



# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 14 – NO. 19

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

FEBRUARY 25, 2016

## LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

### Better Budget News For Leverett, Though Shutesbury Threat Looms

By MIKE JACKSON

Leverett's fiscal situation became a little clearer at Tuesday's selectboard meeting, which included a hearing with the Erving Elementary School, and the good news from the finance committee that town departments may not need to pare back their budgets after all.

"Some things have broken our way, and some things haven't, and significant uncertainties remain," began finance committee chair Tom Powers.

The good news, Powers said, was that the favorable rate on the town's debt refinancing will essentially cancel out the impact on tax bills of the new debt the town took on for the new broadband network.

The "not so good" news, he said, is that at meetings between Leverett, Shutesbury, Pelham, Amherst and the regional school district they share, Shutesbury continues to be "recalcitrant," and even the current compromise its finance committee endorses would add another \$40,000 or so to Leverett's assessment in the coming fiscal year.

Should Shutesbury's town meeting, which will be held on the

see **LEVERETT**  
page A6



JACKSON PHOTO

Spirits ran high during Tuesday night's elementary school budget hearing.

## MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

### Noise Ordinance Controversy Returns to Montague Town Hall

By JEFF SINGLETON

**TURNERS FALLS** – The Montague selectboard will take a second look at its noise bylaw, raising the possibility that it will propose stricter enforcement of the decibel limit on outdoor noise before the weather turns warm. That is apparently how a well-attended and lively discussion of noise, particularly noise in the form of music generated outdoors by bands, concluded Monday night.

The issue of noise in downtown Turners Falls has been on the front burner because a bar and grill called Hubie's, purchased by Shawn Hubert just under a year ago, has been featuring bands on its patio during the warm weather. Many of the residents whose

homes surround the patio have protested to the police, the health department and the selectboard.

By the beginning of last summer, Hubert and the neighbors were working toward a compromise, which was embodied in a selectboard revision of the noise ordinance approved on June 29, 2015. The business district noise limit was increased from 70 to 80 decibels between the hours of 4 and 9:59 p.m., and was also increased from 60 to 70 decibels between 10 p.m. and 12:59 a.m.

The June motion did not limit these changes to Hubie's, and did not set a number of days per week or month that the bar would be allowed to feature outdoor bands. However, the

see **MONTAGUE** page A7

### TFHS Girls Basketball Enters Playoffs

By MATT ROBINSON

Finally, after 24 years, the Turners Falls Lady Indians enter the postseason basketball tournament. They may have backed into the playoffs by securing a second-place tie in the Franklin South conference, but they made it, nonetheless.

Looking back on the records for the last eight years, I found a 0-19 season, two 1-win seasons, 3-wins and 4-wins... Well, I don't have to go on. You get the picture.

But that was then, this is now. The 2015/16 Lady Indians will live to play another day. It hasn't been an easy road to the playoffs, especially in the final week when every point counted. And with the regular season behind them, Wilcox and his Tribe can't afford to relax and pat themselves on the backs: it's back to work. Time for the Second Season.

The Indians faced their toughest stretch of the season this week. They had to play three tough games in three days, then hop on the bus for a delayed game in Springfield.

**A Winning Record: TFHS 45 – Mohawk 37**

On February 17, the Lady Indians defeated the Mohawk Warriors 45-37, improving  
see **BASKETBALL** page A5



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Senior Jordan Meattley, benched with an injury, starts off the Senior Night game against Ware with a 2-pointer as Maddy Chmyzinski looks on.

### Farming Small, Thinking Big At the New Wendell Farm



HOLMES PHOTO

Caro Roszell aims to grow 10 to 15 shares of food on a quarter-acre Wendell plot.

By JEN HOLMES

Caro Roszell began breaking ground on her small-scale farm in Wendell over the past few weeks, but she has big plans for a very small space of land.

Roszell describes her business, the New Wendell Farm, as a "regenerative, low-till, bio-intensive microfarm". While that may sound like a confusing and overwhelming concept, Roszell is adept at explaining all the parts of her specific, and experimental, farming vision.

"Regenerative farming is a movement that came from within organic farming, especially with the goal of bringing back degraded soils," she explains.

The first rule of regenerative farming is to try to avoid tilling the soil.

"When you till, you're flipping over all the soil, and causing the soil organic matter to biodegrade quickly," Roszell explains. "Then you're using up the fertility quickly, because you're essentially damaging the soil."

Bio-intensive farming practices, in addition to preserving the soil integrity, would help to maintain the high soil organic matter necessary to long-term soil fertility.

"Bio-intensive farming is essentially growing things really close together and getting a lot of crops off of the same beds, with quick transitions between those crops," she explains.

Altogether, her farming practices focus on the general idea of "keeping the soil covered as much of the time as possible with living plants," she says.

see **FARMING** page A6

### Incumbents Seek Reelection to Selectboards in All Five Towns

By NINA ROSSI

**FRANKLIN COUNTY** – With town elections just around the corner this spring, and nomination papers available to those wishing to run for town office, we decided to check in with selectboard members in our five coverage towns whose terms are expiring, to see if they hope to seek re-election.

All five incumbents told the *Reporter* they are seeking re-election in 2015. Here's what they have to say about the job.

**Randy Crochier** is currently serving his second term on the Gill selectboard, and plans

to run again this spring.

Being on the selectboard means "you are never not on duty," says Crochier, "though I don't think about it that way: every week is different. Mostly, the job is about gathering information and trying to make the best decision you can to make things happen."

"There's a lot that's gotten done in six years, especially as far as infrastructure is concerned. We've gotten a few roofs done. But there's a well I'd like to see finished, and a dream for the Mariamante property I'd like to see further along."

see **INCUMBENTS** page A8

### Broadband Committee Receives First Appropriation, and Rousing Applause

By JEFF SINGLETON

**MONTAGUE** – On Tuesday, Montague's broadband committee held an upbeat "public forum" to discuss its proposal to extend broadband service to under-served town residents. The meeting featured a presentation by Matrix Design Group, whose proposal has been accepted by the committee and endorsed by the selectboard.

Also in attendance were several representatives from the town of Hardwick, which has also chosen Matrix as its preferred broadband option. Hardwick is collaborating with both Montague and Petersham in developing con-

tracts with Matrix.

The event was attended by two members of the Montague selectboard, Michael Nelson and Chris Boutwell. This meant the meeting, with a quorum of the board, had been posted to conform to the state Open Meeting Law. The public forum became even more upbeat when the selectboard decided to appropriate \$5,000 from the town's legal budget toward fees for contract negotiations with Matrix.

Several members of the audience applauded this move because, they said, they have "waited for years" to get broadband service. Lisa Enzer of the broadband committee also

see **BROADBAND** page A5



# The Montague Reporter

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## Nooooooooooooooooo, Not the Creemee!

As we were preparing this issue of the *Montague Reporter* to go to press, some very bad news came in: the Country Creemee is being evicted.

Since 1993, the Creemee has been a community fixture, one of the crown jewels of Turners Falls, the place where you can chase a hot dog with a towering cone of soft-serve, while watching the comings and goings on the airport runway from a deck chair in the shade.

Back in 2000, then-Creemee owner Joel Potter sold the property to the Haas family, owners of abutting plastics manufacturer Hillside Plastics.

"Hillside wanted access to the back land for their trailers, so they bought the property and leased it back to them," said Robyn Mason, owner of the Creemee in the modern era.

"[Dick Haas] was the kind of person where there was always a shake of a hand – there was never a written agreement," she said.

And indeed, the Haas family has a sterling reputation in town as the kind of thoughtful, community-minded, employee-centered mid-sized business owner who usually exist only in fantastic tales woven by candidates for political office.

With the help of his wife Janet, Dick Haas built a business from the ground up, passed its operations on to his children, and moved on to help nurture other area businesses through his service at the Community Development Corporation.

Haas passed away in 2010, and last year, the family sold the company to Carr Management, Inc. of New Hampshire.

It was a good fit on paper: Carr owns a half-dozen blow-molded plastic plants around the country. According to the announcement, Peter Haas would continue on as president. It seemed like a sensible transition for Hillside.

But Carr Management isn't exactly a family company. In 2008 it was acquired by private equity firm Nautic Partners, LLC, who sold it in October 2014 to Behrman Capital.

And Behrman Capital is interesting. The multi-billion-dollar private equity firm was founded by South African brothers Darryl and Grant Behrman. Darryl, who passed away in 2002, was a member of the Council on Foreign

Relations. Grant continues to manage the company from his home in Greenwich, Connecticut.

Besides Carr Management, Behrman's current holdings include Tresys Technology, a cybersecurity defense contractor; ILC Dover, which makes the new space suits for NASA, the new flood control systems for New York's subways, and airships; and Data Device Corporation, which makes motion control systems for defense and aerospace.

The good news locally is that Behrman isn't a vulture fund – they're not stripping companies on their way down; they're focused on growth.

The downside is that growth might mean... well, growth.

"I think it's going to become a parking lot," Robyn Mason told us tonight. "I'd been there for about fifteen years, and I always thought we'd always be there."

Mason expressed frustration that nobody clued her in any sooner that the Creemee should be looking for another location. She's been told – only informally and by email, she adds – that everything needs to be out of the building by March 31.

"There's not really any places to go right away," she said. "They knew that the whole time, and no one could give us a heads up?"

And there's also getting to be a real shortage of places to eat ice cream around here.

Yelena's Flavorland, formerly Dantin's, has been shuttered for a while now. Twisters, a favorite of ours on Avenue A, closed its doors in August. The Wagon Wheel in Gill sells excellent, homemade hard ice cream, and it looks like we'll be heading across the bridge a lot this summer.

Our features editor notes that the Creemee's "hot fudge sauce was irreplaceable – whatever crock pot they were heating it up in must be preserved and put back into use as soon as possible."

If any of our readers have any good ideas about a new place for the Creemee to set up shop, get in touch with them. We bet a lot of people would stop for ice cream in Millers Falls – maybe there's a good spot in that village?

Best of luck to Robyn and her employees. Summer won't be quite the same this year.



## Letters to the Editors

### Open Letter to Rep. Whipps Lee

Dear Rep. Susanna Whipps Lee,

I sent you an email months ago soliciting your opinion and interest on the fracked gas pipeline.

I did not hear back from your office, but have since heard you stated your opposition to the pipeline.

I appreciate your attention and creative thinking about stopping that pipeline.

Even though Wendell is not included in the pipeline route, we are connected to the general well being of all our neighbors and to groundwater. The Millers River is included in the proposed route, designated for sub-structure tunneling.

There are two delicate landfills perched directly on and above that river, one in Erving with paper mill sludge, and the other in Wendell. That one, D&B, is a demolition debris landfill that has already been, according to DEP records, unstable in its precarious positioning and history of sliding towards the river. With any blasting, these situations could be further undermined.

As chair of Wendell Board of Health, I represent our town in the hopes to receive:

- your support for vast public opposition to the pipeline; and
- your active collaboration to safeguard our groundwater, well water and environment.

Some suggestions include

- fixing the magnitude of gas leaks at facilities and along the existing pipelines.
- state regulations about surveyor trespass.

Thank you so much for your response and your serious work,

**Nina Keller, chair  
Wendell Board of Health**

## Yelling "Foul" At Sports Reporter

I was at the January 27 girls basketball game that Matt Robinson writes about in your February 11 issue. I sat behind Greenfield's bench and coach John Hickey.

Robinson's reports of Hickey yelling at Turners' players is inaccurate.

Coaches yell instructions to their players and voice opinions to officials. At no point during that game, or any other in the years I have witnessed Hickey coach, has he or anyone on his coaching staff, yelled at an opposing player. No way! It's unsportsmanlike, and goes against the principles Hickey has been teaching at multiple schools in Franklin County for years.

This article paints a negative picture of a successful coach and program. I think Turners coach Wilcox would agree.

I understand if Mr. Robinson or anyone else was upset. Watching the people you care about get overwhelmed by an opponent is difficult, but it's no reason to make up stories to shame the victor. Someone should be held accountable for this slanderous publication.

**Cameron Ward  
Greenfield**

### The editors reply:

*Thank you for writing in about this. We encourage readers to respond whenever they feel we've gotten something wrong.*

*A third party we asked about the January 27 game said he observed multiple instances of Turners players halting play in response to vocalizations by the Greenfield coach.*

*Players should continue play until a whistle is blown. Reporters, meanwhile, should be careful about imputing intention.*

*If Mr. Hickey was indeed yelling, it seems plausible to us that his offerings were intended as opinions voiced to officials. There would be no way to establish that any yelling was "at" the players, as our reporter wrote.*

*Based on your letter and our conversations, we feel we should at least correct the record to say: "The Greenfield coach screamed near the Turners girls as they dribbled past him..." We apologize for the error.*

*Unfortunately, we could not secure video of the game to review. Staff at Greenfield Community Television encouraged community members interested in filming basketball games to contact their organization.*

*Any of our readers who were in attendance at the game in question are invited to weigh in on the matter in these pages, particularly if they feel that it is one of any importance.*

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

Compiled by DON CLEGG

The **Lego Lady** will bring her awesome collection of Legos for all to play and build on Saturday, February 27, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Carnegie Library.

Bette Sokoloski will lead an **introductory painting class** at the Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls on Saturday, February 27 from 11 a.m. to noon.

Sokoloski is from South Deerfield and is the owner of Art with Wine. She will begin with basic skills such as brush strokes, painting techniques, and shortcuts to create a beautiful piece of art while using acrylics on canvas.

All those attending will gain confidence in their ability for future painting, and will receive a gift for attending. Feel free to bring a friend.

Call (413) 665-4039 for more information and reservations. Light refreshments provided courtesy of Greenfield Savings Bank.

Kate Devlin, PhD Biology, will report on the **World Climate Summit**, which she attended in December 2015 in Paris, as well as on her travel in east Africa, in a workshop scheduled for Sunday, February 28, at 1 p.m. in Fr. Casey Hall at our Lady of Peace Church.

The Summit, sponsored by the United Nations, brought together people from the whole world who are concerned about the future of our planet and who are now asking that everyone cooperate in preserving our common home. In Africa Devlin visited communities that experience the effects of pollution in a direct way, impacting their health and life expectancy.

Fr. Stan Aksamit, Pastor of Our Lady of Peace Church, writes, "We are privileged to have someone with Kate's experience in our parish and I know that all who attend her presentation will have a clearer understanding about environmental issues and how we can respond, individually and as a community. I hope you are able to attend."

Fr. Casey Hall is handicapped accessible. Our Lady of Peace Church is located at 80 Seventh Street, Turners Falls. All are welcome.

Author **Lauret Savoy** will read from her new book, *Trace: Memory, History, Race, and the American Landscape*, on Sunday, February 28, 2 p.m. at the Leverett Library.

Nominated for a 2016 PEN American Award and a Pushcart Prize, *Trace* explores how this coun-

try's still unfolding history marks a person as well as the land. Co-sponsored by the Rattlesnake Gutter Trust and the Leverett Library.

Baystate Franklin Medical Center's Oncology Department will present two consecutive free eight-week yoga class, **Gentle Yoga for Cancer Survivors**, at the YMCA of Greenfield.

The classes will take place on Wednesdays, from noon to 1:30 p.m., on the following dates: March 2 to April 20, and April 27 to June 15.

The course facilitator is Pam Roberts, a certified Kripalu Yoga teacher and a breast cancer survivor for over 20 years. Roberts is also a certified Yoga of the Heart for Cardiac and Cancer Patients instructor.

For more information or to register for Gentle Yoga, contact Pam Roberts at (413) 625-2402 or [pam-ro@aol.com](mailto:pam-ro@aol.com).

The Community Network for Children is sponsoring a **free workshop for parents, "No Senseless Behavior,"** on Thursday, March 3 at the Swift River School in New Salem.

The workshop runs from 6 to 8 p.m., and will be presented by certified human behavior consultant Jeanine Fitzgerald, M.A. Free childcare and dinner with preregistration.

Contact the Community Network for Children, to register or with any questions, at [budine@erving.com](mailto:budine@erving.com) or (978) 544-5157.

If you think you have what it takes to outwit, outplay and outlast the competition, then organize a team to bring the pain at the **8th Annual Franklin County Technical School Dodgeball Tournament**.

The public is invited to organize teams of five players to face off in double elimination matches to be held at the school on Friday, March 4. The team that finishes in

first place wins \$100; second place wins \$50.

The competition will begin at 6 p.m. at the Franklin County Technical School, located at 82 Industrial Boulevard in Turners Falls. It will end when one victorious team is left standing.

Teams must register by March 2 to be eligible to play. There is a \$25 entry fee per team, which is due at the time of registration. To register a team, contact Amber Coburn at (413) 863-9561, ext. 255, or sign up at Franklin County Technical School.

The public is invited to attend the tournament to cheer your favorite team and jeer the competition. General admission is \$2. All proceeds from the tournament will go to FCTS athletics programs.

**Light Up the Shea!** The Shea Theater, under new management, announces an opening weekend for March 4, 5 and 6th. The schedule includes Red Baraat w/ DJ Bongohed on Friday, March 4 at 8 p.m.; Speedy Ortiz on Saturday, March 5 at 8 p.m.; and Heather Maloney on Sunday, March 6, at 9 p.m. The weekend has something for everyone, and should be a good chance to get into the Shea and see the renovations in progress. For ticket info and calendar listing, see [sheatheater.org](http://sheatheater.org).

The Greenfield Public Library will be hosting **Adventures in Wonderland**, an "Experience the Book" event celebrating the 150th anniversary of Lewis Carroll's 'Alice in Wonderland.' Come to the back door of the Greenfield Library at 4 p.m. on Saturday, March 5, to meet Alice and follow her through an Adventure in Wonderland, library style. An all-ages audience will follow Alice to the Mad Hatter's Un-Birthday party, getting ready, of course, by making a 'mad hat'.

Please sign up at the children's desk or call (413) 772-1544 to get your name on the guest list.

Join Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center on Saturday, March 5, from 6:30 until 7:30 p.m. to sing and dance the cabin fever away with **Roger Tinknell** at Northfield Mountain.

**—Boys wanted at the REPORTER office to learn the printing business. Must be able to talk intelligently, work industriously and intelligently, and not bear the stamp of the hoodlum, nor smoke cigarettes. Must be vouched for by some one of reliability. Candidates may bring a list of places they have been kicked out of for incompetency, or other good causes, for reference.**

*Ed Gregory came across this item in the April 28, 1909 Turners Falls Reporter. He thought we'd get a kick out of it... We sure did. The hoodlums in our office had occasion to consider just how far we've come from those less enlightened times.*

Young families will imitate animals, sing lively songs, learn interesting facts about local wildlife, and even go "Waltzing with Bears," while Roger plays Irish drum, Incan flute, Russian balalaika, banjo, guitar, mandolin, and harmonica.

Tinknell has been performing for children and adults throughout the U.S., Canada, and Europe for over 40 years and is a two-time Parents' Choice Award-winning recording artist. His strong, expressive vocal styles, show-stopping yodeling and masterful instrumental skills bring a warmth and versatility to his performances. The program meets inside the cozy, pellet-stove heated yurt behind the Visitor Center.

For ages 4 and older. This is a free event, and no pre-registration is required. Snow date is March 12.

Do you know how many cemeteries are in your town, where they are, what condition they are in and what you can learn from them of your local past?

Family and local history is preserved in special places that many don't think to visit for historical purposes. Cemeteries are filled with local information and artwork. Preservation of gravestones, and recording the information they have engraved on them, is valuable as another way to preserve our local history.

The Leverett Historical Society & Leverett Cemetery Association present **History in Stone**, a slideshow presentation by Dawn Marvin Ward on Sunday, March 6, starting at 2 p.m. at the Leverett Library.

Join along as attendees have a slideshow "visit" of the eleven cemeteries of Leverett, and see what history can be gleaned from them. This program is funded by Leverett Cultural Council.

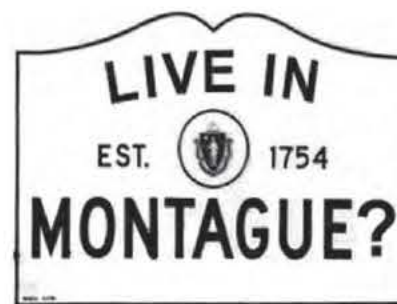
The Gill Energy Commission will be presenting a film night showing a **Building Science video** on Wednesday, March 9, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Gill Town Hall, 325 Main Road in Gill. The event is free, but donations will be gratefully accepted and put to good use for future educational programming.

The one hour video, created and produced by Janet Masucci, condenses key points of Gill's December 2015 workshop, *Building Science: A Dozen Ways to Reduce Your Home's Energy Use*. After the screening, presenters will open up the floor for questions and answers about how to "save cash, save the environment, and be more comfortable in your home".

Pre-registration is required; class size is limited to 40. To register contact Janet at (413) 863-8694 or email [jmasucci@msn.com](mailto:jmasucci@msn.com), or visit the Gill Energy Commission on Facebook.

Directions and carpool options will be made available after registering. Residency in Gill is not a requirement.

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**Grade 6**  
Olivia Stafford

**Grade 7**  
Catherine Reynolds

**Grade 8**  
Lydia Wright

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## NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

## Town Hears IP Mill Costs In \$13 to \$49 Million Range

By KATIE NOLAN

"The main issue is the gap between the cost to develop [the former International Paper Mill site] and the ability to bring money in from a development," Tighe & Bond project manager Rebecca Sherer told the Erving selectboard.

Sherer and her engineering, economic, site assessment and marketing team presented the Erving selectboard with the International Paper Mill Feasibility Study, assessing the current condition of the property and providing four scenarios for enhancing the site's development potential. Depending on the scenario, the estimated costs ranged from \$13 to \$49 million.

The Tighe & Bond team suggested partial funding from grants, state funding, or a public-private partnership.

The team listed many positive features of the property: good access to Route 2; more than 40 acres of space; a natural setting on the banks of Millers River; and infrastructure for water, sewer and electricity already present.

Engineer Josh Fiala said that one multi-story building, constructed in 1902, was "a hidden gem, with all the hallmarks of a historic mill structure," including "exposed interior timbers, lots of natural light, and an open floor plan."

Sherer said that the condition of the eight buildings on the property ranged from fair to good, with some in poor condition. Fiala noted "a fair amount of stripping" had occurred, so the buildings would be considered shells.

Sherer said that there are no significant concerns from hazardous materials in soil or groundwater at the property, but that "some level of removal of hazardous materials" would be required inside the buildings. However, she said, "The level of abatement is much less than you might expect."

Economist Frank Mahady said that there are limited prospects for commercial or industrial development at the former IP site, as there are "many vacancies in the area," and smaller businesses "are looking for something smaller."

However, he said there is a demand for rental housing, especially housing targeted to young professionals under the age of 35 and "empty nesters" over 55. He suggested another possibility, given the importance of agriculture in the region, was redevelopment as a food-processing center.

Fiala said that one problem with redeveloping mill complexes was "too much square footage." Therefore, demolition of "the unusable

parts" of the former IP mill could improve its chances for redevelopment.

Sherer told the board that the majority of estimated costs were for demolition. The scenarios included:

1. Demolish all onsite buildings: estimated cost of \$49 million.
2. Demolish many site buildings, but retain the core historic mill structures: estimated cost of \$40 million.
3. Retain only the three most flexible historic mill structures: estimated cost of \$26 million.
4. Retain only the "hidden gem" building, estimated cost approximately \$13 million.

Fiala said that most developers understand that there will be "pre-development" costs at a former mill site, but that this site needs "pre, pre, pre-development" work.

Mahaday said, "It's unlikely that a private developer will see a return unless the demolition is paid for."

"The next step is how to finance this," Sherer said. She told the board that the pre-development work "can't be done with town dollars or state dollars; it needs to be a public/private partnership." She recommended seeking assistance from Mass Development, the state's economic development and finance agency.

There was little discussion of the report after the presentation, but selectboard and planning board members took copies to review.

Water operator Peter Sanders told the meeting that he is working to renew the property's water withdrawal permit, which is another potential asset for redevelopment.

Selectboard member Arthur Johnson remarked that senior housing was an important need in Erving, and might fit into residential redevelopment of the property.

Selectboard chair William Bembury called the report "a good first step" that "answers the questions we had."

### Administrative Coordinator Job

Richard Kobayashi of UMass Boston's Collins Center for Public Management joined the board, and facilitated the first meeting of the administrative coordinator screening committee. Selectboard member Jacob Smith left his seat at the selectboard table and moved to the second table where three other committee members were sitting with Kobayashi.

Municipal clerk Betsy Sicard administered the oath of office to the new committee members. Smith was elected chair, and Jacqueline Boyden volunteered for the

## NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

## Gill Hikes Taxes By Ten Cents

BY AIDAN BELANGER

The February 22 selectboard meeting was kept short before the special town meeting the selectboard would attend later that day. Gill collector and treasurer Ronnie LaChance approached the selectboard, as she does every year, to ask the board to place people behind on their real estate taxes on liens. The board did so.

LaChance added that this year the taxes are about \$5,000 less than last year on average, and that she currently had a few people on payment plans.

### Tax Classification Hearing

Assessors Nancy Griswold, Peter Conway and Lynda Hodsdon Mayo made an appearance before the selectboard to present their recommendation for the FY'16 tax rate.

They recommended a rate of \$16.95, up ten cents from last year's \$16.85. The tax effect on the average single-family home will be up \$62 from last year. The Assessors recommended a single tax rate, no open space discount,

and no residential exemption.

The selectboard moved to accept the recommendations of the assessors.

### Other News

The town is still waiting on a shipping date for the new library window inserts, a project paid for with Green Communities money.

Ray plans to talk with Energia looking for a time when the safety complex building would be unoccupied for the company to re-insulate a section of the roof.

The Massachusetts presidential primaries take place March 1. Gill residents can vote at the fire station from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The Gill Energy Commission will host a film night, showing a building science video, on March 9 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the town hall.

Gill T-Ball and Rookie Baseball tryouts will be held on Friday, February 26 at the Gill Elementary School from 3:15 to 4:30 p.m., and on Wednesday, March 2 at the town hall from 3:15 to 4:30 p.m.

secretary position.

Kobayashi explained that of the seventeen applications, Collins Center staff had selected five as qualified for the position. He gave each committee member a booklet of the five selected resumes to review. The committee will meet in executive session on March 1 to begin discussion of the candidates.

"The work is hard, but it's for a short duration of time," Kobayashi said.

Johnson, who protested at the last selectboard meeting when Bembury appointed Smith to the committee rather than him, got up and left the room twice while the committee was meeting.

### Special Town Meeting

The warrant for the March 7 special town meeting was signed and posted. The special town meeting will be held at the senior/community center at 7 p.m.

The articles propose up to \$284,192 in expenditures from free cash or from transfers from other line items. The expenditures include:

- \$40,000 for roadwork at the Pan Am road crossing at 45 East Main Street.
- \$44,000 for a police cruiser
- \$44,000 for another police cruiser
- \$44,000 for a fire department command/utility vehicle
- \$60,000 for a fire department

brush truck

- \$25,000 for Category 6 cabling at Erving Elementary School
- \$17,292 for two thermal imagers for the fire department
- \$5,500 for interior/exterior pipe repair at the senior/community center
- \$3,200 for two overhead roofs at the senior/community center exits
- \$1,200 for a floor buffer at the senior/community center.

Another article asks the town accountant to transfer \$63,828 in receipts from Comcast to the public, educational and government (PEG) access and cable fund.

### Cable Advisory Committee

Brenda Silva, who sat through the two-and-a-half hour meeting taking notes, came up to the selectboard table at the end of the meeting to ask, "What is the holdup?" in broadcasting the selectboard meetings.

Bembury replied, "We've been trying for over a year to get the committee together." Bembury, George Moonlight Davis and Tim Cronin are members. Silva was appointed to the committee on the spot.

Bembury noted that, as well as broadcasting meetings, the committee would be tasked with negotiating the town's contract with Comcast.



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NOTES FROM THE GILL SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

# Gill Voters Pitch In Toward Montague's Pipeline Intervention

BY AIDAN BELANGER

Forty-five Gill residents attended a special town meeting Monday night to vote on five articles.

All five passed, but by far the most controversial of these was Article Four. This article proposed that the town of Gill donate \$5,000 to the town of Montague, to aid them in legal processes relating to the proposed Kinder Morgan gas pipeline.

Selectboard chair Greg Snedeker spoke on behalf of Article Four. He urged his fellow residents to “think into the future,” and reminded them of this winter’s massive natural gas leak in California.

Montague, he explained, as an official intervenor before the Department of Public Utilities review of Berkshire Gas’s contracts with the pipeline, is in a position to view documents relating to the pipeline’s contracts that are of interest to all towns in the region.

“Our day could come when we need help from Montague,” he said.

Speaking from the floor, Fred Chase said he felt that the pipeline would not affect Gill, so money given to Montague to fight it would not benefit the town.

Snedeker responded, arguing that the pipeline’s scale “expands borders” and that it would affect the town even if it doesn’t pass directly through it.

“FERC has never seen a project it didn’t like,” said Ivan Ussach, who advocated for the article. He said Montague could be in a position to disprove the argument that the pipeline’s gas is in great demand regionally.

“This is most definitely for our own benefit,” he added, describing natural gas as a “dirty fuel” and arguing that light pollution from a compressor station in Northfield would affect Gill’s views over the ridge. “Better alternatives will come if gas is out,” he argued.

“Every person in this room will pay for this pipeline,” said selectboard member John Ward. “I prefer myself to not pay for gas that I will not use.”

Fire chief Gene Beaubien asked if the \$5,000 would be used “to say no” to the pipeline.

Snedeker replied that the money would be used to support Montague in its fact finding, rather than take a particular position on the project.

Beaubien commented that he didn’t see anyone stand up to the power company, FirstLight, which he said had “destroyed the best part of the Connecticut River” by using it as a lower reservoir for the Northfield Mountain pumped-storage facility. “Very few people,” he said, came out to public meetings about that project, which he pointed out has since been bought and sold multiple times.

Bill Tombs asked how the board had settled on the figure of \$5,000 to donate. Snedeker said that many

towns want to give, and are asking each other what they have given. This prompted him to contact Montague to ask how much they hope to raise.

Montague is asking for a total of \$40,000 from the combined efforts of its neighbors, he said, and he wanted Gill to give a figure high enough to inspire other towns to pitch in.

The article passed on a voice vote.

**Grumbles Over Plow Purchase**  
Article One, which transferred \$15,017.20 accidentally counted as free cash into the sewer use fees account where it belonged, passed unanimously.

Article Two asked for an additional \$18,000 for the highway department’s new used truck. Town meeting members were largely critical of how the town had gone about obtaining and repairing the single-axle dump truck, after the project ran over the \$50,000 allotted at the last annual town meeting.

The board admitted that “mistakes were made,” but that the problem the town is facing today is an accumulation of minor errors and the blame could not be put on one person.

Highway superintendent Mickey LaClaire admitted many small things got by the initial inspection.

Snedeker reminded the residents that the town is still “about \$100,000 ahead of buying a new truck.”

The article passed on a voice vote.

**Library Moisture Fund**  
The proposal to allocate funds toward moisture remediation at the Slate Library basement, Article Three, was met with some skepticism from residents in the wake of the truck discussion.

With only one company making a bid, and subsequently no way to make cost comparisons, residents were worried that this project would “turn into another money hole like the truck,” as one man put it.

Speaking in favor of the article, library trustee Megan Bathory-Peeler said that the project was essential to preserving not only the building, but the library’s collection of books, while protecting the health of those inside. The air quality of the basement is currently very poor and spreads through the heating system. Once repaired, she said, the basement will be used for clean storage; ADA issues keep it from being opened to the public.

Claire Chang pointed out that the basement needs to be repaired before upgrading the building’s energy efficiency. Otherwise, she said, the moldy air would get trapped in the building by the new insulation.

The article passed unanimously.

Article Five, to place \$23,000 raised and appropriated by taxation into a general stabilization fund, also passed unanimously.

## BROADBAND from page A1

noted that those without cable service had been funding legal fees, through their property taxes, for negotiations with Comcast, which provides cable to most town residents. She portrayed the selectboard’s vote as a matter of “equity.”

This first official appropriation of town money for the project might also be the last. The broadband committee has claimed frequently that no town money will be needed for the project, except for legal and filing fees for the town’s municipal light plant (MLP). The MLP, which will exercise oversight over the completed project, does not yet exist, as state law still requires a second town meeting vote to create it.

The meeting began with a slide presentation by broadband committee member Rob Steinberg. It consisted mainly of a comparison between the proposals submitted by Matrix and Comcast, the town’s current cable provider, which also applied for the new broadband contract.

Comcast did not fare very well on Steinberg’s charts. For example, he showed, Comcast has promised that its proposal will mean 95.8% of all town residents will receive coverage. According to the broadband committee’s own math, the Comcast projection would actually be 94.8%, while Matrix’s would cover 98.5%. The Matrix proposal also promises twice the speed for downloads, and perhaps ten times the speed for uploads.

Other comparisons between Matrix and Comcast looked just as bad for the cable giant. Under the categories of cooperation, future town ownership and “meets contract commitments,” Matrix received a star, while Comcast was awarded a “No.” Concerning the last category,

Steinberg suggested, as he has in the past, that Comcast had failed to provide service to Meadow Road as promised under its previous contract with Montague.

Matrix was awarded more stars, and Comcast more “Nos,” under categories for “customer satisfaction,” “future road map,” “accuracy of provided data,” “collaborative,” “accurate information,” “met with Montage Broadband Committee,” and “uses state networks.”

Comcast got its only star, along with Matrix, under the “viability” category – though Steinberg noted large cable companies, too, face financial uncertainties.

Most of these points had been raised in meetings with state officials and the Montague selectboard, although they were perhaps new to those in attendance.

After a brief question-and-answer period, Steinberg turned the podium over to Chris Lynch of Matrix, who came with his own presentation.

Lynch began by providing more detail about the company’s business profile and history. Matrix has been in business for nearly forty years, and has built fiber networks in Vermont and Leverett, Massachusetts. He emphasized that Matrix is an engineering company, not a marketing one.

Lynch reviewed the process for providing fiber cable to Montague. In “Phase 1,” the project would extend fiber from the public safety complex in Turners Falls to the Montague Center Fire station. In “Phase 2,” the network will be extended to the unserved homes in the town. In “Phase 3” Matrix proposes to extend fiber to “other parts of Montague” and “remaining unserved homes.”

Lynch provided detail about the cost of services Matrix would provide. His slides showed that high-

speed internet service would be provided for \$95 per month, and with additional voice over IP (VoIP) to cover phone service would cost \$115 per month. An indoor WiFi connection will add \$5 a month to the cost.

In a later slide, Lynch showed that the initial sign-up charge of \$500 would be divided into two payments.

Lynch introduced Peter Johnson of Calix, the company that would provide the internet connection to individual homes. Johnson showed the box that the company would install for the indoor connection, which looked very similar to the standard WiFi router.

There was a lengthy question-and-answer session at the end of the presentations. One member of the audience asked why the rates proposed by WiredWest, a cooperative of unserved towns, are so much lower than those under the Matrix proposal.

Lynch replied that the state’s rejection of the working WiredWest proposal was partly based on the belief that these rates were not “viable.” He said he tended to agree.

Another question involved the issue of town ownership: Matrix has proposed that Montague purchase the system for a nominal fee after 20 years, but how would the town service the system?

Lynch stated the town could hire another company – or perhaps Matrix – to provide the service, as Leverett is doing. Both Lynch and Steinberg said they believed that Montague would get “good value” from a purchase.

Steinberg, Hart, and Enzer received many compliments and a number of rousing rounds of applause for “all your hard work” before the two-hour meeting’s end.



## BASKETBALL from page A1

their record to 9-8.

The first quarter of Wednesday’s game was incredibly low scoring. Throwaways, five traveling calls, a back court, five jumps and seven fouls kept both teams off the scoreboard, and the quarter ended with Mohawk on top 4-3.

At 4:04 of the second, Turners finally pulled ahead 12-11, when Aliyah Sanders parked a three-pointer. The rest of the quarter was all Indians, and the teams went into the locker rooms with Powertown up 19-11.

Turners stretched that lead to 22-11 after a Maddy Chmyzinski three-pointer and finished out the third at 33-19. Mohawk made up some of that deficit in the fourth but Blue went on to win, 45-37.

Chmyzinski led the Tribe with 11 points, sinking 6 free throws, a 3-pointer and a bucket. Sanders cruised in 2 three-pointers and 2 field goals for 10. Chloe Ellis put in 2 foul shots and 3 baskets for 8. Sarah Waldron scored 7 points on 2 free throws, a three pointer and a two-pointer. Lexi Lacey got 3 baskets, Emma Miner hit one 2-pointer and Hailey Bogusz put in a freebee.

### Road Loss: Southwick 45 – TFHS 31

One day later, on Thursday, February 18, the Turners Falls Lady Indians traveled to Southwick to play the 12-5 Green Rams. Green shot out to a 17-4 first quarter lead, and extended the margin to 28-11 at half-time. They scored 10 points in the third while holding the Tribe to just 3

points, and went on to win 45-31.

The loss put Turners at 9-9. Chmyzinski scored 17 points, including 2 three-pointers and 3 free throws. Miner shot in 3 baskets for 6 points.

Both Hailey and Sanders hit 3 free throws, and Waldron sunk a bucket.

### Senior Night: Ware 49 – TFHS 47 OT

On February 19, one day after the Southwick game, Turners had to face the 15-2 Ware Indians. But although Ware came in expecting a blowout and Turners was struggling for their postseason life, the game was cordial and fun.

Melissa Hersey sang the national anthem, and ex-coach John O’Reilly helped out with the officiating.

And in a wonderful show of good sportsmanship, Ware allowed Turners to win the jump and let Jordan Meattay, who is currently out with an injury, score a basket. Turners, in turn, allowed a Ware senior to score an uncontested basket on their end.

However, Turners was unable to score another field goal until there were only 36 seconds left in the period, and the quarter ended with Ware on top, 13-7. Ware scored 7 straight points to open the second and led 20-7 with 3:25 left in the half.

But this is the quality of team Turners will play in the playoffs. And they proved they could play with the big guys. They put on an excellent defense, and began hitting from the outside.

In the last 2:42 of the quarter, they outscored Ware 8-2, continuing to chip away at the lead until and after

three full, it was a 3-point game, 28-25.

In the fourth, Ware pulled ahead to 34-25, but Turners never gave up. At 4:08, they again pulled to within 3 points, 36-33, and it was anybody’s game. Turners then fell behind by 5 points, 43-38 with 1:35 left in regulation but with a minute left, Chmyzinski hit a three-pointer, putting the Tribe within two points.

With 20 seconds left, Turners made a steal and Maddy put it in, sending the game into overtime.

Sanders scored the first basket in overtime, Abby Loynd scored the second, putting Turners up 47-43.

Then the fouls came. First Chloe Ellis fouled out. Next Chmyzinski got her fifth foul, and Ware tied the game, 1 point at a time, 47-47. Ware scored their final basket with 6.6 left, but Turners couldn’t answer, and the game went into the win column for Ware.

Chmyzinski scored 23 points, hitting 3 three-pointers, 4 free throws and 5 from the floor. Loynd had 5 points on a three-pointer and a field goal.

Dabney Rollins, Sanders and Ellis each scored 4 points, Waldron hit a 3-pointer, and Meattay and Miner both hit 2-pointers.

### Finishing on Top: TFHS 46 – Pope Francis 35

On Wednesday February 24, the Lady Indians defeated the Pope Francis Cardinals 46-35. The win gives the Tribe a regular season record of 10-10.

The Indians popped out to a 10-5 see BASKETBALL page A8

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## FARMING from page A1

But what many will find most impressive about her vision is the last part – the microfarm. Roszell intends to begin a viable farming business with only a quarter of an acre of land.

“I’ll be able to grow so much in the small space I have here – hopefully!” she says.

“I mean, I haven’t done it yet, so I have to see what my soil is really capable of. But I have a good hunch, based on experience, that I can do it.”

Roszell developed an interest in agriculture and farming practices while attending Bard College in upstate New York, where she designed her own major in Environmental Ethics, drawing from environmental studies, philosophy and economics. Before her senior year, she spent the summer working at a farm on the Puget Sound in Washington, where she “fell in love with farming”.

“I knew I wanted to farm when I got out of college, but first I needed to make money and pay off student loans,” she explains.

After graduation, Roszell worked in the non-profit sector for five years, working in renewable energy and urban agriculture, specifically teaching refugees in Boston how to grow their own food in community gardens.

Once she had saved enough money, she moved out west and began apprenticing at Simple Gifts in Amherst.

“This area is such a great place to learn,” she says.

After learning the basics of commercial and organic farming, Roszell began to wonder about other farming methods, and particularly if the



Caro Roszell

use of tractors and “bare earth farming” were actually the best practices, despite being the most commonly used.

“These ideas evolved from a lot of long sessions of driving a tractor around and thinking, ‘What if I wasn’t driving this tractor?’” she recalls.

“And I started to see ‘bare earth’ as wrong somehow, even though everyone was doing it that way. It just intuitively didn’t feel right.”

Roszell explains that “bare earth farming” is essentially stripping the top layer of soil to remove weeds and plant matter, to prepare the soil for the next crop. This is the process known as tilling.

Most farmers till, but it was a large contributor to the Dust Bowl, as farm topsoil degraded and dried

out over time, eventually becoming unusable, Roszell says.

Even more concerning, according to Roszell, is that this “process transforms a lot of carbon in the soil into atmospheric carbon.”

“Farming is actually one of the biggest contributors to global warming, and we just don’t talk about it,” she says. “But if we change the way that we farm, through some simple practices like keeping the soil covered with plants as often as possible – not doing bare earth farming – and cutting back on tillage, we can actually reverse that.”

No-till or low-till farming, in other words, can serve as a carbon sink, sequestering more CO<sub>2</sub> carbon from the atmosphere than it releases from the soil.

In addition to her familiarity with the scientific evidence, Roszell also began observing first-hand that crops grown with a low to moderate amount of weeds tend to look healthier, and dry out more often when the land was “too well-cultivated”.

“Plants in general – even the weeds – looked healthier in undisturbed soil,” she says.

When discussing these ideas with colleagues and mentors, she continually received the same response: that any low-till methods would be too much work, and that she would inevitably have to scale up and get a tractor.

“I was ready to quit farming,” she says, referring to the lack of evidential support she had for her ideas. And then she learned about Jean-Martin Fortier.

Fortier, one the forerunners of the bio-intensive movement, grows 140 shares of food on only an acre of

land on his farm in Quebec, without the need for a tractor or tilling.

“Not only was he doing things the way I’ve been thinking about doing things, but he was making money at it,” she enthusiastically explains.

“Then I was back in, and I decided I wanted to start my own farm.”

Roszell began looking specifically in the Montague area for land to purchase, but did not want to start out with too much and become overwhelmed – something she knows is a common mistake among first-time farmers.

Furthermore, bio-intensive farming would not require a large amount of land. It commonly uses 30-inch beds, as compared to the conventional 6-foot beds, while still planting an equivalent number of rows of crops, according to Roszell.

Bio-intensive, no-till farming is intended to work on small scales, she explains, which eliminates the need to rely on a tractor.

“But [bio-intensive farming] makes it possible to make a decent living off farming on a really small scale,” which she explains was, understandably, a clear goal of this endeavor.

Roszell was pleasantly surprised when she came across her current location in Wendell, which was affordable, but more importantly, held “a rare little patch of really nice soil.” She plans to enhance it through methods such as re-mineralization, the introduction of inoculants – bacteria and fungus that associate with her intended crops – composting, and mulch.

While she knows the first few years will be labor-intensive, Roszell’s hope is that within that time

the soil life will become relatively self-sustaining, and fewer imbalances will need to be addressed year to year.

While Wendell is a bit further from markets than Roszell had hoped to be, she is thrilled with the supportive community she is finding there, and says she feels it was the best, albeit unexpected, place to begin her farm.

Starting in June, New Wendell Farm will have a small-share CSA available for pickup at the farm, with the option of a Salad Share, stocked with leafy greens and salad toppers such as peas and radishes, or a Braising Share, which will include bunched greens and light-cooking vegetables such as eggplant and squash.

Roszell plans to make 10 to 15 shares available this season, and hopes to expand to markets in Cambridge within the coming years.

Aside from having an impressive knowledge of farming practices for her relatively young age, Roszell is also keenly aware of the business and marketing aspects of farming, making her new project appear to be much more than an experiment, but a viable business venture. She discusses constantly changing produce markets and a farmer’s need for adaptability – particularly when one’s profits can change drastically from year to year.

“That’s what’s kind of scary about it, but what are you going to do when you fall in love with farming? You have to try it,” she says.

“So, who knows if I’ll be successful, but I just knew I had to try!”



## LEVERETT from page A1

same day as Leverett’s, instead endorse a reversion to the state’s statutory method for calculating assessments, that figure could increase to up to \$150,000.

Additionally, Powers pointed out, the major tax abatement request that could cost the town up to “another couple hundred thousand” is likely to go to the highest level of appeal before the state.

“We’ll try to put together as likely a scenario as we can see it, as we approach town meeting,” he said. “What it does look like, given the favorable development on the debt service side, is that we’re not going to have to ask for reductions from the town departments. My best guess is that we could probably go flat, with budgets.”

“We may want to get some kind of action out of our town meeting,” selectboard chair Peter d’Errico said, in reference to the school assessment question.

He said that whenever Leverett faced an increased burden in the past under the alternative assessment pact, which pegs each town’s contribution only to enrollment, it paid up, and that recent increased enrollment in Shutesbury is behind a push within that town toward the statutory method.

D’Errico suggested that two articles could go before town meeting: one affirming the town’s support for the alternative assessment method, and committing to pay its result; and a second to pay the “extra” amount under the proposed compromise, should another unspecified town break the pact.

“It’ll be a god awful mess,” said Powers, if Shutesbury voters skip

over the compromise, and vote for the full use of the statutory method.

## Elementary Stuff

The meeting then blossomed into a hearing on the elementary school budget, with representatives from the school committee, administration, and Union 28 central office on hand.

School committee chair Sarah Dolven described a mandatory, one-year expense the elementary school anticipates for an out-of-district placement under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

The district has built \$60,000 into the budget for this event. The state Special Education Circuit Breaker may reimburse 75% of the cost over a \$42,000 threshold (in other words, around \$13,000), but not until the subsequent fiscal year.

Aaron Osborne, director of finance and operations for Union 28, said the school’s preliminary FY’16 budget, which includes a 2% cost of living adjustment promised to district staff, is a scant 0.55% above FY’15, not counting that \$60,000 expense. He suggested that this year the school might draw down the School Choice revolving fund, which currently has about \$200,000 in it, to make ends meet.

“Best planning case,” warned Powers, “is that it’s going to be flat budget, which means you’re going to have to find the sixty [thousand] somewhere.” He pointed at the gradual downward trend in school choice students, as well as that in overall enrollment.

Finance committee member Steve Nagy said it appeared that the actual spending in FY’15 was coming in about \$100,000 under budget,

and asked if there was a chance of similar luck in FY’16.

Dolven explained that some of those savings had resulted from retirements announced after the FY’15 budget had been finalized.

“We’re spending what we need, and we’re not being frivolous about it at all,” said Leverett Elementary principal Margot Lacey. “There’s always a commitment to having money at the end to turn back to the town.”

D’Errico praised Lacey for her “eagle eyes” on the school’s spending practices. The board also gave the district and school committee some ideas as to how town meeting members can be reminded that education amounts to three-quarters of the town’s proposed spending due to its importance.

“We’re here to work collaboratively, and do the best we can for the town of Leverett, and that includes the students and the school,” said Union 28 superintendent Jennifer Haggerty.

“We appreciate that – it’s palpable,” replied d’Errico.

Powers asked the district to present a “contingency budget” that could cover all its expenses, given the wild cards facing the town.

Dolven said that she felt the *Montague Reporter’s* coverage of the February 9 selectboard meeting mischaracterized the budget process. “The tenor of the article was that there was animosity, and I don’t think there is,” she said. There was a broad consensus in the room that this was the case.

It was publicly requested that the *Reporter* characterize the hearing as a “love fest” – repeated later on, accidentally, as “love feast.”

## Possible Toxic Plume

Town administrator Marjorie McGinnis and selectboard member Tom Hankinson met recently with representatives of the USDA to discuss the idea of piping in water from the town from Amherst to serve five houses whose drinking water the town is responsible for.

These houses’ wells had tested positive for volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and are believed to sit atop a plume of groundwater pollution seeping from a capped, unlined landfill filled with terrible twentieth-century material.

Hankinson said that Leverett would qualify for loans or grants under the USDA Water & Wastewater Disposal program, but that Amherst would not: if Amherst would own or maintain the pipes, or collect user fees, the USDA couldn’t help with the project.

The prospect of having to develop a water district, and hire a certified water district manager, for such a targeted problem did not sit well with the board. Nor did any other solution it could come up with.

The town has drilled a new well for one of the houses, but that idea may not have worked – one test of its water came up positive for 1,4-dioxane, though a retest was negative. The whereabouts of the plume is unknown. It might be expanding, or there might be no plume at all.

“If you push hard enough, the whole thing starts to fall apart,” Hankinson said. “This is what the well committee keeps coming up against.”

After a very quick calculation, simply purchasing the houses was ruled out.

The cost of securing right-of-

ways, drilling, maintaining and testing all five wells sounded high. “You’re talking basically a half a million [dollars], on something that may still turn out to have VOCs,” said d’Errico. “We may have to revisit our sense about not wanting a water district.”

The board decided to reach out to the Massachusetts Rural Water Association for advice, and invite the well committee to a meeting soon to discuss the issue in depth.

## Other Business

The board of health recommended Rich Brazeau to join its ranks, and the selectboard unanimously approved his appointment.

“The shackles are once again attached,” selectboard member Julie Shively teased.

“They never really go away,” Brazeau replied.

The selectboard decided to grant fire chief John Ingram, who just celebrated his one-year anniversary as fire chief, a \$500 raise.

“There’s no question about it – he’s really turned the thing around,” said d’Errico. Ingram’s new salary will then see a 2% cost of living bump at the start of the next fiscal year.

The Mediation and Training Collaborative, a program of the Greenfield-based Community Action, has offered Leverett a free training on communication and conflict resolution, for up to 20 elected or appointed officials. McGinnis asked the board if the town was interested.

“Let’s just wait on that,” said d’Errico. “We have a specific situation we’re looking at that we would want to do that.”



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MONTAGUE from page A1

motion did make reference to a “trial period of fourteen days” and said Hubert would be “invited back to the next meeting to review the success and see if the ordinance will be in force as is or if some discussion needs to be made regarding outside noise level...”

The board revisited the issue on July 13. There was a good deal of discussion of sound readings and whether the bar had stayed within the new limits. In the end, the board passed another motion which maintained the previous limits but seemed to be targeted to Hubie’s:

“Nelson makes the motion to adopt decibel regulations as set forth on Monday, June 29, 2015 through the end of the calendar year for Hubie’s Tavern, with the understanding that music will end by 10:00 p.m. and there are no more than 8 events per calendar month and Mr. Hubert continue to make a good faith effort to remediate noise levels where possible.”

Last Monday’s meeting seemed to be driven, in large part, by the feeling among local residents, as well as selectboard member Rich Kuklewicz, that the revised ordinance had not reduced sound levels from bands at Hubie’s to acceptable levels.

However the agenda topic did not focus on Hubie’s, and the discussion was framed as a report from the town’s board of health on the noise ordinance. When audience members referenced Hubie’s they were initially reminded that the board did not want to focus on any one establishment.

Health director Gina McNeely began the discussion by talking to the board – or one should say attempting to talk to the board – while playing loud music on her cell phone. She then suggested that this was the situation in a hypothetical apartment in the Moltenbrey building right next to “a tavern” at 9:15 on a September evening.

“That is not acceptable under any public health standard,” McNeely said. “Public health is a plural word... Private ownership of a business is a singular entity. When the public’s health becomes abused... then the public health comes before the private. That’s why we have the laws we have.”

Responding to the argument that successful bars and restaurants with entertainment are good for downtown business, McNeely argued landlords who rent apartments next to Hubie’s also improve the business environment. They create jobs for those who renovate apartments and storefronts for people to shop in. “If you cannot rent an apartment because the noise is too loud,” she argued, “that’s [bad for] business.”

McNeely recommended the board terminate the 80-decibel limit voted the previous year immediately. Selectboard member Rich Kuklewicz responded that “that was only an exemption that has expired.” McNeely then said that the limit should be set at 70 decibels “everywhere,” not just in the case of Hubie’s.

McNeely complained that she had presented a broad noise ordinance “for the entire town” in 2005, which was “ditched” at the time in favor of rules attached only to entertainment licenses.

Rich Kuklewicz said he wanted to come up with a broad solution to the noise problem that took into account all downtown business while being “safe and enforceable.” He said a start had been made with McNeely’s

2005 proposal, but that the town might need to “go further. Certainly, the situation we had last summer was...”

“Untenable,” McNeely finished the sentence, and Kuklewicz nodded.

Police chief Chip Dodge said he felt last summer’s compromise “from what I saw, worked out pretty well.” He said Hubie’s had been given “eight dates” to feature music, so the “community knew about it, and could prepare for it.”

Dodge said that was a “home run,” because “we did not have to go out chasing everyone around. When the officers went out and did their tests, [Hubie’s was] in compliance.”

Kuklewicz said that “on several occasions” he had received calls complaining about the noise levels after the new policy for Hubie’s had been adopted. He had checked ordinances in other business districts in the region and they were “safe and enforceable.” McNeely stated that no other cities or towns she had checked in the region allowed businesses to feature outdoor music at high decibels.

Erin MacLean, business owner and resident of a building next to Hubie’s, said that “last June, everyone wanted to be supportive of a new business. That was my intention... but “no one but [Third Street resident] Mike [Thorn] understood decibels.”

MacLean also said that it did not matter whether the noise is coming from inside or outside. “Loud is loud,” she said, “and stress is stress.” She said that she had lived next to the bar for seven years and had lived in cities. She expected more noise in a downtown area but “it’s too loud, and too often.”

MacLean presented a petition of downtown residents who felt as she did, noting “none of us want to go another six months...” Her comments were endorsed by a number of those in attendance.

Sean Hubert complained that he had been told there would a “general discussion” of the noise issue, not of his bar, at the meeting. Mike Nelson noted that the problem could involve “another bar” that just moved in on Avenue A.

When Kuklewicz asked if the 2005 regulations, if enforced, were sufficient, McNeely said those regulations were written to “mitigate a problem at an indoor bar... We have not addressed [the issues] with outdoor music.”

The board then directed McNeely to update the regulations she had proposed in 2005, and return to the selectboard meeting scheduled for March 21.

Sensitivity Battle

The board approved a local group to organize racial sensitivity trainings or workshops in Montague. The decision came as a bit of a surprise because the agenda item, which appeared under the town administrator’s report, was worded as an “Update on racial training for town employees.”

Michael Nelson had introduced the topic by noting that the board would be looking for funding sources for the trainings. He also noted that two groups had offered to lead the workshops: members of a recently disbanded local group called the Coalition for Racial Justice, and local representatives of a national program called the SEED Project. He said the board needed to make a choice, or approve a “hybrid be-

tween the two.”

“Well I don’t think that would work,” said local business owner Rodney Madison, a member of the local group.

“I was under the assumption that we were going to do the training... I think I started this several months ago, and the SEED program came along a week or two ago, and you are considering [them]?”

Board members expressed confusion about the situation because during earlier discussions, Don Wright of the SEED Project seemed to be part of the local group. Then several weeks ago, Wright came before the board alone requesting that SEED be the lead sponsor of the effort.

Madison stated that he wanted SEED to be part of the effort, but “they chose to go their separate ways.” Nelson noted that at an earlier meeting the SEED organizer Don Wright had sat at the table with local organizers. He therefore thought they were making a joint proposal.

“And so did I,” responded Madison. “After all this work that has been done, they’re coming at the end wanting to do this... I respect the work that Don and SEED do but [not] at this late date.”

Madison also stated he thought the board was going to “come up with [the money].”

“We’re still looking for it,” said Nelson. “We haven’t given up.”

Audience member Erin MacLean said she supported the concept of the workshops, and endorsed whatever direction Madison would take. Nelson stated that he “completely agreed with that.”

Swan Keyes, a member of the local group from Millers Falls, said she recognized that the situation had become “kind of confusing. We were kind of blindsided by what happened at the last meeting,” when SEED came before the board. Keyes went on to describe her own experience and qualifications in the field of racial sensitivity training. “It’s what we do with our lives,” she said.

Keyes said she applauded Wright’s efforts, but said SEED used a “peer model,” while the local group wanted SEED to participate but was looking for “something a little more comprehensive.”

Kuklewicz then proposed that “we proceed, pending funding, with cultural sensitivity training as presented by Swan Keyes and her group.” This motion passed unanimously.

Other Business

Alice Armen, who leases space from the town for the Montague Center Community Garden, received approval to use the space for a Greenfield Community College Class on community gardening. The class will run from April 1 to May 8.

There was a discussion of whether the class would be covered by town insurance, and the board encouraged Armen and town administrative assistant Wendy Bogusz to “work it out” with the insurance company.

The board approved requests by Department of Public Works head Tom Bergeron to appoint Brian Doolittle to be Shop Foreman and Michele Esposito as Lead Mechanic.

The board held a public hearing on the signage at the old “town hall” in Montague Center, which contains the Montague Center Library. Library director Linda Hickman noted that the sign identifying the library was virtually unreadable, adding that the “Town Hall” sign is in very poor condition, and also creates confusion because the building is no lon-

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ger town hall. She suggested that that sign be taken down and perhaps placed inside the building, on the second floor.

This idea seemed to be supported by DPW head Tom Bergeron who said he frequently received calls from people waiting to meet him at the historic “town hall,” rather than the real town hall which is now in Turners Falls.

One member of the public expressed the opinion that removing a historic sign from a building in a historic district might not be appropriate. Alice Armen, a resident of Montague Center and a library commissioner, said that while she sympathized with concerns about the signs’ historic nature, their poor condition needed to be addressed. It was suggested that perhaps a historic plaque could replace the sign.

Hickman, asked if the town Historical Commission had an opinion on the matter, replied that the commission’s one member, Janel Nockelby, did not have an opinion. The board will revisit the issue at its March 21 meeting.

Police chief Chip Dodge received approval to appoint Joshua Dobosz as a Patrolman.

The board received notice that

the power canal will be emptied from September 19 through 24 for annual cleaning.

During the public comment period of the board, Charles Kelley came before the board to do a little “house cleaning.” He said that he had resolved one of his complaints to the “Division of Telecommunication and Cable.” However, he said he is still concerned about a number of purported open meeting law violations involving the town’s cable advisory and broadband committees, some of which involved emails to Eric Nakajima, former director of the Massachusetts Broadband Institute.

The board was then asked about security at the former Railroad Salvage buildings, in light of a report that police had discovered teenagers in one of the structures. Bergeron stated that the annex building, currently owned by the town, was secure.

However, the collapsing main building, where the teens entered, is privately owned, by Millers Falls resident Jeanne Golrick. The board said that building inspector David Jensen will look into whether a standing order to secure that building is being implemented.



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**BASKETBALL** from page A5  
lead in the first and held an 18-15 lead at halftime. Powertown maintained the 3-point lead after three, and out-scored the Cardinals 15-7 in the final period of the regular season.

Chmyzinski scored 21 points in the victory. She hit a three-pointer, 8 free throws, and 5 two-pointers. Ellis scored 9 points on 4 field goals and a foul shot.

Sanders popped in a three, hit 2 from the line and 1 from the floor for 7 points. Lacey also cracked a three pointer, a field goal and a free throw

for 6. Loynd hit 3 from the foul line.

#### A 24-Year Journey

So the Turners Falls Lady Indians made the playoffs. But the road hasn't been easy. They never gave up on themselves, even after a 0-3 start. They had to continue to try after four major injuries, compete with teams in higher divisions, get past the heartbreakers, and keep their head high even when routed.

Yes, it's been a long hard road to the playoffs. A long, long 24 year journey.



#### INCUMBENTS from page A1

What's been surprising to him? "The speed at which things get done. I am used to the business side of things, which is a lot faster."

The annual selectboard stipend in Gill is \$2,345.92.

**Art Johnson** will run again for the Erving board, even though the job has "not been an easy goal." He was on the finance committee previously, so had some familiarity with meetings "at a different table," and he enjoys being "in the thick of things" at town hall.

Johnson describes himself as a "middle conservative when it comes to business, and more liberal on the personal side. If there was a needle, it would probably say I was a Republican."

"There is more attention to detail involved than I ever thought, and I gained a whole new respect for how much work it is. And we have it easier than some towns who are having a budget crisis," Johnson remarked, noting that their level-funded budget is comparatively simple.

Johnson feels a lot of progress has been made over the last year (plus a few months) that he has been on the board to change an "over-perceived" view that the town hiring was done by "rubbing elbows." "A whole committee is in place so people know that only the most qualified candidate is being picked," he told the *Reporter*, "not just someone who knows somebody."

The biggest surprise to him was when the town administrator Tom Sharp unexpectedly left last year. "I never thought I would be here when that happened," he says. "I figured he would serve for thirty years."

The selectboard stipend in Erving is \$3,600 a year.

Will **Peter d'Errico** run again for a seat on the Leverett board? "Yes, I figure one more term," he says. Right now I think having continuity in this position is a help, with our finance committee and our tight budget."

When asked what the job has been like for him, he commented, "First of all, this job is nocturnal. Almost all these meetings happen at night. Then, it is certainly an unpredictable job, and sometimes stuff happens and it can't wait, you have to deal with it right away."

"And everything is spending other people's money, and it's not just about what is the right thing to do; it's more pragmatic, it is about what is doable, what is affordable."

"We talk about our \$5 million budget line items, but there is another \$5 million going out of our pockets and being spent on a federal level that we have no control over... It is really exciting how we are all connected on a global level, but also, it is daunting."

The most surprising thing during his service has been LeverettNet. "We are lucky here in Leverett that our board is very collegial," d'Errico explains. "Each member takes a lead on an issue."

"But little did I realize four and a half years ago what I volunteered for when I took on the broadband issue: Almost daily meetings around this, and a lot of stress, for the whole group working on it, and for me as point person."

The Leverett selectboard stipend is \$1,000 a year. The nomination process in Leverett is different from in our other coverage towns, as candidates for town office are nominated from the floor of annual town meetings.

**Christine Heard** is looking for another term on the Wendell board, where she has served for the past 18 years. She is now retired from her position at the Swift River School and wants to keep contributing to the board, which she describes as a real pleasure to serve on.

"Wendell is an amazing town," she says. "We have many very smart people who live here, and who are willing to serve in town government. I love working on the board as part

of the team. Everything runs very smoothly here, and we have a wonderful coordinator, Nancy Aldrich, who helps a lot."

Another thing that helps, says Heard, is the town's stable financial situation, the result of "some very smart work on the part of the financial committee. We don't struggle for money."

Surprises? "The time Ted Lewis lost the election for the board after 39 years was a real surprise. But we created a position for him, Coordinator of Buildings, in order to keep his knowledge and experience with us. And the person who replaced him on the board has brought new knowledge and perspective to the situa-

tion."

The stipend in Wendell is \$3,200 per year.

Incumbent **Chris Boutwell**, who has served two terms on the Montague selectboard, did not return calls, submitted papers weeks ago to run for another, and has signed up to run in Montague's Democratic Party nominating caucus on March 31.

Boutwell says he enjoys the job, and it feels "premature" to leave it now. He listed some of the priorities his board faces: new buildings for the highway garage and library; the condition of the town's sewer system, and "what do we do with the Strathmore."

Boutwell says his open-minded-

ness makes him a good board member. "I generally don't have my mind made up about an issue," he says. And over the last six years, he says, he has encountered "a lot of surprises."

"[Former selectboard member] Clarkson Edwards once told me that if you add up the time, it comes to 15 cents an hour," Boutwell says, adding that for those with full-time jobs, selectboard duties don't leave much time for personal life, but that he enjoys contributing to the community.

Montague's selectboard stipend is \$1,500 per year.



Additional reporting was contributed by Jeff Singleton.

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## A Little Rebellion

### Part 2: Boston Looks West

By ANN TWEEDY

Shays' Rebellion was more than the attempted raid on the Springfield Armory led by Daniel Shays in 1787. It was really many years of protest, petitions, and strategic actions like returning seized property to rightful owners, preventing tax collectors' work, and shutting down courts.

Some who analyze this history believe the perseverance of the Regulators, as the rebels were known, helped shape decisions on the formal structure of the Constitution. A stronger central government was needed to quash rebellions, it was argued, and the federal government would do a better job at maintaining control and order than individual states.

The situation would not have

escalated as it did, into an armed conflict that left several men dead, if Boston's elected officials and social leaders had been more sympathetic.

It would also have ended with more conflict and death if the right person, John Hancock, had not been reelected to Governor. Hancock's predecessor, the consumptive Governor James Bowdoin was in favor of hanging the Regulators.

Bowdoin and Hancock were both prominent Boston merchants before, during, and after the war. They were rivals in politics and society. Bowdoin lost to Hancock in his bid to serve as Massachusetts's first governor, and when Hancock left the office due to ill health, his wishes to have his lieutenant governor replace him were quashed and

see SHAYS page B5



*This portrait of James Bowdoin II, by Robert Feke, was painted in 1748 when he was a young man.*

## Notes from a 1968 Interview with Eldridge Cleaver

By CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUÇANNO

In the summer of 1968 I had the opportunity to interview Eldridge Cleaver, Minister of Information for the Black Panther Party.

Cleaver had come down from Oakland to Long Beach to meet with various members of the Panthers and the Peace and Freedom Party of California. I had joined Peace and Freedom in the spring of 1968, and somehow got appointed – or more likely, appointed myself – to write up Cleaver's visit for the Party's newsletter.

Most of my interview was concerned with Cleaver's bid to become the presidential nominee of the Peace and Freedom Party in the 1968 election. He would, in fact, be nominated that August in Ann Arbor, but at the time he was vying with activist Dick Gregory for the nomination. According to my notes, he was not opposed to Gregory, but felt that a more radical candidate was necessary to galvanize the various factions on the far left.

My article has gone missing, although I suppose I could get a copy from the FBI. But I recently came across my notes, and was struck by



*Eldridge Cleaver*

how Cleaver's analysis of police violence against young Black men unfortunately still rings true.

Cleaver's rhetoric at this remove seems crude and harsh – particularly his dehumanizing characterization of the police as "pigs" – and his belief that violence needs to be met with violence is as wrong now as it was then. The Panthers' belief that armed insurrection was the only way to "fight the power" was wrongheaded, as they themselves came to see.

What the Panthers did manage to do more successfully was to

see CLEAVER page B4

## Youth Develop an Interest in Photography at In-Sight

By NINA ROSSI

BRATTLEBORO, VT – Twenty-odd years ago, the sight of teens hanging out in the downtown area prompted two photographers to offer them something to focus on: they would share their skills with the kids in a summer workshop. Meant to be a one-time offering, with an outpouring of support from the community the workshop grew into a year-round teaching center for youth ages 11 to 18.

The In-Sight Photography Project, as it is now known, is located next to the new parking garage on Flat Street. It started a little farther down the road in the teen center at the Boys and Girls Club. Its ongoing popularity has blossomed into a roster of programs in both analog and digital photography and video that typically inspire over 100 participants per year.

No teen is ever turned away who wants to learn. A variety of financial assistance is offered. And yes, teens in Franklin County who are able to commute to the school are welcome to attend!

The center raises its budget through fundraising and grant writing every year, and they accept donations of used photography equipment that they may either sell or keep for students. The non-profit also hosts an annual photography exhibition and auction as a fundraiser.

Typically, a core group of dedicated students emerges who take classes at In-Sight for four or five years in a row, says program director Zachary Stevens.

Zach was one of those kids himself. He went on to graduate from the Hallmark Institute of Photogra-



*Students at In-Sight can learn the art and science of both analog and digital photography. Here, two young women focus their cameras during a workshop.*

phy, and then worked as photo editor at the *Brattleboro Reformer* for ten years.

"We don't just provide classes here," he said. "We provide a comfortable, safe, welcoming environment. We are somewhat of a teen center, but all classes are structured for them to work." The facility has a classroom/meeting room, a small gallery, and darkroom with eight enlargers. (The Hallmark Institute, which doesn't teach analog anymore, donated the enlargers.)

One of the first projects all students are asked to do is take a Polaroid – Fuji Instax film, actually – of each other. A wall of faces dating back to 2003, when the center relocated to its current space, is testimony to this getting-to-know-each-other activity.

Apparently, analog film processes are the number one choice of incoming students at In-Sight. Why this resurgence among the youth?

"I think it's because they

aren't doing it already; it's less available to them," proposes Zach. "They are always doing digital on their phones and other devices, so it's less intriguing. And with film, the process is tangible."

Among the center's offerings this spring are: Analog Photo Workshop, providing an introduction to film photography and the 35 mm camera; Analog Photo, levels 1 and 2; and Digital Photo, levels 1 and 2. The Analog classes have a core focus on the necessary darkroom and camera mechanical techniques, as well as fine points of composition and lighting. The upper-level class is geared towards the exploration of medium format film, and shooting with different kinds of cameras.

Students are encouraged to join words and images in the upper level digital class. Crafting a story with photos, and joining it with personal narrative, sounds like a perfect opportunity for personal growth at any

see IN-SIGHT page B5



WEST ALONG THE RIVER

THE INDIAN  
NARRATIVES, PART 1:



## THE NIPMUCS AND THE MASSACRE AT GREAT FALLS

By DAVID BRULE

THE GREAT FALLS – The American Battlefield Protection Program grant, awarded to the Town of Montague in 2014 has, as one of its components, the provision for four tribes to write their accounts of the King Philip's War and the events at the Great Falls of May 19, 1676.

This article is the first in a series of summaries of the narratives written by the Nipmuc, the Aquinnah Wampanoag, the Narragansett Indian Tribe, and the Stockbridge-Munsee Mohican. Other tribal entities such as the Abenaki, formerly of Squakheag (Northfield), have not yet joined the effort to present their tribal version of the War and its aftermath.

The Pocumtuck, whose homeland was centered around the Great Falls, no longer exist as a tribe, and have been adopted into the various tribal communities and bands spread throughout the Northeast US and Canada.

The Nipmuc Nation of Massachusetts, whose name refers to them as the Fresh Water People, had a pre-contact population of more than 6,000. They occupied

the vast interior of Massachusetts, from the current Vermont/New Hampshire border, down into Connecticut, east to Natick, and west to Montague.

Based today in central Massachusetts, their homeland is in Worcester County and includes towns such as Dudley, Grafton, and Webster. The current tribal population is approximately 2,000 members.

The following article is a summary of the narrative developed by the Chaubunagungamaug Nipmuc History Preservation Office. The original text can be found on the Town of Montague website under "Technical Report of the Battle of Great Falls" and at the Carnegie Public Library.

### Remembering and Reconnecting

This fourteen-page narrative is an evocative and heart-wrenching description of the tragedy of King Philip's War (1675-1676) from an Indian point of view. It seeks to describe the impact of the war on the Nipmuc, who dwelled here at the time, and still call this region their home.

The Nipmuc authors of this document evoke the deep tribal connection with this land, the earth, and the spiritual landscape around the falls.

For them, the relationship to the land around the Great Falls, and indeed this region of the Connecticut River Valley, was shattered by the end of King Philip's War. Their document seeks to describe what life was like before the massacre, and what life is like for them today.

The devastation of 1675-1676, and in fact, the tidal wave of English colonial intrusion and expansion beginning soon after 1620, had already created the conditions for tribal demise a generation before the tragedy of 1676.

The Nipmuc writers express their grief over this shattered relationship with the landscape of our valley.

"This place has meaning," they state early in the narrative. The landscape tells native people their history, their story. It reminds them, it helps them to continue to tell their story, but how do you do that when you are cut off from this land? The writers remind us that their ancestors had a relationship with this place, they interacted with the land that has deep cultural and spiritual significance for them.

A case in point is the deconstruction of the place name *Peskeompskut*, by David Tall Pine White, see WEST ALONG page B5



# Pet of the Week

Since you are looking for a friendly and playful girl to add to your family, then look no further, Blossom is your girl.

She came to Dakin when her family had to move and couldn't take her with them. She is used to living indoors and has lived with children as young as two.

She hasn't lived with dogs or cats but with a slow introduction she may be able to have furry siblings. She is about a year and a half old.

Blossom's previous family described her as playful, affectionate, clown-like, fearless and a lap cat.

She likes to be petted, especially along her back.

She likes to chase and pounce on toys and will even try to learn something new for a treat. If you think Blossom is the girl for you please ask a team member for more information.

There are other lovely animals at Dakin, with locations in Leverett and Springfield. Please visit us at [www.dakinhumane.org](http://www.dakinhumane.org)

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



“BLOSSOM”

## Senior Center Activities FEBRUARY 29 to MARCH 4

### GILL and MONTAGUE

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

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

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

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

### Monday 2/29

1 p.m. Knitting Circle

**Tuesday 3/1 CLOSED: VOTE!**

### Wednesday 3/2

9 a.m. Veterans' Outreach

12:45 p.m. Bingo

### Thursday 3/3

9 a.m. NO Tai Chi

10:30 A.M. Brown Bag

1 p.m. Cards & Games

### Friday 3/4

1 p.m. Writing Group

### WENDELL

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

### ERVING

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

gate meals.

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

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

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

### Monday 2/29

9 a.m. Tai Chi

10 a.m. Osteo Exercise

### Tuesday 3/1

8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics

10 a.m. Stretching & Balance

12:30 p.m. Crafty Seniors

### Wednesday 3/2

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing

9:30 a.m. Blood Pressure

10 a.m. Chair Yoga

Noon Bingo, Snacks

1 to 3 p.m. Veterans' Meet

### Thursday 3/3

8:15 a.m. Foot Clinic

8:45 Aerobics

10 a.m. Healthy Bones

11:30 Brown Bag

12:30 p.m. Creative Coloring

### Friday 3/4

9 a.m. Quilting 9:30 a.m. Bowling

11:30 a.m. Pizza & Movie

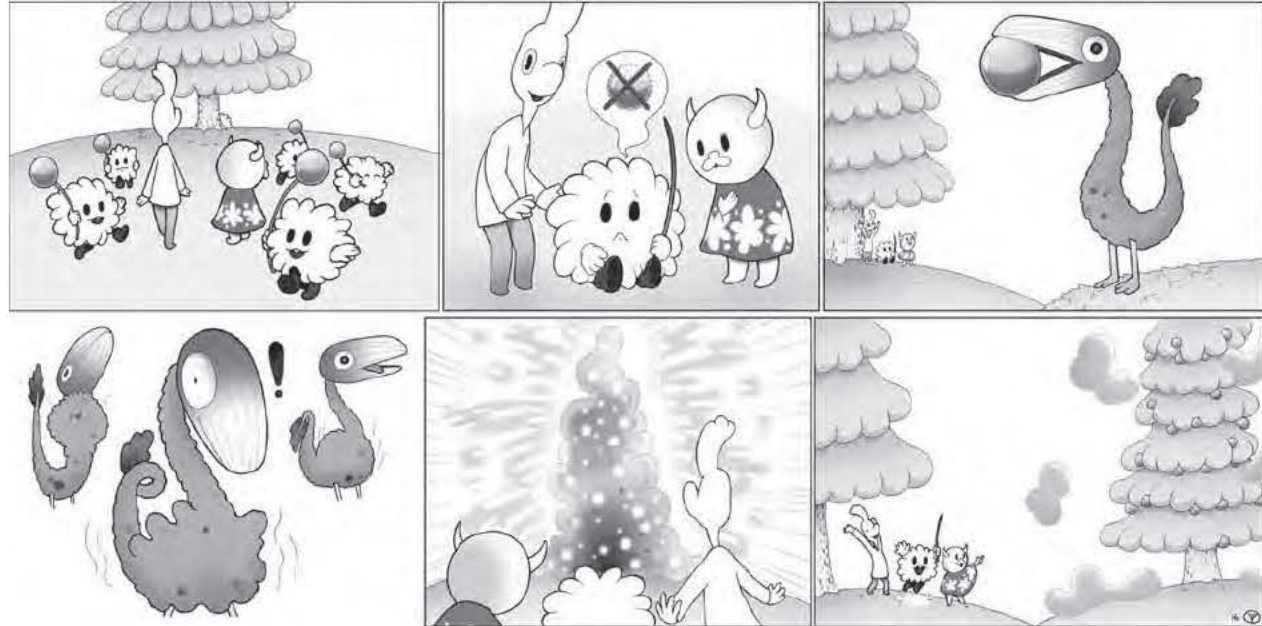
12:30 p.m. Scams Workshop; Painting

### LEVERETT

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

## WEIRD HEALING by OVERTURE



Overture is based in Shelburne Falls. Check out [overture.org](http://overture.org).

## Happy Birthday, Cabot Station!

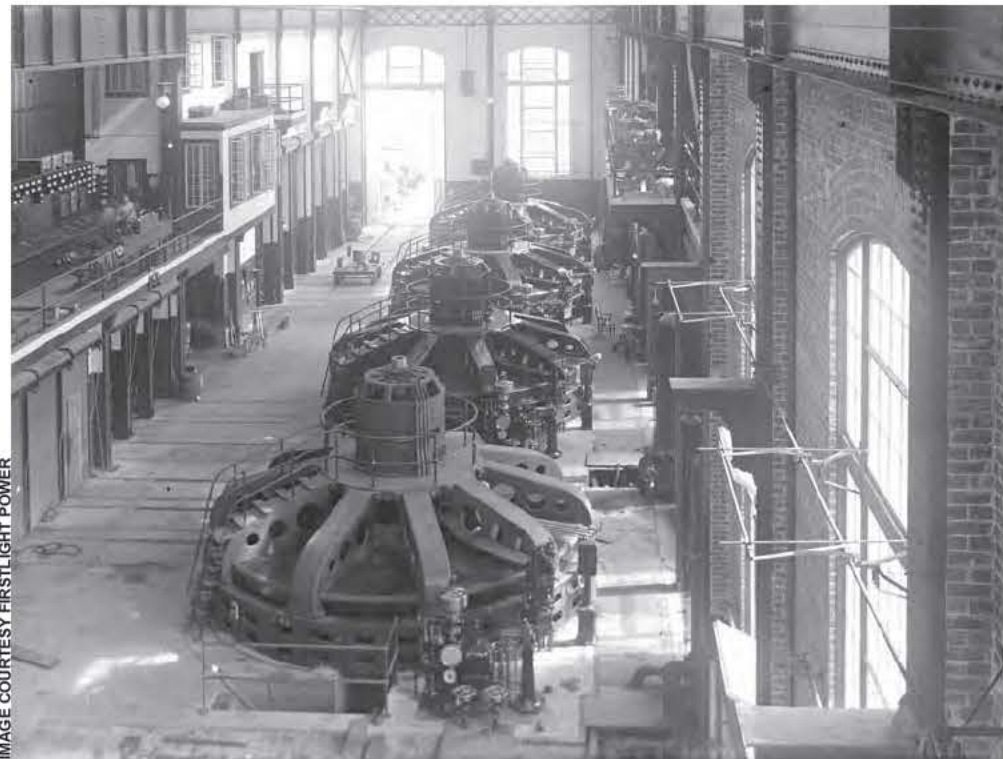


IMAGE COURTESY FIRSTLIGHT POWER

On February 26, 1916, the first four generators at Cabot Station, at the end of the Turners Falls Power Canal, were set in motion and began generating electricity. The station is now owned by FirstLight Hydro, a subsidiary of GDF Suez Energy North America.

We will run more on the station's history in coming weeks, and there'll be commemorations later this spring, but for now – Happy Birthday!

### THE HEALTHY GEEZER

## Such Prodigious Ears

tape measure to check this.

(Definition: Collagen is the fibrous protein part of bone, cartilage, tendon, and other connective tissue. It is converted into gelatin by boiling.)

• Physicians at the Royal College of General Practitioners in England measured their patients' ears. They found that, as we get older, our ears grow about 0.22 mm a year.

“A chance observation – that older people have bigger ears – was at first controversial, but has been shown to be true,” Dr. James A. Heathcote reported. “For the researchers, the experience of involving patients in business beyond their presenting symptoms proved to be a positive one, and it was rewarding to find a clear result. Why ears should get bigger when the rest of the body stops growing is not answered by this research. Nor did we consider whether this change in a particular part of the anatomy is a marker of something less easily measurable elsewhere or throughout the body.”

• Dr. Yashhiro Asai, a physician at the Futanazu Clinic in Misaki, Japan, along with three colleagues, agreed with the British analysis. Their study of 400 consecutive patients aged 20 and older concluded that “ear length correlates significantly with age, as Heathcote showed, in Japanese people.”

• A computer analysis at the University of Milan documented how facial structures change as people

age. Ears, the researchers found, get larger with age. Dr V.F. Ferrario and four colleagues from the Functional Anatomy Research Centre at the university presented evidence that not only do ears get longer with age, but this phenomenon applies to both women and men.

• Doctors from the Medical Branch of the University of Rostock in Germany measured the ears of 1,271 children and adolescents. They reported that ear length increases “steadily and annually,” but ear width remains the same.

So, there is strong evidence about geezer ear growth. The cause of the enlargement is still a subject of debate in the scientific community. There are many theories. My personal favorite is that skin loses elasticity as we age. This tendency and gravity make ears get longer and wobble.

Kay-Tee Khaw, a professor of clinical gerontology, said it may be that “big ears predict survival. Men with smaller ears may die selectively at younger ages. Ear size or pattern, or both, may be a marker of some biological process related to health.”

While this may sound far-fetched, many studies have shown that men with a diagonal crease in both ear lobes may have an increased risk of heart attacks.

If you want to ask a question, write to [fred@healthygeezer.com](mailto:fred@healthygeezer.com)



JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

Q. Why do old men have big ears?


I didn't believe the premise of this question. Well, it turns out that old men – and women – have bigger ears than they had as young adults. In short, your ears grow larger as you age. I know this sounds like a myth, but it's been proven by scientific studies. Examples:

• Researchers at the VA Medical Center/Texas Tech University found that ear circumference increases an average of 0.51 millimeters per year.

“This study,” the Texas scientists reported, “supports the view that as people age, their ears get larger, particularly the ear circumference, which increases on average 0.51 mm per year. This enlargement is likely associated with aging changes of collagen. The knowledge from this study allows us to calculate the age of an individual based on ear size: Subject's age = 1.96 x (Ear circumference in millimeters – 88.1).”

The researchers were not clear about how the “circumference” was measured. They didn't use the complete outer ear to determine this measurement, so don't get out your

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Property Manager



# LOOKING BACK

## 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was February 23, 2006: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

### Riverview Residents Seek Redress

Bill Bonnette, a resident of Riverview Drive in Gill, and his sister Geri Johnson came before the Gill selectboard to renew complaints of excessive and inconsistent property valuations in the recently designated Riverview District.

Bonnette, who said his tax bill has doubled in the last two years, said the quarter-acre lot his modest wood frame house is built on is now valued at \$141,000, up from \$30,000 two years ago. Two doors down, another quarter acre plot on the river remains valued at \$30,000 he said.

Bonnette said his neighbor's quarter-acre lot was valued at \$140,000 although he didn't even have parking, due to a fire hydrant in front of the lot. "I let him park in front of my house," Bonnette said.

There is an opening on the current board of assessors, and selectboard chair Phil Maddern urged Bonnette to consider running for it.

### Does Montague Really Want a Skatepark?

Abandoned and rusting for the last two years, the town's skate park on Second Street may finally get a new lease on life. Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio told the select-

board at their February 22 meeting that the town's insurer had visited the facility and deemed it useable, with some modifications.

As a result, the selectboard called for an accounting of costs associated with reopening and maintaining the facility, and for a meeting to gauge the community's interest in doing so. The only recommendation made was to remove two ramps in disrepair.

"Do you really want a skate park?" asked selectboard member Pat Allen to the audience.

### Walk to Vermont Yankee HQ

On Sunday, Feb 26 at 12:30 p.m., walkers will assemble at the Brattleboro Food Coop (park in parking garage, not in Coop lot) for a walk.

The New England Peace Pagoda, with the support of Citizens Awareness Network and Traprock Peace Center, are conducting a walk from downtown Brattleboro, up Route 5 to Vermont Yankee's corporate headquarters on Old Ferry Road.

While the walk protests the pending uprate of the Vermont Yankee nuclear reactor, it is also a part of the Peace Pagoda's "Walk for a New Spring" to draw attention to the dangers of nuclear weapons and nuclear power and how both jeopardize the hope for world peace.

This walk demonstrates people's commitment to being Green by 2015.



By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

On February 18, the fourth season of Vikings premiered on the History Channel.

In connection with what happened last season, we see the status of Ragner's health coming into play again, and it was not good. His wife ruled his land while he was away. She doesn't really want to give up her rule of the place.

The opening scenes consist of Ragner having some kind of near-death vision where he is denied entrance to Valhalla, the Viking afterlife. The vision also gives him glimpses of his future.

His wife, who has lost her power over the land, asks the seer whether or not she will rule the land when Ragner is gone. The seer doesn't confirm or deny whether that is going to happen.

Ragner does recover somewhat from his dire state of health. But he doesn't seem too happy about it, perhaps because he doesn't want to deal with things he has to deal with due to his being king. For example, people betraying him, like his brother did.

We also see his brother in Paris, where he's living out the deal he was offered by the king of the city, which includes marrying his daughter and

defending Paris against the Vikings, in exchange for land and a title. Unfortunately the woman really doesn't want to marry him.

There is also a little bit of a time jump that occurs as well, which does not hurt the episode in my opinion. It's not like it's done in a way that is awkward or doesn't work for the flow of the plot.

I really like the near death-scene that features Ragner, and the way it shows him what is to come. This just seemed very cool to me.

We also get a little hint about his eldest son starting to fulfill a prophecy the seer made to Ragnar, about him sailing around a sea with no name. The hint is this young man is looking at a map he found in Paris.

Ragner's brother does keep his end of the deal to protect Paris from the Vikings. There is a mention that Ragner is coming, which is obviously a foreshadowing of the brothers going at each other in battle, like they did in the show's first season.

But to call it a predictable move, that would be an error. Because the upcoming preview that I saw at the end features his brother looking like he going to stay the course in defending Paris, saying he would defend the city to his death.

It could be a very action-filled and exciting season.

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

# Car Clips Cyclist; Scammers, Solicitors Annoy; Various Parties Bang on Things

Monday, 2/15

12:08 p.m. Alarm sounding on liquor room door at St. Kazimierz Society. Units checked building; all secure.

6:42 p.m. Caller reports that when his wife went outside, she noticed something written in the snow on the front stairs. It appears that someone wrote with their finger "I will kill you." Caller checked with neighbors, who did not see anyone in the area. Advised of options.

7:08 p.m. Caller advising of lights at East Main Street railroad crossing being activated for approximately 30 minutes. Call placed to N.E. Central, who will look into it; they believe there is a train parked too closely.

Tuesday, 2/16

7:56 p.m. TFFD responding to Third Street for a fire alarm; requesting PD assistance as a male party well known to the PD is not allowing FD inside his apartment, which is leaking water into the detector and light fixture in the apartment below. Units clear; situation mediated; building maintenance notified and will be responding.

11:12 p.m. Caller reports that as she was driving on Turnpike Road, her passenger side mirror struck a bicyclist. Cyclist is up and talking; unknown minor injury. Caller still on scene. Additional party into station to report same. Officers and MedCare en route. Cyclist refused treatment; courtesy transport provided.

Wednesday, 2/17

9:15 a.m. Caller from Worcester reports that her daughter ran away from a program there two days ago. Caller has already filed a missing person report with Worcester, but after speaking with one of her daughter's friends, she believes her daughter is either in Wendell or Turners Falls. Caller advised of options; officers will be on lookout.

9:46 a.m. Caller sent 2 emails to the records department reporting that he received 2 voicemails threatening that he will be arrested for five criminal allegations if he does not call back and speak to a Federal Agent. Caller advised this is most likely a scam and that he should block the number if possible. Report taken.

12:31 p.m. Two vehicle accident at Millers Falls Road and Edward Avenue; one vehicle struck a utility pole. MedCare, Eversource, and TFFD en route. Traffic being diverted up George Avenue. Extensive damage to both vehicles. One patient transported by MedCare. Road reopened.

1:14 p.m. Two vehicle accident at Avenue A and Third

Street. Citation issued to one operator for failure to use care in backing.

3:31 p.m. Caller from Greenfield Road reports that approximately 5-8 minutes ago, a female got out of a vehicle (attached) and dumped a trash bag in the caller's dumpster. Officer went to registered owner's address and spoke with her; she denied dumping the trash. Officer back to Greenfield Road to speak with caller. Mail in the trash bag contained the name/address for the registered owner of the vehicle. Summons issued.

5:30 p.m. Report of intoxicated subject that was just inside Connecticut River Liquor and Wine threatening employees. Subject was upset that employees would not sell him alcohol; subject stated he hoped they died and that he could "make that happen sooner rather than later," then left the store. Subject located in alley beside Pizza House and taken into protective custody. Subject reportedly punching and hitting cell door and screaming that he was going to murder the officers. Units advised. Subject requesting to be released. Officer explained that due to high PBT (.19), he will be evaluated at 6 a.m. Party's response was "you wonder why people like me become homicidal and kill cops?" Party later released.

Thursday, 2/18

1:37 a.m. Employee at Between The Uprights requesting an officer walk her to her vehicle as there were just two parties banging on the front door attempting to get in. She advises that these two parties were thrown out of the bar earlier tonight. Services rendered.

1:48 a.m. Caller complaining that upstairs neighbors are making a lot of loud noise, banging and pounding. Officers spoke to neighbor, who stated his cat had knocked something off of a table and also that he just got home from work. Party is going to bed for the night. Advised of complaint.

8:03 a.m. Caller from Cum-

berland Farms requesting assistance moving along an unwanted subject who was being disorderly for the past 15-20 minutes. Caller advises that subject initially refused to leave but is now smoking a cigarette outside of the store. Officer advises that this subject has been asked to leave before. Subject verbally trespassed until St. Patrick's Day. Subject agreed to abide by verbal trespass and boarded a bus. Subject later found to have an active warrant. Officers will be on lookout.

4:21 p.m. South Hadley PD called regarding a missing person investigation; they received a tip from Greenfield PD earlier today that someone reported seeing the missing subject leave Mesa Verde and get into a vehicle registered to a Millers Falls resident. Officer spoke briefly to vehicle owner, who was very uncooperative and stated that the female he was with earlier was not the missing party, then shut the door on the officer. SHPD advised.

7:55 p.m. Officer reports vehicle with a gas pump hanging out of its gas tank at the Water Department. Second officer checked FL Roberts; one of their gas pump handles is missing (pump 7). Officer returning gas pump to FL Roberts. Investigated.

Friday, 2/19

2:30 p.m. Chief Dodge evaluated several applications for soliciting permits submitted by NRG. NRG manager advised of findings. Manager stated that none of the employees who were denied, pending, or had not yet submitted IDs were in the group going out today.

3:28 p.m. Caller from Avenue C reports that two male parties came to her door requesting to see her electric bill. Officer advises that one of the parties is on the list as having been denied to solicit per Chief Dodge. Manager advised. Party claiming he is unaware that he was denied. Party will cease soliciting and contact his manager.

5:12 p.m. Caller from Union Street reports that

two male parties stating they are from "NRG" are requesting to see copies of her energy bills. Caller stated she asked parties for ID; only one could provide ID. That party was not on the list of parties approved to solicit. Officer spoke to both parties, neither of whom was listed on the permit application. They were both advised to cease soliciting. Copies of call and associated paperwork left for Chief Dodge.

8:27 p.m. [REDACTED] was arrested on a default warrant.

8:37 p.m. Caller from Randall Road reports that his neighbor approached his vehicle as he was leaving and was pounding on his window. Caller stated to her that he would not open the window. Party continued to pound on the window; and the caller did crack the window open. Party then tossed a flyer into the car having to do with religion and God. Advised of options.

Saturday, 2/20

9:35 a.m. Caller from Federal Street reports that a black Lab and a yellow Lab from across the street are attempting to get at chickens cooped at caller's location. Officer retrieved the two pooches and will be securing them at the kennel.

12:15 p.m. [REDACTED] was arrested on a straight warrant.

6:20 p.m. Officer advising he moved along several parties at the skate park and advised them that the park closes at dark.

7:46 p.m. Anonymous complaint regarding noise from Hubie's Tavern. Officer found decibel readings to be well below limits.

10:35 p.m. Two additional calls reporting loud music from Hubie's. Officer on scene to take readings; investigated.

Sunday, 2/21

12:02 a.m. Report of a significant fireworks display and a bonfire on Turners Falls Road. Parties advised of complaint. Group will take gathering inside for the night.

# MONTAGUE CRYPTOJAM !!!

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**WEST ALONG** from page B1

tribal linguist, Nipmuc language teacher, and Nipmuc representative on the Battlefield Advisory Board. He writes:

**Pesk** – “fire bursts out”  
**Ompsk** – “rock”  
**-ut, -et** – “the place of”

He points out that the name, provided by the landscape, refers to what we now know as a fault line in the earth’s crust. The ancestors gave the place this name, but how did they know that volcanic fires had burst through the rocks here?

White states that “This demonstrates that oral tradition and knowledge, along with meaningful language can carry stories and wisdom far into the future. The land has a story to tell.”

But the stories that the landscape told were severed from the People when the disaster of May 1676 occurred.

The Nipmuc People were led by powerful war sachems such as Mut-tamuc, Konkawaasco, and the great Matoonas, who fought many battles

against the English at East Brook-field, Bloody Brook, Northfield, and Hatfield. But by the end of the war, they were caught and executed by the English on Boston Common. Women and children were enslaved: sent to the West Indies, or given to the colonial victors to serve out their lives forever indentured in English homes.

The Nipmuc document states bluntly: “We forgot.”

There are no tribal archival records of the battle, as there are for white historians. The stories of the battles have been written by the victors. The Elders of the tribe only know of the battle and the War from the writings of English-language historians. There are no tribal records of the Nipmucs at the falls that day.

But they can tell us how their forests were taken, their fields fenced in, the men executed, the children raised by others, the Elders sent to English homes. “Slowly most of us forgot.”

**The Aftermath, and Reconnecting**

“We forgot. We didn’t intend to, but we did.”

The Phase I context of the 2014 Battlefield grant provided one of the first opportunities for the Nipmucs to try to begin to remember, or at least reconnect.

The current group of Nipmuc Elders had vague memories of hearing about the Turners Falls massacre much later in their lives, never in the State of Massachusetts-approved history books when they were in school.

As they met recently to honor the intent of the grant, to try to put into words the role of the Nipmuc in King Philip’s War, only the harsh reality of the aftermath was tangible. They came face to face with the impact of that war, of the roots of the multi-generational trauma that they have carried into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

They confronted the fact that the impact was more than physical: that the death of their leaders, the decimation of their population, the continuing removal of their children by

the State, “went to the heart of who our ancestors were as living beings interacting instinctively with the world around them.”

And it went to the heart of who they are now, and until recently, living somewhat out of sight, keeping a low profile, unnoticed by much of the rest of us, even though they are our close neighbors.

They gathered and recorded tribal comments about life now:

“Nothing has changed, we are still living our lives the way others want us to.”

“Unable to be ourselves, we never knew who we were.”

“Better to be black.”

“Anger, alcohol and drug abuse.”

“How do we get this (renewed) information out to the young people?”

The Elders visited the Great Falls in October 2015, escorted and guided by Joe Graveline and by me, to help them reconnect, to see and understand the massacre, to assist in learning about the event that had such a continuing impact on their lives. They had never visited

the sites of Riverside and Wissatin-newaug before.

They later wrote, “We attempted to pray over the site, but none of us had words... Eventually the words came and we walked away with heavy hearts.”

They vowed to return to the falls with the young people of the tribe, to come back to this place and have ceremony to honor the lives of those lost that morning.

“The Elders believe that it’s time as a Nipmuc People to remember... to remember who we are and the relationships that still await our return. We accept that the people who now “own” the land we occupied for thousands of years have forgotten us.

We will remember and continue to thrive in our homeland and never again forget”.

*The above is a synopsis. The entire original narrative is available at the Carnegie Public Library, and on the Town of Montague website.*



Grade 6			GREAT FALLS MIDDLE SCHOOL			Grade 8		
2nd QUARTER HONOR ROLL								
<b>First Honors</b>			<b>Grade 7</b>			<b>First Honors</b>		
Laura Cioclea						Hailey Bogusz		
Jada Jurek						Cameron Bradley		
Jacob Lyons						Karissa Fleming		
Lucy Postera						Josy Hunter		
Abigail Sanders						Joseph Kochan		
Ivan Sankov						Tucker Millane		
Olivia Stafford						Alyson Murphy		
Hannah Warnock						Dabney Rollins		
Devin Willor						Brody Trott		
Emily Young						Abigail Waite		
						Allison Wheeler		
<b>Second Honors</b>			<b>First Honors</b>			<b>Second Honors</b>		
Willa Jane Beltrandi			Julie Sprankle			Andria Ames		
Britney Lambert			Amber Taylor			Jaeden Ausikaitis		
Odalis Ramirez-Martin			Brynn Tela			Jakob Burnett		
Samantha Thorpe			Taryn Thayer			Joshua Gaulin		
Madison Tirrell			Leah Timberlake			Eliza Johnson		
			Luke Timberlake			Shelby Jordan		
			Jade Tyler			Luke Mayrand		
			Hailey Wheeler			Madison McCassie		
			Olivia Whittier			Lucy Spera		
			Maralee Wiles			Connor Waitkus		
						Lindsay Whiteman		



**IN-SIGHT** from page B1  
age. As the organization’s website points out:

*This process of seeing and discovering helps teach individuals about themselves through a visual language that can then be used to communicate with others.*

*The result is teens who have greater self-esteem and who are more willing to develop a viewpoint and present it to others. The medium of photography thus becomes a tool for building both self-esteem and communication skills.*

There are eight students per teacher, and two volunteer teachers. The teachers are usually photographers themselves, or students from area colleges looking for an opportunity to teach. An “Incentive Program” is offered, where students may earn their own camera by fulfilling an agreement to attend every class and complete every assignment, and then serve as mentors to students in the next round of courses.

There is also an independent study option, and in some cases,

students have been able to get course credit. (Unfortunately, courses have already filled for the spring semester, with classes beginning on February 22.)

Former student Evan Darling describes his growing fascination with the science of photography in a podcast featured on the In-Sight website. A fascination with the process of film development at In-Sight led him to the Imaging Science College at the Rochester Institute of Technology, where he put together his interests and skills in a career in digital microscopy.

“Over the span of six or seven years, In-Sight helped develop my love for photography and the science behind it,” says Darling, who now takes scientific images through microscopes of samples prepared by cancer researchers.

“The artistic part of my job is the images themselves; they can be beautiful. At the end of each research project, we try to gather the best images for publication. You want to have that wow factor.”

Another program at the center

called Exposures, now more than 10 years old, works to connect youth from distinct geographic and cultural regions. The Exposures Exchange is an online gallery and forum for youth from different geographic and cultural regions to share and respond to each other’s creative projects, and to generate a connection to their own and different communities.

A Summer Exposures intensive is also offered. Last year, a group went to South Dakota for two weeks of cross-cultural learning and photography. Participants learned to be accepting of differences and to help others understand them, with a combination of experiences that helped them to look with-out and with-in themselves.

This year’s Summer Exposures program features three weeks of work at Marlboro College using the art facilities and attending lectures on art, photography, and cross-cultural studies, as well as a variety of field trips and photographic journal making.

Check at the website for upcoming



*Students at the In-Sight Photography Project in Brattleboro examine rolls of film they developed in the photo lab.*

ing application information: [insightphotography.org](http://insightphotography.org).

Compared to twenty years ago, there are many more programs to choose from for teens in the Brattleboro area, and by extension, for those in Franklin County who are able to commute there to attend something

we don’t have down here.

The In-Sight Photography Project may be the right choice for someone you know, either as a student or volunteer. Provided you can get to their door, no one is turned away for lack of funds.



## SHAYS from page B1

Bowdoin was elected.

James Bowdoin was born into a wealthy merchant family. The first Bowdoin in the Bay Colony was Pierre Baudoin, who arrived in Boston in 1690, became a ship’s captain, and rapidly built a merchant enterprise. His son, James Bowdoin I, expanded that enterprise, and on his death in 1747, left the largest estate ever owned by any citizen of the colony to his son James, Jr. – a sum reported to be 50 to 100 thousand pounds sterling.

The second James Bowdoin kept the business profitable by indulging in smuggling – as did Hancock – when Great Britain turned the screws on merchants with tariffs and fees. Bowdoin also delved into scientific pursuits. Benjamin Franklin read his papers to the Royal Society of London, one of which promoted the correct hypothesis of bioluminescence of the ocean was due to the presence of small animals. He could have lived a life of indulging scientific pursuits, were he not called to politics and revolution.

He entered the fray and supported the cause of independence from Great Britain. Although... there were rumors. Bowdoin was consumptive, and suffered intermittent bouts of lung problems that disappeared him from public eye. He failed to attend the Continental Congress to which he had been appointed.

In colonial gossip, he was a secret Tory, a British spy, and a “political hypocrite,” according to Ezra Stiles. However, he is recorded by General Washington as being responsive to requests for provisions: salt, munitions, clothing and housing, etc. (From *James Bowdoin and the Patriot Philosophers*, Fred Edward Manuel, American Philosophical Society, 2004, Vol. 247)

Some of the loyalists to Great Britain were rightly motivated by fiscal wariness. “Britain was probably a ‘victor’ in defeat, for, after independence, U.S. taxes rose precipitously. From 1792-1811, U.S. per capita tax rates were over 10 times higher than the imperial taxes levied by the British from 1765 to 1775,” argue economic historians Lance Davis and Robert Huttenback.

Indeed, the revolution was costly: the GNP per capita fell by an estimated 46% between 1775 and

1790, a comparable figure to the 48% drop experienced during the Great Depression. (From John L. Smith, “How Was the Revolutionary War Paid For?,” in the online *Journal of the American Revolution*, Feb. 23, 2015)

America had to default on scheduled payments to France in 1787 because of low output from state’s coffers.

Paying the domestic debt for the war was a thorny issue. Some in Massachusetts believed the new federal government should assume the burden of taxing all of the states. Others felt that the states should handle the matter themselves.

Massachusetts was torn on this question, and there was no organized front to reform the Articles of Confederation. The feeling of the wealthy and Puritan establishment was that the domestic debt should be on the backs of all, regardless of their situation and their bravery in the war.

Many descended from the old Puritan “first families” were wary of newcomers like Daniel Shays. These families had created the powerhouse Bay Colony by acquiring new territory through savage, scorched-earth campaigns against indigenous nations. But where they had profited during Cromwell, they were humbled under the restored British crown, which revoked the Bay Colony charter gets revoked and replaced by the Dominion of New England under King Charles II and James II.

Rid of British rule, descendents of these flinty Puritans, like the Reverend Jeremy Belknap, Harvard-educated pastor at the Federal Street Church, harkened back to these earlier times. Now that the war was won, this one-time chaplain to the American rebels could not find much Christian compassion. Responding to Shay’s Rebellion, Belknap evoked Cromwell and said the new state should “pay well and hang well.”

The Revolution only truly worked because the colony’s regular trained militia men – typically farmers, when they weren’t fighting – were as frustrated as the merchants (typically men of position and influence). The militia men like Montague’s Moses Harvey had served under British Army command in the Seven Year’s War, and had found the experience degrading. The elitist British officer corps showed little appreciation for

## MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

# This Week on MCTV

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

Enjoying some sunny weather? MCTV staff have been very busy putting together programming for you this week. Check out the following videos, now in the TV schedule and available online:

Mary Todd performance at Greenfield Savings Bank, 2/13: Excerpts of dramatic monologue interpreting the unique character of Mary Todd Lincoln, followed by a discussion by actress Kathy Kennedy. These monologues are excerpted from a longer piece, “Pass my Perfections Lightly By.” 32 mins.

Coffeehouse music series, 2/12: Each month, the Friends of the

Great Falls Discovery Center host an evening coffeehouse with local spoken word and musical talent. Proceeds from sales at the February event benefited No Fracked Gas in Western Mass. 1 hr, 34 mins.

Carlos Anderson, “As you love thyself,” 2016: 34 mins.

Black History Month 2016 art lecture kickoff: Learn more about the art that was on display this month at the Great Falls Discovery Center as part of the *Music & Diversity II* February event series. The exhibit includes handmade dolls by multi-media artist Belinda Lyons Zucker and portraits painted by Louise Minks. Lecture by Tim Neumann, executive director of

the colonists. A number of colonial militia men refused mandatory enlistment, as it violated their contract, and gathered at Hawk’s Tavern in Charlemont, Massachusetts.

Daniel Shays, the figurative head of the Rebellion fought in several major Revolutionary battles. He was present at Lexington, the gruesome, fiery slaughter that was Bunker/Breed’s Hill, Saratoga, and Stony Point. Shays was given a special sword by French General Lafayette for his valor during the bayonets-only night attack at Stony Point outpost, 30 miles north of New York City.

The last thing a survivor of these battles wants is to then lose the life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness they fought for. They simply could not afford to pay the tax and the new state’s courts were taking the land away from them for failure to pay.

Neither James Bowdoin nor his sons actively fought in the Revolution. Bowdoin’s fortunes were not as affected as the farmers. He willfully ignored the complaints and pleas from non-merchants in Massachusetts until the regulars started shutting down courthouses to deny decisions on debt collection suits.

Bowdoin tried what he thought was a diplomatic solution to the uproar in the west, and on February 16, 1787 passed the “Disqualification Act,” an oath of allegiance to the

government that also prevented the signers from holding public office or voting for three years.

This didn’t take. The prominent families like the Dickinsons in Amherst were not about to give up helping the governance of their homes. It was an unpopular move and the situation turned uglier.

Sam Adams, the ultimate rabble rouser, disagreed with any rebellion under the brand new government. He encouraged Bowdoin to take action and expressed his displeasure: “the man who dares to rebel against the laws of a republic ought to suffer death.”

Bowdoin turned to his fellow merchants for support. All told, 125 Boston merchants donated more than \$10,000 to raise a militia of 4,000 men. They did not consult the national army, and had no official permission from the “new Republic” to occupy the Springfield Armory.

During this shadowy time, the Constitution had yet to be fully ratified, and laws are hung on theoretical strings. Shays’s Rebellion may be the first incident in American history of a mercenary army hired to prevent American citizens from protest. It is also perhaps the first time that an American protestor is vilified by the news. The Boston press called Shays an “archetypal anarchist.”

Bowdoin and the Boston merchants’ private army was gathered by

the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association. 56 mins.

And don’t forget to tune into our live broadcast of local meetings, including the Montague selectboard meetings Mondays at 7 p.m., and the finance committee meetings Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

Something going on you think others would like to see? Get in touch and learn how easy it is to use a camera and capture the moment! Contact (413) 863-9200, [infomontaguetv@gmail.com](mailto:infomontaguetv@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!

General Benjamin Lincoln, a son of Boston, appointed first Secretary of War in 1781 by Congress. Lincoln, like Shays, was at Saratoga where he was wounded, but unlike Shays, he was promoted to the position of Commander of the Southern Department of the Continental Army.

He made his mark as a military man, and at the war’s end, sought the company of fellow military leaders and helmed the Massachusetts branch of the Society of Cincinnati. This club, open only to army officers from France and America, was named in honor of the aristocratic Roman hero Lucius Cincinnatus.

Cincinnatus is often upheld as a virtuous civil servant, but Rome, while it may have been a republic, was no democracy: the Patricians ruled the plebes. Cincinnatus left his estate to lead the Republic as its Supreme Dictator for 15 days, fighting off invaders in the 5<sup>th</sup> century B.C. before retiring the post once his mission was complete.

Did General Lincoln believe he, as a patrician Bostonian, was assuming the mantle of Cincinnatus, in leading a debatably legal private army against an uprising of plebian Americans?

*In the next installation we will learn about the Irish-American Daniel Shays.*



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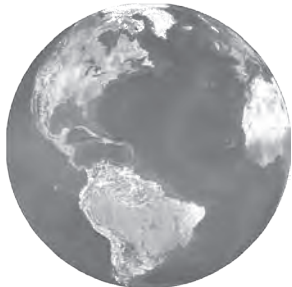
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# Aquí se habla español

Esta es la página en español del periódico Montague Reporter. Aquí podrá encontrar cuestiones acerca de la comunidad hispana en el área, eventos de interés, curiosidades, y noticias mundiales en español. Si quiere participar o compartir alguna sugerencia, envíenos un correo electrónico a: [spanish@montaguereporter.org](mailto:spanish@montaguereporter.org). Esperamos su participación.



## Febrero se olvida de los afro-latinos

Por VICTORIA MAILLO

Al empezar a escribir este artículo el primer inconveniente fue encontrar una traducción para *Black History* en español. Como todos sabemos, este mes de febrero se dedica a la celebración de la historia africana en Estados Unidos.

En mi opinión, en esta celebración se olvida el cruce de identidades entre latinos y africanos, por algunos denominada afro-latinos, aunque es una denominación que no es admitida por todos. Latino no es un concepto de raza, sino que se refiere a una identidad cultural y por lo tanto a la cultura, la nacionalidad o la lengua.

A la hora de completar las estadísticas, por ejemplo, para el censo o una solicitud de un puesto de trabajo se debe elegir entre uno u otro, por lo tanto nunca se es lo suficientemente negro, ni lo suficientemente latino.

Los primeros africanos llegaron a América llevados por los portugueses y españoles, uno de ellos fue Pedro Alonso Niño que viajó en 1492 con la primera expedición de Cristóbal Colón. Marineros provenientes del norte de África, llamados libertos embarcaron en los viajes de los conquistadores españoles especialmente en los primeros años.

Los españoles esclavizaron a los taínos y la gran mayoría de ellos murieron como resultado de ello o de las enfermedades llevadas por los europeos. Aquí es donde aparece la figura de Bartolomé de las Casas que en principio viajó al Caribe como encomendero, pero que más tarde se convirtió en un fiel defensor de los nativos.

De las Casas, al mismo tiempo que abogaba ante el rey de España por mejores condiciones para los nativos, reconocía que debían apoyarse en el esclavismo para poder trabajar en las minas y en las tierras. Bartolomé sugirió la introducción de esclavos provenientes del oeste de África para solucionar el problema.

Años después las islas caribeñas del imperio español se convirtieron en lugar de paso para los esclavistas holandeses y británicos. Algunos especialistas consideran que el 95% de los esclavos africanos llegaron al Caribe y Latinoamérica y solamente el 5% llegó a Norteamérica.

El sistema de castas impuesto por los conquistadores refleja una sociedad estratificada dominada por los españoles de raza blanca, sometidos a la pureza de sangre y en la falda de la pirámide se encuentran los negros y los indios.

Se hicieron multitud de cuadros que representaban las diferentes mezclas y se colgaban en las iglesias u otros lugares públicos. De ahí surgieron denominaciones como mulato, mez-

cla de blanco y negro; chino, mezcla de mulato e indio; y zambo, mezcla de negro e indio.

La influencia de la cultura africana se manifiesta en lenguas mezcla de lenguas africanas e indígenas como por ejemplo el garífuna, o el creole. Así mismo Linski, un reputado lingüista, recoge en sus investigaciones diversos términos que han pasado al español desde las lenguas africanas, entre dichos vocablos podemos señalar guineo, mucama o mondongo.

Pese a toda esta larga historia de diversidad cultural no se habla de ello en los medios de comunicación ni se menciona en las celebraciones de este mes de febrero, aunque haya grandes autores, entre ellos el premio Pulitzer, Junot Díaz, que ha abogado por ello en sus novelas.



Pintura sobre el tema “mulato”: “De negro y española sale mulato – negro 1. española 2. mulato 3.” Anónimo, colección Malu y Alejandra Escandon, Ciudad de México

## Una cuestión de lengua: El español en la campaña electoral

Por VICTORIA MAILLO

Estamos viviendo una de las campañas electorales más mediáticas de los últimos años en los Estados Unidos. Periodistas y medios

de comunicación en español en este país hablan de la importancia del voto latino para ganar las elecciones. Por ello, una pregunta importante para los candidatos es saber qué ideas tienen acerca de la políti-

ca migratoria.

Y ese fue precisamente el motivo de conflicto en uno de los últimos debates celebrado en Carolina del Norte entre los candidatos republicanos, quizás entre los que se han llevado

a cabo, el más disputado. Formaban parte del debate el archiconocido Trump, Jeb Bush (que ha abandonado la carrera electoral hace unos días), Marco Rubio y Ted Cruz.

Estos tres últimos candidatos hablan español. Bush por su matrimonio y por su larga carrera en Florida donde el español es una lengua más, Marco Rubio y Cruz, ambos de origen cubano.

Al día siguiente al debate todos los periódicos e incluso las redes sociales se hicieron eco de la disputa entre estos dos últimos candidatos en español. Fueron apenas dos frases recogidas en múltiples formatos, transcripciones, videos, y audios. Los dos candidatos se acusaban entre ellos de ser débiles a la hora de poner en práctica las leyes anti-emigrantes y de querer frenar las deportaciones.

En un momento dado Cruz acusó a Rubio de haber dicho esto en una entrevista en la cadena de noticias en español Univisión, a lo que Rubio le contestó que cómo podía saberlo ya que no hablaba español. Y aquí es cuando, y más asombroso todavía, Cruz contestó a Rubio en castellano.

La lengua española finalmente había irrumpido en un debate electoral en los Estados Unidos y aún más entre los propios candidatos republicanos.

Diversos medios de comunica-

ción en inglés se hicieron eco de las declaraciones y publicaron una y otra vez las palabras de Cruz. En ellos se acusaba a Cruz de utilizar un “lousy” español, y en otros de que su frase era agramatical, o incluso de su *incorrecto* español.

He escuchado la frase unas cien veces y no encuentro nada agramatical en ella, sí en la transcripción que hace el periódico *Washington Post*, que no se ajusta a la realidad y lo hace con faltas de ortografía.

Univisión dijo que Cruz tenía acento y que se notaba que el candidato no se encontraba cómodo hablando en español. Y este es precisamente el punto de mi escrito. La cadena Univisión, firme defensora de los latinos en Estados Unidos dice que Cruz tiene acento, precisamente uno de los talones de Aquiles de los latinos cuando hablamos inglés, nuestro acento, algo por lo que cada día los latinos son discriminados en este país.

Está claro que Cruz no ha crecido hablando español, pero no debemos acusarle por ello, al contrario, deberíamos alabarle que se haya atrevido conociendo sus limitaciones a usarlo en público ante millones de espectadores. Lo importante no es cómo lo dijo, lo importante es lo que dijo y que lo dijo en español.

¿Y ustedes qué opinan?

### RINCÓN DEL LECTOR

#### Versos de Nuevo México del Siglo XVIII

Estos poemas románticos de cuatro líneas (se llaman versos en Nuevo México y coplas en España) eran muy populares en Nuevo México en el siglo XVIII.

Yo los incluí en una escena que tuvo lugar después de una cena en mi novela *What the Owl Saw* (2014). Ya que el idioma usado en los versos es antiguo, a veces el lenguaje puede parecer extraño.

Primero, Selenia cantó una copla de España:

*Antenoche fui a tu casa  
y vide luz en tu ventana;  
era la luz de tus ojos,  
lucero de la mañana.*

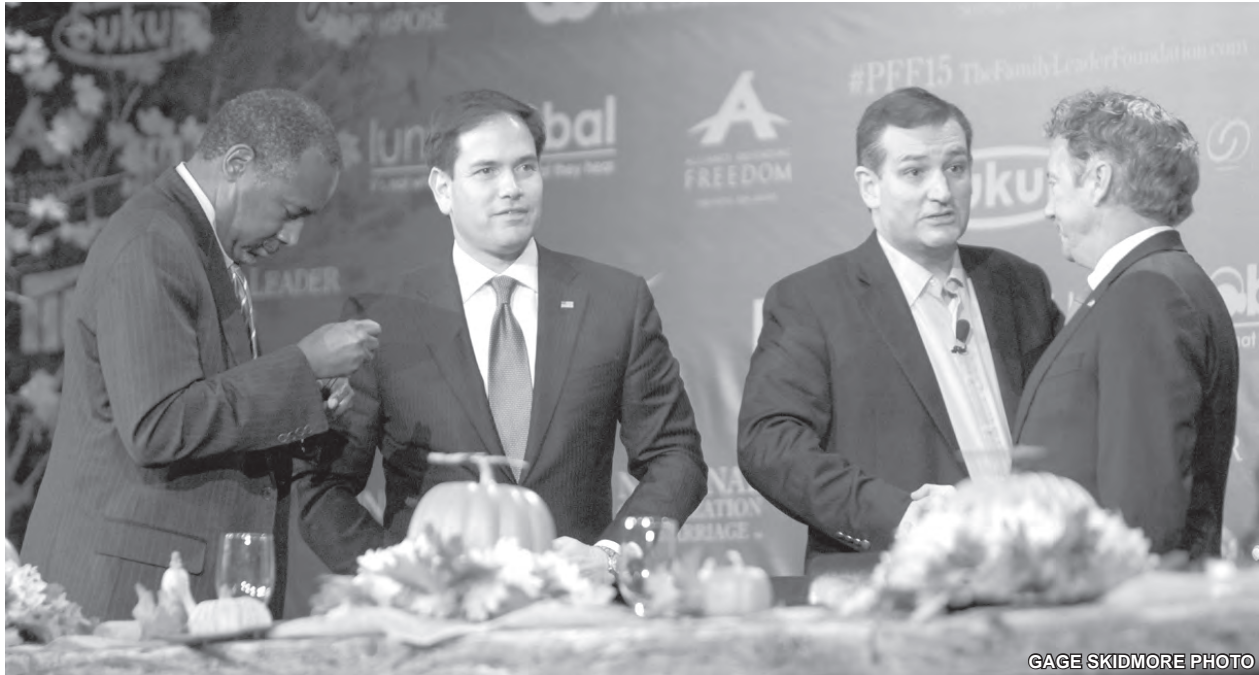
Entonces José ofrecía un verso que él conocía:

*Dicen que lo negro es triste  
yo digo que no es verdad;  
tú tienes los ojos negros;  
y eres mi felicidad.*

Por último, Carlos contribuyó con uno de sus versos favoritos:

*Arbolito enflorado  
verde, color de esperanza;  
mi corazón no te olvida  
ni de quererte se cansa.*

Gerald McFarland,  
con ayuda de  
Dennis Shapson y Dorothy McFarland



Ben Carson, Marco Rubio, Ted Cruz y Rand Paul.

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## ARTS &amp; 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, Turners Falls: Traditional Native American and improvised Asian flute music featuring *Eric Wolf*

*lights* Paintings, fiber, jewelry, photography, wood and pottery by member artisans. 2/24 through 3/30.

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

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



*The Rendezvous is pleased to host a performance by New York City jazz singer Kim Kalesti on Saturday, February 27. She will sing two acoustic sets starting at 9 p.m. Kim creates a sonic tapestry that is traditional, modern, funky, sophisticated and sexy. Backing musicians include Vernon C. David (cello), John Mason (guitar) and Bruce Kelly (drums). Kim Kalesti is a natural born singer whose passion and drive secured her the right to learn and perform with the greatest jazz musicians of the 20th century. Suggested donation in support of Music and Diversity II programming, \$5 to \$10. More information at www.kimkalestimusic.com.*

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. *Earthly De-*

## 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 [www.rattlesnakeguttertrust.org](http://www.rattlesnakeguttertrust.org)

Slate Roof Press, a member-run, not-for-profit collaborative, is pleased to announce the 2016 Elyse Wolf Prize for our annual poetry chapbook contest. The winner receives \$500, becomes an active member of the press, and will have his/her chapbook published by Slate Roof. Winners make a 3-year commitment to the press, including monthly meetings in Greenfield, MA, and share work responsibilities

for many aspects of publishing. May 15 deadline. For full contest guidelines, visit [www.slateroofpress.com](http://www.slateroofpress.com).

## EVENTS:

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25

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

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26

Wendell Free Library, Wendell. *Incredible Adventures of Donna and Alia*. Locally produced movie, benefit for the library. Donation \$. 7 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell. *Patty Tuite & Friends*. Classic rock and blues. 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Outside World, New Parents, and Head Cleaner* (new Danny Monster Cruz project). 9:30 p.m.

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27

World Eye Bookshop, Greenfield. Book signing for Jean-Claude van Italie's *Tea with Demons: Games of Transformation* 1:30-3:00 p.m. "Games are playful daily practices that flow like a constant brook over the stubborn stones of our old self-destructive patterns, thus slowly wearing them down and washing them away to reveal the stream bed of our basic good nature."

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

Wendell Free Library, Wendell. *Incredible Adventures of Donna and Alia*. Locally produced movie, benefit for the library. Donation \$. 7 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls. *Birdsong at Morning* Folk pop, with very special guest singer-songwriter Francesca Blanchard. 8 p.m.

Arts Block, Greenfield. *Tem Blessed & Blest Energy* Progressive, socially conscious hip-hop. \$ 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Kim Kalesti*, torch singer/composer. A RiverCulture Music and Diversity event. \$ 9 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell. *Zydeco Connection*. Zydeco Fantastico! 9 p.m.

Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls. *Afterglow*, 9 p.m.

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls. *Long Journey*. New and old folk with Amrita Lash, Karl Mullen, Tony Pisano, and Daniel Grip from Williamstown MA. 2 p.m.

Brick House, Turners Falls, Documentary: *The Mike Brown Rebellion*, Sponsored by Cosa Rara. "Following the shooting of Mike Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, Rebel Diaz and the Don't Stop Crew documented the people's demand for justice." 4 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell. *John Sheldon, Up Close and Personal*. Come and enjoy John's amazing talents. 8 p.m.

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 29

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Loone, Paper Bee, Pits, Beyon, and New Mom*. All ages / substance free space. Donation \$. 8 p.m.



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**Friday, 2/26 – 9 p.m.**  
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**Saturday, 2/27 – 9 p.m.**  
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**Sunday, 2/28 – 8 p.m.**  
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# Another Dispatch From Gas Country...

By ALISTAIR MACMARTIN

Barry Corrigan, Jr. of New Milford, Pennsylvania reads the *Montague Reporter* coverage of the protest of which he has been a part for the last 21 days. He has been boiling sap in a temporary camp set up on the Constitution pipeline route, preventing tree cutters from clearing the sugar bush you see behind him.

Although FERC's permitting of the pipeline is not yet complete, a federal judge has issued a "partial order to proceed," which allows crews to begin cutting trees on private property in advance of expected approval of the project. The orange flags indicate the path of the pipeline, scheduled to go into service by the end of this year.

The NED pipeline proposed for our area, a separate project, is planned to run 50 feet to the left of this picture.

"The process for taking private property by eminent domain is clear and the pipeline company has not been following it. They make frequent use of emergency applications and orders to get around their legal requirements which normally take much longer," says Corrigan. "And it's not like we can glue the trees back together once they have been cut."

Local and state police have refused to order the protesters off the site, reducing pipeline company representatives to frequent drive-bys, taking pictures of the syrup producers in order to intimidate them.

Support for the action has been overwhelming, with over 300 visitors coming from at least seven neighboring states to join the boil-in. For their part, Barry and friends offer maple candy to loggers and pipeline officials alike.

He is relentlessly cheerful, claiming, "I have nothing against the tree crews. I don't hate them. They are only trying to make a living to support their families back home. But this is not right."

At the same time, Corrigan does not hold out much hope for stopping the project. On February 16, the Holleran family, owners of the property, received notice to appear at a hearing in federal court on the 19th. The same judge who issued the



MACMARTIN PHOTO

partial order to proceed was asked to authorize federal marshals to remove protesters who continue to occupy the site and allow cutting to begin.

[Editors' note: The ruling on the 19<sup>th</sup> directed marshals to "arrest and detain people interfering with tree cutting" and ruled that the Hollerans have an "affirmative duty" to remove the protesters from their land. As of press time, no arrests had been made.]

No compensation for the trees or land taking has been negotiated at this point. Corrigan claims that the last offer he had heard of was for the equivalent of "a pickup truck – and not even as nice as the ones those pipeline guys drive around in".

On a personal note, it is impossible for me to look at these condemned trees without feeling grief at their loss and rage at the collective insanity that would have us building yet more fossil fuel infrastructure these days.

It's the same gut punch I felt after hearing about the originally proposed NED route that would have wiped out the peach orchard – my favorite fruit – at the Clarkdale fruit farm in Deerfield.

Can this pipeline beast be stopped before it causes any more destruction? I don't know.

But I do know how good it felt to stand in solidarity with Barry Corrigan, the Holleran family, and their supporters. We will have many more opportunities to do so in our own backyards soon enough. Stay tuned...

# MONTAGUE REPORTER

## ON THE ROAD

**"Our Man in Havana":**  
*Sports photographer David Hoitt reads the Reporter at the Plaza de la Revolution in Havana, Cuba, site of Fidel Castro's multi-hour speeches and, more recently, Pope Francis' masses. Hoitt traveled to Cuba with a cultural-biological tour, to observe birds in the Zapata National Park region.*

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