



LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 14 – NO. 22

also serving Erving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MARCH 17, 2016

As the Turbine Turns: The History of Montague's Vintage Hydro-Electric Station



COURTESY FIRSTLIGHT POWER RESOURCES

Between 1912 and 1915, the existing power canal at Turners Falls was dug wider and much deeper, and then extended by nearly a mile to end at Cabot Station. The canal originally dated to 1866.

By ANNE HARDING

MONTAGUE CITY – The centennial celebration of Cabot Station, a six-unit hydro-electric plant located in Montague City, is not a story unto itself. Its history starts long before the plant started producing electricity on February 26, 1916.

It is impossible to write about the station and power canal without first exploring the origins of the earliest canals along the Connecticut River in our area. Governor John

Hancock signed into existence the "Proprietors of the Locks and Canals of the Connecticut River," a corporation tasked with making the Connecticut River navigable, in 1792.

The corporation's job was to surmount the obstacles to navigate the various naturally occurring waterfalls and areas of rapids on the river. The ultimate goal was a navigable river from Long Island Sound to the Canadian border.

A second act dividing the corporation see **CABOT STATION** page A7

ERVING SELECTBOARD

Sullivan Asks Again for Townwide Vote on Treasurer Appointment

By KATIE NOLAN

Erving treasurer Margaret Sullivan presented the selectboard Monday night with a citizen's petition to the May 2 town meeting to make her position an appointed, rather than an elected, one upon her retirement. She also presented a petition to have the subject appear on the annual town ballot on May 4.

The same night, the town finance committee voted to approve all of the \$10 million in proposed FY'17 expenditures requested by town departments, except one that would raise the library assistant's hours.

Based on the FY'17 budget recommended by the fincom, the town will put approximately \$780,000 into the stabilization fund.

Treasurer Position

Sullivan's petition, with fifteen certified voter signatures, asked to include the following article on the annual town meeting warrant: "To see if the town will vote to have its elected Treasurer become an appointed Treasurer of the Town, or take any other action relative thereto."

At the March 7 selectboard meeting, the board had decided to withdraw a draft town meeting article changing the position from elected to appointed. It instead suggested an informational meeting in September to gauge town sentiments, followed possibly by a vote at a special town meeting in November.

Sullivan said that she is retiring as

see **ERVING** page A5

Montague Reports Month-Long Combined Sewer Overflow Event

By JEFF SINGLETON and MIKE JACKSON

MONTAGUE CITY – The town's water pollution control facility (WPCF) has gained a reputation as a hard-working and innovative facility. Superintendent Bob Trombley has encouraged his employees to take leadership roles in these upgrades, and in troubleshooting the treatment process.

In recent years, the Greenfield Road plant has significantly reduced the flow of sewage into the river, and is now generating significant income by dewatering solid waste from other towns.

But, as they say, nothing is perfect, and mistakes happen. And this winter, through

an accumulation of small problems, a bigger mistake appears to have happened.

On the morning of February 3, personnel from ADS Environmental, a firm that consults with the department on sewer flows, were performing a standard inspection of Montague's three combined sewer overflow (CSO) regulators.

The town's CSO system was upgraded between 2007 and 2009 at a cost of over \$5.7 million. It combines sewage with stormwater runoff from street grates, directing it into the town's treatment plant instead of the Connecticut River. The regulators under inspection monitor and control the flow into the plant.

see **OVERFLOW** page A6

Wendell Hosts Broadband Brainstorm

By JOSH HEINEMANN

Frustrated by the slow progress of the expansion of internet access to the households of Wendell, selectboard member Dan Keller spoke with Shutesbury selectboard members, and together they scheduled a meeting of town representatives from other towns that have had a similar frustration.

That meeting was held in the Wendell town office meeting room the evening of March 10, and over fifty people attended and filled the room to overflowing.

Wendell selectboard member Jeffrey Pooser has suggested on several occasions that Wendell might join with a few other contiguous towns – such as New Salem, see **BROADBAND** page A7



Wendell selectboard member Dan Keller (left) chats with counterparts including Jeff Neipp of Leyden and Eileen Savageau and Mark Thibodeau of Colrain. Broadband committee member Robert Heller is at right.

GILL-MONTAGUE REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Final G-M District Budget Set; Impact of School Choice Examined

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

At the March 8 Gill-Montague school committee meeting, members voted to approve as their final budget the amount of \$18,662,925, making no change from previous votes. An amendment offered by Valeria "Timmie" Smith of Gill to reduce the amount of excess and deficiency (E&D) in the budget from \$300,000 to \$285,000 in order to make the budget more "sustainable" was not supported. The budget was approved with a vote by seven members, with Smith abstaining and Jane Oakes absent.

Superintendent Michael Sullivan has been looking into the reasons for a reduction in the number of students remaining in the district. In his report of March 8, he told the school committee that "student enrollment at the beginning of the school year was down by almost 50

students from the previous year."

Sullivan said part of this was due to more students leaving the district than students coming in, due to school choice, and the district office has examined the choice data in detail, looking at students who left the district by town, school and grade, why they left, and where they went. He presented the results, which show some surprising details.

In each grade there was movement in and out of the district, but choice was only a part of the results. Of all the reasons, families moving away was the largest.

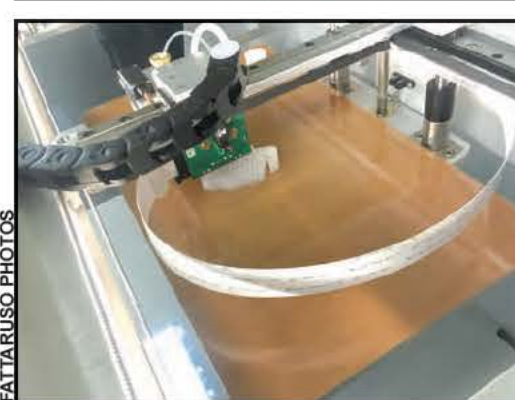
In the evaluation of the 2014-2015 school year, with a total of 125 student departures from the district, for all grades, 51 students moved away – most to other towns, but several out of state.

see **GMRSD** page A4

Franklin Tech Students Bring Design Into Another Dimension

By TIA FATTARUSO

TURNERS FALLS – When a saw handle breaks in the landscaping department at Franklin County Technical School, they



AT TOP: Jonas LaPointe helps freshman Malik Johnson design objects in Autodesk Inventor. ABOVE: The printer builds the object in layers of hard nylon. RIGHT: Junior Chad Williams assembles his prototype of a Stirling engine.

don't have to fix it or buy a new one. Engineering instructor Jonas LaPointe can fabricate one in front of your very eyes on one of the school's new 3D printers.

From a saw handle to an engine prototype, FCTS students have a new-found ability to design and make the practical stuff of life and objects of their imaginations, thanks to a STEM Equipment and Supplies grant of just under \$100,000 from the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center (MLSC).

LaPointe and fellow science teacher Matthew Gancz co-authored the grant, which they received last January. While some renovations and purchases are still in progress, students are already using the printers to make name tags, spoilers for their Pinewood Derby cars, and keychains shaped like eagles, the school mascot.

LaPointe first teaches students about sketching and 3D modeling in computers

see **PRINTERS** page A5



The Montague Reporter

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Death By Degrees

NASA, seen in more hopeful times as our ticket off this thing, is starting to become better known for taking its temperature. NASA gave us some bad news on Monday.

The agency's Goddard Institute for Space Studies began publishing what it calls the Global Land-Ocean Temperature Index back in 1980, using the previous 30 years' worth of average monthly surface readings as a baseline, and then crunching numbers back to January 1880, the month Thomas Edison patented the light bulb.

1909, the Index's coldest year, was 0.83° F below the average, while 1944 and 1980 were that century's hottest at 0.47° above it.

It's been getting warmer since.

There are periodic hot waves, associated with the northward flows of warm surface water in the Pacific known as El Niño. 1983 was 0.56° F above average. 1998, the next record, +1.13° F.

But there is also clearly an underlying rise in temperature. New annual records were set in 2005 and 2010, then 2014, and then 2015, which was at +1.55°.

This acceleration now appears to be qualitatively shifting, and with the current El Niño adding to whatever else is happening, the records are being smashed month to month, rather than year to year.

In terms of fluctuation in individual months, the index's first century had ranged from -1.40° F in December 1916, the month Rasputin was murdered, to +0.86° F in December 1979, when "Escape (The Piña Colada Song)" hit #1 on the Billboard charts.

January 1988, the hottest month of its decade, was +1.03° F. February 1998 was +1.58° F, and January 2007, the month Apple announced the iPhone, +1.72° F.

Some relatively cooler years since the 1998 peak have been taken as evidence for a "pause" or "hiatus" in global warming by those who want to believe it's all a hoax in the first place.

And then this happened:

October 2015: +1.91° F

November 2015: +1.85° F

December 2015: +1.98° F

January 2016: +2.05° F

And on Monday, this:

February 2016: +2.43° F

President Nixon formed NOAA in 1970 as an improvement on the Weather Bureau, hoping for "better protection of life and property from natural hazards." But not all the hazards it tracks are natural.

NOAA inherited a research facil-

ity on top of Mauna Loa in Hawaii which had been measuring atmospheric carbon dioxide since 1958.

Thanks to industrial emissions, and to a lesser extent deforestation, it has been steadily rising – from around 315 parts per million in 1958 (and a preindustrial estimate of 280) it is now at 404 ppm.

Not only the quantity, but also the rate of its change are increasing. In 2015, NOAA announced this month, the figure rose by 3.05 ppm, surpassing the previous annual growth record of 2.93 set back during that 1998 El Niño peak.

Global oil production is also growing. Prices at the pump are absurdly low, driven down by a war for market share between the US shale industry, OPEC producers led by Saudi Arabia, and a newly thawing Iran. All parties are overproducing, doubling down and hoping to survive the glut.

"Top U.S. shale producers are pushing fracking technology to new extremes to get more oil out of their wells, as they weather lower-for-longer oil prices," Reuters business journalist Devika Krishna Kumar reported this week.

"Pioneer Natural Resources is increasing the length of stages in its wells, Hess Corp is raising the total number of stages, EOG Resources is drilling in extremely tight windows, while Whiting Petroleum Corp and Devon Energy Corp have loaded up more sand in their wells, fourth-quarter earnings call comments show...."

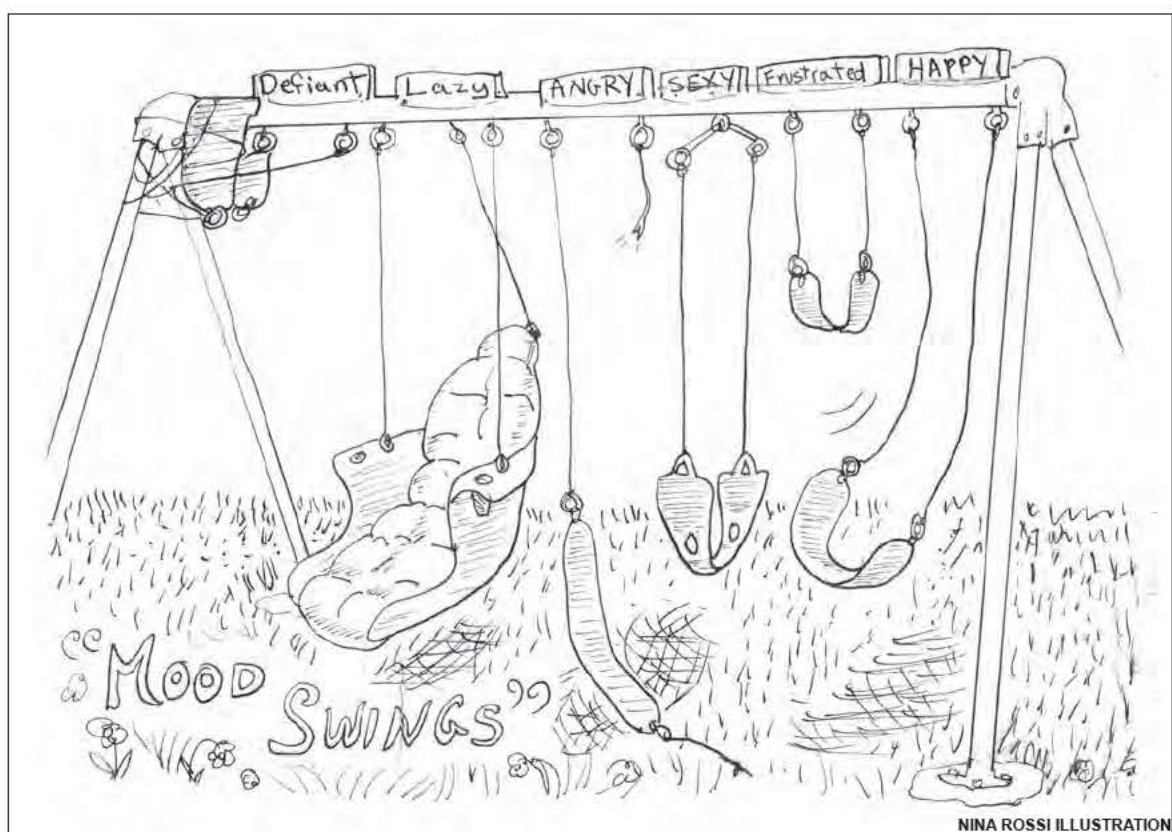
"Drillers have already idled slower rigs, shifted crews and high-speed rigs to "sweet spots" with the most oil during the punishing 20-month price rout. With the major shale companies ready to crank up the spigots if oil prices recover to \$40-\$45 a barrel, the latest steps are all the more significant."

In other words: when energy prices fall, production concentrates but intensifies, and when they rise again, that intensification spreads.

How much does it even help to reduce demand, if the market causes these businesses to knowingly drill for more than we need?

Go solar, buy local, blame Asia, vote Bernie – do whatever you have to do to feel better about yourself while this happens.

There is no institutional force on Earth capable of preventing the fossil fuel industry from pumping carbon from the crust to the troposphere, and we had better get ready for a long, hot century.



Letters to the Editors

Another Word on the Montague Plains

Regarding the letter from Mr. Don Ogden of Leverett, "Removing Trees: Bad for Climate, Too" (February 11, 2016):

Mr. Ogden does not believe climate change was part of the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife's (MassWildlife) decision-making process regarding the current (and fifth overall) tree harvesting operation at Montague Plains Wildlife Management Area (WMA).

MassWildlife has been cutting tees and conducting prescribed burns to restore globally rare, fire-adapted pitch pine/scrub oak habitat.

These scientifically managed conservation activities benefit numerous common and rare wildlife and plants such as woodcock, whip-poor-will, ruffed grouse, rare and endangered reptiles, a variety of moths, wild lupine and fringed gentian. Tree thinning also decreases wildfire risk to life and property, which has historically been a major concern for the nearby Village of Lake Pleasant.

MassWildlife's decision to continue tree harvest is in fact partly based on addressing a negative ecological impact relating to climate change; specifically, the recent discovery of the Southern Pine Beetle (SPB), an insect which causes extensive die-off of pitch pines especially in crowded, closed-canopy forests.

This beetle was first found in Massachusetts in the spring of 2015 both at MassWildlife's Montague Plains and Southwick Wildlife Management Areas. Until very recently SPB was found only as far north as the New Jersey Pine Barrens. Earlier spring thaws,

later winter freezes, and generally warmer temperatures have dramatically accelerated the northward movement of this insect pest.

To reduce insect damage, conservation science shows that heavily thinning pine stands makes it more difficult for the beetle to move from one tree to another and recent research shows that prescribed fires in thinned pitch pine forests increases resistance to the beetle.

Forest and wildlife managers are continually faced with achieving balance when considering the effects of climate change and the needs of wildlife and their habitats. It becomes even more challenging when making management decisions regarding endangered wildlife and plants.

MassWildlife has been a leader in climate science and its effect on wildlife. We invite conservation-minded people to visit www.climateactiontool.org to learn more about climate change and its impacts on wildlife, and to visit www.mass.gov/masswildlife to learn more about MassWildlife's Wildlife and Habitat Conservation activities.

MassWildlife has led multiple public habitat site walks in past years to describe and explain why we are cutting trees and burning on the Montague Plains WMA. Future walks and talks are being planned, and I invite all interested community citizens to attend.

Sincerely,

John Scanlon
MassWildlife Habitat Program Leader
Certified Wildlife Biologist, Licensed Forester

Pipeline Opponents to Meet in Erving

North Quabbin Pipeline Action (NQPA), a regional group fighting the proposed Northeast Energy Direct (NED) pipeline, will hold a public meeting Thursday, March 24 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Erving Senior/Community Center, located at 1 Care Drive in Erving, near the Elementary School on Route 63.

The meeting is part of a continuing series by NQPA designed to keep local landowners and residents informed of the latest efforts to defeat the pipeline and support clean energy.

The meeting will feature discussion and suggested actions on several urgent topics, including the petitions by National Grid and Eversource for a tariff on electric bills and the Mass. Department of Public Utilities' (DPU) March 30th Public Comment Hearing in

Greenfield about conducting surveys on private land.

There will also be updates covering Article 97, the Municipal Coalition Against the Pipeline (MCAP), Pipeline Awareness Network for the Northeast (PLAN-NE) and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

Residents from the four eastern Franklin County towns along the currently proposed route, as well as

from surrounding towns are encouraged to attend. Help is needed with event organizing, letter writing, fundraising and more. The meeting is free and all are welcome. Light snacks will be provided.

For more information, visit the NQPA's website at northquabbin-energy.org, or email me at ivan@millersriver.net.

Ivan Ussach
Gill

A Happy 85th!

I would like to publicly thank my family – especially my daughter – and the "cohorts" for a wonderful surprise 85th birthday party, Sunday March 13.

Also a big thank you for the cards and gifts from my family, friends

and neighbors who attended the "Scottish" themed event, complete with Eric Goodchild and his pipes!

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Peg Bridges
Montague

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by **DON CLEGG**

Students at Turners Falls High School and Great Falls Middle School are appearing in a production of "Little Shop of Horrors" this weekend in the TFHS auditorium.

Show times are Thursday, March 17, and Friday, March 18 at 7 p.m., and Saturday, March 19 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for students and seniors, and \$7 for the general public.

Ed Hines is back in concert on Saturday, March 19, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Greenfield Savings Bank, 282 Avenue A, Turners Falls.

Hines' musical instrumental ability with a Middle Eastern lute has been a huge hit both times he has played at the bank. Don't miss this free, relaxing morning concert. Light refreshments provided.

If relaxation isn't quite your thing, head over to the Carnegie Library in-

The second service includes participation by youth of the parish, and a special Easter message for children. For a complete Holy Week schedule, contact the church at 863-2585.

Father Charles DiMascola will be retiring from Our Lady Of Czestochowa on June 30. He has donated a select number of his paintings and sketchings to the Parish Council. These unique works of art will inspire, stimulate conversation, and be a lasting memory of the artist.

The council has decided to make these treasures available to the public at a Special Silent Auction at their Easter Bazaar, this Saturday, March 19, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 84 K Street in the church undercroft.

Read it, Leverett! Join the community book discussion of David McCullough's *The Wright Brothers* at the Leverett Library on Sunday, March 20, at 3 p.m. The library will also hold a screening of McCullough's interview with Ken Burns on Thursday, March 31, at 6:30 p.m.

Finally, on Sunday, April 3, from 2 to 4 p.m., come make and fly paper airplanes. The library has all the necessary supplies - unless you have your own special plane design. There will be contests for the fastest, the loopiest, the longest flyers, and more.

Join the New Salem Agricultural Commission as they host Fred Swedler for a workshop on "All Things Tomatoes" on Tuesday, March 22, at 7 p.m. at the New Salem Library.

Join in for the 11th Annual Peter Cottontail's EGGstravaganza on Saturday, March 26, at 1 p.m. sharp at Unity Park, Turners Falls. Children ages 4 to 12 are invited to take part in this great community tradition!

Your kids will have an opportunity to get their pictures taken with Peter Cottontail, enter into a bunch of raffles, and of course enjoy our Egg Hunt where they will have the challenge of finding approximately 5,000 candy and toy-filled

eggs strewn throughout the park. Participants must bring their own basket or bag for the eggs. There will also be a bake sale and raffle.

And we're told the snow date is Saturday, April 9... yeah, like that's going to happen!

Hospice of Franklin County is scheduling a Spring Volunteer Training, to begin Tuesday, March 29. This is an eight-week training course preparing interested individuals to serve our hospice patients and their families through their life-limiting diagnosis.

Trained volunteers assist by providing a range of services to patients, including respite care, supportive listening, companionship, running errands, assisting with meals, and other duties as requested. Special service needs at this time include: volunteers in the outlying towns of Franklin County; bilingual individuals; military veterans; individuals willing to share their musical talents; and certified pet therapy volunteers.

The training will be held at 329 Conway Street, Greenfield, at the office area of Hospice of Franklin County. Classes will run on eight consecutive Tuesdays, from 5 to 7 p.m.

To schedule an interview or for more information, please contact volunteer services coordinator Jayne Allen at (413) 774-2400 or jallen5@bhs1.org. Class size is limited.

Turners Falls' 7th and 8th grade Suburban basketball team (Montague Elks) had a great season, becoming both Division (18-0) and Regional Champion (19-0).

This was the first year having a regional championship, so the players, parents and the sponsoring Elks organization are all really excited by this significant accomplishment.

The team was awarded two large trophies, one of which they presented the local Elks this Wednesday for display at the club (photo below), and the other of which will be at the Turners Falls High School.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.



ELLEN BLANCHETTE PHOTO

Seymour, played by Corey Martineau, holds Audrey II, the little plant that makes the skid-row flower shop a success, during dress rehearsals for "Little Shop of Horrors," running this week at Turners Falls High School.

The People's Pint, at 24 Federal Street in Greenfield, will hold a "Shortnose Stout" release party to benefit the endangered shortnose sturgeon, that spawns in the Connecticut River. Come on in and taste their new brew, Friday, March 18, 4 to 6 p.m.

A percentage of the proceeds will be donated to the Connecticut River Watershed Council (CRWC), to protect our rivers from source to sea. Sturgeon expert Dr. Boyd Kynard and CRWC staff will be available for questions.

stead for the **biggest game of Candyland** you have ever played. Enjoy sweet treats and make a cute craft, too. Children of all ages and their caregivers are invited.

Saturday, March 19, from 10:30 a.m. to noon. For more info, call 863-3214.

Our Lady of Peace Church, at 90 Seventh Street, Turners Falls, will hold Palm Sunday masses on Saturday, March 19, at 4 p.m. and Sunday, March 20, at 8 and 10 a.m.

On Easter Sunday, March 27, Masses will also be at 8 and 10 a.m.

Events accompanying "Taking Steps to a Renewable Future," the intergenerational walk against the Northeast Energy Direct pipeline (March 17 through 20, from Windsor to Northfield):

Thursday, March 17 at 7 p.m., Ashfield Congregational Church: Oscar-nominated director Josh Fox (*Gasland*) will screen the local premier of his newest film, *How to Let Go of the World and Love All The Things Climate Can't Change*. Q&A following the film.

Friday, March 18 at 7 p.m., Cowell Gym, Shelburne Falls: Concert with the Irreverent Rev. Billy and the Stop Shopping Choir.

Saturday, March 19 at 7 p.m., St. James Episcopal Church, Greenfield: Rally and celebration, with a personalized message from Bill McKibben and a long lineup of speakers, poets and musicians.

According to organizers, over 200 marchers have signed up for the walk. See sugarshackalliance.org for more information.



A perfect season: Turners Falls' champion 7th and 8th-grade boys' basketball team present their Suburban League trophy to Kevin Hastings and Exalted Ruler Judy Hastings of the Montague Elks, the team's sponsor, Wednesday evening. Coaches Rboy Sanders (left) and Eric Peterson (right) led the team to a 19-0 season.

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Sonjai Rathore

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Brian Poirier

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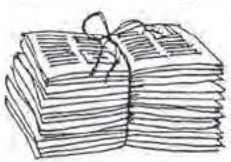
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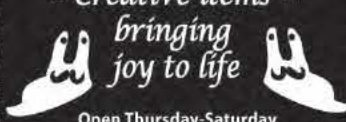
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Part V: School Funding, and a Strain on the Compact

By MICHAEL NAUGHTON

As I've mentioned before, education assessments account for more than half of Montague's total operating budget. These are made up of a request from the Franklin County Technical School (FCTS), which is currently proposed as \$659,356, and one from the Gill-Montague Regional School District (GMRSD), which is currently \$8,718,629, not including debt.

As you can see, the FCTS request is fairly sizeable – it's a little hard to make comparisons, since education assessments include things like employee benefits that the town's budget breaks out separately, but even considering that, it's bigger than any other regular department except police and public works.

And, of course, the GMRSD request is even bigger – in fact, it's roughly equal to all other departmental requests combined. That's a lot of money.

You might have noticed that I described the GMRSD request as not including debt. Of course, debt will be included in the figure presented to town meeting, but for a number of years the finance committee has chosen to break out the debt and only consider the non-debt portion when deliberating.

The reason for this is that all of the debt that we pay is what's called "excluded debt". Debt becomes excluded when the voters agree, by means of a debt exclusion vote, to make it so. (Debt exclusion votes are like regular elections, in that all registered voters may participate,



not just town meeting members.) If a debt exclusion is passed, the money needed to pay it off is added on to the regular Proposition 2½ limit; in a nutshell, the voters agree to raise their taxes by the amount needed to pay off the debt.

That means the finance committee doesn't need to ask whether the money is available – the voters have already decided that it will be. In recent years, Montague has funded all of its major projects with debt exclusions, and that is likely to continue in the future. (More, perhaps, in a future column.)

Another thing to note about the education assessments is that, unlike regular town budgets, town meeting does not have the power to adjust them. If town meeting were to decide that the police department can operate effectively with, say, \$50,000 less, then the police chief would have to make do with the lower figure. But the education assessments can only be voted up or down – town meeting may approve a different figure as an indication of what they would prefer, but the immediate effect is that the request has been denied.

Longtime town meeting members will remember that a few years back, there was a period in which

town meeting decided the GMRSD assessments were more than the town could afford. This resulted in budget turmoil, with failed votes and the state briefly assuming fiscal control of the district. The situation was finally resolved by an agreement (or "compact") among the towns, the district, and state officials, under which the towns agreed to fund the district at an affordable level and the district agreed that the resulting budgets would be adequate.

This agreement has kept things fairly stable ever since, with the towns generally contributing more than was expected and the district's budgets rising more slowly, but unfortunately a major element has not lived up to expectations. Town assessments make up only about half of the district's budget; the remainder comes from state aid, grants, and other sources. The big majority – roughly 60% of non-assessment revenue – comes from what's called Chapter 70 aid, which is the state's major funding source for public education.

One assumption of the budget agreement was that the district's Chapter 70 aid would begin increasing annually by about 3% after a couple of years. That has not happened.

Instead, GMRSD's Chapter 70 annual increase has been closer to 0.5%, and that has put a lot of pressure on the district, for obvious reasons. The towns have been able to increase their affordable assessments by roughly 3.5% over the years; had Chapter 70 followed suit, the district would be in pretty

good shape. Instead, it's become increasingly difficult to meet contractual obligations and deal with rising costs in other areas.

At this writing, the district request is roughly \$50,000 higher than Montague's affordable number – whether that remains true, and how the finance committee and selectboard choose to react, are major questions for the coming weeks.

One final note: the simple answer to why Chapter 70 has not increased is that it's based on the number of students in the district, and GMRSD's student population has been declining (as have student populations across the state). Whether that's appropriate, and if not what to do about it, are topics of some debate, and there are various points of view. Our own Jeff Singleton has studied this question for years, and he has some very definite ideas; I don't agree with all of them, but perhaps he'll write in to contribute his point of view.

One bright note that I see, and that I think should be encouraged, is Mohawk superintendent Michael Buoniconti's recent efforts to add a "sparsity" factor to the Chapter 70 formula. That wouldn't solve all the problems, but I think it would be a big help, and I hope that it succeeds.

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

GMRSD from page A1

The next-largest group was in the movement of 19 eighth- and ninth-grade students to Franklin County Technical School in the summer of 2015. Another 10 students in tenth and eleventh grade dropped out, the majority just before entering their senior year.

For the rest, 15 students choiced out, seven went to charter schools, two to private schools, and two for home-schooling; nine stopped choicing in, three were tuition students who left; and seven left for unknown destinations.

At the same time, coming into the district, there were 64 new residents, seven choice-in students, and 15 tuition-in students, for a total of 86 new students in the district. The net change meant a loss to the district of 39 students.

Sullivan told the school committee, "Now that we have this data assembled, I plan to contact the families of students who choiced-out, chartered, or left for private school to learn more about why they departed."

Other actions taken by the school committee included:

- Renewing the district's contract with Dupere Law Offices to retain their services for the 2016-17 school year at a rate of \$1,350 a month plus expenses. The members agreed the cost is very reasonable.
- Approving a field trip to Sargent Center by David Grout, teacher at Gill Elementary, and his sixth grade class, for an educational experience in April to "Nature's Classroom."
- Approving a job description for the position of Network and Technology Support Manager, with a salary range of \$65,000 to \$71,000 per year. The detailed job description was extensive in its list of duties but the superintendent assured the committee that this was not meant to be a director's position. He said they want a "really skilled tech engineer."
- Approving the district's calendar for the 2016-17 school year, which the superintendent said was important for the administration to begin planning for the next year.

All votes were unanimous. The next regular Gill-Montague school committee meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on March 22 at Turners Falls High School.



Gill: Nomination Papers Available

Nomination papers for the annual town election on May 16 are available in the town clerk's office until March 24.

Papers must be returned no later than 5 p.m. March 28.

To be placed on the ballot, candidates for town-wide office need to obtain 20 signatures from registered voters.

Offices that will appear on the ballot this year are as follows, each for a three-year term:

The following positions are seeking re-election: Gary Bourbeau as Cemetery Commissioner, Randy Crochier as Selectman/Sewer Commissioner, Doug Edson as Board of Health and Ronnie LaChance as Treasurer. There are two vacant seats: Library Trustee and Board of Assessor.

The annual town election will

be held on Monday, May 16 with polls open from noon to 8 p.m. at the Fire Station at 196A Main Road. The deadline to register to vote is Tuesday April 26.

Questions may be directed to the clerk's office at 863-8103.

The clerk's office is open Monday through Thursday 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Monday evening. Town Hall is closed on Friday. Thursday March 24, the office will be open until 5 p.m. and April 26 the office will be open 2 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 8 p.m. for the last day to register to vote in the annual town election.

Nomination papers for school committee seats are provided by the Gill-Montague Superintendent of Schools at 35 Crocker Ave., 413-863-9324.

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PRINTERS from page A1

using Autodesk's Inventor software as well as CAD/CAM, so they can explore the process of how to add dimension to a flat drawing.

"They're learning good computer skills and the ability to follow sequences," says Kevin Hollister, a paraprofessional helping in LaPointe's classroom, who added that understanding sequence is also an important life lesson.

"I like that you can use your imagination to make whatever you want," says ninth grader Tyler Trudeau, maker of the mascot keychain.

Junior Chad Williams has printed a prototype of a Stirling engine from a design he found online. Williams will eventually machine his engine in the school's CNC classroom, newly installed last year, potentially as his senior capstone project.

Making a nylon, 3D-printed prototype allowed Williams to see what did or did not work in his design, and make changes to it before making a more expensive – and more time-consuming – machined metal one.

"It was kind of a feeling of pride, and accomplishment, and encouragement to keep going," says Williams, who wants to go on to get a mechanical engineering degree, about seeing his design fleshed (or plastic-ed?) out.



This broken saw handle (top) can be replaced with parts made on the 3D printer (below).

The printers construct objects from a slicing program, which takes designs and sends them in layers to the machine. Smaller objects are fairly solid, while larger ones, like the saw handle, are layered in a beehive pattern.

"It saves on material and weight," says LaPointe.

3D printing is additive – the object builds on itself – rather than subtractive, where material is removed to make a final object. This was a big innovation in manufacturing, LaPointe explains.

"The technology is good and affordable,"

LaPointe says. While 3D printing is predominantly used for rapid prototyping, fibers such as Kevlar, carbon fiber or fiberglass can be embedded to add strength and functionality.

The school now has three MarkForged Mark One printers, which it is already upgrading to Mark Twos along with two more of the same. A large format printer, the Makerbot Z18, which will print in PLA plastic, stronger than nylon, is also en route.

LaPointe explains that training on these machines is useful after graduation. "Students are learning important engineering design skills," he says, "like developing solutions and prototyping... I have current and former students interested in design work, 2D and 3D, manufacturing, and machining."

"Students who learn these skills now will be in a more competitive position when seeking jobs, as they can start or more quickly move past entry-level manual labor positions and up to running equipment, and designing and redesigning products for their employers."

The MLSC grant has helped update science labs that have not received much retooling since their 1976 construction.



ERVING from page A1

treasurer at the end of her term in 2017. She said, because of her efforts, "Everything is up to snuff in the treasurer's office," and that she worried that an unqualified but popular person could be elected to the position.

"I'm concerned that my hard work over the last few years could be undone," Sullivan said.

"It came before the people, and it was voted on," commented Johnson, referring to a vote rejecting a similar proposal at a special town meeting in February 2015.

Sullivan said she had been traveling and, delayed by a snowstorm, was unable to attend the February meeting to speak in favor of the article. She said that several people had told her afterward, "I voted it down because I thought they were trying to get rid of you."

Selectboard member Jacob Smith said there "might be a disconnect" between the salary that would be expected by an appointed treasurer versus an elected one.

Debra Smith said there were other questions that also needed to be answered, such as how many hours an appointed treasurer would work.

Bastarache suggested that the selectboard "expedite the timeline" for reviewing the proposed change. "There's enough time to put forth due diligence and answer some of those questions," he said. Debra Smith agreed to write a list of questions for the selectboard to answer.

Library Assistant Debated

The fincom denied recommendation for the library trustees' request to increase the library assistant's hours to over twenty, which would make the assistant eligible for benefits.

"I need an assistant more hours a week," said librarian Barbara Friedman, speaking to a joint meeting of the fincom and selectboard. Friedman said writing the grant application requesting more than \$1 million from the state Board of Library Commissioners for a new library building will take a lot of her time. She also noted that visits to the library and circulation have more than doubled in the last few years, and that library hours have been increased because of demand.

"What happens if we don't get the grant?" asked fincom member Eugene Klepadlo, who observed that it would be cheaper to hire two part-time library employees without ben-

efits and get more hours covered.

Friedman said that it would be difficult to manage two part-time employees when she herself is part-time. "Our chances to get this building [grant] are excellent," she said. "This is a wonderful opportunity for Erving. It will be 2030 before we have another chance."

She added, "I want to keep a good employee through the construction process so we continue to have good service."

Library trustee Debra Smith observed that less committed, part-time employees without benefits would use the Erving job as a stepping stone to positions in other towns after being trained in Erving. "If we don't get the grant, we would still push to open more hours," she said.

Hammock noted that the grant and new library building for Erving "might come to nothing," depending on the town's vote on the project at the annual town meeting.

She noted that, without increasing the assistant's hours, the library could potentially lose the current assistant, and said that the salary and benefits increase came to less than 1% of the town's total budget.

Selectboard member Arthur Johnson replied, "A benefited position is expensive for the town."

Fincom chair Daniel Hammock said, "The fincom looks at the request from a financial point of view." He also said, "libraries have become controversial," noting that although Athol and New Salem seem to love their renovated and expanded libraries, funding a new library encountered opposition in Shutesbury. Hammock noted that the grant and new library building for Erving "might come to nothing," depending on the town's vote on the project at the annual town meeting.

The current FY'16 budget has a line item of \$16,771 for the assistant's salary. Asked for an estimate of the additional cost for benefits for the assistant, Jacquelyn Boyden replied that it would be approximately \$7,000 per year for the current assistant, who would need only individual insurance, and up to approximately \$19,000 per year if another

person were hired who elected to include family members on their insurance plan.

Klepadlo pointed out that, in that case, the town could end up paying more for the benefits than for the salary. Johnson called this "a huge financial responsibility."

Friedman said, "If I were not a retiree, you would be paying me benefits."

"We can't do 'what ifs'," Johnson replied.

Fincom member Shirley Holmes made a motion not to recommend the increased assistant hours, saying that if the current assistant leaves and someone with a family takes the job, it would be costly for the town.

Fincom member Benjamin Fellows said that it was too early to make a decision on the assistant's hours, because the decision to build a new library had not been made.

Klepadlo said that the town had to base funding on the "worst case," i.e., a new employee who would require family health insurance.

After the fincom approved Holmes' motion, Friedman said, "I am certainly disappointed. I hope that when this comes to town meeting, we'll have a different outcome." She invited the board and fincom to come to the April 14 informational meeting presenting the plans for a new library building.

Boyden told the board that, in the draft warrant, the library expenses were included in Article 9, "municipal purposes," under line item for "Culture and Recreation." With all of the other spending requests recommended by the fincom, she said the town meeting needed to be informed that the proposed assistant hours request had not been recommended.

Boyden noted that, when the treasurer's assistant position went from non-benefited to benefited, it was pointed out at the town meeting, but was not a separate article. She suggested the board include detailed information for all staffing requests for all departments, or "warn people with a little cheat sheet."

Scott Bastarache said that it wasn't necessary to take the assistant request out of the Culture and Recreation line item, but it was necessary to provide clarity about what was requested and decided by the fincom.

The board decided that the trustees' request for additional hours for the library assistant would be removed from the Culture and Recreation line item and presented

as a separate article, which would be placed near the end of the 39-article warrant, which already has three library-related articles: to allow the trustees to apply for, accept, and expend state grants; to accept the design for a new library at 34 Northfield Road; and to transfer \$35,000 from free cash to the continuing appropriation for a new library building.

The selectboard intends to finalize the warrant on March 21. The final warrant for the May 2 annual town meeting will be printed in the April *Around Town* newsletter.

Selectboard Salaries

The fincom recommended that the selectboard members get a 4% raise, bringing the total for selectboard salaries to \$11,250.

Hammock commented, "I believe that Erving has the highest paid selectboard in Franklin County. When we have professional staff, our problems are not bigger than other towns."

Selectboard chair William Bembury replied, "We appreciate your diligence in looking at it."

Other Business

Highway foreman Glen McCrory told the board that the software for the current highway department fuel pump needs to be updated, but the software developer is not supporting it any longer. In addition, replacement pump hardware components are not available.

McCrory obtained an estimate of \$21,277 from Biermann Services Inc. for replacing the pump system, and \$13,877 for replacing the software.

The board and fincom decided that requests for funding the upgrade could be delayed until the June 2016 special town meeting.

The board appointed Boyden as the planning board member, and Johnson as the selectboard member, on the senior housing committee. Bembury was removed and appointed as an alternate member.

At the February 29 selectboard meeting, Johnson had been concerned because two married couples (Gary and Paula Betters, and Bembury and Linda Downs-Bembury) had been appointed to the committee.

Boyden agreed to publicize the need for three additional members for the committee.



Town of Leverett HEARING NOTICE: PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES

A public hearing will be held at the Town Hall on Tuesday, April 5, 2016 at 7 p.m. to discuss proposed changes to the "Code of Leverett" as outlined below:

Chapter 3 Administration
Article 1 Elected Boards and Offices
3-2 Officers; terms

Change from "Officers of the town to be elected for three-year terms of office shall be a Moderator, a Town Clerk and three (3) Constables. Officers to be elected for one-year terms of office shall be an Assistant Moderator and a Tree warden."

to "Officers of the town to be elected for three-year terms of office shall be a Moderator, a Town Clerk and three (3) Constables. Officers to be elected for one-year terms of office shall be an Assistant Moderator and a Tree warden."

A copy of the complete Code of Leverett is on file at the Town Clerk's office.

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NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Last Planter Argument Before Spring Planting?

By JEFF SINGLETON

At its March 14 meeting, the Montague selectboard continued to debate governance issues involving the town-owned planters on Avenue A, perhaps for the last time before the planting season begins. The discussion turned on the process for choosing a new "planter coordinator."

In January, the board had appointed Avenue A store owner Gary Konvelski as the coordinator, but seemed to back off that decision several weeks ago by suggesting that Konvelski call a meeting of "planter participants" to recommend a coordinator. Konvelski balked at this suggestion, and so the issue was placed on this week's agenda.

Planter process came to the fore at the very beginning of the meeting during public participation time. Turners Falls resident John Furbish called on the board to consider a "wider definition" of the planter issue: Konvelski, he stated, was now the interim coordinator, and should call two meetings of planter participants in the coming months.

Next, Avenue A artist and store owner Rodney Madison said he felt there had been a double standard inherent in the way the selectboard had treated him, as opposed to Konvelski.

"This is kind of stupid. We are talking about plants."

**Gary Konvelski,
planter coordinator**

When Madison had suggested putting the planter issue on the agenda last January, the board had rejected his request. But when Konvelski had complained about the board's decision, he said, "then all of a sudden it's on the agenda."

"What's good for the gander isn't good for the goose," Madison complained.

The debate over the process continued when the agenda topic came up for discussion. Selectboard chair Michael Nelson said that the board had appointed Konvelski as "interim coordinator" and that Konvelski should call together a meeting of planter participants in the spring to make a coordinator recommendation.

Konvelski was not enthusiastic about this idea, stating that "my motivation is to get the planters done." He said that no one seemed to want the coordinator position when he volunteered, and that he had already talked to "the school" (Franklin County Technical School) about taking responsibility for several planters.

According to Madison, before an earlier planter committee was disbanded by the selectboard in January, "it was assumed I was the interim coordinator." The committee was dissolved, he said, apparently based on "wrong information" from building inspector David Jensen.

Nelson agreed that Jensen had

admitted to being mistaken, but Madison said he wouldn't continue to raise the issue of the former committee.

"This is kind of stupid," said Konvelski. "We are talking about plants. I don't know what he's got against me."

John MacNamara, owner of the Avenue A store Loot, said he felt there had been a problem with the process. He had gone to an early meeting of the planter committee, and "no one had shown up."

Chris Menegoni, owner of the Great Falls Harvest restaurant on Third Street, stated that he would be willing to host a meeting of the program's participants in the spring.

Nelson again said he favored calling Konvelski an "interim coordinator," and having the participants recommend a coordinator for the planting season at their spring meeting.

Neither Chris Boutwell nor Rich Kuklewicz, Nelson's fellow selectboard members, seemed enthusiastic about this idea. They favored keeping Konvelski as coordinator for this planting season, and then having the participants make a recommendation in the fall.

Nelson accepted this idea but stated he wanted to revisit the term of the coordinator, which at present ends in the middle of a growing season, at the end of June 2017.

Other Business

In other news Tom Bergeron of the Department of Public Works requested that the board appoint Joseph Dodge to the position of truck driver/laborer.

The position had become vacant due to the loss of Bergeron's head mechanic, resulting in a complex series of transfers described by the highway chief. Dodge, who had formerly worked for the department, had recently been employed at a cemetery in Winchendon, but decided to come back to Montague.

The board approved his request.

Bergeron also requested that the board hire the consultant James Toth for engineering work prior to a sidewalk replacement project on Montague Street. Toth will be paid "\$150 per hour, not to exceed \$1,650." Mr. Toth will also monitor the work as it is being done.

The board approved the request. The money will come out of state Chapter 90 funds.

The board also approved a request by Water Pollution Control Facility superintendent Robert Trombley to approve a "certificate of substantial completion" for pump station projects on First and Poplar streets.

He stated there were still 49 items on the "punch list" for First, and 36 on the list for Poplar. The board approved the request.

Finally, the board approved a request by police chief Chip Dodge to award a \$9,200 contract to Badge Quest Public Safety Consultants to conduct promotional exams for members of his staff (Sergeant and Lieutenant).

The meeting adjourned at 8 p.m., without an executive session.

OVERFLOW from page A1

According to a memo from Trombley to the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), "the foreman notified me that the regulator at Greenfield Road was overflowing. Immediately facility personnel went to the regulator and, noticing the downstream outlet to the WPCF was blocked, acted to clear the blockage, thereby immediately stopping the overflow."

"Upon investigation by ADS into the flow history it was noted that the regulator had been overflowing for some time; the history is noted below."

According to the report, the system appeared to have been overflowing for parts of 26 days in January and three days in February, a total of 647 hours. During that time, approximately 1.4 million gallons of combined runoff and sewage had flowed into the Connecticut River, a stone's throw from the treatment plant.

How serious a violation this will be determined by the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The WPCF's permit allows it to send some runoff into the river during rainy days. However, it was a very dry January, with no rain recorded on 21 of the 29 days the system overflowed, and a twentieth of an inch or less of rain on another five.

Pollution from CSO was once considered a necessary evil, but in recent years government officials, wastewater professionals and environmental advocates have worked to reduce overflow. As of 2005, CSO discharge further down the river in Hampden County totaled 1.8 billion gallons a year, according to the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, which cited DEP figures.

Trombley's four-page memo,

sent to the DEP and the Montague selectboard, analyzed the causes of this winter's overflow, and recommended solutions.

Combined sewer overflow events can also occur in some systems in the event of large storms, seen as a preferable option to sending so much water into a facility that it can no longer properly process sanitary sewer waste.

In his analysis, the first problem was an excessive amount of solid debris that made its way through the town's sewer system. Trombley dated to the 2013 collapse of the sewer line on the other end of town, on Millers Falls Road at the airport industrial park, and its replacement, with "the sand making its way through the gravity collection system since that time."

A quantity of this sand, according to the theory, was dislodged and flowed downhill during the "line cleaning, inspection, and lining work that had been done through the end of November 2015," ultimately causing a major blockage just before the plant.

Trombley implied that this blockage could have been prevented were it not for a second problem, in the form of human error. "In the process of cleaning," he wrote, "and not properly performing bypass pumping to isolate and remove trapped debris, a large quantity reached the WPCF..."

Line cleaning is performed by the town's department of public works, which has requested three additional staff members be added next year.

"It is my hope," Trombley continued, "that the Town will recognize that a more thorough, consistent process of line cleaning and maintenance will not only reduce the need for emergency maintenance but also

benefit the WPCF."

The third problem he identified was in unreliable monitoring of flows into the plant. The accuracy of the computerized "supervisory control and acquisition system" (SCADA) that monitors flow into the plant had recently been "called into question."

That system, installed in 2009, was scheduled for replacement at the end of this February. In fact, a meeting to discuss the upgrade had been scheduled for February 4, the day after the overflow was discovered.

Trombley and a consultant from ADS also modified alarm points in the notification system allowing for a notification to be sent to staff whenever the flows were more than 20% over average.

Problem number four, in Trombley's analysis, was again human error. "I did receive two email inquiries from Mr. Mike Armes, ADS Environmental, dates 6 and 19 January noting activity at Greenfield Rd regulator," he noted.

Apparently, a perfect storm of trouble kept the department's attention elsewhere: "At the time," Trombley wrote, "there were unresolved recurring issues with the SCADA system, the pump station replacement project has been ongoing as well as other operational activities at the plant. The town also switched email servers around these dates."

DEP spokesperson Catherine Skiba stated that her department is reviewing the memo sent by Trombley, but will have no comment until the review is completed. Any decision or action taken by the DEP will be explained in a public document, she said.

The overflow event has not, to date, been discussed by the Montague selectboard.



NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Wendell Depot Road to Close This Summer

By JOSH HEINEMANN

The bridge in Wendell Depot that carries Wendell Depot Road over Whetstone brook has been deteriorating, and the highway department contracted Stantec Engineering of Auburn, NH to design its replacement.

Rene LaBranche, construction services manager for Stantec, came to the Wendell selectboard's March 9 meeting with design drawings and a plan for getting the job done.

Repair of the existing bridge — one lane and then the other, is not feasible — and so the Stantec plan would close Wendell Depot Road for the duration of the project, which would give Wendell residents the option of getting to Route 2 and 2A through New Salem and Route 202 to Orange, or through Millers Falls.

Vehicles under 6 tons and 11' clearance could get to Route 2 via the Farley Road bridge.

In order to minimize this disruption, Stantec proposed streamlining the work done on the site by bringing precast concrete components to the site and assembling there, and starting construction later, possibly in July when school is out and the water level is likely to be low.

The new bridge will have two eleven-foot lanes and a six-foot breakdown lane. One utility pole will have to move across the road.

Pouring the footings in place would require weeks of waiting while

they cure and gain strength. With the precast components, LaBranche said he hoped the work on site would require the road be closed for three weeks, from the start of demolition to opening of the new bridge.

He expected the cost to be close to \$360,000, which will come from Chapter 90 funds that the highway commission has been putting aside for years, and so the expenditure will not affect the tax rate. He chose Wednesday, April 20 as the opening date for bids, and to make bidding easier for local companies, he said Stantec would ship specifications for free.

After checking the calendar, town coordinator Nancy Aldrich said that no one is in the building during the day on April 20, so the bid opening day was moved forward to April 19 at 4 p.m.

Bids can be delivered in person or by mail, but Aldrich cautioned against using Fed Ex because they sometimes deliver after 4 p.m., and if the bid comes while she is not in the office it might not be received in time.

Building Fees

Building inspector Phil Delorey came before the board to review the new schedule of fees that he had sent ahead two weeks earlier for board members to look over. He said the new fees will bring the cost of permits closer to the cost of providing inspections, and will make Wen-

dell's fees more in line with the rest of Franklin County.

Fees for a homeowner doing construction will go down, for a contractor will go up.

Wendell does not use a revolving fund, so fees go to the general fund from which the inspector gets paid. The amount that the town allocates at the annual town meeting will have to go up.

The selectboard approved the new fee schedule with a unanimous vote. It will go into effect on March 31.

Solarize Application

Energy committee chair Nan Riebschlaeger asked for and got selectboard support for a Solarize Massachusetts plan to help homeowners pay for solar panels at a discount, with payments set so that the regular electric bill is reduced and replaced by payments on the installation loan. In five years, the loan will be paid off and the electric bill will be near zero.

The program is geared for towns with 1,000 households and monthly usage of 300 kilowatt-hours or more, so Wendell is joining with Warwick and Northfield in its application.

Riebschlaeger was awarded a Level II certificate from the Citizen Planner Training Collaborative.

Communication

Wendell will need to buy new telephones to use voice over internet

see WENDELL page A8

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CABOT STATION from page A1

passed in 1794, creating "The Proprietors of the Upper Locks and Canals on the Connecticut River" to manage the challenges between the Deerfield River – the Great Falls and the French King Rapids – and the state's northern border.

Navigation

The larger project was the construction of a diversion dam, and several locks, at the Great Falls (now called Turners Falls). At the head of the Falls, a log crib diversion dam was built to span half the river, and a two and a half mile long canal was built from the mouth of the Deerfield to the shore above the dam. This transportation canal was 20 feet wide and included a series of locks, each with a lift of 15 feet.

A smaller dam, with one lock, was built by the French King Rapids at the confluence of the Millers and Connecticut rivers. At the site of today's "Cabot Camp" on East Mineral Road, a toll house and tavern were built for towboats and barges passing around the rapids.

The completion of these projects took several years, but together they created a navigable river from Long Island Sound to Brattleboro. Boat passage was restricted to eight months of the year due to weather.

The company ran a successful business until the 1830s, when tow boats and flatboats started being replaced by steamboats, too wide for the canals. The burgeoning rail business was another nail in the coffin, and when the Connecticut River Rail line reached Greenfield in 1846, the Proprietors were beginning to fail.

The last towboat bypassed the Great Falls in 1856, and the dam, canal and locks fell into serious disrepair for several years.

Industrialization

In the 1860s, a controlling share of the stocks of the company was purchased by Colonel Alvah Crocker and some of his railroad tycoons from the Fitchburg area. In 1864, the Proprietors applied to the Legislature for an amendment to the original charter, and by 1866 the company was given the rights to develop water power at Great Falls.

They were relieved of the obligation to provide navigation, and not much later Crocker had the corporate name changed to the Turners Falls Company.

The Turners Falls Company built a new stone-filled timber dam, 1,200 feet long and 35 feet high, a fishway, and a log sluice, along with a head gate house on the Montague shore to control the water flow in the canal.

After the dam's completion, a power canal was built parallel to the river below the dam – approximately 600 feet long, 50 feet wide and 10 feet deep. It was about 150 feet from the main stem of the river.

Colonel Crocker had big plans for his "planned community," and the village was renamed Turners Falls. Mill sites were laid out, and water power was sold to manufacturing businesses to run their machinery. Several were convinced to build along the canal.

Among the companies building factories and purchasing water rights between 1868 and 1873 were the Montague Paper Company, John Russell Cutlery Company, Keith Paper, Esleeck Manufacturing Company, Turners Falls Paper Company, and Griswold Cotton Mills.

The original plans for three parallel canals and dozens of mill sites never materialized, but the village population rose to 6,000 and the town did well for many years.

Electrification

In 1886 the Clarke and Chapman Machine Company purchased six additional hours of water daily to generate electricity, which was distributed around town by the Franklin Electric Light Company.

By 1904, the Turners Falls Company had decided to get in on the electricity production business, and renovations began anew. New headgates were constructed at the dam, and a portion of the original canal was widened, deepened and extended 1,000 feet to the site of Turners Falls Station No. 1, where a 5,000 kW hydroelectric station was under construction.

By 1906 its first 1,000 kW generator was producing enough to supply the Franklin Elec-

tric Light Company. Before the remaining generators were built, a deal was made with the Connecticut River Transmission Company in Amherst. A 23,000 volt transmission line was built from Turners Falls to Amherst, and by the end of 1907, Turners Falls Company was sending power to Amherst.

Consolidation

By this time Philip Cabot, representing a group of Boston-based investors, had purchased holdings in the Turners Falls Company, Amherst Gas Company, Easthampton Gas Company, and Greenfield Electric Light and Power Company (ELPC). He became a director in all of these companies, and by 1908, was president of the first three and vice president of the ELPC.

As additional units were added to Station No. 1, another transmission line was built, this one tying Greenfield's steam-generated plant to the hydro-electric plant in Turners Falls. New transmission connections and relay stations were built to expand the territory, and pave the way for the company's next development – the construction of Station No 2.

This was a vast project that took several years to complete, beginning in 1912. A new concrete dam was built just below the old crib dam.

The existing canal was widened to 128 feet and deepened to 18 feet; this was followed by the excavation of a new canal section 4,000 feet long, 25 feet deep and 130 feet wide. A forebay pond at the site of the new powerhouse was constructed, and the final section of canal was completed.

On the upstream side of the powerhouse, a series of motor-operated spill gates were built to drain the canal in case of emergency, and to assist with sloughing ice floes. On the forebay side, six penstocks were built – one for each planned unit – each containing three channels, leading to the water wheels or turbines.

When the headgates to the penstocks open, water flows through the water wheels, exiting the powerhouse through draft tubes on the river side.

July 1914 saw the consolidation of the Turners Falls Company and the Amherst Power Company into the Turners Falls Power and Electric Company (TFPEC), a public utility that fell under the jurisdiction of the Board of Gas & Electric Light Commissioners.

Additional transmission lines were built, with interconnections in Leverett, Chicopee, Agawam, Springfield and Ludlow. They quickly bought out several small utilities in these communities.

Station No. 2 came on line in February 1916 with four generators. The Company's power load was growing faster than the station's capacity, so the two final planned units were constructed, along with another substation at Springfield, and new transmission lines from Granby to a substation at Mount Tom.

An article in the *General Electric Review* in 1917, detailing new interconnections with the Greenfield ELPC, Easthampton Gas, the United Electric Company of Springfield, and the New England Power Company, commented on the "increasing tendency of power companies to interconnect their lines for exchange of power in case of emergencies and unusually heavy demands."

Eventually, these varied associations led to the formation of the Western Massachusetts Electric Company.

A second article in the *Review* in 1919 noted that "by closing down 121 isolated plants and using central station supply nearly 400,000 tons of coal was saved in one year."

For many years, Cabot Station was the largest hydroelectric station east of Niagara Falls.

Philip Cabot

After spending twelve years building up the company, Cabot resigned in May 1919, due to poor health. As a tribute to his work, the remaining directors voted to rename Station No. 2 in his honor. It has been called Cabot Station ever since.

Following a long convalescence, Cabot is reputed to have been torn between preaching or teaching for his next career. He ultimately became a teacher, because he "swore too damn much to be a preacher."



This 1915 photo was taken from the top of the newly constructed dam, looking upstream at the older stone-filled crib dam built in 1866. The old suspension bridge can also be seen in the distance.

Cabot and his wife spent a great deal of their time at "Cabot Camp" on East Mineral Road, built during the development of the TFPEC at the site of the former French King toll house. It was completed in 1913.

The building was known for its thick stone walls, massive fireplace and quarry stone roof. Its heavy construction beams came from an old barn in Ashfield, and the cross beams reportedly came from the eastern part of the state.

The sturdy construction served it well: the Camp survived both the Great Flood of 1936 and Great Hurricane of 1938. Fifty-five cords of wood were cut from the many trees felled by the hurricane, and it's said that the last of it was not burned up until 1973.

Cabot started teaching public utility management at the Harvard Business School in 1926, and taught for many years. He died in December 1941.

Cabot Camp stayed in the family for 40 years, then was owned by the Abercrombie family. It was used for company meetings by several of the Northeast Utilities subsidiaries. The camp is currently closed, but is a popular canoe picnic spot on the Connecticut River.

Cabot Station continues to generate electricity. This vintage power station retains much of its original equipment, although the generators were rewound and upgraded between 2000 and 2004. Turbines with a new,

more efficient design were installed during the upgrades so the station could generate more electricity with the same amount of water usage. The station's current capacity increased by 9 MW to 61.8 MW.

The station has been sold a number of times since the deregulation of the electric industry, and is currently operated by FirstLight Hydro Generating Company, a wholly owned subsidiary of GDF Suez of North America.

Celebration

FirstLight is celebrating the station's centennial with an exhibit, "Vintage Powerhouse: Cabot Station – One Hundred Year Retrospective," at the Great Falls Discovery Center in April and May.

This exhibit features historical photographs dating from the early 1900s detailing the construction of the new concrete dam at Turners Falls, new power station, and the power canal expansion. There will be an opening reception April 9, and the Center will be open Fridays and Saturdays during those months.

There will be public tours of Cabot Station in June, but details are not yet finalized.

Anne Harding, a Turners Falls resident and frequent Montague Reporter contributor, is also an employee of FirstLight at Northfield Mountain.

**BROADBAND** from page A1

Shutesbury, and Warwick – to form a smaller cluster of towns whose people have expressed strong interest in getting fiber-optic internet connections to every house, and that idea was the basis of this meeting. But people came from much farther afield, including Leyden, Colrain, Plainfield, Montague, Charlemont, Cummington.

Both Crocker Communications and Matrix Design Group sent representatives.

Leverett selectboard members were invited, mostly to help advise other towns about achieving internet capability, but also, according to Keller, because both Shutesbury and Wendell have homes that might be reached most simply with a connection to Leverett's line.

Some people said they felt ready to give up on WiredWest, while others said they still saw the cooperative as the best option for their towns. Others still said that they felt the problem is not with WiredWest but the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI).

Wendell's finance committee chair Doug Tanner said that now Wendell's 890 residents currently pay, as a rough estimate, \$300,000 a year for the combination of services – telephone, internet and television – that a fiber-optic internet connection would provide. That money, Tanner pointed out, leaves the town and does not come back.

When asked why a smaller group of towns might reach the goal faster, Tanner cited the difficulty there is in reaching a consensus among a larger group, and the distance that representatives have to travel to attend

WiredWest meetings.

One attendee didn't want private companies to profit from investments made by the citizens through their towns, while another replied that those companies might have more experience, and provide the services more efficiently, than a new cooperative.

Tom Young from Warwick said his town provides wireless internet for 80% of its land area, and it is working. He thought that wireless capability may show a dramatic improvement during the time it takes for a fiber-optic system to be built.

Leverett selectboard chair Peter d'Errico warned that it took years of weekly meetings before Leverett was ready to build its municipally owned fiber-optic system.

Near the meeting's end, Keller called the session "brainstorming," and asked if other people in the room might want to meet again, possibly in two weeks.

As might be expected from a large group meeting for the first time, the gathered people did not reach a clear consensus on the next likely step. Wanita Sears, a clerk shared by several Wendell town committees, took minutes, and she agreed to send her notes by email to all attendees.

As the meeting came to a close, Keller suggested that people could review the notes and decide whether it was worth the effort of continuing meetings, or to wait patiently while the MBI and WiredWest continue to negotiate, and the glacial pace of progress goes on.



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Four Local Cagers Selected for Hampshire-Franklin All Star Game

By MATT ROBINSON

NORTHFIELD – This Friday, March 18, two students from Franklin Tech and two from Turners Falls will play among the best seniors from Hampshire and Franklin counties in the 19th Annual All-Star game held at Pioneer Regional. Also on Friday, the Franklin Tech girls and boys teams will receive the Jack Leaman Sportsmanship Award.

The four seniors, selected by the International Association of Approved Basketball Officials (IAABO) Board 28, are Nadia Hasan and Jalen Sanders from Turners, and Brittany Andrews and Zach Korpiewski from the Tech school.

Andrews will play on the Hampshire-Franklin West girls team. This season, she has scored an amazing 241 points, giving her a career total of 666. 220 of her career points came from the free throw line, and she sank 26 three pointers.

Hasan will play for the Hampshire-Franklin East girls team. She scored 50 points this season for a total of 73 career points.



Nadia hit 23 foul shots in her career and has a three-pointer. Besides basketball, she also plays volleyball for Turners.

Both Zach Korpiewski and Jalen Sanders will play for the Hampshire-Franklin West Boys team, which will be coached by Matt Llewelyn of Franklin Tech and Dave Hastings from Pioneer.

This season, only eight points separated Sanders (376) and Korpiewski (369), and their free throws were only 4 points apart (81 and 77, respectively).

But while Zach scored the remainder of his points from inside the 3-point line, Jalen hit 17 threes.

In addition to basketball, Korpiewski also competed in Track and Field, and Sanders has been a standout in football, baseball and basketball.

The girls' game will start at 6 p.m., and the boys' at 7:30.

And on Friday, March 25, Sanders will don his basketball sneakers one final time as a high schooler.

He was selected to the 2016 Western Massachusetts Senior High School All-Star Game, held in the Jerry Colangelo Court of Dreams at the Basketball Hall of Fame. That game will begin at 5:30 p.m..

TOP RIGHT: Brittany Andrews drives the ball to the hoop. RIGHT: Zach Korpiewski goes up for a shot in between the Upper Cape Tech defenders. TOP LEFT: Nadia Hasan drives past the Mobarawk defense. BOTTOM LEFT: Jalen Sanders in action.

DAVID HOITT PHOTOS



WENDELL from page A6

when it is provided by Crocker. The phones will cost \$2,300, with seven in the town offices, one at the highway department, and the fire department.

This cost should be more than offset by savings on each landline for which the town now pays Verizon.

Librarian Rosie Heidkamp is not ready to convert, because library workers often have to use cordless telephones, and those are not yet available for voice over internet.

Verizon contacted the library about providing, for loan to citizens, an internet hot spot at a cost of \$40 a month, with no binding contract.

The hot spot can give households with cell coverage internet access, and its use will give Verizon information about where their cell phone signals reach.

Other Business

The town clerk asked for a new shelf, six feet long by one foot deep, for \$365, and board members approved the request, which will be paid from the building maintenance account.

The first copy of Wendell's town flag has been made, and Senator Rosenberg suggested that the town could box it and ship it to the State House to be hung. Board members suggested that it would be more fitting to have a ceremony when both artists are in town.

Board members discussed the campership offered by Mass Audubon, and their offer to give the town another "Phelps lot," 13-acre landlocked and wet piece of land near Leverett.

They saw no problem with accepting the lot. Mass Audubon declined Wendell's request for a second campership.



SITA LANG PHOTO

Dave Cheque has been skateboarding for forty years, and living on the Hill in Turners Falls for twelve. We spotted him testing out the new skatepark at Unity Park.

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B1

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OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER

MARCH 17, 2016

BOOK REVIEW

“Under the gray sky/
our lips seek
tenderness”:

New Poems by
Christopher
Sawyer-Lauçanno



By RICHARD ANDERSEN

MONTAGUE – Ernest Hemingway prided himself on tackling the tough subjects: sexual impotency from a war wound, death of a first true love, trading integrity for money, fighting for a lost cause, and more. In “The Snows of Kilimanjaro,” he examines what goes through the mind of a writer who discovers he only has a few hours to live.

What these stories have in common is behavior without reflection, surface without substance, and character that often borders on caricature.

In his latest collection of poems, *Remission*, Christopher Sawyer-Lauçanno takes us to a place Hemingway never had the courage to enter or the talent to convey: a deep awareness of mortality and a flesh-and-blood, human response. But Lauçanno’s journey is ours as well as his own: a veritable meditation on not only the meaning but also the feel of being close to the day when we are no longer among the living.

Remission is not a book for the light of heart, but it will resonate long after its last word with the deep of heart. Lauçanno announces his intention in one of his book’s first poems: “It’s keeping you/alive, /said the nurse/pointing

to the tube/in his hand.” But this poet knows otherwise. He knows it’s the field of asphalt outside his hospital window that propels him “to rise from his bed/and seek another vista/closer to home/to the heart.”

Escape, however, can never be more than temporary, regardless of the form it takes. Every voyage out ends at the same location: “oblivion.”

There’s no banning it, Lauçanno tells us: “Oblivion bans you.” You can rail against it, fantasize about it, contemplate the mystery of it, joke about it, even play with the words that accompany it. None of these things matter. All life, as dependable and predictable as “Eventide” with a capital “E,” collapses into a frailty “as overwhelming/as the confluence of if and when.”

Remission, in other words, is about what we do while waiting for the inevitable. The heel, Lauçanno points out, “knows where the toes/are heading”: “the collision/between/what was/and what is/of the how not/to be/any longer.”

So what do we do when there’s nothing to do but wait? How do we respond when the place we never thought would arrive is finally here?

Lauçanno tells us in one word: “notice.” Pay attention as never see **REMISSION** pg B4

Zuihitsu Exhibit features the Quixotic and Poetic Art of Greta Svalberg

By NINA ROSSI

TURNERS FALLS – “I don’t know why I like clover so much,” Greta Svalberg mused. We were talking about the paintings she is currently showing at the Loot store in Turners. She’s used dried and pressed clovers in several of her paintings, obviously collecting and carefully preserving many hundreds of the tiny trifoliate plants.

“It’s a meditative, Agnes Martin-type thing. I’m making a compression puzzle. I’m taking a pile of clover, and arranging it, composing it, and – it is endlessly satisfying to me.” Clover is lovely fodder for fattening grazing animals, and enriching the soil. It carries luck on its shoulders like hay carries the sun. Greta is certainly open to letting good luck have its way with her work, but the work also progresses with a good dose of intention.

Her exhibit is titled “Zuihitsu (随筆),” a style in Japanese literature “consisting of loosely connected personal essays and fragmented ideas that typically respond to the author’s surroundings.” She read *The Pillow Book of Sei Shonagon*,

see **SVALBERG** pg B8



Blue Dragon Blood Root: Rice, crystals, acrylic, and mixed media on canvas.

Fins, Feathers, Fur – and Plenty of Flavor

By MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS – The parking lot at Franklin County Tech was jammed with cars and trucks last Friday night for the Wild Harvest Dinner, the annual celebration and benefit for the Fins, Feathers and Fur Club.

The club is an extracurricular for students focused on hunting and fishing, and its advisors, Chef Benjamin Pike and Brenda Fortin, both just happen to be instructors in the culinary department. Now in its fifteenth year, the dinner has grown into a massive, well-coordinated feast.

It is also a show of support by sportsmen and -women for the education of a new generation. A crowd of over 250 packed into the school’s cafeteria, mostly families and community members who paid for their plates, checked out an archery demonstration, then stuck around as the club’s students pulled the winners, one by one, of a 40-item raffle.

According to Pike, the annual dinner fully funds the club’s activities.

Without a doubt, the food was the main event. The buffet meal included dishes that featured wild game – bear, moose, venison, salmon, haddock, turkey, and

even squirrel.

The program thanked a bewildering array of supporters and in-kind contributors. Much of the meat was donated by private citizens, as well as state see **WILD HARVEST** pg B4



Freshman and club member Damian Willor of Northfield serves guests at last Saturday’s Wild Harvest Dinner.

Movement, Touch, and Transformation

By LEE WICKS

MONTAGUE – An upcoming documentary film premiere and dance festival will introduce new ideas about the power of movement, inclusivity, and mindfulness. On March 26, the Academy of Music in Northampton will screen *Journeys Through Movement and Touch: An Intimate Dance Documentary*.

This screening will be the centerpiece of the everyBODYmoves Mindful Movement Festival, a weekend of workshops for those

who want to explore intimate dance for themselves. The festival will run from March 25 through 27.

Produced in the Pioneer Valley, and featuring three unique dance journeys, producers say there are plans to distribute the film worldwide.

Mindful movement has grown from the practices of meditation and martial arts. It employs curiosity, attentiveness, observing sensation, observing emotion, and suspending expectations as dancers take responsibility for their own physical and

emotional safety. Always free to enter or leave a dance, participants are encouraged to take time to rest and integrate their experiences.

Intimate dance focuses on contact improvisation and involves more physical contact than some other forms of dance. But this “intimacy” is not about sex. As explained on the website, “This is about about playing with the physics of bodies moving through space. The ‘intimacy’ in our film is about a kind of human connection that transcends sexuality and romance – a surprising and delightful quality of connection that comes from the physics and biochemistry of these close collaborations.”

Dancers are inspired by the movements of their partners. The collaboration is the physical manifestation of a conversation. In one of the trailers for the film, a young woman says that intimate dance has helped her quiet her mind and achieve the kind of calm usually associated with meditation.

It is also heartening to see a man in a wheelchair fully participating see **MOVEMENT** page B5



Still from “Journeys Through Movement and Touch.” Used courtesy of the director.



Coming
Home

By LESLIE BROWN

MONTAGUE CITY – We slide through Georgia and the Carolinas on soft, warm, pollen-laden air. The next day, we begin the return to reality with a twenty-degree drop in temperature.

Further south, spring had begun, with fresh new leaves and young blossoms. Here it was still late winter, with darkness falling ever sooner. We stop for the night in West Virginia, just shy of Pennsylvania. The temperature is hovering around the fifty-degree mark.

In the morning we head to the motel lobby for coffee and are greeted by a crowd of residents in woolen caps and parkas. It is in the low thirties with a gusting wind which sways us along the highway.

At two o’clock we have crossed into New York State, and we are smelling the stable of home. We reach the highpoint of the Mass Pike around four o’clock, greeted by howling winds and wind-chill temperatures we are unprepared for.

At home at last about six-thirty, we are bone tired but happy to have arrived with no necessary check-in

except to endure the complaints of the long abandoned cat – oh, me! Friendly, familiar bed soothes the traveler in his fatigue.

Our last days in the South were quiet as we soaked up the pleasures of our home away from home: the ever-changing state of the lake, the early morning and evening colors, the visits from our birdlife. The bluebirds have been mating, the calls of the flying fowl more vociferous, and at last, our first sight of a live alligator.

It has been a wonderful journey with both home-away spots offering their own special treats. Now, though, we had become ready to be home and close again to friends and family.

And so, here we are, reacquainting ourselves with the quiet pleasure of hearth and home. Here it is the first week of March and well-nigh time to plant the tomatoes!

It’s a strange thing, skipping over a season and finding it time to think about the coming garden. The weather allows us to hang the laundry outside again, and while we are enjoying evening fires, it’s no longer imperative to keep the wood stove going all day.

see **GARDENER’S** page B4

Pet of the Week

My name is Natalie and I'm five years old. I am a good cat with a kind soul. Looking into my eyes, you will know this to be true.

Yes, look into my eyes. Look deep. You will now drive to Leverett where I'll give you further

instructions if I deem you worthy of my custodianship. Do not tarry. Now go and find your keys!

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



"NATALIE"

Senior Center Activities MARCH 21 to 25

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
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Monday 3/21
8 - 9:30 a.m. Foot Clinic Appts.
Noon Pot Luck & Bingo

Tuesday 3/22
9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga
1 p.m. Knitting Circle
Wednesday 3/23
9 a.m. Veterans' Outreach
10 a.m. Nurses' Hour
12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 3/24
9 a.m. NO Tai Chi
1 p.m. Cards & Games
Friday 3/25
Liberty Tax Appointments
1 p.m. Writing Group

ERVING

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

Lunch is at 11:30 a.m., with reservations required 24 hours in advance.

vance. Call the Mealsite Manager at 423-3308 for meal information and reservations.

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

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

Monday 3/21
9 a.m. Tai Chi
10 a.m. Osteo Exercise
Tuesday 3/22
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
10 a.m. Stretching & Balance
12:30 p.m. Quabbin Crafts
Wednesday 3/23
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Chair Yoga
Noon Bingo, Snacks & Laughs
Thursday 3/24
8:45 Aerobics
10 a.m. Healthy Bones
12:30 p.m. Cards, Creative Coloring
Friday 3/25
9 a.m. Quilting
9:30 a.m. Bowling; Market Trip
12:30 p.m. Painting Class

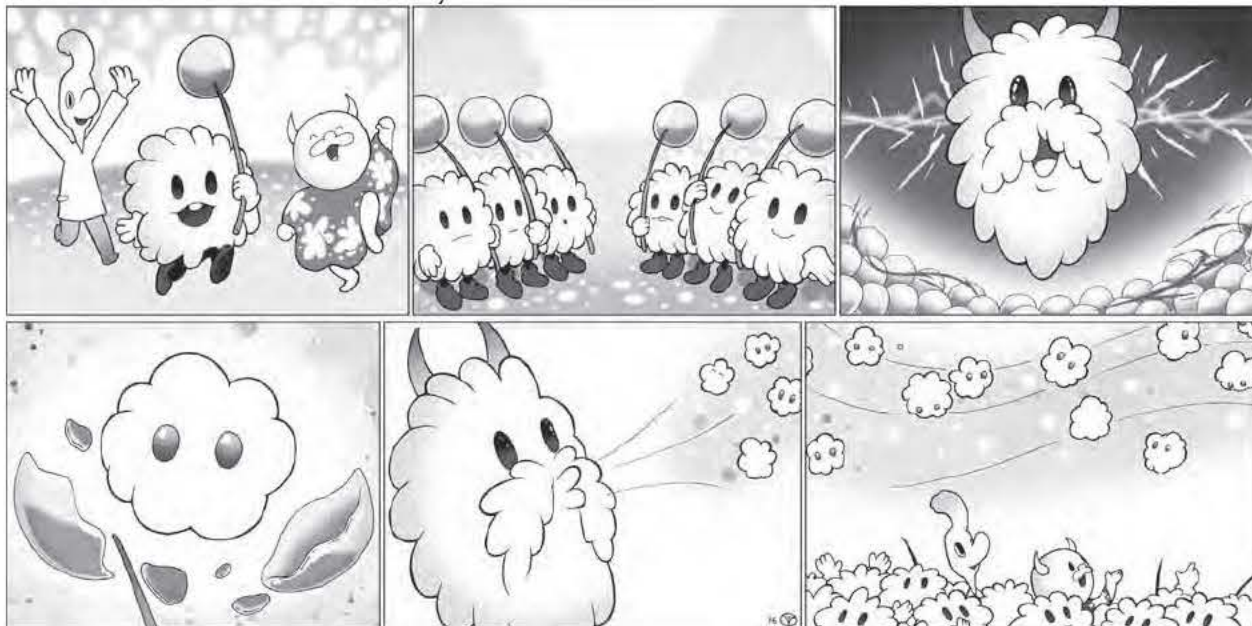
WENDELL

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.

LEVERETT

For information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022, ext. 5, or coa@leverett.ma.us. Flexibility and Balance Chair Yoga - Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$6 (first class free). Senior Lunch - Fridays at noon. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.

WEIRD HEALING by OVERTURE



Overture is based in Shelburne Falls. Check out opertura.org.

Become a Long-Term Care Ombudsman

In just a few hours each week, you can make a big difference in the lives of residents of local nursing and rest homes. Attend the next free volunteer training for the Long-Term Care Ombudsman program at LifePath (formerly Franklin County Home Care) on March 21, 22, and 23 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., with a break for lunch, in Northampton.

For questions, call Trevor Boeding at (413) 773-5555, ext. 2241. To apply, visit the Long-Term Care Ombudsman program page. Interested parties must successfully complete the application process before attending the training.

"An ombudsman is someone that they can feel at ease with, laugh with, and talk to," says Long-Term Care Ombudsman Anmarie Newton, who volunteers at Quabbin Valley Healthcare in Athol. "My goal is to make people feel comfortable, good about themselves, and happier or



more content. I hope and pray by the time I leave that they feel better."

Anmarie begins her visit in the common room, where people are "hearing music, watching a movie, playing cards," and speaks to everyone, asking how things are going.

"I love seniors. I think they're funny, smart, and unique. I just enjoy them and I look forward to coming down and visiting them," says Anmarie.

Anmarie also speaks with each

person who is awake in their rooms and will visit with them if they want. If there is a particular problem, she will discuss the issue with the resident in private; if addressing the issue requires interaction with facility staff, she will speak with the social worker or nurse manager, and she takes urgent issues to Trevor Boeding, the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program Director.

Anmarie feels that if she brings a problem to Trevor, it will be addressed right away. "He gives me a verbal pat on the back. He really is very helpful to me and very supportive. I'm very happy with Trevor and I think we have a good relationship."

Like all ombudsmen, Anmarie listens to residents and assists them by advocating and problem-solving with them in collaboration with the nursing facility staff. Quality of life and quality of care for the residents are the common goals.

THE HEALTHY GEEZER

How Much Water Can I Drink?

cent from food.

Here are more general answers to your question:

There is the "8 x 8 rule," which has been around for as long as I can remember. This rule states that you should drink eight, eight-ounce glasses of water a day. That's a half-gallon of water. I could never follow this rule myself. All that water on top of the soda, coffee and beer had me constantly doing what my granddaughter calls "the pee-pee dance."

Some authorities recommend using your weight as a guideline for water intake. They say you should divide your weight in half and use the number of pounds to determine the number of ounces of water you should drink daily. For example, if you weigh 120 pounds, you should drink 60 ounces of water a day.

Another way to ensure that you have enough water is by following a replacement guideline. You urinate one to two quarts a day. About another quart of water is lost through sweating, exhaling and defecating. You have to make sure you drink and eat enough each day to compensate for the lost fluids.

The Institute of Medicine, a component of the National Academy of Sciences, advises men to consume 125 ounces of beverages daily. The IOM recommends that women consume 91 ounces of total beverages a day.

These guidelines are designed for normal health, activity and weather.

Diarrhea and vomiting dehydrate you. You need to replace lost fluids if you are sick with these symptoms. To replace fluid-loss from diarrhea, adults should consume broth, non-citrus fruit juices, flat ginger ale and ice pops.

When you exercise, you perspire more and lose fluid. To replace this fluid, you'll need to take in about two to three cups of water for each hour of exercise.

When the temperature and humidity rise, you sweat more, so you have to drink more.

Water is important because, without it, we become dehydrated and all of our systems suffer. Dehydration is especially dangerous to seniors, who are less able than younger people to sense dehydration.

A good way for seniors to check their water level is the "pinch test." Pinch the skin on top of your hands. If the pinched skin doesn't return to its normal state, you need to get yourself a drink of water.

Here are some more signs of dehydration: fatigue, headache, dizziness, flushed skin, elevated pulse rate, muscle spasms, increased breathing rate and swollen tongue.

In rare cases, you can drink too much water. Your kidneys can't handle an overload and this condition leads to low sodium levels in the blood. Marathoners can run into this problem.

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



JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

By FRED CICETTI

Q. I've been told to drink more water. How much is enough?

First, water intake is a health issue that you should discuss with your doctor before deciding how much you should drink. The amount you drink is dependent upon the state of your personal health.

Drinking insufficient amounts of fluids is the common problem. However, some conditions such as heart failure and kidney disease may require cutting back on fluids.

The simplest answer I could find to this very complicated question is this: If you aren't thirsty and you produce one to two quarts of light yellow urine daily - the average output for an adult - you're probably taking in enough water.

If you are concerned about your water intake, remember that you get water from more than just straight water. About 80 percent of your total water intake is from all beverages, which includes soda, coffee and beer. You get the remaining 20 per-

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Spring Comedy at the Shea

Romance, with all of its joy and heartbreak will be given a hilarious spin when the Franklin County Technical School Players perform their spring production of A Night of Romantic Comedy.

The FCTS Players will perform two comedies during the show, "The 9 Worst Breakups of All Time," written by Ian McWethy, and "That's Not How I Remember It," written by Don Zolidis. Both

are side-splitting romps through the complicated condition known as love.

Performances will be on Friday, March 18 and Saturday, March 19, at the Shea Theater, 71 Avenue A in Turners Falls. The shows begin at 6:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$7 for adults, and \$5 for students and seniors. Call (413) 863-9561, ext. 233 to reserve tickets.

LOOKING BACK

10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

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

Erving Wrestles with Education Increases

The Erving selectboard focused on the FY'07 school committee budget on Monday evening. While awaiting the arrival of school committee members, chair Linda Downs-Bembury and board member Jeff Dubay discussed changes to the proposed school budget with administrative coordinator Tom Sharp.

"We'll be digging a hole deeper and deeper that we can't get out of," said Dubay. The board expressed a growing concern over the many other costs the town will face in the coming year, including the expansion of sewer lines.

By reducing the proposed budget for both elementary and secondary education, the selectboard proposed to reduce the school department's requested budget by an amount of \$108,853.

Late in the discussion of exactly what to cut, and how, Jacquie Boyden, assistant assessor and member of the planning board and recreation committee, recommended that parents be asked to contribute toward their children's education by buying basic supplies such as pencils and paper that schools are currently responsible for.

Biodiesel for Wendell

The Wendell Country Store is now selling biodiesel.

If you own a diesel vehicle and you want to fuel up with biodiesel, you can simply stop by the country store, where owner Patti Scutari has display shelves stocked with refillable, yellow, five-gallon jugs of the nontoxic, biodegradable,

B-100 fuel.

Until last Thursday, local biodiesel users had to travel to Fleming Shell in Brattleboro or Alliance Energy in Holyoke to obtain the vegetable-based biodiesel.

"It seemed like such a waste for people to have to drive such a long distance to get fuel, in order to save fuel. There are a few people in town that run cars on biodiesel, and I want to support those people, who are making that extra effort on behalf of the environment, by at least having it close by," said Scutari, who hopes to purchase a diesel for her next vehicle, so she can use the alternative fuel.

Entergy Officials Defend VY Performance

Tension crackled in the auditorium at Pioneer Valley Regional School on Monday night as 150 local residents turned out to hear a presentation by operators of the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant, and to pose questions to Entergy VY officials. The public hearing is the first held by Entergy VY in Massachusetts, where seven towns lie within the 33-year-old reactor's 10-mile emergency planning zone.

Entergy has received permission to boost power production at the aging boiling water reactor to 120% of its original design capacity. Issues raised by the community include the lack of independent inspection of the plant, possible radiation poisoning from contaminated steam, lack of available insurance for nuclear disasters, insufficient emergency planning for the community, and others.

Dana Levine, a Massachusetts state police officer for 18 years, said, "I've never been informed about how we are going to respond to an evacuation. My goal is to protect people. I'm at a loss."

MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

This Week on MCTV

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

Is spring here early? It's sure been looking that way up and down the Valley.

As always, MCTV staff work to provide you with televised access to local meetings. Every week you can check out the live broadcast of local meetings including the Montague selectboard meeting on Mondays at 7 p.m., and the finance committee meeting on Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

Also stay tuned for the broadband meeting and the Gill select-

board meeting. And don't forget to check out our archive of videos online, available for streaming and download at montaguetelevision.org.

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

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

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Simple Tips: Leave The Skatepark At Sunset; Stop At Stop Signs; Don't Hit Anyone In The Face With A Shovel

Monday, 3/7

12:25 a.m.

[REDACTED] was arrested on a straight warrant.

9:30 a.m. Deerfield PD request MPD check skate park for a 14-year-old male runaway.

4:51 p.m. Caller reports an older and a younger looking male on Fosters Road firing what appears to be a rifle, possibly a .22. Caller feels they are too close to the road and to a nearby house. Officers spoke to resident; he denied being involved, but did hear same. Nothing heard upon officers' arrival. Investigated.

5:31 p.m. Caller from School Street just returned home after 5 days to find a light flashing on her CO detector; she reports feeling light-headed and unwell. Caller advised to evacuate and wait outside for FD. Shelburne Control notified to tone MCFD; MedCare notified and en route.

Tuesday, 3/8

7:55 a.m. Report of a stop sign that was taken out by a truck at Greenfield Road and Montague City Road. Caller believes that the truck came from the Water Pollution Control Facility. Officer checked area, advises the sign was knocked off but someone propped it back up, so there is a sign there, just not in its proper position. DPW advised.

8:26 a.m.

[REDACTED] was arrested on a probation warrant.

10:30 a.m. Party into station reporting that someone spit on her vehicle overnight. Advised of options.

4:54 p.m. Caller reports that there is a female stealing items from the back dock of the Salvation Army. Party was verbally trespassed by employee in presence of officer.

5:10 p.m. Officer coming from a detail advised that he noticed several youths on skateboards using the new benches at Third Street and Avenue A to jump from. Officer spoke to parties and reminded them that there is now a skate park in town for such activity.

6:23 p.m. Officer advises that a large group of people were asked to leave the skatepark as the park is closed after dusk.

Wednesday, 3/9

11:16 a.m. Caller reports that there is a male party hanging out at the Third Street Laundry; states that the owner told him to call MPD if he saw this party inside the business, as owner reportedly does not want him here. Officer attempted to contact owner; message left.

2:49 p.m. Party reports that sometime between yester-

day and today, his home on Randall Road was broken into; entry was made through a basement window. A lockbox with a key and thumbprint lock was reportedly entered and several medications stolen. Party states he has no idea who would have done this. Report taken.

3:26 p.m. Office motion alarm at Thomas Memorial Country Club. Officers clear; building secure; suspects heavy wind triggered the alarm.

4:34 p.m. Report of single vehicle (motorcycle) accident with injury on Federal Street. Caller advises operator might have struck his head when he fell from the motorcycle. Conferred with MedCare; Shelburne Control contacted for MCFD EMTs. Caller advised MedCare that the patient is conscious/alert and does not have any obvious injuries. Officer advises motorcycle struck a guide wire for an Eversource pole; no visible damage, but requests that Eversource be notified as a precaution. Operator transported by MedCare.

5:55 p.m. Caller reports that several vehicles were speeding and failed to stop at the stop sign at Second and L Streets this afternoon. Caller advises one of the vehicles almost hit her while she was walking with her child. Caller confronted one of the drivers, but the altercation was over before she called. Officers will be advised and will be on lookout for this in the area.

8:59 p.m. Officer checking on suspicious auto occupied x2 on Migratory Way. Parties advised that they were there to smoke cigarettes because they are not allowed to smoke at the transitional program where they reside. Parties will be leaving in a few minutes.

Thursday, 3/10

12:10 a.m. Caller from Turners Falls Road reporting loud music from apartment next door. Caller has attempted contact with tenants unsuccessfully. Officers advised tenant of complaint. Music was audible from street. Same will quiet for night and go to bed.

7:13 a.m. Report of a tractor trailer unit blocking the roadway on Church Street. Towing company requested and en route; unit towed.

10:05 a.m. Caller from Kostanski Funeral Home reports that they discovered a hypodermic needle on the front lawn. Advised caller that an officer would respond when available.

11 a.m. Sunderland PD requesting K-9 Artie for a track from a breaking and entering.

2:13 p.m. Fire department checking report of smoke in area of Southworth Paper Mill; request that an officer respond if possible, as this appears to be an outside fire behind the old Indeck building.

Friday, 3/11

3:06 p.m. Caller reports that she was assaulted at approximately 9:30 this morning by a classmate at the Hallmark Institute of Photography. Caller states that they were sitting near each other; the other party was reportedly playing music a little loud. Caller asked her to turn the volume down; other party refused. Caller, in turn, turned her music up. The other female approached the caller and reportedly pushed her, then grabbed her by the neck and punched her in the face, causing scratches to the back of her neck and her face. Caller stated PD was not contacted when this happened, although instructors were notified. Advised of options.

4:19 p.m. Party dropped off box of old shotgun shells to be disposed of.

7:08 p.m. Caller reports that parties just past the Pioneer Tavern appear to be setting off fireworks into traffic. Officer checked area and spoke to caller; located remnants of fireworks in the roadway but unable to determine where they came from.

8:01 p.m. Caller from Third Street reports that

he just hit a male party in the face with a shovel. Unknown injuries. Call transferred to MedCare; TFFD notified and en route. Officers out with caller behind F.L. Roberts in alley. All involved parties declined medical attention. Summons issued.

9:42 p.m. Caller reports that her 15 year old daughter was approached by a white male outside their house on Second Street; male questioned daughter why house was half empty. Same was looking in windows. Caller requests that this be on record; will call back if male is seen again.

Saturday, 3/12

2:19 p.m. Caller from Turnpike Road discovered a burn pile in his yard behind his shed. Caller unsure if wood was from his own wood pile or if neighbors burned on his property unintentionally. Officer spoke with neighbor, who advised they may have inadvertently dumped ashes onto the caller's property last year; advised this would not happen again.

6:29 p.m. Large group advised to move along from the skate park as it is after dark and the park is closed.

7:01 p.m. Group of people advised to leave the skate park as it is closed after dark.

8:05 p.m. Three parties spoken to about the skate park being closed after dark; parties moved along.

11:35 p.m. [REDACTED] was arrested and charged with failing to stop for police; driving as to endanger; and speeding in violation of a special regulation.

Sunday, 3/13

4:14 a.m. Caller reporting that there are people down in the skate park; they have been there since after midnight. Caller can't sleep with all the noise. Officer advises negative contact with anyone at the skate park or basketball court.

7:31 p.m. Officer cleared out skate park; parties advised the park is closed after dusk.

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WILD HARVEST from page B1

Environmental Police Officers, with whom Pike maintains what he describes as “a good relationship.”

Some of the more exotic appetizers had disappeared by the time we made it past the raffle tables, but we enjoyed a hearty fisherman’s stew and a portion of chili, mild enough to showcase the flavor of ground bear.

Diners were ushered in shifts into the school’s restaurant, where club members catered a long buffet. Some focused on favorite dishes, but those of us who took a small serving of each returned to our tables bearing an intimidatingly packed plate.

“They’re not here for the greens,” one young man joked to another as he piled taco meat onto mine in a generous sort of way. It was the last station of the buffet, and by then I actually did think I should be trying to get more roughage in the mix, but I didn’t argue.

As it turned out, the taco meat was a surprise standout, its bright tanginess somehow building on the game’s earthy flavor without getting in the way. Chef Pike later told me it was a “coarse country grind of moose, venison and pork.”

My dinner companion and I matched the assortment of meatballs, stews, filets and steaks with the menu listings as we worked our way around our plates. Most items registered as standard delicious comfort food.

The only animal new to this writer was squirrel, which is odd because they were prevalent locally even when I was living in big cities. I was a little disappointed to find it jumbled up with pheasant, turkey, peas and pearl onions, satisfying though the result may have been.

And while the bear golumpki was the coolest-sounding menu item, it turned out to be one of the mildest.

The fish cakes were another story. Made with haddock, shrimp and king salmon – the salmon “donated by Patrick Jernigan, who was one of the original Fins, Feather and Fur club

members,” according to Pike – and daubed with an intense remoulade, they would easily pass muster at a white-tablecloth place where the waitstaff wear something other than camo.

But it was the country-fried moose steak, unexpectedly, that stood head, shoulders and rack above all the rest. The steak was perfectly tender, cooked medium and majestically moose-like.

I went to sleep that night still thinking about how it tasted, and started to wonder if some of its otherworldly savor was in its soft batter coating. But Chef Pike told me the meat had simply been “pounded thin, seasoned, dipped in egg, then in seasoned flour and deep-fat fried,” and even doing all that to anything else could not possibly have attained the same results.

A life spent ranging free in northern fields and woods, browsing on willow, gooseberry and water lily as the seasons turn – that is how you end up tasting like that.

While the undeniable technical capability of the Tech’s culinary department carried the steak across the finish line, it was the animal itself, in the end, that was so special, and the experience of eating it such a particular privilege.

As temperatures warm, winter ticks are also claiming that privilege, draining no-doubt delicious calves of their blood and decimating the herd. There are fewer moose, and fewer moose permits, every year, as the viable habitat shrinks into Canada.

The wide community that made last Friday’s fundraiser such an impressive event is a natural constituency of conservation. To preserve their traditions, tomorrow’s hunters will have to be educated and organized as never before, as habitat comes under pressure more indirectly, from changes in climate and ecology.

For now, it seems, game is just plentiful enough to feed a crowd – and just rare enough to prepare with care, and eat with gratitude.

**GARDENER’S** from page B1

The daffodil shoots are pushing up around the yard, the willows look yellow and the red tips of the trees are very evident. The sap buckets hang from the maples and the light is lengthening.

The river is high and loud, although free of the usual ice floes from up north.

In the swamp the peepers are tuning up, we have a robin in the yard and some of the southern starlings and blackbirds seem to have followed us home.

I stop by our local garden store and pick up a bag of seed starter. This specially prepared planting mix is made of peat moss lightened with vermiculite, which creates a perfect growing medium for seeds and their delicate baby roots. Moistened gently, it settles into the cells of our self-watering mini green house. A piece of wicking paper sits underneath the cells and pulls up water as the medium dries. A clear plastic lid keeps moisture in.

We’ll set the tray on a warming mat and put the whole operation in the sunroom. The warming mat will guarantee steady warmth despite the varying temperatures in the sunroom itself.

I tuck the tiny tomato seeds into the growing cell and cover each with a pinch of soil, pressing the seeds down for good contact. There are forty cells in this propagator, eight rows of five each.

I’ve planted seven varieties of tomato; large, medium and cherry; Rose, Pineapple, Brandywine, Celebrity, Jet Star, Early Girl and Sungold.

I also planted a row of a small bell pepper mix. The seeds are so tiny it’s hard to picture that they hold the secret for a full growing plant with good sized fruit.

The seeds should start sprouting in a week or so. They’ll remain in this starting



The self-watering seed propagator.

container until they have at least one set of true leaves and the roots are pressing out of the cells. Then it will be time to begin the labor intensive process of transplanting from individual pots – first two-inch, then four, and larger, until the soil is warm and the frosts past.

It has been a balmy one, this first full week at home. We have enjoyed sleeping with the windows up a bit and sitting in the yard with just a couple of layers to soften the breezy air. Next week looks to be cooler and damp, but that’s no excuse for distress; we’re headed in the right direction and it’s spring as only New England can produce it – in fits and starts.

We are content to move at this backward and forward pace. Truth be told, we are a bit tired of being lulled by constantly sun-warmed days. Part of our mettle as New Englanders is toughness, after all. It is what makes us resilient and strong like those weathered trees at the peak of mountain tops or at the edge of the stormy sea, hanging there and refusing to let go.

We are lucky to have had a chance to try both worlds, and are now well contented to be home.

**REMISSION** from page B1

before to the “everydayness/replete in the history of ourselves and objects in the room.” It’s a simple guideline, but it isn’t an easy one to follow. Focusing on the seemingly small can be a big struggle.

It starts with awareness, the “Awareness of being awake” followed by the “(re)cognition” of the immediate: the winter afternoon, the dog, the look and sound and feel of “the wind, rattling the branches in the tall maples.”

Forgotten “thought-scapes” are not far behind. Let your heart lead the way; don’t be distracted by your head. Find solace in ashes from the fireplace, adventure from the bubbles in a new wineskin, astonishment at unplanned junctures, and relief in knowing that fixity in this world is a fiction.

Welcome the new transparency. It’s what “allows for a glimpse of what’s underneath,” the essence that is at the core of all “noticing”: the discovery of “us.”

Contrary to what any of the above might imply, *Remission* is loaded with wry humor, eclectic insights, and thought-provoking quotations. More of a dialogue than a monologue, it invites us to form a relationship with a great mind, a loving heart, and a genuine concern for leaving this world a better place.

On all these levels of noticing, Lauçanno succeeds beyond all expectations.



Remission: A Chronicle of Recovery

By NINA ROSSI

TURNERS FALLS – Talking with Christopher Sawyer-Lauçanno about his new book of poems, *Remission*, I thought about how hard it might be to share one’s personal story of illness as he has in his poetry.

“There’s nothing like a life-threatening illness to put things in perspective,” Chris commented, a bit of a wry grin peeping out one side of his white mustache. He shook his head. “I didn’t really think about mortality much, until now.”

In May of 2013, the former *Montague Reporter* editor was diagnosed with incurable – but treatable – lymphoma. The cancer was “knocked down” with a course of chemotherapy that ended in the spring of 2014. He was feeling pretty good until he cut his finger stacking wood that November and came down with a serious systemic blood infection.

“I was in the hospital for two weeks. Basically, I had no defenses, my white blood cell count was so low,” he explained. This episode precipitated his resignation from this newspaper.

“That’s when I wrote. It was the winter from hell, the winter of 2014 – 2015. I wrote some during my chemo, and then that winter.

“It was sort of a journal; I didn’t set out to write a book. I didn’t know I had a new book

until May of last year. It’s a chronicle of recovery – bleak at times, but hopeful.”

The book has three parts, roughly chronological, and each one, says Chris, resembles one long poem. It begins with *There*: “collapse in the hospital, and uncertainty.” This is followed by *Here*: “being back home – walking around with the dogs, looking at things, the changing scenery – the river is a big part of it, I look out at the river from home.” It ends with *Elsewhere*: “pieces that got tagged by memory – other places, times, and ideas.”

Chris was hesitant to publish his personal story, but was encouraged by friends, among them many fellow writers, editors, and publishers. When he sent the manuscript to Ed Foster at Talisman House, he heard back within 24 hours that it would be accepted for publication.

Within three days, he received a cover photo from Ed that was perfect for the book: bare trees rising out of grey mists, taken by Ed himself near his home in Northfield.

The placement of the poems on the page is an important component, since the work is “about space, about coming to terms with space, and time, and absence.” Chris is also a visual artist, and arranges words on the page as in a kind of painting.

His wife, Patricia Pruitt, is also a poet, and

is his first reader. “Patricia has an incredible eye and ear for poetry,” he says. “We rarely argue over writing. And I have been blessed with great editors for all my books. I learn a great deal from editors and readers pointing things out. Ed Foster has published three of my books, and I have never rejected any of his suggestions.”

Chris Sawyer-Lauçanno will be reading from *Remission* during the “Altered Books” exhibit at the Mill Arts Project in Easthampton, a book art show curated by Montague artist John Landino. The reading will be on Wednesday evening, April 13.

Remission is currently available online: spdbooks.org. It will be available on Amazon starting in April, and in local bookstores soon.



Christopher Sawyer-Lauçanno, reading from another of his books of poetry, *Mussoorie-Montague Miscellany*, published in 2013.

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MOVEMENT from page B1 in lifts and graceful yielding movements. Intimate dance has created an opportunity for people of all ages, races, classes, sexual orientations, abilities and limitations and different levels of comfort with their own bodies to experience the joy of dance and movement.

This endeavor has more than a few ties to Montague and the surrounding towns. Sanford Lewis, one of the producers, lives in Shutesbury. Kent Alexander, a Montague resident, will be leading a workshop entitled "Authentic movement and otherness."

Mr. Lewis said, "Mr. Alexander was not involved in production of the film, but is a thought leader on diversity in the mindful movement community and I'm glad he is joining us for the festival launching the film."

Bill Jacobson, who runs the Montague Retreat Center with his wife Beth, is an associate producer, and he made the retreat center available

for a benefit for the film as part of the production process. Another Montague resident, Richard Adams was involved in film production.

According to Mr. Lewis, "Many Montague residents were involved in film shoots in one way or another and probably appear in the film briefly. A number of Montague residents dance in Northampton on Sunday mornings at Dance Spirit, where part of the film was shot. The three main characters are from Florence, Conway and Hadley."

He also noted strong connections to Greenfield: "There is a very popular contact improvisation jam in Greenfield, hosted by Greenfield resident Moti Zemelman, a highly skilled dancer and teacher who appears in the film."

Reflecting on the film and his own experience, Mr. Lewis wrote, "I filmed hundreds of improvisations, and interviewed numerous dancers and scientists. In the end, I

chose to build the film around three dancers with compelling transformative journeys.

"Now that our filmmaking journey is completed, I've come to realize that our inquiry has documented a different kind of human rights struggle – the very personal fight to recover a birthright, to come home to our bodies, to live with integrity and wholeness, to experience safety, dignity, and the full vitality of our capacities to connect."

It is possible to attend the festival without seeing the film, though organizers believe the film offers an important context for the workshops. Organizers say, "If you are excited about fostering a deeper connection between your mind and body, and want to discover fun new ways of connecting with others, these may open up new avenues for you."

The trailer can be viewed at *antimatedance.com*, and tickets to the film premiere can be purchased through the Academy of Music box office link. The website for this event is filled with useful information and trailers and up-to-date news about the workshops.

A FAQ section also offers this advice: "If you feel VERY uncomfortable watching the film trailer, are fearful of new experiences, don't like discomfort or challenge, then the film or festival may not be right for you. We know that they are not necessarily right for everyone. We recommend that you trust your own instincts to make the choice that's right for you."

TV REVIEW

Of Kings and Prophets

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

Of Kings and Prophets is a new television show on ABC, based on the story of the biblical King David. Unlike NBC's 2009 *Kings*, which featured a modern setting to the whole story of King David, and which only lasted one season, *Of Kings and Prophets* has historical accuracy to its name: the time period when the story could have actually happened is shown as a part of the story.

We get a glimpse of how the David character is presented in the first scenes of the show. He is someone who takes responsibility for his actions – and inactions.

This occurs when a lion gets his family's flock of sheep, which he has the job of keeping safe. His father can't afford his taxes, because of the lion, and faces the possibility of a flogging by the tax collectors. David ends up putting forth a proposal to kill the lion in exchange for his taxes being forgiven, along with those of his neighbors.

I like how this character is shown as a courageous and responsible man. He makes me want to see more of him, and of the actor portraying him. That is one step in the right direction when it comes to the show's continuing appeal to the people who

watched this first episode: I believe that because of how this character David is written, more people will come to watch the show.

A few more things may draw viewers to this show. One is the world the story is set in, filled with battles, exactly like the setting of the Bible story of David.

Another is Goliath, featured as the general to the Philistines – who, like in the Bible story, David will eventually face. Goliath is not presented as a giant, but they do show him as a big man.

To add to what else is happening in the show, David manages to kill the lion with the slingshot, the weapon that he will use to kill Goliath. I believe removing that from the storyline would have been a bad move. Keeping it has made the story be pretty close to what is said to have happened in the story of David and Goliath.

(I saw in a press release that the epic meeting of David and Goliath will happen soon after this pilot.)

People these days are especially interested in faith-based stories. This show is not terribly different from that Bible story, which is a good thing – if what I believe about people's interest in faith-based stories is true, this could be a big hit.



Still from "Journeys Through Movement and Touch." Used courtesy of the director.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

D.P.U. 16-01

Petition of Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, L.L.C. before the Department of Public Utilities pursuant to G.L. c. 164, §§ 72A, 75B and 75D for Authority to Perform Geotechnical and Other Surveys on Certain Private Properties

D.P.U. 16-02

Petition of Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, L.L.C. before the Department of Public Utilities pursuant to G.L. c. 164, §§ 72A, 75B and 75D for Authority to Perform Vernal Pool and Other Surveys on Certain Private Properties

D.P.U. 16-03

Petition of Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, L.L.C. before the Department of Public Utilities pursuant to G.L. c. 164, §§ 72A, 75B and 75D for Authority to Perform Surveys on Certain Private Properties

NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT HEARINGS

Notice is hereby given that Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, L.L.C. ("Company") has filed three petitions ("Petitions") with the Department of Public Utilities ("Department") requesting that the Department grant the Company the authority to enter upon land owned by certain private landowners ("Survey Properties") who have not previously granted access to the Company to conduct surveys on their land in connection with the Company's proposed Northeast Energy Direct Project (the "Project"), now pending before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC") (Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company L.L.C., FERC Docket No. CP16-21-000). As set forth in more detail in the Petitions, the Company maintains that the surveys are needed to gather information required for FERC's review of the Project. The Department will review the Petitions to determine whether the requested surveys should be granted.

In Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company L.L.C., D.P.U. 16-01, the Company requests authority to enter upon land owned by **twenty-three (23) private landowners**, which is generally located on or near a major water body, a railroad crossing, or a road crossing, which may require installation of the pipeline using the horizontal directional drill ("HDD") method. The Company seeks authority to conduct geotechnical surveys, and for purposes of efficiency, and to minimize disruption and inconvenience, the Company also seeks authority to perform civil, archeological and cultural resources, wetlands and water body delineation, and endangered or rare species surveys at the same time it enters the properties to perform geotechnical surveys.

In Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company L.L.C., D.P.U. 16-02, the Company requests authority to enter upon land owned by **eighteen (18) private landowners**, which land is located within two hundred feet from either side of the proposed centerline of the pipeline, for the purpose of conducting vernal pool surveys. For purposes of efficiency, and to minimize disruption and inconvenience, the Company also seeks authority to perform civil, archeological and cultural resources, wetlands and water body delineation; and endangered or rare species surveys at the same time it enters the vernal pool properties to perform vernal pool surveys. These surveys are described in more detail in paragraphs 18-24 of the Petition in D.P.U. 16-02.

In Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company L.L.C., D.P.U. 16-03, the Company requests authority to enter upon land owned by **four hundred eight (408) private landowners**. The survey activities will generally be conducted in an area located within two hundred feet from either side of the proposed centerline of the pipeline, for the purpose of making civil, archeological and cultural resources; wetlands and water body delineation; and endangered or rare species surveys. These surveys are described in more detail in paragraphs 18-26 of the Petition in D.P.U. 16-03.

The Department will conduct six public comment hearings to receive public comments on the Company's petition, as follows:

SCHEDULE OF PUBLIC COMMENT HEARINGS FOR D.P.U. 16-01, 16-02, AND 16-03

Tuesday, March 29 – 7:00 p.m.
Berkshire Community College, Boland Theater
1350 West Street
Pittsfield, MA 01201

Tuesday, April 5 – 7:00 p.m.
Lunenburg High School Auditorium
1079 Massachusetts Avenue
Lunenburg, MA 01426

Wednesday, April 13 – 7:00 p.m.
Dracut Senior High School Auditorium
1540 Lakeview Avenue
Dracut, MA 01826

Wednesday, March 30 – 7:00 p.m.
Greenfield Middle School Auditorium
195 Federal Street
Greenfield, MA 01301

Wednesday, April 6 – 7:00 p.m.
Lynnfield Middle School Auditorium
505 Main Street
Lynnfield, MA 01940

Thursday, April 14 – 7:00 p.m.
Andover High School Auditorium
80 Shawsheen Road
Andover, MA 01810

Copies of the Petitions, and complete sets of exhibits is available on the Department's Website <http://web1.enr.state.ma.us/DPU/FileRoom/dockets/bynumber>. (Enter docket number "16-01" "16-02" or "16-03.") The Petitions are also available in hard-copy format for public inspection at the offices of the Department, One South Station, Boston, Massachusetts. Copies are also available for public viewing at the public libraries of each city or town where the Survey Properties are located. You may also obtain a complete copy of the Petition (with all exhibits and property sketch documents) by contacting the Company's attorney (see contact information below).

Any person who desires to submit written comments on the Petitions may do so by filing an original and two copies of such comments with Mark D. Marini, Secretary, Department of Public Utilities, One South Station, 5th Floor, Boston, MA 02110. An electronic copy of all comments should also be sent by email to each of the following: (1) the Company's attorney, James L. Messenger, Esq. at jmessenger@gordonrees.com; (2) the Department at dpu.efiling@state.ma.us; and (3) the Department's Hearing Officer in this proceeding, Stephen August, at stephen.august@state.ma.us. Written comments should be submitted no later than May 6, 2016.

Oral comments presented at the hearing and written comments submitted are given equal weight by the Department in its review of the Petitions. Written comments

should specify the property location, identify any concerns about the survey, and request any relevant conditions to be placed on the Company to protect property and/or to ensure the opportunity for the landowner to be present during the surveys. Commenters should not submit petitions to intervene or petitions for limited participant status because the Department will not be conducting adjudicatory proceedings in this case, but will instead be issuing its Order based on the oral and written comments received from affected landowners and the general public and responses from the Company to any written questions posed by the Department.

Any person who wishes to communicate directly with the Company should contact Attorney James L. Messenger, Gordon & Rees, LLP, 745 Atlantic Avenue, 4th Floor, Boston, MA 02111; email address: jmessenger@gordonrees.com; and phone: (617) 902-0098

Any person desiring further information regarding this Notice may contact the Hearing Officer using the contact information below:

Stephen August, Siting Division
Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities
One South Station, 5th Floor
Boston, MA 02110
(617) 305-3622 – stephen.august@state.ma.us



the
poetry
page

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

- William Carlos Williams

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

Untitled

Do we all live from the inside out
Or from the outside in?
Do we know what it's all about,
Or just get caught in spin?
On our daily roundabout
Do we have a place to stand?
Does what others think of us
Have the upper hand?

We all live in relation
To other human types
Learning from our parents
To judge both wrong or right
Adapting our behavior
Just to get along
Subconscious imprinting of
Someone else's song

They do it cause they love us
All these teacher types
Replicating patterns and
Familiar prototypes
Learning modes and mores
Of the tribe and herd
The way that they themselves survived
Even if absurd

The rogue, misfit, or rebel
The ones who don't fit in
Sometimes hear a different call
Than parents, friends, or kin
The artists and the scientists
Observations synthesize
To look beyond the way things are
To see more open skies

- John Haigis

day 16

titi's pilon confetti's
tempers her herbs
beats down the garlic
into sounds of kitchen
before la comida

now the red beans
cooked with this mixture
are ladled
all across her generous
brown potter's bowl

- Alice Thomas

day 17

of course there is a sauce
blended creamed white

smooth it sleeves the potatoes
with freckled tarragon

to let you know this dish
contains your late evening supper

after the rigorous hunt
before your pillowed night

- Alice Thomas

Global Colding

Could it be that all this cold
Is caused by global warming?
It seems to be since warmth affects the jetstream as it's forming
The jet stream helps protect us all from icy Arctic blasts.
Climate change affects things
That were protective in the past

Our planet Earth's a system that is held in fragile balance
The jet stream keeps the cold winds north,
Just one of many talents
It forms a sort of barrier between us and Arctic wastes,
And as the north gets warmer
Polar vortices escape

The south then takes a pounding as all of us have seen
With frigid blasts life-threatening and cold almost obscene
The long-term changes on our globe
Are there for all to feel
Despite what the deniers say
Extremes are very real

Tornadoes, floods, and massive rains
Have reasons they're increasing
From many causes CO2 rise
Emissions without ceasing
We're at a crossroads for the fate
Of the planet we hold dear
There is no Planet B you know,
We have to do it here

- John Haigis

day 20

remembering my friend who said
any fool can feed
but you *chef*
the blancmange beef jelly
roast of x or y rang as she
sounded more like Smith's
Julia Child than any other
with her corner on
a whisk of time as
she showed a caliber of custard
i had never known existed
nor had other outside
the realm of Egyptologist
Churchill's reign or Jungian
writings in all I found
her kitchen agility more
ballet than science more a
case of 'selected shorts'
than diminuendo more
pacific than any other

in short... her breeze of brisket
and béarnaise was far more entertaining

- Alice Thomas

The Meadow

The great rock across my road
Was left when I was born
Smooth and covered with soil.
I saw him worshipped, then ignored
Until they made the road.
Then forest covered me
But was cut down to farm
And laborers sweated.
Now all is deathly still
Save for a rare road noise.
Some say I am all empty,
Yet I do have a barn
And three fringe homesteads.
Please fill me up with
Bar Mitzvahs and weddings.

- Hans Herda

day 21

it was wednesday
my day to visit the newest family
settled in the old-soul of St. Louis
i was to come for break-
fast to see the children
eat to assess any need

the living room not yet settled
was devoid of any furnishings
we proceeded to the kitchen
children's fingers splayed
with excitement mouths smiling
'guest of honor' I felt honored

silently we circled the kitchen's
center side by side in silence
and frenetic excitement
as mother issued
last week's full-color food-ads
on the floor at the center
of our human table

then we squatted one by one
as she carefully
parsed out dry cereal
maybe a half cup
in front of each
as faces beamed
with each placed mound

then when we
had all been served
on cue
we each reached
to specifically pick up
one piece of cereal at a time
forefinger to thumb
in cinematic certainty
then moved them toward our mouths
the whole world was there
as we ate
together

- Alice Thomas

Contributors:

John Haigis is a singer, songwriter, poet, historian and storyteller who divides his time between Pennsylvania and Turners Falls.
Hans Herda, a former professor and a lifelong appreciator of poetry, writes his poems in Leverett.

Alice Thomas of Greenfield is a regional poet, painter and maker of photographic-multimedia assemblage in western Massachusetts. She has exhibited her art at GCC, and was a winner in the 2014 Poet's Seat Poetry Contest. The poems in this page, written as daily reflections on food, were published in a Levellers Press anthology benefiting the Northampton-based immigrant services group Center for New Americans.

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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.

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



Based in the Pioneer Valley, the Gypsy Wranglers have entertained audiences with their unique brand of acoustic swing music at festivals, concerts, weddings, fairs, schools, radio broadcasts, dances and cruises throughout New England and Canada. They will be playing this Saturday, March 19 at the Wendell Town Hall, for the monthly Wendell Fullmoon Coffeehouse which begins with an open mic. at 7:30 p.m.

EXHIBITS:

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.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Portraits of African Americans, Past and Present*. Large paintings by Louise Minks and sculpture by Belinda Lyons Zucker. Winter hours, Wed-Sunday 10 to 4 p.m. Through 3/31.

Loot, Turners Falls: *Zuihitsu—paintings by Greta Svalberg*. Zuihitsu is derived from two Kanji characters meaning "to follow" and "brush." The works of the genre should be considered not as traditionally planned literary pieces but rather as casual or randomly recorded thoughts by the authors, in this case a painter. Opening reception Friday, March 18, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Through 5/8.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: New show starts on 3/31. See details next week.

Sawmill River Arts Gallery, Montague Center: *From Darkness*

Into Light/ A Spring Exhibit. Recent works by gallery members of this collaborative. Artists' reception is on Saturday 4/2, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Show runs until May 30.

Shelburne Falls Arts Co-op, Shelburne Falls. *Earthy Delights* Paintings, fiber, jewelry, photography, wood and pottery by member artisans. Through 3/30.

CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS:

Great Falls Farmer's Market in Turners Falls is sponsoring the 3rd Annual Poster Contest to design an eye-catching poster for the 2016 Farmer's Market. Details of what must be included in the poster can be found at the Great Falls Farmer's Market facebook page. The winner will receive \$50 and get to see their work displayed all over town all summer. Deadline is April 18 for submissions. Questions can be asked of Donna Francis at (413) 687-1277 or email at greatfalls-farmersmarketturners@gmail.com



Based in the Pioneer Valley, the Gypsy Wranglers have entertained audiences with their unique brand of acoustic swing music at festivals, concerts, weddings, fairs, schools, radio broadcasts, dances and cruises throughout New England and Canada. They will be playing this Saturday, March 19 at the Wendell Town Hall, for the monthly Wendell Fullmoon Coffeehouse which begins with an open mic. at 7:30 p.m.

Slate Roof Press, a member-run, not-for-profit collaborative, invites submissions to its annual poetry chapbook contest. The winner receives \$500, and will have his/her chapbook published by Slate Roof. Winners make a 3-year commitment to the press. May 15 deadline. For full contest guidelines, visit www.slateroofpress.com.

Silverthorne Theater Co., Greenfield: *Open auditions for the three shows in Silverthorne Theater Company's 2016 Summer season*. Auditions will be held by appt. only, on Friday and Saturday, March 18 and 19, with call-backs on Sunday, March 20. For more info, see silverthornetheater.org or call (413) 768-7514 or silverthornetheater@gmail.com.

Silverthorne Theater Co., Greenfield: *Open auditions for the three shows in Silverthorne Theater Company's 2016 Summer season*. Auditions will be held by appt. only, on Friday and Saturday, March 18 and 19, with call-backs on Sunday, March 20. For more info, see silverthornetheater.org or call (413) 768-7514 or silverthornetheater@gmail.com.

EVENTS:

THURSDAY, MARCH 17

Congregational Church, Ashfield: Screening of *How to Let Go of the World and Love All The Things Climate Can't Change*. Oscar nominated director Josh Fox will be there for Q & A. 7 p.m.

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

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Spacemen*. Klondike Koehler, Compton Maddux, Johnny Moses, Doug Plavin. 8 p.m.

Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *Watchdog Open Mic*. Free Rock and Roll Show. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 18

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Uncle Hal's Crabgrass Band*. Americana-ana. 6:30 p.m.

Cowell Gym, Shelburne Falls: *Sugar Shack Alliance presents the irreverent Rev. Billy and the Stop Shopping Choir*. "Earth loving urban activists devise new methods for future activism and we put on a great show". 7 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Josh Levangie and the Pistoleros*. Outlaw country! 9 p.m.

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 19

Montague Bookmill, Montague: *New Mom, Fissure Cat*. 7 p.m. \$.

Wendell Town Hall, Wendell: *Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse, presents The Gypsy Wranglers*. Always a benefit, always good desserts. Open Mic - 7:30 p.m.. Main Act at 8 p.m. Donations.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Grave Diggers Union*. Hard Driving Bluegrass and Old Time Country. 9 p.m.

Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *Jimmy Just Quit*. 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Groove Night w/DJ Drew (hip-hop/funk/r&b)*. 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 20

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Greg Hall*. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *TNT Karaoke*. 9 p.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 21

Victoria Bar, Greenfield: *Magik Markers, Sunburned Hand of the Man*. 21+, 9 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Paint Your Own Pottery Night*. Everything is provided. Just come and create a platter of your choice with instruction from Ivy Mabus & Kaitlin Scutari. Call 978-544-BREW for time and cost.

THURSDAY, MARCH 24

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Juggler Meadow String Band*. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 25

The Arts Block, Greenfield: Michael Mizrahi CD Release Party for album *"Currents"* & Michi Wiancko Solo Violin 8 p.m. \$

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Jobs, OJ, Hot Dirt, Prints and Death Savings Flag*. All ages / substance free; 8 p.m. \$

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Mark Nomad*. Blues. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Reprobate Blues Band*. Blues Baby Blues! 9 p.m.

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Friday, 3/18 - 9:00 p.m.
Josh Levangie & Pistoleros

Saturday, 3/19 - 9 p.m.
Grave Diggers Union

Sunday, 3/20 - 8 p.m.
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SVALBERG from page B1



COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

Steve's Foot, oil on canvas.

a detailed diary of court life in 11th-century Japan that reflects on many subjects.

"I was trying to conceptualize a framework for what I work on, and I thought *The Pillow Book*, which is quintessential *zuihitsu*, was the literary equivalent of my artistic meanderings: quixotic, poetic, introspective," explained Greta.

Her meanderings in the studio include using colorful grains of rice to build textured areas of modulated color, pressed clover, quinoa, pills, and porcupine quills. Some of these collaged

works are representational, such as the blood root plant portraits inspired by learning plant identification from an herbalist friend.

She also meanders into realism: there are paintings, like *Steve's Foot*, based on photographs she took while on the road with the band Dinosaur Jr. The picture shows Steve's back and legs with one bare foot as he digs through the stuff in a van (looking for the other shoe, perhaps).

"We rush through the landscape in our van, and it's just so full of all this stuff – and experience – and people –

crammed into a Ford Econoline – it's such a *compression*. You just want a patch of grass to sit on somewhere."

Greta might also show a book at Loot that she made while sitting at the merchandise table at a show. "Being on the road is sort of a field study. I was in this rock-n-roll place, drinking a cheap beer, and I really wanted to be doing something healthy." The result was a little book called "Yoga and Smoking."

The isolation of the art studio drives her into more collaborative situations with musicians and writers and actors, and she enjoys doing curatorial work at Rozz Tox Art, a gallery in Florence. Greta also works at the Five Eyed Fox cafe in Turners, which is how she connected with Loot shop owners and frequent Fox customers Erin and John.

She came to live in the area four or five years ago, having visited it frequently while she was studying art at the Boston Museum School. Graduate studies at UCLA and teaching art to children came next, and five years later, she moved back east.

In an area saturated with artists and musicians, Greta feels it's a fertile and nurturing place to grow her own and others' art, with breaks for road trips and other adventures.

The opening reception for "Zuihitsu" on Friday, March 18 will feature a specially made bar on wheels, beer from Turners Falls' new Brick & Feather brewery, and music curated by Sunburned Rob Thomas. The festivities are from 5 to 8 p.m. at Loot: Found and Made, 62 Avenue A.

Svalberg's art may be viewed online at gretasvalberg.com.



Spring Open House

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