving, to Erving Center, though he cautioned that contracting with ambulances out of Greenfield could add "at least 10 minutes" to existing response times.

"If we're in a cardiac situation, it's definitely a long time," he said of potential 20-minute waits. Wonkka said that in his opinion, even \$41.39 per person might be a good deal for the town.

Pearl B. Care Building

The board heard an update from Cyd Scott and Eric Duffy, co-chairs of the town historical commission,



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about upgrades the commission is making to the Pearl B. Care building, which it plans to use to showcase the commission's collections.

After installing a heating system, Scott said, inspection of the building's second floor in preparation for installing insulation revealed that two support poles had been removed at some point and replaced with an inventive alternative, and that the building would be unlikely to bear the added load of insulation.

Scott said Gary Burnett thought he remembered the poles had been removed in the 1950s or '60s when the building was a fire station, in order to install a pool table.

This poses a challenge for the inexpensive renovation of the building. The board suggested the building could be closed in the winter, but nobody present loved that idea. With the building inspector's blessing, the original poles may be able to be replaced, which would allow the roughly \$9,000 insulation job to go forward.

"You guys are going to love upstairs," said Duffy. "People are going to freak when they see it."

Other Business

The board approved the warrant, with very minor changes, for the special town meeting on March 7, and decided it should be moved to the senior / community center, a larger facility than town hall and one with padded chairs.

It approved the hire of Adam Picos of Swampscott as a police officer, effective June 14.

It signed an amendment to the town's 42-year-old "temporary" contract with Erving Industries pertaining to the access road and railroad crossing.

It signed the warrant for the March 1 primary elections.

It approved a home business license for Robert Emberley of Emberley Painting. Emberley recently moved from Northfield to Erving.

It accepted a bid from Tighe & Bond to act as the town's owner's project manager for the project to develop the Usher Mill lot into a riverfront park. The company was the only one to put in a bid, for \$40,000, out of 17 originally interested.




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It discussed details about signage, electricity, and borrowing for that park project.

It accepted an emergency management performance grant for \$2,460, covering two years, which Wonkka said would probably be used to fund the town's reverse 911 system.


It also gave Wonkka the go-ahead to put an old fire truck back out to bid, after negotiations broke down with a previous bidder who did not want to accept the truck as is.



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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Mass Audubon to Donate Another Phelps Family Parcel to Town

By JOSH HEINEMANN

Bob Wilbur, from the Massachusetts Audubon Society, came early for his scheduled meeting with the Wendell selectboard on February 10, and waited patiently while a discussion of broadband issues went beyond its scheduled time.

Wilbur began with an introduction to Mass Audubon, which is not a chapter of the National Audubon Society, but is independent and was the first independent state organization. He said he regretted the passing of Wendell resident Mason Phelps, whom he described as a pillar of land conservation.

Phelps helped prevent both the state's effort to move Route 2 into the Wendell State Forest and a proposed diversion of the Connecticut River into Quabbin reservoir. Wilbur said he gave a tribute to Phelps to a full house at the Harvard Forest museum, and he may give another tribute in Wendell.

Wilbur said that the group is ready to renew the campership program that allows two Wendell youth to attend the Wildwood camp in Rindge, NH for just a nominal fee – camperships worth \$1,300 each. Mass Audubon will also renew its educational outreach at the Swift River School.

Selectboard chair Christine Heard was working at the school when the group ran its earlier educational outreach, and she said it was exciting and was organized so that it meshed well with classroom work without creating any disruption. The program was enjoyed by the students who participated.

Heard described the news as “wonderful,” and selectboard member Jeoffrey Pooser said an announcement should go in the town newsletter and the Swift River Current. The first camperships were awarded to the winners of an essay contest, and extended by an anonymous donor, and Wilbur said he would bring in brochures about Wildwood camp for the next meeting.

Wilbur also said that Mason Phelps had one more piece of property that he was passing on to Mass Audubon, and that the group is willing to pass that on to the town. The property is comprised of 13.5 land-locked acres off Old Egypt Road.

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich said she would contact the assessors to find the abutters so they can be informed. This lot should not be confused with the “Phelps lots” that have been donated to the town so that money can be raised for education from wood taken off them.

Broadband Updates

The discussion that delayed the Mass Audubon presentation was a continuation of issues in the ongoing effort to get full internet service to Wendell residents at their homes. Rob Heller and Ray DiDonato from Wendell's broadband committee attended the meeting.

The Baker administration's decision to temporarily suspend the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) funding while the state looks at its whole financial picture (see article, page A1) actually changes

very little on the ground, because very little has been happening on the ground.

Heller said that WiredWest and MBI have been negotiating, and little has changed except that WiredWest has voted to allow its member towns' municipal lighting plants to attend its meetings.

Selectboard member Dan Keller thanked Heller, as Wendell's representative to WiredWest, for the long uphill effort. (For ten years, Heller said.)

The issues with WiredWest MBI has brought up have not changed: ownership of the physical assets, which would allow WiredWest rather than the individual towns that have borrowed the money to own the assets, and use them as collateral in further borrowing; the business plan, which some feel is overly optimistic; and the operating agreement, which does not allow towns to withdraw for the first ten years.

Heller said the operating agreement is not set in stone, and that some MBI assumptions are out of date.

DiDonato said that it could maybe use a leadership change, and that the broadband committee feels the original estimate of \$49 a month for basic service is not viable.

Wendell has options other than WiredWest, but the broadband committee does not yet think it is time to withdraw from the effort.

Heller brought up a wrinkle. He and Alistair MacMartin went around town and did their own pole survey, a first step in the physical process. They found fewer poles in town than the MBI survey – fewer than 1,000, not counting driveway poles. The MBI survey calculated the pole count by projecting from the miles of road in town.

As he has before, Pooser questioned whether Wendell could join with neighboring towns that have a strong interest in broadband – New Salem, Shutesbury, and possibly Warwick – and develop a regional system together. MBI has been meeting for years and years, he said, and is holding “a serious amount of change” for construction of a network, but they have done nothing but meet and meet. (For ten years, Heller said.)

The Wendell town meeting authorized enough money to build the entire “last mile” network with even a little bit of contingency, and while the MBI's money is significant, time is also money, and in Pooser's opinion the time they will spend before they release any money may not justify the wait.

Heard said she also is frustrated with the slow process, and with the polarization between WiredWest and MBI, with the towns caught in the middle. She felt the town should not check out of anything, and that Wendell's broadband committee is full of intelligent, hardworking people who should be allowed to continue their work considering options and making their recommendations.

Ambulance Costs

The Orange ambulance service

has held two meetings for other towns that use the service, including Wendell, because Orange will have to increase the fees charged to those towns. The service faces reduced income from routine transports, increased costs, and new state certification mandates.

Assessments for FY'17 will follow a formula similar to that used in FY'16, with a slight increase. FY'18 will have an enterprise fund for the ambulance, separated from the Orange budget. The towns will continue to meet so all parties involved can decide on a fair formula for assessing the service's cost.

At the last meeting the Warwick representative said that town has considered opting out of the service, but there is no other reasonable option for Wendell. Though angry emails have circulated in Wendell based on incomplete information, the consensus of the Wendell selectboard is that the Orange ambulance is doing what it must to stay viable.

Other Business

On January 28, one day after Wendell's previous selectboard meeting, Verizon installed a new backup battery in its junction box. Telephone service now should not be interrupted when electric service is interrupted.

Kate Nolan has suggested that the senior center should be included in the picture rotation that includes the four new Bob Ellis paintings that are coming to the town. Nolan found another Bob Ellis painting in the town hall, this one of Tom and Jerry, a pair of oxen that were owned by Jack Ellis and pastured near the center of town. This painting fell off its hanger and its frame is damaged. Board members agreed to have the frame repaired or replaced.

The Friends of the Wendell Library have donated \$8,000 to pay for keeping the library open longer through the winter.

Keller reported that Montague has been granted full intervenor status with the Massachusetts DPU in the town's effort to have input on the proposed Kinder Morgan natural gas pipeline that would pass through seven Franklin county towns. Wendell is part of the Municipal Coalition Against the Pipeline, and Montague, having already spent \$10,000 for legal fees, is asking other towns for help with expenses. That request will be passed on to the finance committee.

Facilities engineer Jim Slavas recommended installing a separate gas tank for the new kitchen at the town hall to avoid compromising the gas supply in the tanks that feed the emergency generators. With the extra tank, the town hall can have heat, water, and cooking facilities in the event of townwide loss of electricity. Each tank costs \$90 a year to rent, and a tank owned by one company will not be filled by another.

Aldrich agreed to look into the cost of buying a tank, which would allow the town to find the best price for propane.

TRAIN from page A1

the Montague side of the river are generally at a standstill or moving slowly, often both forward and reverse.

Liquified petroleum gas, more commonly known as propane or butane, is a hazardous substance that can escape through cracks or leaks forming a cloud. Safety concerns have generally focused on leaks in cylinders used for home heating and cooking. However, Pan Am notified the state of the incident.

According to Scranio, Pan Am has a “voluntary” agreement with the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) to report incidents in a timely manner. MEMA then contacts local fire departments and emergency management officials. Scranio volunteered that Pan Am reported Monday's incident to the state “two hours too late.”

The new chief of the Montague Center fire department, David Hansen, said firefighter Gary Dion was notified of the incident by Shelburne dispatch, because he was the firefighter on duty at the time.

He said Dion “went down there, walked down, and surveyed the scene,” and found that all the cars were still upright.

According to Dion, the dispatcher first told him the derailment had occurred “two miles” east of the bridge, so it took some time for his crew to locate the tank cars, which were nearly at the river.

“If [the derailment] had happened in the rail yard, you never would have heard about it,” according to Hansen, who confirmed that the railroad transports a variety of hazardous materials of concern to local officials.

Scranio noted that the Federal Railroad Authority has recently approved the shipment of liquified natural gas (LNG) by rail, although Pan Am so far has entered into no LNG contracts. Importing more LNG is one alternative to a natural gas pipeline through the region supported by pipeline critics.

According to a report on a proposed propane railroad storage and transshipment facility in Grafton, Massachusetts by Isaiah Thompson of the New England Center for In-

vestigative Reporting,

“Around the country, in towns as small as Grafton and as large as Philadelphia and as Chicago, communities are beginning to ask the same question as the domestic energy boom makes the expansion of railway infrastructure – to host trains carrying crude oil, propane, and ethanol – a profitable venture indeed....

“While the majority of reportable accidents involving hazardous materials occur while trains are in transit, releases of toxic materials that occurred during the loading and unloading of trains make up about 8 percent of the nearly 500 ‘serious’ incidents reported to the federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Commission since 2010.”

Monday's Pan Am derailment took place along the original route of the Kinder Morgan natural gas pipeline proposed to run through Franklin County. That route, and the crossing under the Connecticut River, was moved several hundred feet to the north in order to skirt state-protected farmland on the Montague side. The route, like the railroad, would still travel across the Montague Plains and through the aquifer that is a source for the Turners Falls water supply. The pipeline company has proposed horizontal drilling to avoid both the aquifer and the railroad.

At a meeting of the Turners Falls water commission last summer, one board member stated that he was more concerned about the hazards posed to the water supply by the railroad than the pipeline. Town pipeline liaison Ariel Elan, on the other hand, warned Montague town meeting last spring of the dangers of a pipeline explosion. Elan lives less than one hundred yards from the railroad.

An 1855 map in the collection compiled by David Allen (“Early Maps of Montague MA, 1715-1914”) shows a railroad at the present location of Pan Am's labeled “Vermont and Mass Rail Road”. This section of the railroad was constructed between 1848 and 1850. It is unknown to the *Reporter* whether it faced much local opposition.



GILL from page A1

2, which would spend \$18,000 more toward the project of fixing up a new used dump truck for the Highway Department. Last year's annual town meeting allocated \$50,000 to the project, but that won't be enough to make the 2009 Sterling winter-ready with a plow and chains.

Article 3 would spend \$4,000 on another project that has gone above its projected budget. The annual town meeting approved \$13,141 for water and mold remediation in the library's basement, but the work started late and will cost more.

Article 4 is the big one, most likely to turn out voters. Gill is a part of the Municipal Coalition Against the Pipeline (MCAP), which opposes the natural gas transmission line planned by Kinder Morgan, which would pass through the adjacent towns of Montague, Erving and Northfield.

Montague, a Berkshire Gas ratepayer, has been granted status as an intervenor in a hearing on that company's contract with the pipeline. That town is in a position to

discover facts about the project that may be of general interest to other area towns, and it is passing the hat to help defray the cost of its intervention.

Article 4 asks voters to put \$5,000 – or some other amount – into a working fund that Gill's selectboard could use for this and other efforts. Neither the selectboard nor finance committee has taken a vote on the issue.

Article 5 would put \$28,000, minus whatever might be allocated by Article 4, into a general stabilization fund. If all items pass as is, there would still be about \$76,000 of wiggle room under the town's levy limit, but the finance committee and selectboard don't intend to max out the tax rate next year.

The selectboard will be meeting at 5:30 that evening, and a tax classification hearing with the assessors will begin at 5:45. If voters at town meeting decide to reject any of the articles or modify their sums, a new tax classification hearing will need to be held at a later date before the town's rate is sent to the state.



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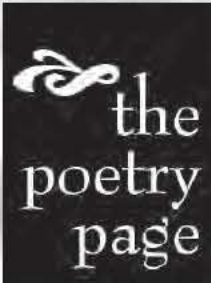


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the poetry page

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

– William Carlos Williams

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

February’s Featured Poet:

Jess Mynes

Elevate Me Later

for Guillermo Para

Towering pines martyr
me, my teachers. Close to
uncertain days. Impalpable
grains of sand. A tomb
scandalizing my prenatal
life. Stars as perpetual
recreation. Immaculate waves
sacred language. My bones’
indecipherable sentences.
I am only salt water.
A small dinosaur. An obstacle
to endless evening in another
galaxy extending some giant
enginery. Dark corridors day
and night to the beat
of this whip. To ripen
or fuse. Lonely theology
of what occupies. What curses
made less ridiculous. House
with shells, with small
sailboats watering flowers,
pelted by stones. Thirst
of a blackbird piercing
crippled prophecies’ excavation.
Memory’s monologue assaulting
liberties. Gnawing vertigo
loosening my grip. Swells
tracing the torch. I’m not
here, at times a savage,
at times a mirror.
Already scarred, a shining
curve ahead.

Echo Park

The implications of one poem
leading to another. The fiction of
self-made. A giant block.

Red has a powerful blackness.
It isn’t heroic.
My walls, my mirror.

I talk to the sky. Stories
on the verge, stretched to logos.
It’s barely what replaces

backwards. Something or other
you can’t say. Old school scale.
Barbs between musical

remarks. Rubber boats sinking.
Off the kneecap. Forks you
pass on. Snails in caves. Each try

in pieces as it leads to truths.
Nothing more than ice.
Silence intended to cancel

each previous. A new thing.
Will you then be that
rising? Part lit, the seals are

what last. The view loosening.
An object of no less. On the upper parts
of the stem. Tragedy mistaken

for lashes. My failing heaven.
Bodies unutterable before
the gold colored rash. At last masking

little cretins for want of
cellular twining. Wreck sequestered.
These few harms impede troupes

layered between spoons.
All the best pretending
mentioned that imagination is our

indulgence. Yet the wet edge
of your mouth. Our place reveals
its spring. I feel skewered

by lesser dictionaries. In the leap
we want some loss
already ours. The function

of a choice. The One is erect, the Other
is prostate. Split hairs sharpen repose.
Speaking the ease that can anchor.

Little of which matters, but at once
it leads by steps or wedges
to the names of open spaces.

Ennio Morricone

I see you fear me
when I’m not along
on the same Odyssey.
But we can’t both
be captains, can we?
Western soundtrack envy.
I am lost w/out
the same pen.
Origins infatuation.
*Even the best epoxy
is just a hard puddle.*
Farm Journal asks,
“Dairy blood in your future?”
while a man eyes
his sorghum in a furtive,
far reaching way.
This house is so quiet
minus lamb and rice.
The branch outside.
The branch inside.
Why are we so concerned
with robbing each other
of our compliments?
Will the tenderness ever
return? Dust sticks
to my fingers when
I eat candy.

In Perpetuity

for Bill Hewitt

I climb? Downhill
and the sky is
slanted. Another basement
I don’t regret. Very real
things deepen the feeling.
Strange spots on my
abdomen, seemingly in character.
Our very specific demands,
To Love Somebody.
The Jesus in the bathroom
is a Vaseline lens
Kenny Loggins. I do
a good job hydrating
when you’re around.
Pen in hand after harvesting
cabbage, singular acrid *Brassica*
smell. *Zulu Dynamite*
on the nightstand.
To Do list everlasting.
Cross seam on your T-shirt:
two and four seam grip
distinctions. Scratch of
leaves like someone
doing crosswords. Sadness
is better with additives.
Rick Barry and the Dr.
ABA round-ball defection.
Everyone should shoot
free throws underhanded.

To the Marchers in Orange

The point in the song
where everything dissolves.
In the midst, the gate where
the movie punctures. Sneezing
at the rest. To walk into cloud

view in an overcast day. Why should
anyone? I am a witness to whomever
has never shown pause. Oration
washed out by a past driven
to invention. The dark goes before

us, an invitation. We can linger
longer if we like, even carry it
with us forever. The decimal urges
lined with sand attempting to span
a gulf. The gate, if fraudulent, chinning

at the open door. This extent or other
uses, older, trapped in minds raising
the sky. The words are tricks but are
all we have. Time in a wooden
hat. The clothes on the line.

The line lives a life of its own.
To say so bends me. The line travels
a journey, resting on the surface,
a boundary. The intersection
that sets me clear. Seductive subtlety

when the world’s order is laughing.
Inner and outer meet
and blink eyes. This one
in particular humanized. Freedom from
precarious dignity. Audible

from time to time. A mouthful
awaiting. So long held onto, the sky
is filled with marbles. One nearing
a twin. Very close steps added to spoil
regret. Surrogate horizon grown a hump.

This Much

We retreat to occupy the shape.
Single definitions exist
in the mind alone. This morning

in some way. The poverty of life

is a book. What does it hold? The subject
is all of it buttressed by a last
melody youth recites. What was

once desired, that second movement,

gone downstream, inside a system
not yet clear, the translation retelling
the story in a different tongue. Memory

pinned to its living embodiment. All of it

at long last. As if, such rashness,
as if fallen leaves were without
reason. If there’s anything now, no vows

or books, as far to occupy

the melody, tongue tied
and sealed in the life
of one. Revealed, telling the story

of all of it, what one desires.

Jess Mynes is a poet and the editor of *Fewer and Further Press*. He lives in Wendell and works as cataloguer and reference librarian. His ninth book of poems is entitled *One Anthem* (2015). *The Montague Reporter* is pleased to feature his poetry this month.

Just a reminder: March is coming, bearing winds and the beginning of Spring. Let yourselves be inspired to send us a poem for the Poetry Page to mark the change of season.

Patricia Pruitt, MR Poetry Editor

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THOM BURDEN PHOTO

Turners Falls' Ryan Lenois battles for control of the puck during last Saturday's game at Greenfield.

Hockey: Turners Wins!

By MATT ROBINSON

GREENFIELD – On Saturday February 13, with the wind chill well below zero outside, the Turners Falls Hockey Indians warmed up the Collins/Moylan Ice Arena by defeating Greenfield 5-2.

It was Powertown's first win of the season, and came with only four games left. Back in December, the team lost to Greenfield 8-1, and last month, Green scored with 16 seconds left to steal the second matchup 3-2.

In Saturday's match, the Tribe scored in the

first period only to see that lead evaporate in the second. But in the final period, Blue outscored the Green Wave 4-1, and skated to a 5-2 victory.

Goalie Brandon Bryant had a 94% save rate, stopping 31 of 33 shots on goal. On the offensive side of the rink, Turners made 47 shots on goal.

Cullen Wozniak chalked up 3 points, with a goal and an assist. Doug Hanieski scored a goal and gave an assist.

Mason Whiteman had 2 assists, and Bryce Jordan, Eathan Lafleur, and Ryan Lenois all scored goals.

TFHS Competes in Winter Swim Meet

By MATT ROBINSON

SPRINGFIELD – On February 13, the Turners Falls boys and girls swim teams competed in the MIAA Western Massachusetts postseason tournament held at Springfield College.

The Turners Falls Swimming Indians (Ed Reipold, Riley Palmer, Cameron Bradley, and James Fritz) completed the 200-yard medley relay in 2:04.35. In the 200-yard freestyle relay, Bradley, Nick Taylor, Palmer and Fritz improved their time to 1:49.65.

Fritz swam the 50-yard freestyle in 24.86 and the 100-yard backstroke in 1:06.19. In the 100-yard butterfly, Bradley had a time of 1:06.22, and Palmer 1:07.34.

The Lady Indians (Melissa Hersey, Olivia Whittier, Jade Tyler and Mackenzie Phillips) finished the 200-yard medley relay in 2:15.14. In the 200-yard freestyle relay, Allison Wheeler, Whittier, Tyler and Phillips had a time of 1:57.92.

Tyler completed the 200-yard individual medley in 2:32.87 and the 500-yard freestyle in 6:02.04. Phillips finished the 50-yard freestyle in 28.00, and the 100-yard freestyle in 1:01.07.

In the 100-yard backstroke, Whittier had a time of 1:20.61.

The girls, who were compet-

ing against some very large schools, including Northampton, Longmeadow and Minnechaug, placed 16th in the 200-yard freestyle relay, out of 25 teams.

Dave Hoitt contributed additional reporting.



KELLY LIIMATAINEN PHOTO

Olivia Whittier competes in the 100-yard breaststroke during the 2016 West Girls Swimming and Diving tournament held at the Art Linkletter Natatorium, Springfield College.

Help for Those Living With Chronic Illnesses

If you are living with one or more chronic health conditions, the Healthy Living Program at Franklin County Home Care can help.

Starting in March, the program will offer an ongoing workshop series known as "My Life, My Health" at the South County Senior Center. The first workshop will take place at 67 North Main Street in South Deerfield from 9:30 a.m. to noon on Tuesday, March 1.

To register for the workshop series, or to learn more about the Healthy Living Program at FCHCC, please contact Marcus Chiaretto at (413) 773-5555 x 2304 or at mchiaretto@fchcc.org.

Individuals with any type of ongoing health issue such as diabetes, arthritis, osteoporosis, heart disease or COPD will have the opportunity to gain the skills and the confidence needed to manage their chronic health condition.

"My Life, My Health" is an evidence-based curriculum that has been researched and proven to have positive results for participants.

The workshop series is six weeks long. Participants meet once a week for two and a half hours.

Workshops are led by volunteers, one or both of whom are peers with a chronic health condition.

The foundation of the workshop series is creating weekly "action plans" designed to help participants achieve their health goals. Workshops are highly supportive, informative, social and fun. Caregivers and family members are welcome to attend.

Participants are encouraged to attend all six sessions of the workshop series, as this has been shown to improve health outcomes.

For more information about how Franklin County Home Care can provide you with the support you need, call (413) 773-5555 or (978) 544-2259, or visit us online at www.fchcc.org.

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FROM OUR CORRESPONDENTS IN FLORIDA

Running Out of Wishes At Disney World

By PETE WACKERNAGEL

FLORIDA – The jawbone of Valerie Bienefeld, the ex-step aunt of my road-trip partner Julia, dropped nearly to the ground when I explained that I, a mostly well-adjusted 30-year-old farmer/barista, had never been to Disney World. “Your parents didn’t take you?” she asked, in the concerned tone of voice that people use when suddenly forced into comforting total strangers, like on the bus.

I didn’t know it yet, but if I asked this same question today, if I were a more righteous and confrontational person, I would have responded that in fact I would *not* take my own future children to Disney World.

Despite this awkward accusation of parental abuse, it was Magic Moment #1. Val handed over the passes. She was retired career Disney, and had just received yesterday the only two Park Hopper passes that she was entitled to every year, and we were the incredibly lucky beneficiaries.

After conversing for the amount of time one is expected to spend with an un-well ex-step relative, we sped away from the highway strip of fancy chain stores and toward the park.

The world inside the land owned by the Disney Corporation was noticeably different – we passed through a grand gate that stretched over the six-lane divided highway and suddenly, instead of the ubiquitous Cracker Barrel and pro-life billboards, the road was bordered in the thick vegetation of the Floridian



The author, at rest.

forest, or, as all state parks here proclaim, “The Real Florida.”

I was surprised at first, as I could only see trees, swamp, and open water. I found it oddly quiet and peaceful until, five minutes in, I suddenly could see it, rising on the horizon as we sped forward at 60 m.p.h.

Just as the Rocky Mountains emerge slowly out of the Great Plains, the fantastic and incongruous skyline of the Animal Kingdom grew out of the palmettos and live oaks of the sub-tropical forest.

The professionals recommend not seeing more than one park per day. Julia and I did three in a stamina-testing 14 hours. But before being allowed to cross to the other side, the fun side, in an allegorical heaven-on-earth way, one must choose to give up all personal freedom.

Even making one’s own way to

see **WISHES** page B4

Pat Shearer: Looking Back on Fifty Years as a 4-H Leader

By JOE KWIECINSKI

NORTHFIELD – In just four months, Pat Shearer will resign as leader of her local 4-H club, the Northfield Meadow Maids and Men. It will be an auspicious time for Shearer, who has devoted 50 years of service to more than 500 children.

A group of some 200 4-H participants, sponsors, and families turned out to pay tribute to Shearer and others’ devotion – Pat calls it “fun” – at the Franklin County 4-H Awards Banquet at Greenfield Community College on January 22.

The 4-H is a program that’s been a staple of American life for more than a century. The organization focuses on youth and the transmission of skill areas, such as community service, sewing, public speaking, record keeping, agriculture, and home economics.

Helping a total of more than 6 million youngsters, this organization is the United States’ largest positive youth development and youth mentoring association. Usually a member can start in 4-H as a “clover bud” at the age of 6 and remain in the program until 18. One can become a junior leader typically at the ages of 15 through 18, based upon experience.

Pat Shearer’s father was a 4-H leader when she was a child. He taught about electricity and all aspects of farming to his club in Bernardston. Since Pat lived on the family farm, she opted to do home economics, joining a clothing and sewing club. She continued in the Bernardston group until she was 18.

“In 1966,” said Shearer, “at the age of 22, I started my own 4-H club here in Northfield, the Northfield Meadow Maids. Twelve years ago, we added boys and changed our name. We’ve had a dozen boys or so in that time.”

The club’s primary emphasis is on sewing skills and community service. Among other concentra-



Shearer’s daughter, Ali Wahlstrom, accompanies her at the podium during the January 22 awards banquet at Greenfield Community College.

tions have been cooking, canning, food and nutrition, life skills, record keeping, and “learning to feel good about your accomplishments.”

Pat is renowned in 4-H circles for her masterly teaching skills. “I’m so delighted when I think of the variety of things the kids have learned to sew, like wedding gowns, tuxedos, hammocks. If there’s anything that an adult wants to teach a child, they can find it in the 4-H program. There’s so much out there.”

This year’s Northfield Meadow Maids and Men range from ages 8 to 17. The club meets weekly during the school year.

Shearer is enthusiastic about this season’s members including a first-year girl who’s in the fifth grade. “She’s done a cover for a book,” said Pat, “along with an Advent calendar. Right now she’s sewing a pillowcase.”

Four main benefits stand out in Shearer’s mind as central to the 4-H experience: acquisition of practical, necessary skills; learning how to help others (fellow members, your town, Franklin County, the world); information on how to be healthy; and a sense of community within

your local club.

Pat’s daughter, Ali Wahlstrom of Northfield, delivered a stirring testimonial to her mother at the county’s 4-H awards banquet in January. She emphasized her mother’s patience, compassion, and ability to speak to young people in a kind, understanding way.

“4-H was always fun for me,” Wahlstrom told the *Montague Reporter*. “All of my babysitters were 4-H’ers. I grew up in a house filled with club members. Then I became one, and then a junior leader. Later, I was an assistant leader of my mother’s Northfield Meadow Maids and Men.

“Mom’s an amazing role model. She’s always attempting to live up to her lofty ideals. I’m very lucky to have her as a mother and a friend.”

Ali notes Pat is well remembered by many of her onetime 4-H crew. “I was at an art show at Cape Cod,” said Wahlstrom, “and a woman asked me if I was Pat Shearer’s daughter. She told me, ‘Forty years ago, your mother taught me my sewing skills.’ Most of Pat’s ‘kids’ are probably still sewing today.”

SEED Workshop to Discuss Diversity this Saturday

By ANNE HARDING

TURNERS FALLS – Saturday’s workshop at the Brick House offers participants a unique opportunity for self reflection and guided dialogue on the issue of Race. Don Wright of Turners Falls will lead the discussion as up to 15 participants share their experiences within a circle. Maintaining respect and honesty as they share their stories about race, they will create a multi-cultural and respectful dialogue during the afternoon, to be followed by a dinner celebration.

Wright is a Franklin County seminar leader for the SEED Project, which stands for “Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity”. He will be facilitating the workshop at the Brick House along with Emmy Howe, co-director of the National SEED Project, from 1 to 4 p.m.

Wright is a relative newcomer to the organization. He received his training in the summer of 2015 in Wisconsin, at the invitation of Howe, who has been a SEED facilitator for almost 30 years. Howe had heard of Wright through his work with the Recover Project, the Opiate Taskforce, and a homegrown community workshop that he co-



Don Wright

ordinates. Much of his grassroots work is not really part of any formal group. Wright has also attended meetings with the town of Montague on the topic of diversity workshops for town employees.

Wright says he feels a need to spring into action when he meets someone in a homeless or hungry situation, in addition to his work with people struggling with addiction. He finds housing, furniture and food for those in need whenever he can, and people are learning to call him if they have surplus furniture in

the hopes that he can match that surplus with a person in need.

Not long after he returned to western Massachusetts from his SEED training, he began to host his own group meetings at the Recover Project, where he currently has 18 active members meeting monthly. Those members average 35 years and older. Most have previous diversity training, some are long-time activists, and all of them are trying to understand and recognize experiences of personal privilege and oppression. Through open discussions, they seek to effect change in themselves, their local communities and beyond. Wright uses resource materials from the SEED Project to create conversations where everyone has a voice.

At this Saturday’s workshop, Wright hopes to initiate a respectful discussion and conversation about the social ramifications of diversity, and how it might look in our communities.

Participants may recognize perhaps previously unobserved inequalities that may exist in the daily lives of people who come from more, or less, privileged places than they do.

see **SEED** pg B6



THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

Going South, Part 3

can remove our sandals. The beach has a few humans, but is mostly populated by seabirds. The tide is coming in to the delight of surfers and sandpipers. Both play tag with the water, which is quite cold to the feet. We admire royal terns, oyster catchers and the black skimmer, a bold white and black bird with a striking black and red beak.

It is bliss to sit in the warm sand which is colored with minerals, adding a reddish brown layer to the natural tan. We soak and let our thoughts wander to the in and out of the waves. It is incredibly peaceful; even the gulls have lost their raucous voices.

After a lunch break, we walk on the beach once more, and then leave the pleasant breeze to the shore, returning to the heavy, humid inland air.

Wednesday, February 3. We are still in a warm, if not hot and humid, pattern. We drive to an outdoor barbecue whose sauce won a national prize last year. It is still delicious! Then, a ride down into the Lake George Conservation Area, almost twelve thousand acres of forest and swampland surrounding the forty thousand acre lake.

We find the lake at Nine Mile Point, a former Air Force bombing practice range, still marked on the water as a no-boat area. Now it is a

see **GARDENERS** pg B3

By LESLIE BROWN

FLORIDA – *Monday, February 1.* The weather forecast promises a sunny day, with temperatures in the high 70’s to low 80’s. We are of the same mind: beach day!

We travel small county roads through fields of beef cattle, much of it Angus, truck farms and ferneries. Right now, the agricultural fields are full of cabbage, beet and kale. Things are growing so rapidly that harvesting has begun. We can imagine a farmer planting as many as three different crops in a season. The ferneries are a large wholesale industry here: ornamentals for floral bouquets.

Out here in the sun, the temperature is hovering in the eighties, but as we near the intracoastal waterway the temperature falls into the mid-seventies. The traffic has picked up now and the highway broadens as we pass the ramps to Interstate 95, climb a soaring bridge over the canal, and arrive at Flagler Beach. We are lucky and nab a free parking spot right on the water and just a stone’s throw from the fishing pier.

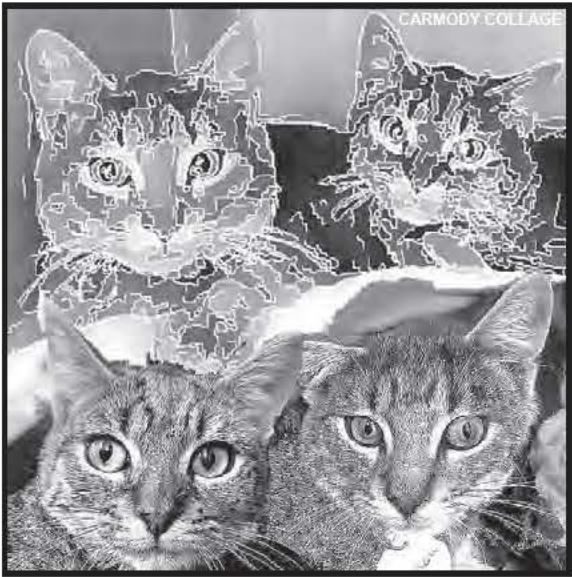
We pour on the sunscreen, don our baseball caps and walk a few steps down to the sand where we

Pets of the Week

Our names are Gizelle and Ettleman and we are four-month-old kittens looking for a home together.

We were found in a barn and have had little contact with humans. We will need time, love, and patience

to befriend humans. We may bond with one or two humans in the house. We love the company of each other and will more than likely enjoy the company of other cats and maybe even dogs.



“GIZELLE & ETTLEMAN”

Senior Center Activities FEBRUARY 22 to 26

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.

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1 p.m. Knitting Circle
Tuesday 2/23
9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga
Wednesday 2/24
9 a.m. Veterans' Outreach
10:30 a.m. BP & Nurse Consult
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday 2/25
9 a.m. Tai Chi
1 p.m. Cards & Games
Friday 2/26
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 congregational meals.

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

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

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

Monday 2/22
9 a.m. Tai Chi
10 a.m. HBBO Exercise
Tuesday 2/23
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
10 a.m. Stretching & Balance
12:30 p.m. Crafty Seniors
Wednesday 2/24
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Chair Yoga
Noon Bingo, Snacks & Laughs
Thursday 2/25
8:45 Aerobics
10 a.m. Healthy Bones
12:30 p.m. Creative Coloring
Friday 2/26 Market Trip (sign up)
9 a.m. Quilting Workshop
9:30 a.m. Bowling
11:30 a.m. Pizza Salad & Dessert
12:30 p.m. Painting Class/Workshop

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

MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

This Week on MCTV

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN\

We saw some record-breaking cold this Valentine's weekend in Turners Falls, but the winter rolls on. Check out the following videos now available for download and streaming:

Gill selectboard meeting, February 8: Residents of Gill, take notice! This week your local selectboard meeting is available for viewing on MCTV.

GMRSD meeting, February 9: Last week's agenda entailed a public hearing on the budget, as well as student activity accounts, a preschool report, stabilization fund and minimum wage recommendation.

Carlos W. Anderson, "New Wine

for New Skins": Carlos W. Anderson is the founder and president of New Genesis Foundation Inc. and Life School Ministry who uses spoken, written, and song-sung words to enliven his Christian spiritual teachings. This sermon was filmed at Symphony Space in Manhattan, NY in January 2016.

Black History Month: Vienna Carroll & Keith Johnston, February 10: Did you catch this week's Black roots folk music performance at Great Falls Harvest restaurant? Now you can catch it again! This show, blending the guitar talents of Keith Johnston and the musical & storytelling talents of Vienna Carroll, is a presentation of African American spirituals, work songs

and prison songs and their relationships with the music of contemporary artists such as Biggie Smalls and Pharrell Williams.

And don't forget to check out the live broadcasts for the Montague selectboard meeting live at 7 p.m. on Monday, February 22 and the Finance committee meeting at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, February 24.

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 us at (413) 863-9200, infomontaguetelevision@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!

A Slug for A Slug

TURNERS FALLS – There is one less set of watchful eyes on Avenue A. The large green slug that has stood guard above the doorway of Nina's Nook was deprived of its eyeballs earlier this week.

The slug with its solar powered eyes was on duty for about three years without incident, serving as unofficial monitor of the Little Free Library, and official mascot for

the spineless circus of slugs inside Nina's Nook. Now someone neatly detached the eyes from their stalks and made away with them.

Nook owner Nina Rossi promises a couple of slugs of their own choosing from her store inventory, to anyone who provides information leading to the return of the custom-made orbs.



THE HEALTHY GEEZER

Heart Attacks: Part III



By FRED CICETTI

[In the last column, I wrote about the causes of heart attacks. In this last installment of a three-part series, we'll discuss treatments for heart-attack victims.]

Because of better care, most heart-attack victims survive today. There are improved tests, drugs and surgery to defend against heart attack.

Tests

An electrocardiogram (ECG) records the heart's electrical activity. This test is done because injured heart muscle generates abnormal impulses. If the ECG picks up abnormalities, physicians will know that a patient has had a heart attack or that one may be in progress.

If you have a heart attack, there are heart enzymes that leak slowly into your blood. So, physicians will draw blood to test for the enzymes.

A chest X-ray is done to evaluate the size and shape of your heart and

its blood vessels.

A nuclear scan enables doctors to locate places where blood is not flowing properly to the heart. A radioactive material is injected into your bloodstream. Then cameras detect the radioactive material as it flows through your heart and lungs.

An echocardiogram can tell if a part of the heart has been damaged by a heart attack. Sound waves are bounced off your heart and converted to images.

An angiogram employs dye injected into your arteries. The dye makes the arteries visible to X-rays, which illustrate blockages.

A stress test on a treadmill or stationary bike while hooked up to an ECG machine measures how your heart and arteries react when you exert yourself.

Drugs

Drugs that help dissolve clots blocking blood to your heart are lifesavers. These drugs are known as thrombolytics or "clot-busters." The earlier you are given a clot-buster, the better.

A "superaspirin" is given with a clot-buster. The superaspirin prevents new clots from forming.

Nitroglycerin is used to open arteries, improving blood flow to and from your heart.

Regular aspirin keeps blood

moving through constricted arteries. Therefore, paramedics may give aspirin when they respond to an emergency to treat a heart-attack victim. Aspirin reduces mortality from heart attacks.

Beta blockers, which lower your pulse rate and blood pressure, can reduce damage to the heart.

Drugs to lower cholesterol may be helpful if given soon after a heart attack begins.

If you are in great pain, you may be given morphine.

Surgery

Angioplasty opens blocked coronary arteries. In this procedure, a catheter is run through an artery to the blockage. The catheter, which is a long thin tube, has a balloon tip that is inflated to open the blockage. In most cases, a mesh tube (stent) is also placed inside the artery to hold it open.

Coronary artery bypass surgery is not usually done when a heart attack occurs but it may be recommended after recovery. During the operation, surgeons take a segment of a healthy blood vessel from another part of the body and make a detour around the blocked part of the coronary artery.

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

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GARDENERS from page B1

fishing pier with a small park for camping. The area is still filled with an eerie silence unbroken by song-birds, frogs or even a cormorant cackle. It is beautiful, though because of the expanse of the water and the height of the pines. The geckos scurry, the only sign of habitation.

Thursday, February 4. The heavy weather still holds. We travel about forty miles to DeLeon Springs, famous for its underground spring which registers 72 degrees year round, and for the pancake restaurant which occupies the former sugar mill. There are more swimmers in the spring fed pool than last year, and we wish we had brought our suits. Still, we have just eaten too many hearty pancakes cooked on our own griddle in the center of a wooden picnic table. We settle for a walk in the woods and swamp. This too is curtailed by the announcement of a band of strong thunderstorms expected in the area in about an hour.

We hightail it back to the cabin and sure enough, after a bit we have monsoon rains and wind. However, by late afternoon, the rain has moved off and there is only a fine drizzle. In the early dusk we have the pleasure of watching a pair of bluebirds collect the unlucky worms flooded out of their tunnels, and experience a visit from a small owl. This burrowing owl entertains us for over a half an hour, swooping to the ground to grasp a gecko or an insect or some such tasty morsel we can't see, and then perching on a fence post to dine.

We see him again briefly the next

night, but after a cool front pushes through, he disappears as mysteriously as he arrived.

This small owl is unique in living in ground burrows abandoned by a mammal like a ground squirrel or prairie dog. They eat small rodents, grasshoppers and insects.

Friday, February 5. Snow at home and a bit chilly and windy here, but even if the day is in the low fifties, at least we have sun and are grateful for it!

It's early spring in north Florida. Small apple trees bear delicate pink buds which are starting to open. The haw or hawthorne is showing off small red leaves and looks like our soft maples in the spring. The visiting song birds are more noisy, and we suspect our pair of bluebirds is nesting.

Wednesday, February 10. Our time at the Georgetown cabin is winding down. Tomorrow evening we will share a cookout with our neighbors from Ohio and the whole park will have a potluck Friday night.

Saturday I will catch the Amtrak for a ride of some three hundred miles to Fort Lauderdale for a brief visit with my mother-in-law. When I return on Tuesday, we will drive south to Ocala where we will spend our last two weeks in a cabin at Mill Dam. It's been a wonderful break from winter, but it's starting to feel like a long time away from home.

We don't always look forward to changes. It's far too easy to settle down in one spot sedentarily. But it's time to change gears and move on. And then, we al-



LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was February 16, 2006: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Special Wendell Town Meeting

At their February 8 meeting, the Wendell selectboard signed the warrant for a February 23 special town meeting. There will be five articles on the warrant, four of which would transfer a total of \$245,000 from the stabilization fund to the public drinking water supply account, the town office construction account, the library construction account, and the septic system construction account.

Later, the board signed a letter to state representative Steve Kulik requesting that the legislature restore the \$148,000 reduction the state declared for Payment in Lieu of Taxes for state-owned land within Wendell's borders. The reduction comes at an especially difficult time for the town, with all the capital improvements in progress around the center.

Montague seeks Million in CDBG Funds

The town will apply for \$1 million in FY'07 federal community development block grant (CDBG) funds to improve wheelchair accessible curb cuts and cross-walks along Avenue A in Turners Falls, and to generate loan funds for low and moderate-income homeowners to rehabilitate their houses in Montague.

The town, as the lead community, will be jointly applying for the grant funds with Ashfield, which is also seeking housing rehab funds.

This year Montague's CDBG

grant was utilized for design work for access improvements on Avenue A crosswalks, and for the \$320,000 redesign of Peskeomskut Park. In the upcoming grant application, two social service programs in town, the Montague Catholic School Ministries and the Brick House, will seek funding for family literacy and dropout prevention programs, respectively.

Community Center Planned

The town of Montague is considering finding a new home for the Carnegie library, the Gill-Montague senior center, and the Montague parks and recreation department – all under one roof. After months of meetings between department heads and town officials, an article will appear on the March 23 special town meeting seeking funds for a feasibility study to explore the possibility of building a community center to house the three municipal services in a location downtown.

As of now, the one site under consideration, according to town officials familiar with the plan, is the paved area to the southeast of town hall. In order to make the footprint for the building big enough to comfortably house all three departments, the current garages used by the police department, and a nearby metal storage shed, would all have to be demolished first. Therefore, a community center at that location is hinged on first relocating the police department.

Discussion about the police station sharing a safety complex with the Turners Falls fire department at the intersection of Turnpike and Turners Falls Road are ongoing.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Visiting Teens Explore Unsecured Death Trap On Power Street Owned By Jeanne Golrick

Monday, 2/8

6:46 a.m. Alarm at TFHS. Set off by teacher who did not receive the message that school was cancelled today.

11:14 a.m. Caller reports that there are several syringes on the ground near the handicapped parking spaces at Unity Park.

Tuesday, 2/9

3:42 p.m. Caller spoke to Chief Dodge directly regarding unshoveled sidewalks near Park Street and Unity Street. Caller's daughter fell today on way up hill from bus stop due to sidewalks not being cleared. Officer attempted to locate resident on Park Street; negative contact. Town by-law paperwork delivered in hand to supervisor on Central Street; they are going to notify those in charge of snow removal.

8:34 p.m. Caller advises that an employee at Third Street Laundry stated that a male party was acting out and talking about hurting people. Officer provided courtesy transport to male party.

Wednesday, 2/10

7:32 a.m. Caller reporting hit and run accident involving his vehicle overnight in the alley behind Fourth Street. Caller advises that he has a witness with him that saw who was driving the other vehicle. Report taken.

8:11 a.m. Officer contacted by Food City store manager regarding two bad checks that were passed recently. Summons issued.

1:50 p.m. Three calls requesting assistance for a male party who appears to be in distress at Third Street and Avenue A. MedCare advised. Courtesy transport provided for one party; parties advised of options.

2:54 p.m. Unattended tractor trailer unit blocking traffic at Canal Road and Canal Street. Several subjects in road directing traffic with a loose dog. Officer on scene advises traffic is clearing out.

3:14 p.m. Caller requesting to speak with an officer about a road rage incident/verbal exchange that took place on the Canal Street bridge during the traffic backup. Parties are separated. Other party continued over the hill into Greenfield. Referred to an officer.

9:15 p.m. Caller who refused to give name/number advising there was a person walking in the middle of Turners Falls Road in Greenfield today wearing a big white fluffy coat. Stated every time she drove by there today, something strange was happening. Greenfield PD advised.

Thursday, 2/11

4:09 a.m. 911 caller reporting that there is someone in

her apartment; she heard someone walking around and a male voice. Upon questioning, caller stated that it may have been her live-in boyfriend. Caller told to secure herself in bedroom. When asked why she called 911 if she thought it was her boyfriend (who resides there and has a key), caller disconnected the line. Upon callback, caller disconnected again. Continued to call back to have caller open door for police; no answer. Officer on scene advising contact made with caller. Officers searched apartment; no one inside except for caller. Doors secured. No sign of forced entry. Caller showed signs of intoxication. Officers clear.

6:15 a.m. Party from Randall Wood Drive into lobby to report that a political campaign sign on his lawn was defaced overnight; requesting to speak to officer. Officer advised party of options.

11:17 a.m. Report of 2 teenagers inside the Railroad Salvage building. Subjects advised they are new to the area. Same moved along and advised of the consequences of being in that area.

11:50 a.m. Report from Sunderland Road of a solicitor going door to door asking for donations for wounded female soldiers and their families. Subject was driving a white pickup truck with what appeared to be a refrigerated compartment in the back; on the side door were decals for the website "meatsaver.com" and the company name "New England Beef." Last seen heading northbound on Route 47. Officer checked area to town line; unable to locate.

2:35 p.m. Chief Dodge received an email from a resident reporting speeders on Millers Falls Road in the area of the 20 m.p.h. zone. E-mailer advised the primary offenders that he has observed have been school-aged drivers during the morning hours; estimated some of the drivers are traveling 40 to 50 m.p.h. Chief Dodge advised he is reaching out to

the day shift to follow up on this issue.

2:36 p.m. Caller reports that a party is lying on the sidewalk in front of the bus stop at Avenue A and Third Street; appears to be highly intoxicated. Officers checked area; subject gone on arrival.

2:48 p.m. Caller from the Five Eyed Fox reports that a party is screaming and crying on the porch and refusing to leave. Officer requesting MedCare; advising party is highly intoxicated and unable to stand, even with assistance.

5:15 p.m. Shelburne Control requesting that an available officer check an area of East Main Street for a party whose vehicle was found in Leverett in "an awkward spot." Officer checking area. Copied over radio that Leverett PD found male party hiking in area.

Friday, 2/12

10:55 a.m. Report from Second Street of a suspicious vehicle that has driving up and down the block 8-9 times and parked in front of different houses each time. Officer clear; female was scratching lottery tickets. Each time she circled the block, she got more tickets and parked to scratch them. No problems, besides that one.

Saturday, 2/13

9:03 a.m. Caller from Third Street requesting assistance with someone who is in an apartment that is supposed to be vacant; tenant was recently evicted, and caller is not sure if the person in the apartment is the tenant. Responding officer advising that caller had not given proper notice for the eviction. Tenants would not open the door. Parties advised of options.

12:36 p.m. Caller from Wrightson Avenue requesting to speak with an officer about footprints that lead across her property to her bathroom window. Caller is not sure how old the tracks are but believes they appear within the last few days. Officer responded and spoke with caller; requesting overnight shift do ex-

tra patrols in the area.

5:31 p.m. Report of snow drifts causing icy conditions near Fosters Road and Gunn Road. MassDOT contacted and en route.

6:15 p.m. Caller from Third Street reports that her mother, the building manager, is trying to clean out an apartment and that a green Chevy truck is blocking the alley. Caller also referred to a party or parties who may still be in the apartment. Officers spoke to involved parties. Same issues as previous call; appears to be an improper eviction. Parties advised of options.

Sunday, 2/14

3:35 a.m. Caller requesting options in regards to two friends who never showed for dinner meeting in Amherst last night at 7:30. Officer advises unable to locate one party's vehicle. Caller advised; no further action needed.

7:36 a.m. Caller reporting he is stuck on South Ferry Road in a snowdrift. Officer advised; requesting DPW be contacted. DPW will have someone en route. Caller will be contacting AAA for a winch. Officer checked on party; he will wait for DPW to show up and should be able to get out.

4:33 p.m. Caller reporting possible past break-in to vacant residence on High Street. Caller came up today to check on oil, etc., and found that 3 windows upstairs were open and 1 was broken. Windows had all been closed and locked prior to winter. Responding officer requesting TFFD to location for a burst pipe; water is leaking in rather quickly and there is an inch of water in the basement.

9:53 p.m. Caller advising that two men are behaving belligerently in the area of Third and L Streets. Caller believes parties were "kicked out" of a bar for same. While walking down Third Street, the men reportedly smashed a bottle in the street and were yelling and "threatening" the people from the bar. Area checked; parties gone on arrival.

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WISHES from page B1

the entry gate is discouraged – an annoyingly cute Disney golf cart pulls many passenger cars of vacationers to the gates.

On our way through the vast parking lot, we passed a spider-like security tower. It could lower itself to the ground or rise to twenty feet, and reminded me of something I would have seen in the march I participated in during Occupy Oakland.

Arriving at this Ellis Island of fantasyland, one's bag is searched, and ID card and fingerprints scanned. While one must get arrested for the federal government to take one's prints, at Disney, it is a hidden fee of admission. The only dissimilarity I noticed to international terminal airport security was in the speed in which people are processed, and the smiles worn by Disney Security.

One of the main themes I saw throughout Disney is Progress. It's happening in two very different ways. One is the story they tell, like the Carousel of Progress's history of the 20th century, or the kitschy futurism of EPCOT Center and Tomorrowland.

The other is in the high-tech social control and surveillance exemplified by the biometric technology that many guests don't think twice about.

On the surface, everyone can enjoy the humor in the datedness of the Buckminster Fuller aesthetic, while not realizing that while in the park they've handed over their rights of privacy, choice, and movement to the Magic Kingdom. I think Walt Disney believed that in Disney World, the park-goer must give up his or her right to choose, in exchange for the right to be entertained.

But being dimly aware of this deal with

the devil did not spoil it, because I don't think that I realized what Entertainment was until my visit here: how books, movies, the Franklin County Fair, having great friends, Christmas ages 2-11 – maybe even sex – are totally boring compared to Disney World.

It's easy to forget how truly constrained you are in the park when you realize that the reason you think you're maybe not a whole person, and maybe the post-college ennui that you never quite got over, is probably because you've never been to Disney World.

At Disney World, one accepts the communion of entertainment only as an observer. In "It's Tough to be A Bug," I sat and was buffeted with air and sprayed with acid – actually water – as the insects tried to crush the humans.

In many boats I sat and observed animatronic pirates, ducks, ghosts, etcetera, sing and dance.

Even at the Swiss Family Robinson Treehouse, where the point is to explore a series of tree houses connected by rope bridges in an enormous fake banyan tree, the path is completely linear: there are no choices; no exploring can occur.

Basically, at Disney World you can choose to either eat or ride, in which case you sit down, a bar locks over your legs preventing movement, and your senses are stimulated.

I think that it's this feeling of imprisonment that caused Julia and I to begin running. Or possibly it was the high sugar dose that, in addition to giving us headaches, pulsed crazy nervous energy into our legs.

Regardless, we started running: at full speed, through crowds, between mothers and children, basically the way we'd seen people



JULIA ROSE GOLOMB PHOTO

Running.

driving at rush hour on I-95 in Jacksonville the day before. Only occasionally would a Cast Member (Disney employee) tell me to walk, but they did not look into my eyes to say it. Speed was the only choice we were given, so we chose fast.

When one walks into the America part of the World's Fair portion of EPCOT, there are quotes from three people on the wall: Walt Disney, Ayn Rand, and Charles Lindbergh. Disney built his own world; Rand wrote books promoting heroic self-interested capitalism without mentioning privilege; and Lindbergh was publicly outspoken in his racist beliefs and Nazi sympathizing. These three are the philosophers behind the story that Disney World is telling each new generation.

Disney is fixated on wishes: Aladdin gets wishes; Peter Pan's story begins on a wish; the fireworks show is called Wishes; the 90-pound Tinkerbell who soars overhead from Cinderella's Castle to the Astro Orbiter is referred to as "Wishes Tink." Disney offers these wishes as a solution to our problems.

The problem is that wishes are not action. If one considers wanting to stay a night in Cinderella's Castle a wish – the suite there cannot be reserved – then wishes only work for beneficiaries of the Make-A-Wish Foundation or celebrities.

I had an incredible time at Disney World. Its huge scale, the acute detail of everything constructed, the minimization of advertising, and the lack of tackiness all contributed to creating a truly mesmerizing, consuming world in which I really did not think about life outside, in the default world.

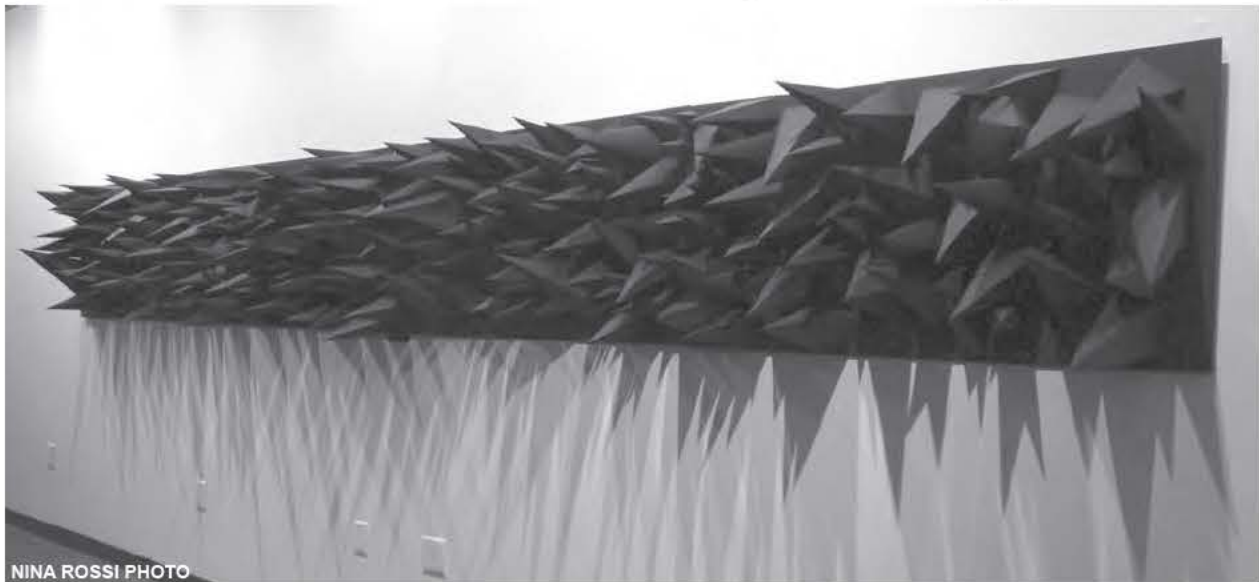
But I do not see entertainment as the highest expression of free time. I believe that Disney postulates the idea that "I'm entertained, therefore I am," but that does not work for me. Right now I am seeking near-death-style adventure, and true adventure is the opposite of tyrannical entertainment.

Maybe it was this feeling of captivity that Justin Bieber felt when he partied so hard in the Cinderella Suite that he was banned from Disney for life. It was certainly the feeling that urged us to speed helter-skelter through the park, over the lagoon, and through the world's largest parking lot back to our car, in the Mulan section of the Heroes Lot.

I think that I will take back my original statement. I would bring my future children to Disney World – after a thorough reading of Howard Zinn.



Groundless Wayfinding



NINA ROSSI PHOTO

On view at Greenfield Community College until February 23 is an exhibit by Turners Falls artist Fajfir Adamites called Groundless Wayfinding. The piece shown here, "Dead Reckoning is Subject to Cumulative Errors," was created with paper donated by PaperLogic, a Southworth Company that is the last operating paper mill in Turners Falls.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Railroad Crossing Guard Came Down Late

Wednesday, 1/27 8:05 a.m. Disabled vehicle on West Main Street in Erving Center. Not a hazard. Thursday, 1/28 10:30 p.m. Assisted Gill PD with breaking & entering on Mountain Road in Gill. Saturday, 1/30 9:18 a.m. Assisted on scene of medical emergency at convenience store on Route 2. 10 a.m. Disabled motor coach in convenience store parking lot. Assisted same. Sunday, 1/31 11:10 a.m. Assisted on scene of medical emergency on North Street. Monday, 2/1 2:50 p.m. Disabled vehicle on Route 2 at Forest Street. Not a hazard.	Wednesday, 2/3 6:40 a.m. Report of motor vehicle hitting a dog at Route 2 and Mountain Road. Unable to locate dog. 12:55 p.m. Assisted on scene of medical emergency on Pleasant Street. 5:45 p.m. Tree blocking northbound lane of Northfield Road (Route 63). Same removed. 6 p.m. Assisted on scene of medical emergency on North Street. 6:48 p.m. Report of wire down on Ridge Road. Advised Verizon Wire. Thursday, 2/4 10:15 a.m. Report of lines down on Ridge Road. Advised Comcast Wire. Friday, 2/5 7:05 a.m. Took report of one-car crash on Northfield Road. 7:40 a.m. Fire alarm on	Church Street. Handled by Erving FD. 7:55 a.m. Motor vehicle off Mountain Road at cemetery. Same made own arrangements for tow. 9:50 a.m. Suspicious vehicle reported at Old State Road. Checked on same. Fine. Monday, 2/8 4:15 p.m. Alarm at Rail Yard restaurant, Erving Center. Assisted FD on scene. 4:45 p.m. Took report of one-car crash on Old State Road. 9:30 p.m. Report of two suspicious vehicle parked in front of French King Entertainment Center. Same moved along. Tuesday, 2/9 10:45 a.m. Assisted on scene of medical emergency on Lillians Way. Wednesday, 2/10	6:40 a.m. Motor vehicle off road on North Street. Same pulled out, no damage. 9:30 a.m. Report that railroad crossing on Moore Street came down as train crossed. NECR advised, and crossing number given. 10:33 a.m. Assisted on scene of medical emergency on Pratt Street. 12:10 p.m. Report of suspicious person on Prospect Street. Checked same. Friday, 2/12 3 p.m. Assisted on scene of medical emergency on the French King Highway. Saturday, 2/13 6:28 p.m. Criminal complaint issued to [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended registration.
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WENDELL LIBRARY NEWS

"The Incredible Adventures Of Donna and Alia"

WENDELL – The Wendell Free Library is prepared for large crowds at the debut of "The Incredible Adventures of Donna and Alia" on Friday and Saturday, February 26 and 27 at 7 p.m. The film is a sequel to "Donna and Alia Go Scrapping," a shorter movie that premiered some four years ago to enthusiastic audiences.

The Wendell-centric production was created by Doug Dawson and uses some of the same local cast as the original. It was shot mostly in Wendell with scenes from Turners and Shutesbury thrown in, and includes music by locals. The hour and a half long movie, which promises to be hilarious to both those "in

the know" and those from beyond the Cosmic Center, is a fundraiser: 100 percent of the door proceeds will go to the library.

A poster warns that "parental guidance is recommended. Material includes several mild swears, a few hints of sexuality (nothing explicit), artistic nudity, a few suggestions of violence (again, nothing explicit), and the depiction of a questionable personal habit."

There's sure to be large crowds at the library for this movie and seating is limited, so come well in advance to get seats.

There are two previews available online: vimeo.com/ddawson/promo1 and vimeo.com/ddawson/promo2.



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



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ONGOING EVENTS:

EVERY SUNDAY

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

ONE MONDAY EACH MONTH

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

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

EVERY TUESDAY

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: Crafts and activities for children of all ages. 3:30 to 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,

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. January and February.

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

Avenue A Storefront Galleries,

www.rattlesnakeguttertrust.org

EVENTS:

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18

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

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

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19

Wheelhouse, Greenfield: *Guerilla Toss, Hardware, Rocktagon*. 18+, \$, 8 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Cassidy and the Music* (former lead singer of Antigone Rising) (rock soul r'n'b) 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Pistolero's*. Outlaw Country! 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Great Falls Discovery Center: The Nolumbeka Project's Full Snow Moon Gathering—Jennifer Lee (Metis/Naragansett, Pequot) will share her personal journey as a Native American descendant and her explorations of history and culture. 12 p.m.

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Ruth Garbus, Caethua, Dimples, Suicide Magnets, Tom Kovacevic*. All ages, \$, 7 p.m.

Mt Toby Concerts, Leverett: *Magpie* (Greg Artzner and Terry Leonino) Folk singer/songwriters, see photo description for details. \$ 7:30 p.m. Suggested donation: \$10 to \$25.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Ray Mason* Ray Mason has made a reputation over 22 years of club gigs as one of New England's more durable and respected songwriters. 8 p.m.

Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *Sledge*, rock-n-roll covers. 9 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Charlie Scott and the Mighty King Snakes*. Blues Baby Blues! 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *A.M. Gold, Mystics Anonymous, Steve Koziol*. 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Leverett Crafts and Arts, Leverett: *Danse Cafe French & Breton Dance*. Dancing, instruction, live music, French Café ambience. \$ 3 p.m.

Victoria Bar, Greenfield: *Frank Hurricane, Bunwinkies, Frozen Corn, Wicked Rot*. 21+,\$, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Lazy*

Bones. Old time jazz, blues and more. 8 p.m.

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

Memorial Hall Theater
POTHOLE PICTURES

Friday & Saturday
February 19th & 20th, 7:30 p.m.
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Friday, 2/19 – 9 p.m.
The Pistolero's
Saturday, 2/20 – 9 p.m.
Charlie Scott
Sunday, 2/21 – 8 p.m.
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FRI. 2/19
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Greg Artzner and Terry Leonino perform as the duo Magpie at Mount Toby Concerts in Leverett this Saturday at 7:30 p.m. Folk singer/songwriters extraordinaire, their songs are used today in modern Civil Rights and environmental protection movements, especially "Give Light" and "We Belong to the Earth," which are included in the new group singing songbook, *Rise Again*, along with six other of their songs. Suggested donation: \$10 to \$25. For info on Mt. Toby Concerts, go to www.mttobyconcerts.wordpress.com or call (413) 548-9394.

Turners Falls: Traditional Native American and improvised Asian flute music featuring *Eric Wolf Song*. 6 to 6:30 p.m. Free.

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

EXHIBITS:

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Portraits of African Americans, Past and Present*. Louise Minks and Belinda Lyons Zucker presents large paintings by Minks and sculpture by Zucker. Opens 2/2 - 3/31. Reception 2/7 from 1 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.

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

Turners Falls: Rodney Madison: "Of African Influence." Madison's paintings are paired with 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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SEED from page B1

The SEED program started in 1986 as a result of Wellesley College educator Peggy McIntosh’s epiphany: “One day, I suddenly realized that anyone could lead such seminars if they rigorously apportioned time, respected everyone in the group, and worked toward personal testimony rather than academic habits of abstraction and competition.”

While the program started in academic institutions, it has since spread to a broader community-based movement. One of the project’s early participants was Conway resident Emmy Howe. An

educator with diverse experience, Howe facilitated SEED workshops for several years, and then started the New England SEED Network which has met at her home since 1994.

Howe has been involved in peace and social justice work for many years, and currently lives on Open View Farm in Conway.

Anyone interested in participating in Saturday’s free workshop should contact Turners Falls River-Culture to pre-register by phone at (413) 835-1390. More information about the National SEED Project can be found at national-seedproject.org.



Madison’s Paintings Displayed During February

By REPORTER STAFF

TURNERS FALLS – The gallery windows of 110 – 112 Avenue A feature the paintings of Rodney Madison paired with African textiles. “Of African Influence” shows how pattern, color and texture resonate between the paintings and fabrics.

“A lot of great works of art have some roots in those types of designs,” commented the Turners Falls artist. The exhibit was put together by Turners Falls River-Culture as part of “Music and Diversity II,” a celebration of Black History Month.

Rodney Madison credits his father, Reginald Madison, as a huge influence. His father brought him to the Chicago Art Institute as a child, and was himself active in the Art & Soul movement in Chicago during the late 1960s. Reginald became a career artist working with found materials as well as paint on canvas, showing in several galleries in

the Hudson Valley region of New York.

The younger Madison felt himself artistically in the shadow of his father for much of his life, but recently found encouragement at the Third Street Studios, and has been painting in earnest for several years now.

“I often don’t know what the painting is going to be about until the brush hits the paper, really,” admits Madison. He uses nontraditional materials such as house paints and stains on reclaimed paper.

One small piece holds a bold yellow and black face, which is Rodney’s self portrait. Another painting he calls “Red Man in Bondage” is inspired by Sandra Bland, a black woman from the greater Chicago area who died in jail after a Texas traffic stop last year.

Madison is also known for his use of found objects to decorate the planter outside of the space he rents



at 104 Avenue A (more of his work, and that of local artist Eric Grab, may be seen in the windows there, too). With roots in the folk tradition of African American garden art, these installations have been a controversial subject in the town.

LIFE – LOST THEN FOUND

Picking up our newspapers we find countless articles about opiates, overdoses, imprisonments and how those that survive are faced with life after the fact. We as a society are thankful for all the programs that are available for those who truly desire to become free from the destruction of addictive drugs.

On our own it is most difficult to pick up the pieces of our lives and move forward. The obstacles are overwhelming.

The Bible says:
“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”
(2 Cor. 5:17)

This verse means you have asked Jesus Christ to be your Savior. Once you do this He begins to re-create you. Old lifestyles die, You become born again. Could it be that applying this verse in your life may mean all the difference?

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

Laurie Davidson
of Montague
Center made
Valentine cards
at the Valentine
Card Making For
Adults party at the
Carnegie Library
on February 6th.
She initiated the
Friends of the
Library-sponsored
program with
her suggestion.



Friends of the Montague Public Libraries: News

By LINDA HICKMAN

MONTAGUE – The Friends of the Montague Public Libraries are greatly expanding adult programming at the libraries. Recent events include a Valentine Card Making for Adults program and a Book Sale.

Spring events in Millers Falls will include an Historical Walking Tour of Millers Falls starting at the library, and “Books, Brewing, and Beer,” a collaboration with Element Brewing and the library.

The Friends are looking for suggestions for programs and more members. The next meeting is Monday, February 22nd, at 5:30 p.m. at the Carnegie Library. If you are interested but unable to attend, please call 86-3214 and ask for Linda, or e-mail librarydir@montague-ma.gov.

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