



LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 14 – NO. 23

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MARCH 24, 2016

Town Enters Talks with Developer for Condo Project in Building 11

By JEFF SINGLETON

TURNERS FALLS – At the Montague selectboard meeting on Tuesday, town planner Walter Ramsey announced that the town had received a \$2.2 million proposal from the Obear Construction Company, owned by local contractor Bob Obear, Jr., to develop Building 11 of the Strathmore complex.

The board voted to accept the proposal, and begin the process of negotiating a land development agreement (LDA) with Obear. The proposal was submitted through the Urban Homesteading program, under which the town sells property for a nominal fee but retains a good deal of control over the development process. Properties such as the Powers Block in Millers Falls and Montague Center School are being developed under this program.

The town has owned the Strathmore complex, a former paper mill that dates to the nineteenth century,



NINA ROSSI PHOTO

The town hopes the building will be the easiest section of the Strathmore to redevelop.

for nearly a decade, after former owners defaulted on tax payments. The buildings in the complex had been stripped of much of their copper wiring, filled with recycled paper and allowed to deteriorate with leaking roofs and collapsing floors.

A fire in May 2007 destroyed a section of the complex, leaving Building 11 standing alone.

Besides the hydroelectric company Swift River Hydro LLC, which owns several buildings and operates

see BUILDING 11 page A7

Swift River School Board Supports Movement to Opt Out of PARCC Test

By KATIE NOLAN

NEW SALEM – “We’re the first district in the state to endorse teachers’ efforts to help parents opt out of the test,” said Swift River school committee chair Johanna Bartlett.

On Thursday, March 10, the Swift River school committee approved a statement of support for Swift River teachers who educate parents in the community about opting out of the next PARCC test.

Located in New Salem, the elementary school serves students from Wendell and New Salem.

PARCC is an acronym for Partnership in Readiness for College and Career, which the Massachusetts Department of Education

calls “a new, high-quality, 21st-century student testing program.” Massachusetts schools will administer PARCC testing at the end of April.

After the vote, Tracy O’Connell Novick of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees checked with advocacy groups FairTest and Citizens for Public Schools, and reported, “No one has heard of any school committee passing anything similar in Massachusetts.”

On its website, Citizens for Public Schools writes, “Opting out is an effective way to protest the overuse and misuse of standardized tests, which forces schools to focus on the demands of the tests

see SWIFT RIVER page A4

Sheffield Fourth-Grade Class Wins Prize in National Literacy Software Competition

By LEE WICKS

TURNERS FALLS – For the second year in a row, Eichom’s Acorns – otherwise known as Amy Eichom’s fourth-grade class at

Sheffield Elementary School – has triumphed in the Lexia Learning Competition.

In a competition encompassing 4,200 fourth-grade classes across the United States, the Acorns ranked

25th, and won for the East. They competed against much bigger urban schools, and held their own.

The victory is still a shining thing that they are eager to talk about, and the celebration, a pizza party at Turners Falls Pizza House, was a treat they will also remember for a long while.

The competition prize was a \$100 gift certificate. Pizza House owner David Argy said he could give them a great party for that amount, and he did.

Eichom’s Acorns won in a category called “Share Your Story.” It was an exercise in using social media to chart their reading progress and report on their accomplishments. They tweeted, posted on Facebook, and recruited friends and family to do the same, until they created a vast network of support.

The competition lasted from February 22 until March 6. The class will continue with Lexia

see CONTEST page A4



WICKS PHOTO

Back row, left to right: Teacher Amy Eichorn, Lillian Stafford, Kyleigh Dobosz, Taylor Greene, Nevaeh Sikoski, Syna Katsoulis, Alex Knapp, Jill Reynolds, Chris Baez. Front row: Jack Doyle, Ryan Bowden-Smith, Oliver Postera, Raygan Pendriss, Austin Sumner, Izzy Vachula-Curtis, and Aurora Frenier.

Season’s End: All Stars Take One Last Game

By MATT ROBINSON

NORTHFIELD – “Turners is going to miss Jalen Sanders,” an adult from Mohawk said to me as Sanders took a feed from Pioneer Valley’s Brad Hastings and laid it in.

“In all sports,” he added. “Certainly enough, Jalen has impressed friends and foes alike on the football field, the basketball court and the baseball diamond – but with baseball still a few weeks away, Sanders does not have to hang up his basketball sneakers quite yet.

He has been selected to play in the 2016 Western Massachusetts Senior High School All-Star Game this Friday, March 25, at the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

So what does the future hold for young Mr. Sanders?

“He’s applied to many schools, including Sacred Heart, Assumption and Framingham State,” his father Rhoey Sanders told me recently. “And he’ll definitely play football.”

Last Friday, March 18, Sanders, Hastings and the rest of the

see ALL STARS page A6



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Jalen Sanders uses a screen play by Mohawk’s Jacob Cross to get a clear lane to the hoop as the West All Stars beat the East All Stars 101-77.

Veteran Eric Wasileski Pens Poems to Heal, Make Peace

By JOE KWIECINSKI

GREENFIELD – When you chat with poet Eric Wasileski, the first thing that becomes strikingly clear is his authenticity. This is a man who speaks from his heart.

“Poems saved my life,” said Wasileski. “I now have this wonderful chance to give back to something which has given me so much. They’ve given me direction, hope, and the chance to explore places where I couldn’t have gone otherwise.”

Wasileski, who spent two years in the Army and six in the Navy, had a battlefield conversion on December 17, 1998, while stationed aboard the USS Stout, a DDG-55 guided missile destroyer. President Clinton was facing impeachment proceedings at the time.

“We were ordered to attack Iraq,” said Eric. “I had a moral dilemma. I prayed about it and had a spiritual epiphany.

“Later, when I got out and attended GCC, one of my profs was a member of the Mt. Toby Quaker



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Eric Wasileski, veteran and poet.

Meeting. The year was 2000, and I’ve been hanging out with the Quakers ever since.”

Among his many and varied commitments, Eric is the host of Wagon Wheel Word night on the first Monday of each month at 6 p.m. at the Wagon Wheel Restaurant on Route 2 in Gill. The event has been in existence close to six months now, and draws more than 30 people every time.

Potential readers are invited to show up early, as the list tends to fill right up. Attendees are also

see WASILESKI page A5

GILL-MONTAGUE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

April Conference to Examine State Aid to School Districts

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

At the Gill-Montague school committee meeting on March 22, the subject of Senator Stanley Rosenberg’s annual Municipal Conference was discussed. The conference is being held in the dining commons at Greenfield Community College on April 9.

The 2016 Hampshire and Franklin Municipal Conference will feature a plenary session, “Updating the K-12 Funding Formula,” where the Foundation Budget Review Commission (FBRC) will discuss their recommendations on changes

to be made in the formula for state aid to Massachusetts schools.

The commission has been reviewing the inadequacies of the Chapter 70 funding formula, including its effect on small rural school districts. Administrators in local school districts worked together to put pressure on the Department of Education and the state legislature, and this commission was their response.

Superintendent Michael Sullivan, in his report, discussed the current situation. He said that the governor’s FY’17 budget provides for a 1.6% increase in Chapter 70 aid

see GMRSD page A4

The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

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GUEST EDITORIAL

An Editor's Despair – and a Climate Response

By JONATHAN von RANSON

Last week's editorial, "Death by Degrees," reported the global temperature spikes measured by NASA – five successive recent months of shocking readings, all pushing two degrees above normal. As a bonus, it described the surreal game of capitalist chicken the fossil fuel industry is playing. The editorial read like a fantasy novel.

Then it broke some kind of rule by ending on a note of despair.

Oh, first it tossed off a flurry of options ("Go solar, buy local, blame Asia, vote Bernie"), but it added, "...do whatever you have to do to feel better about yourself while this happens."

Because, the editorial explained, "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."

Rare, pure, utter editorial hopelessness.

Or... Rereading, I noticed the editor didn't say no force can keep that powerfully addictive stuff in the ground – he said no institutional force. Hmmm.

Is there some happier possibility that, for some reason, he lifted his pen without mentioning another approach that might stand a chance of leaving most of it there...?

Well, a popular movement,

maybe? One that bespeaks a deep, bone-felt "Oops!" by people brave enough to admit that they and their entire culture somewhere lost contact with a great chunk of planetary, physical reality...?

One that yields a chance for Square-One energy thinking, baby-step efforts at flexibility and adaptability, and revived trust in our contribution to the planet enterprise and survivability as a species...?

I'm sure there's a healthy kind of despair that, when ready, breaks into action, i.e., that serves adaptability. That, say, offers low-tech, warm-spirited, Earth-loving, community solutions in view of the climate facts and a lot of other stresses that get easily forgotten.

In other words, that respects the delicate workings of the Earth-life family system. (Something else I don't think we should give up on: Earth's love for us, its human beings.)

Was the editor trying to free up cultural stuckness by taking the dark, onrushing mood of these times and letting it throw itself? Did he write that editorial to let us readers do the basic, emotional work that we don't want anybody else doing for us? Sort of genius editorial jujitsu?

I know it made me feel like, "Hey, buddy! You're not taking away my belief in the possibilities that easily!"

CORRECTION

An article by Anne Harding in last week's issue, "As the Turbine Turns: The History of Montague's Vintage Hydro-Electric Station" (pg. A1), suffered a little brown-out when we spliced a paragraph incorrectly to read that "Cabot Camp stayed in the [Cabot] family for 40 years, then was owned by the Abercrombie family."

In fact, as Anne's original copy stated: "TFPEC leased the building to Phillip Cabot in 1920 for a 10-year period for a sum of \$10,000. Fred Abercrombie (treasurer of TFPEC) took over the job of caring for the camp during Cabot's long convalescence, and eventually took over the long-term lease when Cabot started teaching at Harvard. The Abercrombie family used the camp for over 40 years."

We apologize to our readers, and to our writer, for the error.

Thanks for Poet Feature

Thank you for the two fine pieces on Chris Sawyer-Lauçanno's new book *Remission*: Richard Andersen's perceptive review, and Nina Rossi's sensitive interview.

Greatest thanks of all to Chris himself, for sharing his wrestles with mortality, thus creating enduring art.

Leslie Brown
Montague City

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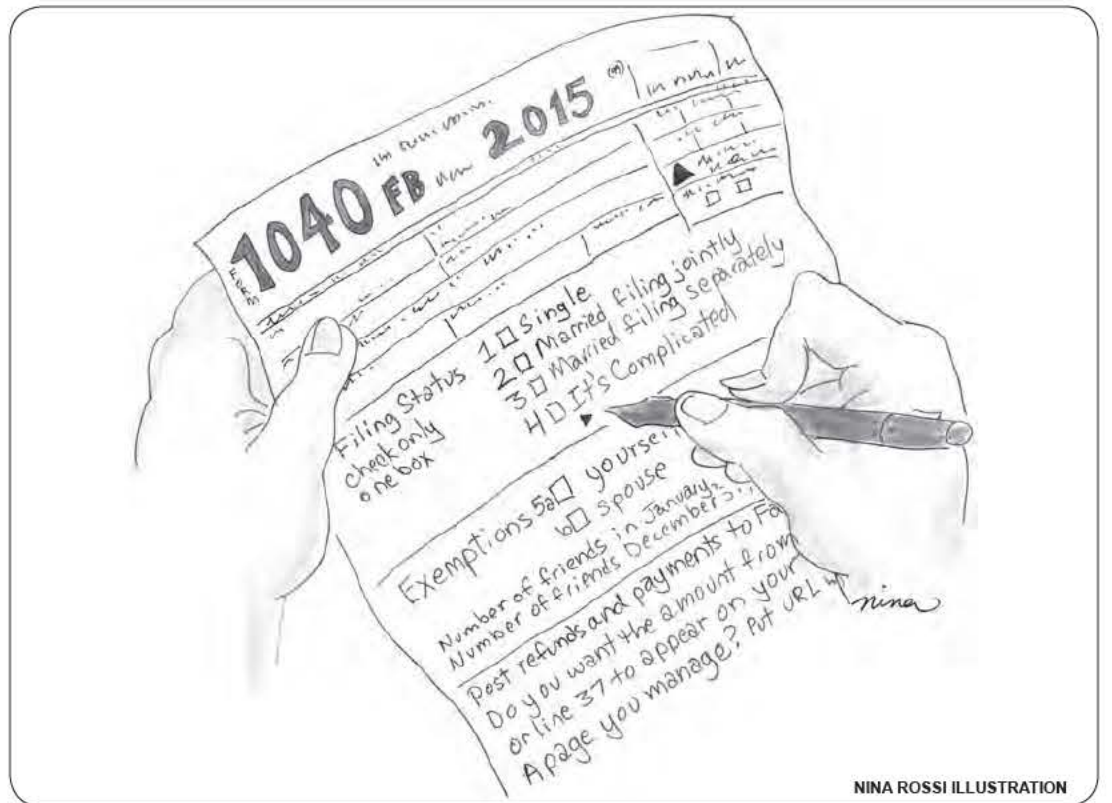
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Montague Reporter

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Letters to the Editors

Speaking of Sunlight: Where Are the Logs?

An editorial last week in the *Greenfield Recorder* caught my attention. Titled "A Powerful Disinfectant for Government," it began:

"An informed citizenry remains the key to maintaining a vigorous democracy, regardless of the level of government. Citizens won't have that information unless they demand it, the press gathers it, and there are laws and regulations in place to safeguard access to the workings of government."

And, while I couldn't agree more, it further states:

"The government's duty includes providing the public with meeting minutes in a timely fashion, giving consistent access to police logs and

reports and charging as little as possible for copies of records."

Once again, I couldn't agree more and I'm pleased to note that "The Montague Reporter – also serving Erving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell" provides regular coverage of the various selectboard meetings, as well as the Montague Police log.

Although the Erving Police log also appears frequently, it seems that the Gill, Wendell and Leverett logs appear rarely, if ever.

Why is this? Inquiring minds would like to know.

Dr. Robert Koolkin
Gill

The editors respond:

Thanks for asking. The good news is that the Gill department sent in logs this week, after a long hiatus. (See page A6.) Thanks to Chief Hastings for sending the records.

A February 19 email copied to both the Wendell and Leverett departments has so far gone unanswered. We know these are very small departments, and it is some work for them to redact private information from police reports before releasing them to the press, so we haven't bugged them very much.

If our readers in those towns want us to publish the logs, let us know – and let your local departments know you miss this feature.

Drury: Four Steps To Save the Transfer Station

I'm concerned about the vulnerability of Leverett's Transfer Station. I'd like to introduce four petitions for the April 30 Town Meeting whose passage would promote its longevity.

I ran the Station for 15 years, worked there for 17, and may be in a good position to offer remedies for the various threats – both known and unknown – the Station is experiencing.

Unfortunately, this venue cannot accommodate the amount of detail necessary to completely cover every aspect of each petition. Hopefully, I will be able to flesh out each case in separate submissions here, and at Town Meeting.

Petition #1: *If a suitable employee cannot be recruited through the presently used mechanisms after two weeks, the position must be posted with University/College Student Employment.*

The refusal to do this almost resulted in the Station's closing. The Station was run well for 15 years using college student help. Whatever the exact details used to justify the apparent *de facto* ban on students, from what I've gleaned, the malady probably could have been avoided if the hiring protocols developed before my departure were implemented. We just didn't have no-show problems.

Petition #2: *Terminate the Contract with the Franklin County Solid Waste District.*

The District provides services for many regional towns. However, we did very well before their recruitment; and now, a rough analysis indicates administrative fees – fees above and beyond the costs of specific services – were about \$10K in 2015.

The Station's total operating expenses (including this cost) are around \$45K. Hauling costs were \$30 to \$50 more per haul using the District, while tipping fees were \$3 less per ton of municipal trash. A detailed presentation will be made.

Getting back on track should ensure a dramatic reduction in the Station's operating costs and reduce the tax base for all residents.

Petition #3: *The Station Will Remain Open Both Weekend Days Unless Voted Otherwise at Town Meeting.*

The Station and Town benefit from economy of scale: the more people using it, the less the impact of fixed costs and their effect on taxes. If it were closed one weekend day, many residents could understandably become discouraged and make other arrangements.

More importantly, the Station is supposed to serve residents, and weekend days are when it is most

convenient for them.

Petition #4: *The Station Can Only be Closed by an Environmental Regulatory Agency or a Majority Vote at Town Meeting.*

I opposed joining the Franklin County Solid Waste District and supplied rationale and calculations to support that position.

What has transpired since then, again, becomes too extended to present here. But, we have seen significant unnecessary expenditures and a simple, sound solution passed over. We have heard claims the Station is too difficult to staff, and separately, that it may need to close one weekend day.

We have seen a questionnaire – a trial balloon – that asked the fanciful question, "Would you be supportive of a switch to curbside pickup if the total cost were \$100 per year per household or less?"

What's going on here? Our Station is greatly valued by our community. Dave Field and I always saw it as the People's Station. Wouldn't you like to be the ones who ultimately decide if it stays or goes?

I'm very busy with out-of-state work right now, but please feel free to let me know your interest in the above. E-mail is best: LTS.adm.fees@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Drury

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by DON CLEGG

The Easter Bunny is coming to town along the Bunny Trail on Friday, March 25, from 3:30 to 5 p.m. at Greenfield Savings Bank, 282 Avenue A, Turners Falls.

With some bunny assistants, the E.B. will be taking beautiful colored photos of children completely free as a gift from the Bank.

Registration is required and walk-ins will only be accommodated as time permits. Slots will fill up fast, so call 863-4316 to register. Just one free photo per child/group; other arrangements made at the discretion of GSB.

In the spirit of the holiday, please bring a donation for the local dog shelter as an act of kindness to our four-legged friends.

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!

Children will have an opportunity to get their pictures taken with Peter Cottontail and of course enjoy the Egg Hunt, with approximately 5,000 candy and toy-filled eggs strewn throughout the park.

Participants must bring their own basket or bag for the eggs, and there will also be a bake sale and raffles.

All are welcome to an artist's reception and slide show on Saturday, March 26, from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Wendell Free Library's Herrick Gallery.

Tamara Matosic's new exhibition, "Homegrown," is showing at the from March 12 through April 30. Over thirty frames are filled with candid photos of Wendell Old Home Day taken this past summer. The artist writes in her statement, "The photographs capture the relaxed atmosphere, feeling of mirth, and sense of community that are distinctive of Wendell."

What Have We Learned? Tribal and colonial historians reflect on the 1676 Battle of Great Falls on Saturday, March 26, from 1 to 3:30 p.m. at the Turners Falls High School Auditorium.

This is the third and final public presentation of the Battlefield Mapping Study, to discuss the findings of Phase I of the study of the battle and massacre, conducted by the Mashantucket-Pequot Museum research team. All are welcome.

Have you been wanting to try out your improv chops? Recite your poetry? Jam with some friends? Embarrass yourself? Are you a singer/songwriter? Don't miss **Open Mic Night** at the Montague Common Hall, Saturday, March 26 at 7 p.m. Come and sign up for a 10-15 minute time slot. This is the kick-off Open Mic:

an event to provide the space and a friendly supportive environment for performers old and young, new and experienced. \$3 to \$5 suggested donation to help support the hall and pay for heat expenses.

Feeling cooped up? Come out of the cold and get into the music! A diverse bill of local roots musicians from the Franklin County COOP Concerts will heat up the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls, Saturday, March 26 at 7 p.m.

The program features old-timey and newfangled acoustic folk music, original songs, and sundry Americana.

The **Leverett Congregational Church**, at 4 Montague Road, has an Easter Sunrise Service on Sunday, March 27, starting at 6:30 a.m., a short service of celebration held in the Emerson Garden beside the church (or inside if raining).

This will be followed by a hearty Easter Sunrise Breakfast, 7 a.m., in the Leverett Town Hall. The breakfast is free and open to the public. The morning wraps up with Easter Service at 10 a.m.

Tilton Library presents "**When the Road Came Through: How Construction of I-91 Changed Western Massachusetts**" a program by Barry Dietz. Held on Monday, March 28, starting at 6:30 p.m. at Deerfield Town Hall, 8 Conway Street. Free and open to all.

The Carnegie Library presents a special Homeschool Science guest speaker. **Channel 22 News' Brian Lapis** will visit to talk about what a meteorologist does all day and how they predict the weather. Event is Wednesday, March 30, starting sharply at 10:30 a.m.

The Creature Teachers present "**The Nature of My Backyard**" on Saturday, April 2, at 10:30 a.m. at the Carnegie. Children ages 4 and up and their caregivers are invited to come meet some of the common animals that we may encounter near our homes.

Native animals that may make an appearance include: a fisher, a gray fox, a skunk, a woodchuck, and a porcupine. For more info, call 863-3214.

And, also at the library that Saturday starting at 2 p.m., **Ed Gregory** will share his images and thoughts in an interactive presentation relating to the transformation of the area as at result of the construction of the Fall River Upper Dam, which was constructed in 1877 by the Montague Paper Company to establish a clean water source for their paper-making endeavors.

Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter and Veterinarian Stephanie Vassar VMD will be presenting a **Rabies Vaccination Clinic** on Saturday April 2, from noon to 2 p.m. Bring your dogs and cats to the Franklin

County Regional Dog Shelter, located at 10 Sandy Lane in Turners Falls, and get your furry friend vaccinated for only \$20 per animal.

Vaccinations will be available on a first come first served basis, and only cash will be accepted. Please have your dog leashed at all times, and have your cats in carriers. If you have any questions, please call the shelter at (413) 676-9182.

The **Great Falls Discovery Center** presents "History Underwater" with Annette Spaulding, an avid Connecticut River scuba diver. Hear about her underwater adventures and discoveries, including a Native American petroglyph that she recently found near Brattleboro, and a larger one she's still searching for. The Nolumbeka Project will also discuss the Native American history in the region. Sponsored by the Connecticut River Watershed Council.

The presentation is Saturday, April 2, from 1 to 2:30 in the Great Hall of the Discovery Center.

From 1 to 4 on Saturday the 2nd, there will be a **reception at Sawmill River Arts**, at the Montague Bookmill, for the members' spring show "From Darkness Into Light".

Member art works include fiber, ceramics, photography, multi-media, paintings, drawings, gourds and paper constructions.

Registration is now open for the **15th Annual Badminton Bash** sponsored by DIAL/SELF Youth and Community Services, to be held on Sunday, April 3. Sign up your three-member team for one of two time slots - the Early Birdie tournament from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., or the Sunday Brunch tournament from 1 to 3:30 p.m.

Free water, grinders, and door prizes for all players. Trophies will be awarded for first and second place, best team cheer, best costumes, most enthusiastic, etc.

During the breaks, buy raffle tickets for a chance to win gift cards and donations from local businesses. Join this family-friendly event at Northfield Mount Hermon School by registering online at www.dialself.org/bash2016.html or by contacting spinkos@dialself.org.

The **Montague Center Water Department** will be cleaning out the 4" water line on Monday, April 4. The Department will pump ice from the corner of School Street and Main Street to the hydrant at the end of Center Street. Part of that village will be without water from 9 a.m. to around 1 p.m. Streets that will be without water will be North Street, Turners Falls Road, Greenfield Road, Meadow Road, and Main Street from the corner of School Street to the bridge. For more information, call Gary Dion at 367-9912.

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Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week
week ending 3/18/2016:

Grade 6
Anayah Brewington

Grade 7
Lana Spera
Paige Bonarrigo

Grade 8
Lindsay Whiteman

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

1. Sealed bids for the **Wendell Depot Road Bridge Replacement Project** shall be received by the Board of Selectmen, at the office of the Town Hall, 9 Morse Village Road, Wendell, MA 01379 until 2 p.m., Local Time, April 19, 2016, and at that time and place shall be opened and read aloud publicly.

2. In general, the project includes, but is not limited to: Culvert replacement, roadway earthwork, bank stabilization, drainage work, highway guard installation, and surface restoration.

3. Contract Documents may be examined at the following locations: Wendell Town Hall, 9 Morse Village Road, Wendell, MA 01379 or Stantec Consulting Services Inc., 5 Dartmouth Drive, Ste. 101, Auburn, NH 03032.

4. Copies of the Contract Documents may be obtained at Stantec Consulting Services Inc., 5 Dartmouth Drive, Suite 101, Auburn, NH 03032. A non-refundable deposit of \$50.00 will be required for each complete set of plans and specifications. The deposit check shall be made payable to the Stantec Consulting Services Inc. There will be no charge for mailing sets. NO CASH WILL BE ACCEPTED.

5. Minimum Wage Rates as determined by the Commissioner of Department of Work Force Development under the provision of the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 149, Sections 26 to 27D, as amended, apply to this Project.

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Week of March 28
in Montague



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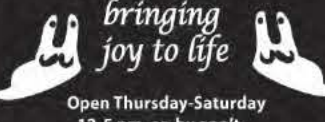
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Lunch & Dinner
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Ice Cream

Route 2
Over In Gill

SWIFT RIVER from page A1

instead of the needs of the students."

In a March 2016 article on the testing resistance and reform movement, Monty Neill of FairTest describes actions by students, parents, teachers and civil rights groups to oppose standardized testing, but gives no instances of a school committee publicly supporting opting out or other resistance.

According to Swift River principal Kelley Sullivan, "All the teachers here feel testing is a huge burden on our school," based on the number of testing sessions and time spent on testing. She outlined several issues with the PARCC testing at the Swift River: "We received the test scores so late that they are not relevant."

She said that the tests, especially the reading test, are not developmentally appropriate for Swift River students.

She also noted that the computerized version of the test is a problem, because many students don't have the necessary keyboarding skills. Both Wendell and New Salem lack high-speed internet access except in central public buildings.

Sullivan said that in 2014, Swift River students took the PARCC test with paper and pencil. In 2015, when the test was administered on computers, the testing overloaded and shut down the school's internet connection, and "collapsed the infrastructure for the whole school."

At a forum at Swift River earlier this month, Union 28 superintendent Jennifer Haggerty said that parents and teachers in the district have raised concerns over the amount of time devoted to preparing for and taking the tests, and how that impacts student learning.

Haggerty said she recognized the importance of assessments and accountability, but added, "I think we have to be cognizant of what we're using these tests for.... Time devoted to testing is time not spent on teaching and learning."

Haggerty also mentioned the lag time between when students take the tests and when the results are available to teachers and administrators. By the time the results from last year's tests were released, she said, "the teachers no longer had those students in front of them [in their classroom]."

According to Bartlett, the school committee has had concerns about the test and its effects on students, and decided to write a statement making their full support clear and pledging that no teacher will incur any kind of negative consequence for choosing to help parents with this effort. "We have a lot of confidence in our staff, and wanted to show our support and appreciation," she said.

Some Massachusetts districts are opting out of standardized testing, but if the district opts out, there is the risk that the Department of Education may reduce state funding. According to Bartlett, the Swift River school committee believes that the letter of support allows for an expression of concern about the test without putting the district in financial jeopardy.

Although schools are required to give standardized tests to all students, parents or students may refuse to take the tests. High school students are required to pass a standardized test in order to graduate. However, there is no state penalty for students in elementary and mid-

Full text of the Swift River School Committee's letter:

To support our community's teacher and parent responses to PARCC testing, the Swift River School Committee declares the following:

The Swift River School staff has demonstrated outstanding effort and care when responding to concerns about the current condition of standardized tests. Because of their efforts, and as the administrators of these tests, staff members are familiar with the problems presented by the PARCC test, such as: the expenditure of time, the stress placed on children, and the questionable efficacy of this test as an assessment tool.

By law, families have the right to opt their children out of the PARCC test. Therefore, Swift River School resolves the following:

We encourage parents to opt their children out of this test until the Department of Secondary and Elementary Education can reappraise it as an assessment tool.

We declare that parents who choose to opt their children out of the PARCC test will not be subject to any negative consequences from the Swift River School adminis-

tration or the Swift River School Committee.

Additionally, Swift River School teachers and staff members who choose to discuss this issue with students and parents, whether in class, in parent-teacher conferences, in community meetings, or in other social and professional settings shall not be subject to any negative consequences from the Swift River School administration or the Swift River School Committee.

In fact, the Swift River School Committee encourages teachers and staff members to inform parents about the state requirements for choosing to opt out of standardized testing whenever possible.

We are pleased to reaffirm that free speech is a fundamental right of all the members of our educational community. In regard to state-mandated standardized testing, the Swift River School Committee stands with our community's educators in their efforts to protect our students from the unnecessary stress and the curtailment of teaching resultant from excessive standardized testing.

dle school who refuse to take standardized tests.

"I believe in testing," Sullivan said, "but this is way too much for elementary students."

She said, "I will support our families whichever way they choose."

The Amherst school committee

was scheduled to discuss approving a similar letter at its Tuesday night meeting.

Swift River parents and staff are meeting at the school on Monday, March 28, at 6:30 p.m. to discuss opting out of the PARCC testing.

CONTEST from page A1

throughout the year, but without the fierce spirit of competition that fueled the contest.

Though she is modest, Ms. Eichorn, who has been teaching for 15 years and teaching fourth grade for 12 of those years, clearly provided enthusiasm and inspiration for the students.

Fourth graders are an energetic lot. She manages them with a combination of humor, understanding and gentle discipline. She can settle them with a smile and get them to talk one at a time when they would actually prefer to speak all at once, while demonstrating the Lexia Learning System on their iPads.

Sheffield Elementary has invested in the individual iPads and the Lexia system so that students have an opportunity to work at their own pace at school and at home. The system doesn't replace book reading and teacher-directed literacy, but it enhances those opportunities and customizes learning in a way that would not otherwise be possible.

Each student has an account with a user name and password. They can log in at school or at home. Ms. Eichorn can trace their progress on her phone.

As students master each section, the program presents more sophisticated challenges, with graphics and sound to enhance the learning experience. When a student appears to be struggling, Ms. Eichorn receives supplemental learning materials for that student.

It seems to be working. Austin Sumner said, "I used to be bored. I struggled with certain words. Now I can read any book I like."

Izzy Vachula-Curtis, who started a newspaper, *The Waterfall*, and loves superheroes, loves the Lexia program, too. This young entrepreneur likes being able to work on her own at her own pace.

Kyleigh Dobosz, who likes to read about goddesses and mysteries, said she spends twenty minutes to two hours a day either reading on her own or working on Lexia.

And Christopher Batz says, "Books can be cool. They can be sad or interesting, or exciting."

There's a library at Sheffield, and many of the students also take advantage of the public library to provide them with a steady stream of books.

That's how learning is these days: iPads are right there in the classroom along with books, tattered work-book handouts, posters, cubbies, art supplies, and more.

As a teacher, Ms. Eichorn appreciates what Lexia brings to her classroom. She says, "Lexia works on specific skills, and it is self-directed. It would be hard for a teacher to customize learning for each individual, but the program gives them that."

She has seen improvements in spelling, and she has listened to students discuss the meaning of idioms. The overachievers are not bored, and students who require extra help are not embarrassed. Meanwhile, everyone progresses.

And one student has found a unique way to use her literacy skills. Raygan Pendriss is planning to go to the animal shelter and read to the dogs there. She says, "Being read to is comforting. It will make them feel better."

GMRSD from page A1

to the schools, but does not implement any of the FBRC's recommendations.

Sullivan summarized a March 10 position paper of the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents, which lists specific priorities and suggests "district officials contact their legislators to voice their support."

The recommendations include:

- An increase of minimum aid to school districts of \$50 per student.
- A change in the inflation factor used to determine the 2017 foundation budget, to reflect actual increases in costs to the schools. A significant reduction of energy costs contributed to a negative rate (-0.22%) being used in the governor's budget, but the position of the school superintendents is that this does not reflect the actual cost factors in public education, where fuel costs are not a big part of their expenses.
- An increase in the reimbursement of regional transportation to 80%.
- Significant increases in allotments for benefits – chiefly health care – and special education, to reflect actual costs the districts are legally required to spend. Meeting these costs means many school districts spend far less on instruction.

These reflect some of the FBRC recommendations that will be discussed at the April 9 conference.

Jeff Singleton, former member of the school committee and of the Montague finance committee, asked the committee this week to join him in asking the members of the FBRC to thoroughly evaluate effects of implementing the changes in the

foundation formula that they are recommending.

The changes would be phased in over a five-year period.

According to Singleton, although it sounds like the state would be providing "a significant increase in state funding for education, which is laudable," it is not clear how individual districts would be impacted. At present, the commission estimates a budget increase of \$154,595,170 for 2016, but several factors impact the distribution of aid to individual school districts, including changes in enrollment, and the historical impact of "hold harmless" provisions.

It is possible, Singleton suggested, that many individual districts would not see any large increase in their funding. For this reason, he said he would ask Department of Elementary and Secondary Education commissioner Mitchell Chester and FBRC members to estimate impacts on districts before implementing the recommendations. Singleton asked that the Gill-Montague school committee show support for his position by signing a letter to that effect, for which he provided a draft.

The members were very supportive of his position, and voted their unanimous support. Those present – Marjorie Levenson was not in attendance – agreed to individually sign the letter at the district office this week.

Anyone interested in attending the conference may register on Senator Rosenberg's website at www.stamrosenberg.com.

The next regular school committee meeting will be held on April 12 at 6:30 p.m.

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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Highway Employees Clear Up Question of Conflict

By KATIE NOLAN

Highway foreman Glen McCrory and highway department employee James Paulin presented disclosure of financial interest statements to the Erving selectboard on Monday, regarding work the department completed on the town water supply system at 28 Forest Street.

Paulin is in the process of purchasing the property, and McCrory intends to purchase the property from Paulin once it is renovated.

The selectboard accepted the disclosure forms, and determined that there was no significant conflict of interest in the employees' actions.

McCrory reported that the curb stop that shuts off town water at the property needed replacement, and that a nearby oak tree needed to be removed as part of the replacement. Once the work on the curb stop began, "Rumors started to fly," according to McCrory.

He said one rumor was that the town was unnecessarily paying for work on the property's water system for a real estate business that was "flipping homes" for profit.

McCrory told the board that the town is responsible for the water system from the main to the curb stop, and that property owners are responsible beyond the curb stop to the water meter at the building. "What is being done there would be done at any property in town," he said. "No shady things are going on."

Selectboard member Arthur Johnson said, "Glen called me, and I called the tree warden. The tree warden felt the tree needed to be removed in order to restore water to the home."

"It's not the first time we've done that," said selectboard chair William Bembury.

Selectboard member Jacob Smith and assistant assessor Jacquelyn Boyden both said that the town had removed trees at, or near, their properties when needed.

McCrory said, "I just wish people thinking something wrong is being done had asked us."

Anything Goes

The selectboard and residents at the meeting brainstormed ways to improve the "Anything Goes" bulky waste pickup. Starting May 2, the highway department will begin picking up bulky waste items left out by residents, except for items that are costly to dispose, such as mattresses and box springs, televisions, computers and tires. Currently, these items can be brought to the highway garage for disposal during working hours.

Johnson suggested that residents could register these costly items with municipal clerk Betsy Sicard at town hall. Sicard could give the resident numbers to attach to the items, and a list to the highway department, who would pick up only the items with numbers attached.

Smith said, "That helps with people who want to get rid of them but don't have a method [for bringing them to the highway garage]." However, Smith said he felt the problems of unacceptable items left by the roadside after the pickup, and out-of-town dumpers,

would remain.

Town clerk Richard Newton suggested the town get a dumpster that could move through town. Residents could haul their bulky waste items to the dumpster when it reached their neighborhood. McCrory and several others commented that it would be hard to ensure that people would not put unacceptable items or hazardous materials, such as oil and paint, into it, and that the plan would not stop out-of-town dumping.

Newton also suggested opening the highway garage on one or more Saturday mornings to accept the mattresses, televisions and tires.

Rebecca Hubbard suggested placing a limit on the quantity of bulky waste left out — "some places have a lot of waste. If you have more than the limit, you can call and get special permission." Johnson suggested that any residence that put out a large pile one year could be charged if it put out a large pile again the next year.

"We have a lot of great ideas," said Smith, "but we need a bylaw we can enforce."

The board decided to open the highway garage on three Saturdays (April 30, May 7 and May 14) to accept the bulky items that are not picked up at this year's "Anything Goes". Residents would pay for disposing of items at town hall and get a receipt to present at the highway garage.

The department will also place stickers on unacceptable items left by the curb during "Anything Goes". A red sticker will signify that the town will not take the item for disposal, while a yellow one will signify that the town will take the item at the town garage on one of the three Saturdays or by appointment.

The board also decided to contact the board of health and begin work on a junk bylaw before the 2017 "Anything Goes".

Other Business

The Franklin Regional Council of Governments sent a copy of the request for proposals for finding a consultant to conduct a marketing study of the need for senior housing in Erving and Wendell. Erving is the lead town for the \$16,400 community development block grant.

Johnson commented that senior housing was an important issue for the town. "I'm really excited about this," he said.

Johnson was appointed inspector of animals. Daniel Hammock was appointed assistant inspector.

Melissa Shiner was appointed to the former Usher Plant Re-Use committee.

The board reviewed the draft annual town meeting warrant, and made minor changes. It plans to finalize the ATM warrant on March 28.

The board reviewed an early draft of the June special town meeting warrant.

George Moonlight Davis asked permission to video a selectboard meeting as a pilot project, saying he could borrow two cameras and a mixing board from Montague Community TV for a meeting. The board asked him to contact other members of the cable committee, and return with a date for the pilot.

NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

D'Errico: Planning Board Dragging Feet on Solar Bylaws

By ROB SKELTON

At its Tuesday night meeting, the Leverett selectboard discussed options with the town's energy committee for municipal solar aggregation, which town meeting authorized in 2011. In 2015, town meeting designated Hampshire Council of Governments as an "aggregator," but the state Department of Public Utilities shot the HCOG's proposal down.

HCOG now promotes Nexamp, a solar array program on leased Hatfield farmland, and Colonial Power, a municipal aggregator which sells bulk energy to towns, many of which were in the HCOG mix.

The committee recommends Mass Energy as supplier and Good Energy as aggregator as a step toward savings, green energy goals and local sourcing. Mass Energy, based in Boston, is a non-profit green energy supplier; Good Energy, based in New York, is fronted locally by Conway selectman John O'Rourke.

Selectboard chair Peter d'Errico took exception to the tax-deductibility claimed by working with the non-profit Mass Energy, and asked for clarification before putting it on the warrant.

D'Errico asked the energy committee to lean in on the town's planning board, which he says is foot-dragging on revising the solar bylaws, as requested by the selectboard. He claims a minority on the planning board objects to loosening the town's strict solar rules due to aesthetic concerns; the majority on the board willing to loosen and revise the bylaws are intimidated by the minority who steadfastly refuse to consider more leeway, especially in their hostility to ground-mounted arrays.

The selectboard was asked by resident Barbara Tiner and Montague's Ariel Elan (formerly Shelly Kellman) to contribute to the legal costs of Montague's "full intervenor" status before the DPU in the fracked gas pipeline dispute.

Montague was granted the status as a Berkshire Gas ratepayer, and will be able to intervene on the issue of Berkshire's long-term contract for gas from the pipeline. (Deerfield is pursuing separate litigation, and is represented by attorney Cristobal Bonifaz, who is working *pro bono*.)

Northfield and Gill have kicked in \$5,000 each to Montague, the amount the board agreed to put on the annual warrant.

The selectboard appointed finance committee member Steve Nagy to the Regional Assessment Working Group, formed to reconcile differing assessment methods to arrive at fair cost-sharing between towns in the regional school system.

Richard Nathorst, also on the planning board, was appointed to the Middle School Utilization Committee, formed to decide the future of the now-empty Amherst Middle School. Phil Carter, also of the FinCom, was appointed to the Regional School Capital Planning Committee.

William Ingram, son of fire chief John Ingram, was appointed to the fire department shy of his 18th birthday so he could enroll in firefighter academy, with the caveat that he cannot work as a firefighter for the town until he reaches 18.

The transfer station will be closed on Easter Sunday.

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.

Riverside Cemetery Association of Gill, MA: MEETING NOTICE

March 29th
Tuesday Evening
at 6:30 p.m.

At Town of Montague
Safety Complex
Community Room,
Located at 180 Turnpike
Road, Turners Falls

WASILESKI from page A1

encouraged to have dinner.

"It's a social event," said Wasileski. "You get community feedback on your pieces and a sense of togetherness. And it's fun. It encourages us to be better poets, creating space to express ourselves. Anyone can read a poem or poems for up to five minutes. Prose is OK, too. If someone has something in his or her heart that needs expression, we're the place to come to express it."

Wasileski works with Veterans for Peace, the international organization whose goal is the abolition of war. He is also very active in the Massachusetts chapter of Warrior Writers. WW sponsors a writing workshop at Longfellow House in Cambridge, and monthly open mic sessions with a featured reader every third Thursday.

The Boston Warrior Writers also assemble at Cambridge Friends Meeting House and have another gathering at UMass Boston. Wasileski is working toward beginning a fourth Warrior Writers' group in our area.

"What's really important about Warrior Writers," he explained, "is that these are people who have come together to support each other to make sure their stories are told, whether they are of a combat, training or sexual nature. We try to make sure the story does not get bottled in."

"I'm a disabled vet. I have PTSD. Mine is a moral injury. That occurs when a person acts in a way that goes against his or her morals that demoralizes one and others, resulting in spiritual brokenness."

But Wasileski's work as an organizer and his authenticity as a poet and a person have brought him to new experiences. "I feel hope," he said. "I see hope in the rooms of writers' workshops. I hear stories being told that would go unspoken in past generations. Sometimes the spirit died in the wars and then the body died later. They die of cancers, heart disease. They die young. They give up living."

Wasileski is the author of a collection of poems titled *Live Free (or die)*. About half of the works deal with themes of war. The remainder are spiritual, religious, and witnessing in nature. The latter are poems that are concerned with our shared problems and dilemmas.

Wasileski graduated from Greenfield High School in 1990. He went on to earn a master's degree in divinity from the Andover Newton Theological School in 2011. He served six years as a minister, two each at the Unitarian Universalist church in Orange, the Unitarian in Bernardston, and Smith Neck Friends Meeting in Dartmouth.

In the next column is a selection from his book.

Talking About War

*I want to tell you, but it is hard
you want to listen, but it is difficult
"it" stands between us
bringing us together
and driving us apart*

*I start by playing it safe
and telling only a small bit
you listen but after a while
I see your eyes glaze over
"it" is too much, you have disconnected
you care but can't come to where I am
"it" stands between us*

*"i wish i could disconnect" i think to
myself
i can't, I have to live with "it"
others try to live with "it" as well
22 suicides a day, nearly one per hour*

*homeless, addicted, incarcerated, divorced
we are a lost generation.*

*why did they send us over there?
it is really not fair
i tried to do what was right
but in the middle of the fight
i knew
in the fiber of my being
i knew "it" was wrong
that humans should not kill humans
but there I was doing "it"*

*society says "it" was honorable and
duteous
my conscience informed me "it" was vile
and evil
this inner conflict breaks us veterans
you want to know and i want to tell you
but neither one of us can*

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NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Town Considers Clerical Help for Annual Reports

By KENT ALEXANDER

The Gill selectboard met on Monday night for a brief but productive meeting, before heading into a budget session with the finance committee.

Ray Purington, selectboard administrative assistant, stated that there was no current update on the town's Green Community Grant, the study of inflow and infiltration in the Riverside sewer system, or the foam insulation project for the roof of the safety complex.

Potability

A detailed yet convivial conversation then ensued about the USDA grant to install a treatment system on the Gill Elementary School well, and how to proceed to meet the town's needs while staying within the guidelines of the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

The town is required to install a treatment system at the school that would remove manganese and kill coliform bacteria, after high manganese readings in 2014.

Purington noted that recent tests have found that the levels of lead and copper in the well were completely safe and within the range mandated by the DEP.

He also mentioned that, in the context of the water crisis in Flint, Michigan, the DEP sent out a notice reminding towns of the requirement to publicly post the results of lead and copper testing.

Selectboard member Randy Crochier added that the test should be done quarterly to insure that the town has water coming in that is "fully potable."

The engineers have consulted with the DEP and a water treatment company about the idea to replumb the building and install separate point-of-use treatment mechanisms for water fountains and the kitchen sink, rather than for all water com-

ing from the well.

Purington said the lowest estimate for this strategy was around \$66,000. The engineers suggested that this would not be an efficient or cost-effective priority, especially taking into account the increased complexity of testing the water at separate points.

Purington added that he had sought further feedback from Glen Ayers, the town's health agent, within two weeks. Crochier suggested, for efficiency's sake, that Purington ask for reports to be due two days before they were actually needed.

Transparency

Purington then shared a recent email from Gill resident Peter Gundelfinger concerning the selectboard's failure, since 2009, to publish Annual Reports for the town of Gill.

Gundelfinger's email suggested that while he knew the board "means well" concerning this issue, he implored it to make good on its promise to the community to publish all missing past annual reports. His email also strongly urged the board to present the FY'16 report at the spring town meeting.

Selectboard chair Greg Snedeker stated that he had gotten back to Gundelfinger about his email and would bring up the matter at this meeting.

Crochier asked how to best address the issues raised in Gundelfinger's email since the publishing of the Annual Report needs to become a priority.

Snedeker suggested that the board needs to state where they are at the present time, and asked what current condition the reports were in. Crochier stated that FY'11 and FY'13 were mostly finished, but also added that the board might wish to use a volunteer, or even hire a part-time person, to assist in this time-sensitive chore.

NOTES FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Suspicion; Assistance; Firearms; Dogs

Tuesday, 3/1

4:20 a.m. Removed hazard on North Cross Road.

4:55 a.m. Removed hazard on West Gill Road.

5:30 a.m. Removed hazard on South Cross Road.

6:10 a.m. Main Road resident turned in a syringe found on side of road for disposal.

7:10 a.m. Road hazard reported on Ben Hale Road. DPW removed same.

Wednesday, 3/2

8:20 a.m. Court process issued to residents on Grout Road.

10:30 a.m. Assisted resident on Main Road with motor vehicle ID issue.

11 a.m. Missing person report filed on subject from Turners with child at Gill Elementary.

3:40 p.m. Main Road resident reported IRS scam phone call.

4:30 p.m. Assisted Main Road resident with background check.

Thursday, 3/3

6:25 a.m. Firearms issue with Main Road resident.

9:15 a.m. Welfare check requested on West Gill Road resident. Checked OK.

5:15 p.m. Assisted Bernardston PD with intoxicated subject on South Street.

Friday, 3/4

4:10 p.m. Officer requested to close Route 2 westbound at the light, due to an accident in Factory Hollow in Greenfield.

Saturday, 3/5

1:55 p.m. Assisted Erving PD with arrest at motor vehicle stop.

3:50 p.m. Assisted party with complaint about Route 2 business.

Monday, 3/7

3:50 p.m. Motor vehicle accident on French King Highway.

Tuesday, 3/8

5:30 p.m. Officer requested to assist with dog caught on wire on Dole Road.

Wednesday, 3/9

8:55 a.m. Erratic operator reported, westbound on Route 2.

3:45 p.m. Mountain Road area for complaint of unlicensed dog.

Thursday, 3/10

5:55 a.m. Firearms issue with Camp Road resident.

9:30 a.m. Lockdown drill at elementary school with state police, Montague PD and Erving PD.

Friday, 3/11

8:30 a.m. Completed past larceny investigation. Returned property to owner.

10:15 a.m. Assisted Hampshire County House of Correction with resident who has been committed to their facility.

Saturday, 3/12

10:45 a.m. River Road resident reported suspicious motor vehicle and activity around homes and in lower fields. Under investigation.

5:20 p.m. Past domestic violence situation on

Dole Road.

Sunday, 3/13

2:10 p.m. Officer responded for brush fire at French King Highway residence.

3:45 p.m. Assisted Bernardston PD with domestic violence investigation.

Monday, 3/14

4:40 a.m. Suspicious activity, lights on at elementary school. Checked OK.

3:30 p.m. Assisted state police with identification of motor vehicle in town for investigation.

Tuesday, 3/15

10:35 p.m. Intoxicated resident on West Gill Road reportedly making harassing phone calls. Under investigation.

Wednesday, 3/16

3:35 p.m. 911 hangup call from North Cross Road residence. Responding officer indicated it was a mistake.

7:00 p.m. Assisted Bernardston PD with arrest warrant in their commu-

When it was suggested that the selectboard put aside its work on other priorities, such as energy efficiency improvements, member John Ward stated there was "a group of volunteers getting very good stuff done that benefits the town," and that this work needed to continue.

Snedeker spoke up and said it was important to remind the community at large that "we're not full-time government employees. Each selectboard member has other responsibilities, including a full-time job."

A discussion between members then ensued about what was missing from the reports. They still need critical proofreading and various committee reports. Snedeker said he felt that it was of utmost importance to get the job done right.

Crochier said it was time to start talking about hiring a part-time assistant to help Purington proofread the materials before being published, mentioning how important it

was to have "several sets of eyes" to insure the accuracy of the reports.

The board asked Purington how many hours he believed this part-time employee might be needed. He suggested "not more than 10 hours per week," adding that this number might be on the "high side" but that it was important that there be consistent help.

It was agreed by all that this new clerical person could work on other projects for the town.

The board briefly, with some jocularity, discussed where this person's office might be situated, since everyone noted that space was extremely tight.

Other Business

The selectboard unanimously approved the renewal of a food concession license for Ken's Roadside Diner, as well as the seasonal liquor license for the Schuetzen Verein club.

The warrant for the May 9 annual town meeting was discussed. The board set a deadline of April 11 for residents to submit petition articles, or articles for the selectboard's participation, in order to give them enough time to run them by town counsel.

Public service announcements included the final report of the Battle of Great Falls study group, which will be presented to the public this Saturday, March 26, 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Turners Falls High School auditorium.

Purington also announced that the Riverside Cemetery Association would be meeting on Tuesday, March 29 at 6:30 p.m. at the public safety complex in Montague.

Before adjourning the meeting, Snedeker remarked that he was sorry to have missed the Pancake Breakfast, and Crochier assured him that the pancakes were "delicious."

The Next Generation

By MATT ROBINSON

The future of Turners Falls basketball seems solid, at least for the next six years.

The Turners Falls seventh- and eighth-grade team went 19-0 this season, winning the Suburban Division and advancing to the first Regional Championship game, where they defeated South Hadley in double overtime, 43-40.

That game was won without the benefit of Anthony Peterson, who couldn't play after moving up to Varsity.

Flipping through the score book with Coach Rhoy "Razer" Sanders, I was amazed that they defeated teams like Amherst and Northampton so convincingly. "That's our defense," Razer explained.

And sure enough, in one game, their opponents were held to just 14 points.

"Steve Ellis started this program eight years ago," Sanders explained. "Since then, we've had two championships."

Mr. Sanders believes that the success of the varsity basketball team in the past few years is a direct result of this feeder program, and feels that in the next few years, Turners Falls High School will be even more successful.

Yes, it seems the future of TFHS Basketball is very solid indeed.

ALL STARS from page A1

Hampshire-Franklin All-Stars got together to play in a benefit at Pioneer Valley for the William F. Casey Scholarships.

The mood on the court was loose and fun, and hundreds of fans, including a large contingent from Turners Falls, showed up to cheer for their favorite seniors.

The tone of the game was set at tipoff when the tallest kid on the West team jumped against the shortest kid from the East. And then kids from both teams began throwing bombs from way outside the 3-point arc, just for the fun of it.

But for kids who had never played together, they showed amazing teamwork, especially in the second half. Complicated passes and self-sacrificing assists allowed the West to score an amazing 101 points.

The teams were divided in an interesting way. It was supposed to be East vs. West, but with a few exceptions, the kids on the East team were from Hampshire County, and the West kids were from Franklin.

Hastings was the top scorer for the West with 15 points. Sanders had 14 on two three-pointers, two foul shots and three hoops. Zach Korpiewski from Franklin Tech pulled down a number of defensive rebounds and finished with 12 points.

Other familiar players include Fron-



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Turners Falls' Nadia Hasan gets past the East Team defender and goes up for a shot at the Hampshire-Franklin All-Star Game

tier's Justin Farrick (13), Hampshire's Kyle Marek (11), Mahar's Pedro Matos and Pioneer's Eric Blanker (7 each), Athol's Tyler Lajoie and Mohawk's Jacob Cross (6 each), and Bryce Melanson of Athol (2).

For the East Team, George Felogloy

scored 8 points and Max Piroshkov had 6. Both players are from Greenfield.

In the girls' all-star game, Nadia Hasan of Turners played for the East team, while Franklin Tech's Brittany Andrews played on the West team – which makes me wonder whether Millers Falls Road is the East-West dividing line for their squads.

While neither lady scored, it was nice to see them play against the hotshots from the city schools.

The game itself got a little rough toward the end of the first half when players began colliding on the court, and multiple fouls were called. But although the game was hard fought and competitive, the mood remained fun, as the girls on the bench smiled and laughed and cheered on their new teammates.

The final score was East 76, West 57.

But in the end, the scores don't matter. The All Star game is an exhibition game for a good cause.

And although many of these athletes will never play organized basketball again, it was one last chance to show off, to take the impossible shot, to make an assist instead of shooting.

One last chance to have fun on the court, and one last chance to be a kid.

Thanks to Mike Churchill for providing additional stats.



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BUILDING 11 from page A1

a small generator onsite, the buildings have been vacant for years. Last year the Turners Falls fire chief issued several warnings about dangerous conditions in the complex.

The lack of basic infrastructure, including utility connections, access roads, and parking, has been a major obstacle to redevelopment. After several failed attempts to find a suitable developer for the complex as a whole, the town put out a request for proposals to develop Building 11 as a stand-alone project.

Ramsey said there had been a good deal of interest in the building “through the social media,” but “these outside investors inevitably failed to gain traction without a commitment from the local government to preemptively resolve the access and utility challenges.”

Similarly, the state and federal government would not “assist with public investment [to help meet these challenges] without a committed developer.” Ramsey stated that the town was caught in a “chicken and the egg scenario.... The Obear proposal is the first proposal that attempts to break this cycle.”

The proposal states that it will create within Building 11 “16-20 condominium open-plan housing units (artist live/work space)... as well as several rental art/industry workshops and/or offices.” The project’s total cost is estimated at

\$2.2 million, to be met with funds raised by the company.

Bridges and Utilities

However, the proposal states that “In order for us to be successful, and catalyze further development of the complex, we are asking the town to install basic utilities to Building 11. Specifically we are asking for the following: an electric drop; water and sewer lines; and access/parking assistance.”

The document also calls for the town to help open the “IP Bridge,” controlled by FirstLight Power Resources, at the north end of the canal; create more parking via a “deck” over the Building 10 lot; and adding lights on the White Bridge over the Connecticut River. The proposal notes that the company would need to receive a zoning variance for the living spaces.

The plan calls for extensive facade improvements and remediation of any hazardous materials. Solar panels would be installed on the roof, and an “indoor greenhouse sun park” is planned on an addition on the building’s west side. Obear estimates that there will be approximately 45.5 full-time-equivalent jobs created during the renovation.

Mr. Obear presented a detailed timeline for the project that envisions completion approximately three years after an LDA agreement with the town. The proposal also

contains a detailed cost breakdown totaling \$2,238,130.

The financial analysis described a “phased-in build-out” of the project. The company would attempt to obtain a \$2 million line of credit that could be “drawn on in fixed segments over a period of a few years. About \$400,000 will be used during the first year of rehabilitation for basic repairs of the building....

“At that point preselling of raw units can begin, which will enable us to complete construction, unit by unit.”

The proposal expresses optimism about the current housing market for condominium-style units.

‘A Bad Precedent’?

There were numerous questions from the audience, many of whom had come for a hearing on a proposed noise ordinance.

Ariel Elan asked if there was hazardous material in the building, and if “[Obear’s] budget covered it.”

Obear responded that there are always some hazardous materials in old buildings that need to be removed. “In that particular building,” he said, “there is some asbestos pipe insulation, but other than that, the history of the building is that it has been primarily used as a warehouse with no actual manufacturing ... so there are limited amounts of hazardous materials.”

Obear was asked if the proposal

envisioned marketing spaces in varying conditions. He replied that “some of the units would be marketed in a sort of raw space condition to allow a tenant to build out the space as needed. It would fall under some sort of association or oversight within the building to ensure that whatever build-out was done in conjunction with the town ... was done correctly.”

“So your proposal would form the beginnings of a condo association?” asked selectboard member Rich Kuklewicz.

“Absolutely,” Obear responded.

Millers Falls resident Jeanne Golrick complained that Obear had not fulfilled previous land development agreements with the town, specifically saying he had failed to submit required quarterly reports on the Powers Block project in her neighborhood.

Ramsey responded that “as far as I know he’s in compliance [with the Powers Block agreement], keeping us apprised of deadlines, and he’s shown the amount of investment he’s committed to the property....

“She’s found a line in there that says he’s supposed to send quarterly reports. He hasn’t done that, but he’s kept us apprised as the project develops of what the investment is.”

Golrick responded that she believed the town was setting a bad precedent.

Getting the Ball Rolling

Kuklewicz stated that he supported moving forward with negotiations on the proposal, in light of the other projects Obear has been working on in town.


However, he said he was concerned about the cost of the infrastructure commitments the town was being asked to make, “especially if we get no support from the utility on the bridge that is there, if it is even usable.”

FirstLight owns two bridges over the canal deemed keys to the development of the Strathmore. The town has raised the issue of upgrading these bridges in FirstLight’s application to the federal government for a renewal of its generating license for the canal and Cabot Station.

Ramsey has argued that moving forward with Building 11 could strengthen the town’s hand, both in the license renewal process and in efforts to obtain state and federal grants to deal with infrastructure problems at the sight.

“Accepting this proposal just gets us to the negotiating table to figure out what the town may be able to help with,” Ramsey said on Monday night. “There’s going to be a lot of areas that the town can’t, and I believe the proposal addresses this.”

“It does ask for a lot, but that’s how you start a negotiation.”

“This gets the ball rolling,” said Kuklewicz. 

NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD**Health Director Unveils Noise Regs**

By JEFF SINGLETON

At the Montague selectboard meeting on Monday night, public health director Gina McNeely presented a new five-page noise regulation to the board and a packed meeting room. The room was packed due to the ongoing controversy surrounding outdoor music on the patio of Hubie’s Tavern on Avenue A in Turners Falls.

Last summer the board modified the town’s existing noise regulations to raise the existing limit to 80 decibels (dB), and allow outdoor music at Hubie’s eight days a month. However this attempted “compromise” does not seem to have worked for many in the neighborhood, who have argued that outdoor music two or three times a week is not tolerable.

Several weeks ago the selectboard, arguing that the issue is a broader public health problem, asked McNeely to revive a proposal she had made a decade ago. That is precisely what the health director did on Monday night. Thus, though bar owner Shawn Hubert, as well as his supporters and critics, were in the audience, the agenda topic was McNeely’s proposed regulations.

This created a dynamic whereby the discussion moved back and forth between the regulations and what happened last summer on Hubie’s patio.

McNeely began the discussion by stating that it would be “prudent to step back” from the controversy and consider the document she distributed, so that “everyone had something to read and comment on.” She stressed that the regulations were only in draft form, and “WORKING DRAFT” was stamped in capital letters on each of the pages she distributed.

McNeely stated that the regulations were the product of a “lot of

research,” and were modeled on those of other communities such as Amherst and Northampton. She said her draft was designed to be “written on, scribbled on, sworn on, and sent back to me with comments.”

The regulations begin by stating that “It is the judgment of the town of Montague that excessive noise from clubs and bars, idling trains, motor vehicles, including motorcycles and recreational vehicles, including all terrain vehicles (ATVs) and so-called dirt bike motorcycles, and other sources of noise not listed, can interfere with the public health, safety, welfare, and peace and quiet of the inhabitants of the town and therefore in order to promote public health, safety, welfare, and the peace and quiet of the inhabitants....”

The document begins by defining excessive noise, when it should not occur, and how it should be measured. There follows a series of three “definitions” which define excessive noise in much greater detail, and then a list of twelve exemptions to the sound limits.

The second section focuses on motor and recreational vehicles, and potential violations by those owning such vehicles or allowing their land to be used by them.

The core noise levels in the regulations appear to be virtually identical to those in the current noise regulations: for example, 70 “decibel A” levels in the business district between 7 a.m. and 9:59 p.m. and 60 dB(A) between 10 p.m. and 6:59 a.m.

Exemptions to the regulation would include “sound from anyone who is a participant in a parade, band, orchestra, or similar music event,” as well as sound from “trains, boats, and agricultural equipment... aircraft landings, takeoffs... permitted fireworks displays... shooting ranges and lawful hunting.”

Also potentially exempt is

sound from “assemblies and special events,” by a special permit.

Much of the discussion of noise issue on Monday focused on the decibel levels recorded outside Hubie’s last summer. Shawn Hubert argued that his readings showed that the average tended to be around 75 dB, which was under the level allowed by the selectboard. He said he felt that a town limit at that level might be “doable.”

Police chief Chip Dodge said that he had received relatively few complaints last year, noting that six of nine calls on the issue had come from the same apartment. He also stated that if residents had a problem with noise, they should call the department:

“We’re not trying to protect anyone or play favorites,” he added.

John McNamara, who owns an apartment building next to Hubie’s, said that the bar’s neighbors were concerned not only with the sound level, but with the frequency of the band music.

Deirdre Pleasant, who lives in the Moltenbrey Apartments which abut Hubie’s patio, stated that “John [McNamara] speaks for a lot of us.”

“We can’t change what did happen,” said selectboard member Rich Kuklewicz, “but summer’s coming, so we need to make sure we have a plan going forward so we don’t have a repeat of last summer.”

When asked what the time frame for a decision was, Kuklewicz and Nelson suggested it would be back on the board’s agenda in two or three weeks.

“Summer’s coming,” repeated Shawn Hubert.

Confusing Sign

There was a lengthy discussion of the signage at the “old town hall” in Montague Center. The building houses the Montague Center library,

and library director Linda Hickman has argued that the various signs on the structure are in poor condition and “unreadable.”

However, there has been disagreement about what to do with the largest sign which now reads “Montague Town Hall.” The building is no longer the town hall, which is in Turners Falls, but Montague Center is an historic district, and the building and sign have historic significance.

The discussion centered on both how to get the heavy sign painted – whether it should be taken down or painted in place – and what the wording should be. Several Montague residents, including Peg Bridges and Ann Fisk, weighed in on the historical significance of the sign.

Highway Department chief Tom Bergeron said his research showed the existing sign was only a few decades old, but selectboard member Rich Kuklewicz said that he had grown up in town and that “it’s always said Town Hall.” There may have been a similar sign prior to the current one.

Hickman stressed the need to make the library sign readable. She said there had been a library at that location since 1869.

The board decided to resolve the problem by handing it off to Ramsey, who was directed to meet with Hickman and the town’s historical commission.

Other Business

The board voted to move forward with negotiations with O’bear Construction Company over development of the town-owned Strathmore Building 11, through the Urban Homesteading program (see article, page A1).

Millers Falls resident Jeanne Golrick criticized the board for accepting a bid under the commercial homesteading program for a business that had not filed proper quarterly reports under a previous project.

The board also accepted town planner Walter Ramsey’s proposal to

award a contract for an energy audit of the Sheffield school buildings to Sebesta East Inc. The winning bid for the audit, \$7,500, is being financed by a grant from the state Department of Energy Resources.

The audit is a prelude to heating system upgrades at Sheffield’s three buildings, which house an elementary school a gym/auditorium and the school district administration. The buildings are owned by the town of Montague and leased to the school district.

The board voted to accept Water Pollution Control Facility superintendent Tom Trombley’s recommendation for one sewer abatement totaling \$90.50. Trombley said the high sewer assessment was the product of a clerical error.

It took up a request by the new operator of the Shea Theater to waive fees required to obtain a variance from the zoning board of appeals. The variance will allow the theater to attach a sign to their building larger than allowed under zoning regulations.

However, highway superintendent Tom Bergeron noted that the bricks above the proposed sign need to be repointed, at a potential cost of \$3,000 to \$5,000. The issue will be revisited on the next week’s agenda.

The board executed an inspection and correction report by the regional solid waste district on the Montague landfill. The report, to the Department of Environmental Protection, evaluates the way Montague monitors the closed landfill on Sandy Lane.

The board also approved population estimates used by state liquor regulators to allocate licenses. The town’s population was estimated at 8,437.

During the public comment period, pipeline liaison Ariel Elan announced there would be a “pipeline boogie” on Saturday, April 23 between 7 and 10 p.m. at the Montague Retreat Center off of North Leverett Road.

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

Jill Palmer of Leverett reads the Montague Reporter on a monument to the Beatles atop Kok-Tobe Mountain, near Almaty, Kazakhstan.

ON THE ROAD

Going somewhere? Send your pictures to editor@montaguereporter.org.

April 2 at the Carnegie Library: The Upper Dam



ED GREGORY ARCHIVE

The International Paper No. 2 spillway was removed in December 2014.

TURNERS FALLS – The Fall River Upper Dam, located between Gill and Greenfield, was constructed in 1877 by the Montague Paper Company to establish a clean water source for their paper-making endeavors.

Changes have been made to the area that will be of interest to those so inclined to learn about a local and obscure site. A once sublime locale is not so much at present.

You're invited to attend a Power Point presentation at the Carnegie Public Library on Saturday, April 2, at 2 p.m.

Local Historian Ed Gregory will share his images and thoughts in an interactive presentation relating to the transformation of the area.

Senior Players Presents... The Haverston Mills Town Meeting



The citizens of Haverston Mills may range from sensible to eccentric to downright zany, but they are invariably fun to watch. And now the town faces a very important decision, and everyone has an opinion. If only the Town Moderator can keep it together.

A thoroughly fun comedy performance, Steve Henderson's "The Haverston Mills Town Meeting" is free and open to the public. April 5 at 1 p.m., at the Gill Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street in Turners Falls. Call 863-4449 to reserve your seat.

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Montague and Gill Cultural Councils, local agencies which are supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

FACES & PLACES



JACKSON PHOTO

Jack Nelson and Eileen Dowd (center) soak in the scene at Loot last Friday night, during the opening for Greta Svalberg's "Zuibitsu" exhibit. The Turners Falls store's two rooms were packed all evening in a happy collision of scenes. We noticed that quite a number of Svalberg's pieces had been reserved by local art patrons by the end of the evening. The show will remain up until May 8, at 62 Avenue A.

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YEAR 14 – NO. 23

B1

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OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER

MARCH 24, 2016

SCENE REPORT

Jazz, Math and Dada at the Brick House This Weekend

By MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS – When the village’s long-running social service agency, the Brick House, moved into its fourth and hopefully permanent location in the former fire station at 24 Third Street, staff and volunteers worked hard to build out the front room as a versatile performance space, and a back room as a music studio.

At the time, the organization was riding high on the success of the Avenue A Music Project, which engaged local youth with music lessons, open mics and an opportunity to professionally record their own CDs.

For a while thereafter the Brick House was known as a place for kids in bands, or who wanted to be in bands. If you were between the ages of 13 and 22 you could come during drop-in hours to jam in the practice space, and the scene naturally lent itself to benefit shows

and open mics out front.

The venue’s house band is the **Flaming Dragons of Middle Earth**, the loose and often wildly costumed freak rock collective serving as a vehicle for lead singer and onetime teen center teen Danny “Monster” Cruz. FDOM still holds regular, open practices at the Brick House.

But changes in technology, the music industry and youth culture over the last decade have led to a gradual shift in who’s been making music in the building.

There are still instruments aplenty within reach in the teen center, but these days youth programming has been headed in different directions, while the recording studio and practice space are more frequently booked by local adults.

So is the front room, which has drifted into being a sort of major local DIY venue. It’s austere, see **BRICK HOUSE** page B4



JACKSON PHOTO

Brattleboro songwriter Chris Weisman soundchecks last spring.

Sirum Equipment’s Annual Open House

By JOE PARZYCH

MONTAGUE – Despite the chilly weather, Sirum Equipment’s annual open house drew a good crowd largely to view their new line of LS Tractors, and to scarf down coffee and donuts while waiting for the main food line to set up.

Other new products, such as the Log Ox and Interstate Batteries, were demonstrated, in addition to Sirum’s other long-established lines. These included their line of Stihl products, which featured a new electric start leaf blower, one of which was immediately snapped up by a woman who especially liked that self-starting feature which is

powered from a small lithium battery charged by the blower engine.

The LS Tractor met with considerable interest. The tractors range from 25 to 100 horsepower. The model on display had a fast starting, three-cylinder LS diesel engine, for peppy and economical operation, driving the tractor through a hydrostatic transmission. The tractor, which has a standard three-point hitch, comes with a five-year warranty.

Ed Sirum stated that Sirum Equipment offers complete parts and service on the tractors. The North Carolina LS Corporation has national distribution of the South Korean-built LS equipment

see **SIRUM** page B5

JOE R. PARZYCH PHOTO



Adam Sirum stands by an LS Tractor outside of the agency.

Larry Roux: Carving Out His Faith in the Woodshop

By NINA ROSSI

GREENFIELD – Larry Roux has put his cabinet making skills to work re-creating Gothic style ornaments for local Catholic churches for about 15 years now. “There’s not too many people who do this kind of cabinetry work, but I like the period, and the church kept asking me to do more,” Larry said, standing in his home workshop in Greenfield.

A current project for Our Lady of Czestochowa Church in Turners Falls stretched across the back of the shop, its many ornately carved details held together by clamps. The Roux family has been going to OLC for 17 years.

“This one is going to be a cabinet that will have statues on both sides and a statue in the middle. These cabinets will have glass doors and glass shelves for relics that will be put in there,” explained Larry as he showed me the detailed plans for the cabinet that he started last November and hopes to complete in early April. “I’ve got over a hundred hours in this, all during weekends and evenings.”

Typically, the church pays for the materials, and Larry donates his time. There’s been a resurgence of interest in serving Mass in traditional fashion, which has led to an interest in restoring churches to their original ornate splendor. Modernism swept through the church in the 1970s with reforms to religious services and the discarding of older altarpieces in favor of a more modern, streamlined look.

Priests turned to face their congregations while serving Mass, rather than standing with their backs to them. “Someone had the idea that if the priest faced everyone, they would be inviting the people to ‘do this together.’ The idea before was that the priest was with the people, and they were facing God together. The ones that have gone back to the Latin Mass facing the altar, they want to put this type of altar back in.

“These aren’t cheap projects – a lot of them are even made of marble. The one at OLC is all hand-carved wood and gold leaf, and from the turn of the century... It’s quite ornate,” Larry explained.

“I research what was there originally, and if I can’t find anything, I design something that tries to hit the



Four foam core models of memorial lamps in Larry’s home office. He finds it easier to cut out and build a model, rather than create a 3D CAD design on the computer.



ROSSI PHOTOS

Larry Roux in his home workshop, in front of an ornate cabinet he is making for Our Lady of Czestochowa Church in Turners Falls.

flavor of that church.”

Roux went to architecture school, and has designed homes for Huntington Homes of Vermont for thirty years. He always enjoyed historical architecture and derives a great deal of satisfaction from working with the motifs of the period.

“I try to do everything out of oak, except for the gold stuff.” He pointed out the many little gold-colored brackets sticking out of spires on top of the altarpiece. “I have to carve these out of softer wood. These represent the little gargoyles that were used in the Gothic period. They were to keep evil away.”

There are many three-lobed arches and openings representing the holy trinity, and some four lobed motifs that represent the four gospels.

His first project was a cabinet for a church in Deerfield, designed to hold a *bambina*, a wax figure of the Holy Mother as an infant, imported from Italy. The cabinet was large: about four by six feet, and at least six feet high.

He also crafted the *veredos* – ornamented backdrops or partition walls – to coordinate with an altar at the new Polish Chapel in the OLC cemetery on Turners Falls Road. Father DiMascola of the OLC had a vision for turning an old storage shed at the cemetery, into a rustic Zakopane-style Polish chapel.

With help from parishioners Lawrence A. Krejmas, Gary Norman, George Asselin, Roux, and artist Anna Marie Greene-Smith, the former shed is now a focal point for prayer for visitors to the site. Larry estimates

see **ROUX** page B3



WEST ALONG THE RIVER

THE INDIAN NARRATIVES, PART 2:

THE WAMPAOAG AND THE MASSACRE AT THE GREAT FALLS

By DAVID BRULE

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

The following article is the second in a series of summaries of the narratives. The Nipmuc narrative appeared in our February 25 edition. Further summaries by the Narragansett Indian Tribe and the Stockbridge-Munsee Mohican will follow.

The Aquinnah Wampanoag, recognized by the US Federal government in 1987, occupy tribal lands totaling 485 acres on Martha’s Vineyard (Noepe), including the Gay Head cliffs, Herring Cove, and Lobsterville. Their population totals 1,121.

They are a distinct tribe from, though related to, the Mashpee

Wampanoag Tribe of Cape Cod, federally recognized in 2007. The Wampanoags are the tribe of Metacombet, known as King Philip, whose uprising and attempts to unite New England tribes against the colonial governments comprise the subject of the National Park Service Battlefield Protection grant.

The Aquinnah Wampanoag narrative summarized here, was written by Elizabeth James-Perry, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer. The narrative begins with a number of personal observations by the author which describe her initial reactions on her first trip to Turners Falls in 2005. These feelings have been described to us by other tribal people visiting the site as well:

“On the way to Vermont to interview Martin Prechtel about a short independent film project about King Philip’s War that was really focused on the cultural and spiritual costs of

17th Century warfare on the Wampanoag Nation...

“I didn’t realize that we were going to go right by the massacre site, when I started to feel truly sick and gripped by a deadly panic. I could not clearly communicate the misery I was both sensing and experiencing. It abated only after spreading tobacco out the window, a prayer on the run.

“My colleagues pointed out our proximity to the Great Falls... My sense of panic and hopelessness at the Turners Falls massacre site is similar to descriptions in our Algonquian Windigo stories when a terrible set of circumstances... attracts a dark spirit. These spirits endure for a very long time after the event has ended. They lurk around the area of devastation, seeking ways to prey upon and frighten the unwary who wander in.

“Such rare locations were see **WEST ALONG** page B4



Pets of the Week

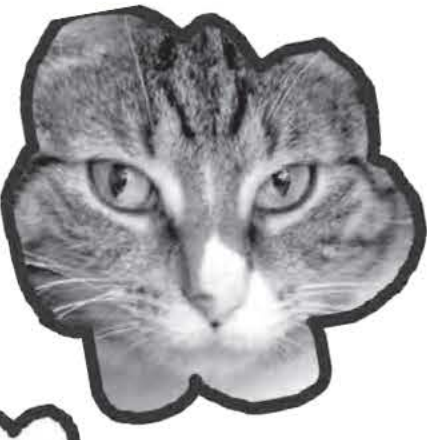
My name is Canto, and I have come all the way from New Jersey in search of the purrfect home.

Before the kind folks in New Jersey took me in I was a stray. I am a very active boy and love attention.

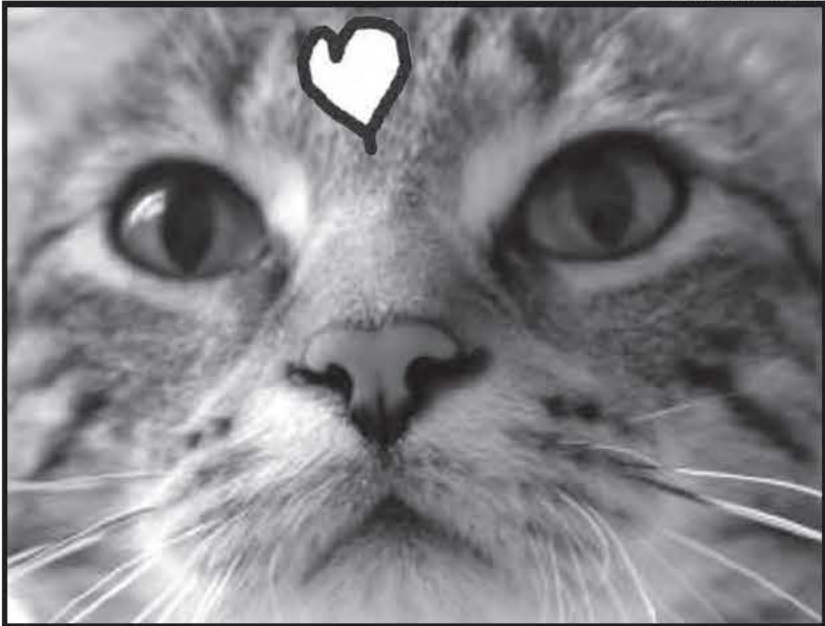
I love the company of my friend Wicket, so if you are looking for two kitties, please adopt us together!

If you think we might be the cats for you please ask a Dakin team member for more information.

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



CARMODY COLLAGE



“CANTO AND WICKET”

Senior Center Activities MARCH 28 to APRIL 1

GILL and MONTAGUE

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

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

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

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

Monday 3/28

1 p.m. Knitting Circle

Tuesday 3/29

9:30 a.m. NO Chair Yoga

1 p.m. Knitting Circle

Wednesday 3/30

9 a.m. Veterans' Outreach

12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 3/31

9 a.m. Tai Chi

1 p.m. Cards & Games

Friday 4/1

Liberty Tax Appointments

Noon Pizza Party

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

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

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

Monday 3/28

9 a.m. Tai Chi

10 a.m. Osteo Exercise

Tuesday 3/29

8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics

10 a.m. Stretching & Balance

11:30 Quabbin Lunch

12:30 p.m. Crafty Seniors

Wednesday 3/30

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing

10 a.m. Chair Yoga

Noon Bingo, Snacks & Laughs

Thursday 3/31

8:45 Aerobics

10 a.m. Healthy Bones

12:30 p.m. Cards, Creative Coloring

Friday 4/1 Call for Schedule

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.

MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

Pipeline Updates & More

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

Happy Spring! It's that time of year to watch for buds to appear on the trees.

This week, tune into local meeting broadcasts, including the Montague selectboard meeting on Monday at 7 p.m. and the finance committee meeting on Wednesday at 6 p.m. Stay tuned also for the

broadband and Gill selectboard meetings.

The following videos have been added to our archive of videos online, available for streaming and download at montaguetev.org, as well as to the TV schedule:

- Carlos: You're a Keeper, February 29
- Leigh Youngblood: Stop the Pipeline Updates, March 18

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-montaguetev@gmail.com, or stop by 34 Second Street in Turners between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. We'd love to work with you!

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Public Forum: Child & Adolescent Mental Health

GREENFIELD – On Thursday, April 14, from 6:45 to 9 p.m., the YMCA will host a free community forum on Child and Adolescent Mental Health, featuring Garry Earles, LICSW.

The entire program will benefit a wide audience, including parents, grandparents and families; public and private school educators and personnel; preschool teachers and daycare providers; social workers and other mental health providers; and anyone else who is interested.

Earles is a licensed independent clinical social worker with specific expertise in child and adolescent mental health. Registration is required: contact the Y at (413) 773-3646 x 0, or register in person at the Y.

A five-class course will be offered after the forum, Thursday evenings from April 21 to May 12, for a fee of \$125 (separate registration is required). Credit certificates will be available for educators.

For more information, contact Garry Earles at (413) 863-4128 or GLE1@comcast.net.

Green Fields Market Offers “rCredits 101”

GREENFIELD – What are rCredits, how do they work and what are the benefits? Get the answers and find out how you can become an rCredits member at the next *rCredits 101: An Introduction to rCredits* session on Tuesday, March 29, from 6 to 7:30 pm at Green Fields Market on Main Street in Greenfield.

rCredits are a community-centered payment system that benefits people, businesses and the community.

The Greenfield Area rCredits Community has grown over the past 18 months, and now includes more than 20 local businesses, such as Fosters Supermarket, Green Fields Market, The People's Pint, Greenfield Games, the Solar Store of Greenfield and Uppinngil Farm.

rCredits are a project of Common Good Finance®, a non-profit organization. For more information on rCredits and a full list of participating businesses, check the website at rcredits.org, email info@rcredits.org or call (413) 628-1723.

THE HEALTHY GEEZER

Disorders of the Hand



By FRED CICETTI

Q. I have Dupuytren's Contracture. It runs in my family. I think you should write a column about this because it affects older people.

Thank you for this suggestion. It got me researching hand disorders, a subject that has many colorful names for some nasty afflictions. Here are some of them:

Dupuytren's Contracture:

At its worst, Dupuytren's Contracture can turn a hand into a claw because the fascia – the connective bands of tissue inside the palms – shrink and make the fingers curl inward. The condition, in its milder form, creates small lumps or bands. Dupuytren's Contracture isn't usually painful.

Dupuytren's is more common in older adults, men and whites from northern European background. The late President Ronald Reagan and former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher both suffered from Dupuytren's.

This condition is hereditary. And it may be linked to alcoholism, dia-

betes, epilepsy and smoking.

It is rare for Dupuytren's to affect the thumb and forefinger. Usually, the ring finger and pinky feel the results. Sometimes, the middle finger may be involved. Dupuytren's Contracture often affects both hands, but usually not equally.

Ganglia:

Ganglia (ganglion cysts) are benign, gelatinous lumps that usually are found on the back of the wrist. However, they also appear on the front of the wrist and on the backs of fingers. Ganglia are the most common masses found on hands. Women are three times more likely than men to get ganglia.

These cysts usually are painless. If they do act up, the fluid can be removed with a needle. You may have heard of a folk remedy for crushing ganglia by putting your hand on a table and hitting the cyst with a heavy book. This is not a good idea; you may hurt yourself and it's unreliable. Besides some ganglia disappear without treatment.

Carpal Tunnel Syndrome:

The median nerve runs from the forearm into the hand through an area at the wrist called the carpal tunnel. If this nerve is compressed by swollen tissue, you may feel pain, weakness or numbness in the hand and wrist. This common condition is Carpal Tunnel Syndrome.

This syndrome is suffered by workers who make repetitive movements with the wrist extended. So, carpenters using screwdrivers and people who do a lot of work on

computer keyboards are more likely to suffer from this condition.

DeQuervain's Tendinitis:

DeQuervain's Tendinitis is an irritation and swelling of the sheath that surrounds the thumb tendons as they pass from the wrist to the thumb. A tendon is a cord or band of inelastic tissue connecting a muscle with its bony attachment. The swelling can cause pain along the thumb side of the wrist.

The pain is usually intense when grabbing objects or twisting the wrist. In diagnosing DeQuervain's, a doctor may perform a Finkelstein test in which the patient makes a fist and then bends the wrist away from the thumb.

Heberden Nodes and Bouchard's Nodules:

Osteoarthritis can create bumps at the end joints of your fingers and thumbs. These are Heberden Nodes. Overgrowths of bones over the middle joints of the fingers are Bouchard's Nodules.

As joints wear down, small bone spurs develop and make the joints appear bumpy. A bone spur is just extra bone that is usually smooth, not spur-like. You can get these growths on other places in your body such as the shoulders, hips and feet.

In addition to the above are hand deformities with descriptive names such as Trigger Finger, Swan Neck, Duck Bill and Boutonnière.

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

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Sharon Cottrell
Property Manager

BORDEAUX WHINE

by denis bordeaux



ROUX from page B1

ROSSI PHOTO



Larry points out features on a drawing of his current project for the church.

he has put at least 300 hours of work into the woodcarvings there.

Finished by the volunteer crew in 2012, it's dedicated to "Mary Queen of the Polish Martyrs of World War II." The Polish martyrs were murdered for their Roman Catholic faith by the Nazis and included three bishops, 52 priests, 26 members of male religious orders, three seminarians, eight religious sisters, and nine lay people.

Memorial lanterns are also a trend that Larry is interested in exploring right now, dovetailing his attraction to gothic architecture with articles that serve his faith in similar fashion to his other avocational pursuits.

These gothic inspired tabletop lamps feature intricately carved, detailed "windows" in a faceted spire that are designed to hold a candle or other light source within. These permanent memorials could be brought to church and blessed, then taken home after the interment ceremony.

The first one he made was held together by magnets and came apart into six separate lanterns, one for each family member to take home.

However, if he launches this as an enterprise, Roux will need to streamline his production. "I cut all these windows out by hand, but the goal is to use a laser cutter - it's the perfect product for doing these. It would save me a ton of time. And they could be even more intricate.

"This is all African mahogany, no stain, and this is maple. I play around with different colors of wood."

Roux has more projects ahead than he has hours to complete them, but he still considers it a "miracle" that anyone contacts him to do this type of work. Making items such as the memorial lamps for sale will probably always be secondary to the faith that drives his love of recreating Gothic accoutrements for area churches.



Poetry Corner

March

March came calmly like a false spring
 new arrivals of a pair of cardinals foraging on chopped apples
 crocus peeping up bit by bit but cautious of full bloom,
 humans shedding some heavier clothes but boots by the back door.
 But then we hear the lion roar and we are reminded it's still winter
 We dream of large tomato plants now seeds in our greenhouses
 See advertisements of spring floral outfits we wear in the sun.
 Eggs of pink, or yellow, and bunny ears. Colored grass and fancy hats.
 We visualize our green lawn under the mounds of old leaves.
 multiple colors of variety of flowers in pots here or there.
 spring is not far, but so many dark, cold, black and white days
 But we must remember mother nature is just following her own path.
 read a good book, have hot cup of tea and just wait for the colorful magic.
 Spring will come, but not on our time.

- Betty Tegel

Betty is a quilter, baker, and photographer. She has had photos displayed locally with the DVAA, and won ribbon prizes for flower arrangements at the county fair in Greenfield.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Salon Mistaken for Saloon; Toddler Learns To Unbuckle Self; Robbery of Thermal Units Foiled

Monday, 3/14
 2:45 p.m. Caller from Second Street observed a vehicle parked outside his business for approximately 10 minutes. Operator appeared to be counting "a wad of cash" and looking up Second Street; stated he was waiting for a friend. Operator then exited the vehicle and a verbal altercation ensued. Vehicle stopped on First Street. Operator advised officers he was just waiting for a friend when the caller began taking pictures of him. Parties advised of options.
 4:43 p.m. Caller from Karma Salon advises there is an intoxicated male inside the salon who is refusing to leave. Party taken into protective custody. Officer took party's money at his request and went to Subway to buy him food.

7:10 p.m. Prisoner was observed banging his head off of the cell door. When asked to stop, he stated, "I need something to eat, you f--- c---, I'm type two diabetic and just got out of the hospital today." Request passed along to officer, who was also advised of the head banging incidents.

7:52 p.m. Subway employee concerned about two females inside the restaurant who she believes are intoxicated; she overheard them speaking of driving home and is concerned that they are not able to drive safely. Male party arrived on scene to take responsibility for the two females. He will be driving them home to Sunderland.

9:47 p.m. Caller from Grove Street reports the noise level next door has gone up since officers cleared a previous call (9:07 p.m.). Responding officer advises music is so loud he is unable to get the attention of anyone inside the residence. Officers spoke to a party at the residence and advised them of the multiple noise complaints.

Tuesday, 3/15
 2:18 p.m. Caller from Connecticut River Liquor and Wine reports that he has "shut off" the attached male, who is intoxicated and was last seen walking down the alley by the Pizza House. Caller states male was almost struck by a vehicle as he was "stumbling" across the street. Male taken into protective custody. Per request of male, officer purchased him a Subway grinder using his money.

Wednesday, 3/16
 9:39 a.m. [redacted] was arrested and charged with knowingly being present where heroin is kept and possession of a Class B drug (subsequent offense).

[redacted] was arrested and charged with knowingly being present where heroin is kept and possession of a Class B drug (subsequent offense).

arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle with a revoked license and knowingly being present where heroin is kept.

[redacted] was arrested and charged with possession of a Class A drug (subsequent offense) and knowingly being present where heroin is being kept.

[redacted] was arrested and charged with knowingly being present where heroin is kept, possession to distribute a counterfeit drug, possession of a Class B drug, possession of a Class E drug, allowing an improper person to operate a motor vehicle, conspiracy to violate a drug law, and possession of a Class A drug.

10:11 a.m. Employee of Central Street School/Head Start observed a white male hanging around the rear of the building, possibly looking into windows. When male noticed the caller, he walked off. Referred to an officer.

10:48 a.m. Caller reports that several times, she has witnessed an elderly male (vehicle description provided) drive up to St. Stan's. He exits the vehicle, urinates into a plastic cup, then tosses the urine into the driveway. He will then often go into St. Stan's. Subject located and advised that if this occurs again, charges may be pressed. Subject stated he understood.

5 p.m. Party into station requesting to speak to an officer regarding a cane left to him when his brother passed away; cane has a hidden "sword." Officer will speak to party in lobby.

8:25 p.m. Caller from Fairway Avenue advising her cat was again attacked by a fisher cat; this happened 6 weeks ago as well. Caller cannot see her cat at this time, can only hear it. Caller advised that this would be on record and a copy of call left for animal control officer.

Thursday, 3/17
 5:27 p.m. Caller reporting that his 93 year old father is missing. Father has dementia and an expired license. Caller states

this has not happened before and he does not know where his father may have gone. Shelburne Control and Greenfield PD notified to be on lookout. Father located at Food City parking lot; BOLO cancelled. Officer clear; family members are with father, who just wanted to get some groceries.

6:01 p.m. Caller concerned for welfare of child in the back seat of a passing vehicle: child is very young, approximately 2 years old, and is not in any sort of car seat. Child was "hanging out the window" when the vehicle pulled into the F.L. Roberts parking lot. Officer off with vehicle on T Street. Child was partially buckled in and was in a toddler seat; however, he knows how to unbuckle himself.

6:14 p.m. Caller from Fifth Street advising a male party was just at her door requesting to look at her electric rates. Units advised.

9:02 p.m. Officer moved along a group of people from the skate park.

Friday, 3/18
 8:38 a.m. Single vehicle accident in front of Millers Falls Rod and Gun Club. Female operator transported to hospital; child (uninjured) picked up by grandmother.

2:56 p.m. Caller from Turners Falls Road inquiring about NRG solicitors and whether they have permission to be going door to door. Chief requesting that an officer respond to ID the solicitor and advise him that he must cease soliciting in Montague until he is approved. Solicitor will stop until he receives permission from MPD. Chief will follow up on this issue Monday.

4:30 p.m. Caller from Fifth Street advising two males were just at her building asking about her electric bill. Responding officer unable to locate parties.

5 p.m. Caller from Fourth Street reports that a male party with NRG is knocking at her door asking about her electric bill. Male has since left the area: described as white,

tattoos on both sides of his neck, earrings, and looked "scuzzy." Male was wearing an NRG shirt. Officers will be on lookout.

7:25 p.m. Caller from Third Street advising that a female party from NRG was just at her house; provided name and description. No information for name on solicitation permit list; however, warrant search showing two active warrants for same name.

[redacted] was arrested on two default warrants.

Saturday, 3/19
 8:32 p.m. Party into station to report son missing; she arrived at school yesterday to pick him up, and he never came out to meet her. 15 year old black male, 5'10", 115 lbs. Info given to GPD and Shelburne Control. Party entered as missing.

11:15 p.m. Reports of a vehicle collision at Seventh and Park streets; operator had left scene.

[redacted] was arrested and charged with operating under the influence of liquor (second offense), marked lanes violation, leaving the scene of property damage, and speeding.

Sunday, 3/20
 1:25 a.m. Caller from Avenue A reports that multiple people in another apartment are yelling and shouting obscenities in their apartment and he feels this is directed at him. Caller also stated that he is "being robbed of his thermal units" but could not explain what he meant by that. All quiet upon officers' arrival. Advised of options.

2:03 p.m. Door alarm activation at Our Lady of Czestochowa. Upon arrival, officer advised there is a church service in progress.

6:04 p.m. Per Chief Dodge, he was contacted by residents in the Patch reporting that the Railroad Salvage annex building is unsecured and people have been going in and out. Advised DPW that officers found clasp ripped off door and are unable to secure it. DPW will respond tomorrow.

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BRICK HOUSE from page B1

drink- and drug- free, accessible by wheelchair, possessing of a decent PA, and blatantly *ad hoc* – basically, the kind of cultural space you would expect people raised on 1990s punk ideology might blunderingly attempt to provide to the next generation.

Over the last two years, bookings in the front room have ranged from mellow, psychedelic fare (**Village of Spaces, Steve Gunn, Itasca**) to heavy noise (**Vampire Belt, Linear Downfall, Pwr Rtlz**) to ambient (**Idea Fire Company, Derek Rogers, Donkey No No**) to punk (**Los Crispis, Rogue Trooper, Fleabite** – and **Downtown Boys**, who *Rolling Stone* recently called “America’s most exciting punk band”).

All of this has happened by accident: someone wants to play, or a friend of their friend is on tour, and the room is just there.

Three-quarters of donations at the door go to performers, and the other 25% is passed on to Brick House staff, who spend it on things like snacks and art supplies, help connecting parents and families with services, and paying the utility bills.

Here’s my full disclosure: As a member of the Brick House’s community board of directors, I’m often the person called to open the doors for these events. Mostly, I hang out in the back, making sure no one blows out the speakers or runs out of toilet paper. Sometimes I’m inspired to hype notable events in these pages.

This weekend there are two shows I think are particularly worthy of the hype treatment.

On Friday the 25th, the manic, experimental post-rock trio **Jobs** returns to town. Formerly known as killer BOB, Jobs is a satisfyingly excessive collaboration of three virtuosos who otherwise play in artsier, conservatory-type settings.

Two very different-sounding

math rock bands (Holyoke’s **Hot Dirt** and Worcester’s **OJ**) will set things up for them, and the free jazz ensemble known as **PRINTS** (drums, bass, tenor sax, trombone) will wind down the night.

Bring earplugs and a calculator.

And then, on Sunday the 27th, there’s a really good, really weird one.

Jaap Blonk, the avant-garde Dutch vocalist best known as a modern interpreter of Dada artist Kurt Schwitters’ 1920s masterwork *The Ursonate*, has for arcane reasons managed to include the Brick House in his 11-date US tour itinerary.

Blonk is challenging and hilarious, and on top of his solo set, he’s also joining forces with **The Whammies**, a pretty highbrow international quintet dedicated to playing the music, some of it unreleased, of the late jazz saxophonist and composer Steve Lacy.

(The Whammies have allegedly been informed that neither piano is quite in tune, but if any *Montague Reporter* readers are professional tuners, please call me.)

Sunday’s openers are **Jenifer Gelineau** and **Vic Rawlings**, both versatile electroacoustic improvisors. There’s no knowing quite what either has in store, but Gelineau often crafts glacial, looping soundscapes by clattering toys and bowing wine glasses and her violin, and Rawlings is known for messing around with homemade electronic gadgets and modified traditional instruments.

Friday’s and Sunday’s shows will be the 50th and 51st in the Brick House’s current unlikely run as a grown-up venue. For me, the main difference will be that we will fill the room with folding chairs on Sunday, but not on Friday.

Doors usually open around 8 p.m. Maybe I’ll see you there.



WEST ALONG from page B1

generally places everyone Native tacitly agreed to avoid...”

Throughout this twenty-page narrative are found similar personal Native perspectives on the war, rare glimpses into Native culture and belief systems, the role of women, Native diplomacy, warfare and weaponry, and in fact, Wampanoag history, written down and recounted by an officer of the Historical Preservation Office and approved by the Aquinnah Wampanoag Tribe. This effort therefore in itself is an extremely valuable document.

In this narrative with a decidedly Wampanoag Native accent and syntax, we get a clear depiction of the social, cultural and tribal context of Native peoples before, and during the KPW, rather than a detailed description of the mechanics of the war. To that point, Ms. James-Perry relates that the Island tribal members had a good working knowledge of the people, places and events of KPW:

“...knowledge that was passed on and through the 19th century. Quite a few Native men and women learned the English alphabet and writing system, and recorded events in our history.”

However, the author relates that often such written items were stolen from Native homes, other antique Wampanoag writings were sold by historical societies to raise funds, others have gone into private collections. So there are scant written historical records of the war in Native libraries and archives.

As with the other tribes participating in this Battlefield Study, it has proven difficult, if not impossible to recount specific events, names, and places important during that 17th-century war.

What has endured is the multi-generational memory of the lifestyles and practices that existed at the time, and the impact of the numerous colonial wars, the loss of lands, and the general disruption that followed those wars of English conquest.

The author explores the subtle and effective diplomacy that was practiced and still exists between the tribes. The object of this diplomacy was to effectively avoid costly fighting in the settlement of disputes. She cites “cooling-off periods, meetings in council, competitive games, races, even hand-to-hand combat of short duration” to settle disputes.

She also describes the skills and methods employed for surviving in the sometimes harsh landscape of New England, Native travel, clothing, and the efficiency of movement and in the use of force. Her writings are clearly a valuable trove of anthropological insights.

In a section called “Erosion of Wampanoag Sovereignty,” Ms.

James-Perry develops a lengthy sequence on tribal descriptions of events that led to the KPW starting with the complicated and oftentimes humiliating dealings with the Massachusetts Bay Colony and the Plymouth Colony.

She possesses a personal familiarity with places connected with events in southern New England, and she provides a different perspective on incidents such as the death of Wamsutta (Philip’s brother), the eroding impact of the Praying Indian towns under Rev. John Elliot, and the alleged murder at Lake Assawompsett of Praying Indian John Sassamon, an incident that may well have precipitated King Philip’s War.

As a case in point, much of what we have learned from English versions of this murder case has a decidedly different alternative Native version which the author provides.

Was Sassamon a spy for the English, and therefore killed by Philip’s men? Or was his death accidental, and used as a way of incriminating Philip?

The author is convinced that Sassamon’s death was likely accidental, that he died from exposure at Lake Assawompsett, was found, mourned and buried by family members living at the lake. She is convinced that the English exhumed the body – a serious offense towards tribal and even Christian beliefs – and took it to Plymouth, where the death was declared a murder. The colonial authorities then proceeded to condemn and execute three Wampanoag men for the crime.

James-Perry maintains that this trumped-up murder charge served the English purpose of implicating King Philip in the crime, therefore negating his status as head of the tribal government, and relegating him to be subject to English law as represented by the English colony.

Another case treated by Ms. James-Perry involves the death of Philip, which effectively ended the war in southern New England. She states that accounts of the leader’s death were likely ornamented by English writers, and states the following:

“Stories about the fate of Metacomet’s (Philip’s) head and hands appear to be fabrications. There was an oft-repeated tale that Alderman the Indian shot Philip and kept his mummified hand to get free drinks. Our Sachem’s death in a dark swamp by a traitor seems to have been rewritten for popular consumption.”

Clearly, what has been rewritten and popularized has created significant annoyance and resentment among the tribes.

What has been written in this narrative, as in the other three, in a style that flows in cycles from one

topic to another, provides another point of view, and resonates with deep insights into the histories as seen through the eyes of indigenous peoples.

Throughout these twenty pages, the author explores and develops Native perspectives on the war, providing intriguing insights of Weetamoo, the woman Sachem of the Wampanoag and her relationship with Mary Rowlandson, a captive in her possession.

Further glimpses into Wampanoag strategies and displacement, relations with the Narragansett, Nipmuc and Mohican (all participants in this study) are offered here, some for the first time in contemporary writings.

In a revealing disclosure, the author states:

“Out of respect Native peoples do not ordinarily speak the names of those who have died. That was a consideration that gave me pause in writing about the war and the massacre at all.”

Indeed this cultural reticence, even a taboo of sorts, has hindered other tribal representatives from writing of this event at all. We are fortunate that this Wampanoag representative put some of her knowledge down on paper, with the approval of the Tribal Elders.

Elizabeth James-Perry closes with references to ongoing visits and pilgrimages to such places as King Philip’s Seat, Philip’s Cave, Massasoit’s house, and how generations of native people have managed to ensure such places still exist today. The Wampanoag managed to survive and endure, to adapt, and draw guidance from the same sources as their ancestors.

In conclusion, the author is encouraged by the re-examination of this place by the Falls through this joint town-tribal project:

“While acknowledging we all have different perspectives on this shared history, working to preserve the site has brought Northeastern tribal descendants and townspeople together.

“So long as we keep things in perspective... treat the people who perished here with the dignity and respect they did not receive in life... we will be making some advances towards healing...”

The above is a synopsis of selected topics in the Wampanoag narrative. The entire original narrative is available at the Carnegie Public Library and on the town of Montague website.

Readers who wish to meet Elizabeth James-Perry and David Tall Pine White in person are invited to attend the Battlefield information session to be held at Turners Falls High School this Saturday, March 26, from 12:30 to 3 p.m.



UMass-Amherst Research Seeks Multiple Sclerosis Study Participants

AMHERST – Kinesiology researchers at the University of Massachusetts Amherst are seeking non-smoking, 30- to 65-year-old participants with multiple sclerosis (MS), and similarly aged men and women without the disease, for a pilot study to determine whether foot tapping speed can be developed as a reliable early marker of future mobility changes.

The study, about halfway to completion, builds on the work that the UMass Amherst MS Research Group has conducted with members of the MS community in the region over the past decade. The

goal is to advance understanding of how to best improve mobility function in this population, says principal investigator Jane Kent.

She and co-investigator Richard Van Emmerik have a \$44,000 pilot grant from the National Multiple Sclerosis Society to explore the use of foot tapping speed as a sensitive indicator of early changes in the brain and nervous system related to motor function, in particular walking, rising from a chair and climbing stairs. It would be useful for researchers and physicians as an early marker of changes in mobility.

Kent explains, “Studies have

shown that people with pathology in the brain or spinal cord have slower foot-tapping speeds, and this slowing seems to be well correlated with mobility measures such as walking speed.

“Our goal is to develop a simple test of central motor function that will be sensitive to very early changes in the nervous system to help researchers and clinicians detect and intervene before mobility problems fully emerge.”

“We’d like eventually to develop this into a simple tool, as familiar as a blood pressure cuff or

a thermometer, for routine use in the doctor’s office. Something useful for detecting early changes that might become a problem down the road,” she adds.

Volunteers will be asked to visit the UMass Amherst campus three times over about a three-week period, Kent says. The first visit may take more than one hour because of paperwork, but the two later visits should be shorter.

Participants will be asked to climb stairs, rise from a chair, and rapidly tap both feet in turn for 10 seconds each. Some neurological

measures and walking speed will also be obtained. They will also be asked to wear an activity monitor for seven days between visits to measure general physical activity level.

Volunteers will receive modest compensation for their time and assistance with transportation if needed.

To volunteer, contact the UMass Amherst Muscle Physiology Lab at (413) 545-5305 or e-mail Erica Hartman at foottaps@kin.umass.edu.

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GOOD USED USABLES

Four Winds School: Working At Their Own Level

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GILL – I believe some people think private schools are better than public ones. At private schools, students can learn better because there is none of the overcrowding that is in many public ones.

I don't know if that is true or not. But I can give you an example of a local private school that is definitely not overcrowded, called Four Winds School.

Four Winds is located at 54 French King Highway in Gill, and "operates out of two classrooms". Four Winds teaches each 6th, 7th and 8th grade student what they need to learn.

It was founded by a man named Stephen Hussey, who was a fisherman while he taught part time. He taught science to dyslexic boys at Linden Hill in Northfield in 1986. He did this for many years.

In 2000, Hussey founded a private day middle school where the mission statement was: "The purpose of education is to prepare children to be

constructive, innovative, and courageous members of their society."

The current director of the school is Eloise Michael. Eloise taught at a public school before coming to Four Winds in 2007.

The school only has two teachers – Eloise and Becca Lipton – and at most, fourteen students go there. The students there "do a lot of art, computer programming, play games inside and outside."

Eloise calls it a good school to work at because "I have a lot of freedom to teach what I'm interested in. Also, what kids are interested in, too. I try to teach things that are related to local things. This year, we are learning about King Philip's war."

She believes that students learn better here than at conventional schools "because they are each working at their own level." She thinks they like the school better than others because they get to choose what they do and have more free time, and more outside time.

When students start at Four Winds, their skills in the areas

taught by this school are assessed. Then an individual program is made up by the teacher together with the student. "The student's learning style" comes into play as well.

They make use of a biweekly meeting where "students meet with their instructor to draw up a set of goals in each subject area. At the end of this period, students assess their progress over the two weeks completed and set goals for the next two weeks."

They have a very structured day on their plate when they are attending the school: "Mornings feature writing, math, science, literature, foreign language and vocabulary/spelling. Afternoons feature "work in humanities and sciences."

There are also themes that come into play. "The school runs a three-year cycle of themes: 20th Century America, Pre-colonial and Colonial Massachusetts, and The Development of Human Civilization." The themes they are focusing on at the time tie in with what they are doing in science and literature.

The school is funded by "tuitions mostly. We also get donations from foundations and graduates of this school. We like to take everybody who applies." Eloise says, "We have students from Vermont, we have students from Westfield, we have many from Northampton."

One of the graduates "was on the board of the school for a while. Some of them are still in college. The money from the foundations lets us take people who can't afford the tuitions."

All of this sounds like a good recommendation of the school for someone who is thinking of sending their children to get an education there.



The school operates out of two rooms in Gill's Riverside municipal building.

LOOKING BACK:

10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

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

Elks Plan New Lodge in Millers

The Montague Elks have unveiled ambitious plans to build a new 20,000 square foot lodge on the corner of East Mineral and Millers Falls Road in Millers Falls, at the site of a former auto race track. Past Exalted Ruler Jason Clark presented conceptual plans to the Montague Zoning Board of Appeals on Wednesday, March 22, saying he hoped the proposed one story structure would be "the largest and most beautiful banquet hall in the area."

With ZBA chair Ernie Brown recusing himself from deliberations, along with fellow Elk member Dennis Booska, Clark asked the ZBA to expedite the proposal by granting a special permit for the Elks to use the land, which is zoned agricultural forestry, for their new lodge, without completing a site plan review or environmental impact study at the outset.

The Elks have signed a purchase and sale agreement with the landowner for the 10.293 acre parcel for \$235,000. Clark said a special permit for the building from the ZBA was a requirement for the purchase to be completed.

But the ZBA, under the acting chairmanship of John Burek, asked for a detailed site plan first.

Al Ross Runs for Selectboard Again

"I'm interested to know what goes on in the neighborhoods," said Allen Ross, when asked why he spends so much time traveling through hand observing the goings-on in Montague's five villages. "I like being connected to the place I live," the current chair of the Montague

selectboard said, explaining why he is running for another three-year term on the board.

At this point, no other candidate has come forward to take out papers for the seat, or announced interest in competing for the post in the upcoming Democratic town caucus.

Italian Restaurant Opens in Tax Title Property

The Montague selectboard signed off on a certificate of completion and released the rights to the building at 166 Avenue A, the former Power Town Creemee, now home of Ristorante DiPaolo, on Monday, March 20.

"They have substantially completed the project," said selectboard member Pat Allen. "It is a wonderful interior. The food is excellent." Restaurant owner Denise DiPaolo was not present to witness the formalities at the selectboard meeting, as her new restaurant was opening for the first time that same evening.

Board chair Allen Ross explained the principle of the town's commercial homesteading program, by which DiPaolo purchased the dilapidated structure from the town for \$1, in exchange for a promise to invest substantial private funds in renovations, and to put the property back on the tax rolls. The town had acquired the building from the former owner for back taxes.

Ross said DiPaolo had invested \$285,000 into the renovation of 166 Avenue A, and "created a very valuable addition to the downtown" in the process. Allen noted 14 jobs were created.

Town planner Robin Sherman said DiPaolo's project had been chosen by a review committee from a pool of applicants interested in the building, and had been held to renovation guidelines consistent with the downtown historic building.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Stargazers Spoken With; Lost Suspicious Male Assisted; Pipeline Sign Stolen; Weatherheads Solicitors Found, Advised

Sunday, 2/28

3:15 p.m. Report of smoke in area of Route 2 east-bound at rest area. Found to be from permitted burn in Wendell.

10:20 p.m. Report of suspicious subjects on bridge. Spoke with same, were looking at stars.

Monday, 2/29

1:30 p.m. Assisted Erving FD with brush fire at Papermill Road.

Tuesday, 3/1

7:45 a.m. Report of garbage dumped in middle of Lester Street. Highway cleaned same.

9:30 a.m. Took report of larceny at Forest Street residence.

10:15 a.m. Assisted Gill PD with medical emergency on Center Road.

Wednesday, 3/2

11:15 a.m. 911 misdial from High Street residence. All set.

Thursday, 3/3

2:25 p.m. Assisted state police on scene of single-

car crash on Route 2 near Wheelock Street.

5:05 p.m. Assisted on scene of medical emergency at Weatherheads convenience store.

Friday, 3/4

7:15 p.m. Disabled vehicle at Papermill Road. Not a hazard, tow on the way.

Saturday, 3/5

10 a.m. Moved along suspicious subjects at Forest Street residence.

Sunday, 3/6

1:15 a.m. Noise complaint on Pratt Street. Same will quiet down.

Tuesday, 3/8

2:15 p.m. Assisted state police on scene of disabled vehicle, Route 2 at Farley Flats.

Wednesday, 3/9

9:30 a.m. Erratic operator reported, Route 2 west-bound. Same located.

1:28 p.m. Report of loose dog on Pratt Street.

Thursday, 3/10

4:10 p.m. Report of suspicious male at

convenience store. Same was lost. Assisted.

Friday, 3/11

11:30 a.m. Report of "No Pipeline" sign stolen from North Street lawn.

5:40 p.m. Took report of three male subjects trespassing on railroad bridge between Erving and Millers Falls. Identified same, and advised them to stay off the tracks.

Saturday, 3/12

6:40 p.m. Assisted on scene of medical emergency at the French King Entertainment Center.

Tuesday, 3/15

2:41 p.m. Arrested [redacted] for speeding, operating a motor vehicle on a suspended license, and possession of class A and B drugs.

Wednesday, 3/16

1:47 p.m. Welfare check requested for Old State Road resident. Fine.

Thursday, 3/17

9:42 a.m. 911 hangup call

from River Road residence. Found to be phone line issues. Verizon notified.

2:30 p.m. Noise complaint on Forest Street. Quiet on arrival.

11:37 p.m. Assisted with disabled motor vehicle at Route 2 bypass.

Friday, 3/18

1:05 a.m. Alarm at DCR headquarters on East Main Street. Found to be secure.

5:45 a.m. Alarm at Accurate Automotive on Lester Street. Found to be secure.

5:36 p.m. Report of solicitors at Weatherheads apartments. Located same and found they did not have permit to solicit in Erving. Advised of bylaw and moved on their way.

Sunday, 3/20

5:40 p.m. Criminal complaint application issued to [redacted]

[redacted] for operating with a suspended registration and without vehicle insurance.

SIRUM from page B1



LogOx: inventor Jonathan Roberts demonstrates the ease of using the device.

line. Some Sirum customers have already purchased LS tractors, including one by a Montague farmer and another by a farmer in Leverett.

The fine reputation that Sirum Equipment has built up in over 50 years of customer service has paid off with customer confidence and loyalty.

A Gill farmer with the code name of Ski-Z had to be deterred from buying an LS tractor on the spot by his wife, who apparently holds the purse strings tight and does not feel her husband needs yet another tractor to add to his collection, despite how good the tractor may be.

Jonathan Roberts of Arlington,

Vermont, demonstrated his invention, the Log Ox. The Log Ox is a back-saving version of a handy peavey or cant hook for picking up, rolling over, or carrying logs without danger of injuring the logger's back. The tool is primarily aimed at the cordwood logger.

Mrs. Lynne Roberts, who is vice president of the LogOX LLC, also demonstrated the ease of using the Log OX by a woman, in this case, a woman who is petite.

Sirum Equipment did brisk business, fueled by a 10% discount offered on most purchases made during the open house.

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Aquí se habla español

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



¡Todos a votar! : La importancia del voto latino

Por VICTORIA MAILLO

La población latina es la segunda de mayor crecimiento en los Estados Unidos. En el año 2010 alcanzó el 16% de la población y se cree que en el año 2020 la población puede llegar al 21%. Tanto los republicanos como los demócratas son conscientes de la importancia del voto latino y por ello están jugando sus cartas durante la campaña, con mayor o menor fortuna.

La mayoría de la población latina se concentra en los estados de California, Texas, Nuevo México y Florida, seguida por lugares como la ciudad de Nueva York y Chicago.

Estas cifras no representan la totalidad de la población latina ya que en algunos casos no se han contado los que viven y trabajan sin documentos legales que serían unos 10 millones. El tema de la política migratoria y las deportaciones es pregunta obligada para cada uno de los candidatos y se ha revelado como uno de los temas más controvertidos de la actual campaña de primarias.

La mayoría de los votantes latinos que podrán votar en las próximas elecciones han nacido en los Estados Unidos y tienen entre 20 y 24 años, es decir, pertenecen a la generación de los *millennials*, al contrario que el electorado blanco, afroamericano y asiático que ha ido envejeciendo. Y los candidatos que son conocedores de esto, han aprovechado el tirón de las redes sociales entre los jóvenes para conseguir sus objetivos de voto.



Esta imagen que representa a Hillary Clinton en una caja de chocolate Abuelita fue creada en enero por un usuario de reddit.com llamado CynicalTyler.

Cualquiera que haya prestado atención a ello sabrá que durante esta campaña electoral ha resurgido en las redes sociales el término "*hispandering*" llegando a ser *trending topic* en Twitter, aunque en realidad fue creado en 2002. La palabra es una mezcla de hispano y pandering y significa el interés fingido en cuestiones latinas con el fin de conseguir el voto.

Un ejemplo de ello fue la campaña lanzada por Hillary Clinton, que coincidiendo con que va a ser abuela por segunda vez, utilizó el lema *7 things that Hillary Clinton has in common with your abuela*, intentando atraer al votante latino joven.

Las críticas no se hicieron esperar en las redes sociales con memes y hashtags como *#NotMyAbuela* con el que los jóvenes latinos usuarios de Twitter replicaban poniendo en entredicho la similitud entre la Secretaria de Estado y sus propias abuelas. Algunos seguidores de Bernie Sanders, el otro candidato demócrata, crearon el hashtag *#TioBernie* para referirse a él, aunque el mismo candidato se distanció de esta nomenclatura.

Hace unas semanas se celebró un debate televisado entre los dos candidatos demócratas auspiciado por la cadena de televisión en español Univisión. Jorge Ramos, uno de los periodistas latinos más reconocidos en este país, hizo la pregunta más temida para los dos candidatos, pero deseada por el público: *¿Piensa usted parar las deportaciones de niños?* En ese momento se hizo el silencio en la sala de la Universidad de Miami donde se celebraba el evento. A Clinton le costó responder con una rotunda afirmación, y solamente contestó que lo deseaba. Sanders fue mucho más explícito y respondió que lo prometía.

En el otro lado está el candidato republicano, Donald Trump, que desde el principio de su campaña no ha escondido sus ideas contrarias a la inmigración y a los latinos en particular. Son por todos conocidas sus palabras acerca de la construcción del muro en la frontera entre México y Estados Unidos y sus insultos hacia los mexicanos, tan fuera de lugar que no merecen ser comentados en este artículo.

Lo cierto es que estas descalificaciones han provocado un aumento de la movilización de la comunidad latina para intentar parar su posible triunfo. Así ha nacido la organización, en principio no partidista, conocida como Super PAC que quiere conseguir que las minorías se registren para votar, entre ellos en su mayoría latinos.

Es importante señalar que los latinos por tradición solamente se movilizan para votar en las elecciones presidenciales, pero no en las primarias y menos aún en las elecciones locales. Desde esta página quiero animar a todos los latinos para que participen no solamente en las elecciones presidenciales, sino también en las elecciones locales que son parte importante del uso y disfrute de la democracia en este país.

En este momento Turners Falls necesita voluntarios para formar parte de su *Town Meeting*, y me gustaría animar a los latinos que quieran y puedan hacerlo que den un paso adelante para luchar y alzar la voz por su comunidad. La fecha límite para presentar las candidaturas para la nominación es el 28 de marzo.

¹ Datos demográficos obtenidos del Pew Research Center

Día Internacional de la Mujer: ¿Algo que celebrar en el mundo hispano?

Por VICTORIA MAILLO

El 8 de marzo se celebra el Día Internacional de la Mujer, y precisamente días antes de esa fecha circuló por Internet la tremenda historia de dos jóvenes turistas argentinas asesinadas en Ecuador. Marina Menegazzo y María José Coni fueron vistas por última vez el 22 de febrero en una de las playas ecuatorianas más visitadas por turistas.

Pocas horas después de que la noticia circulase por Internet en los primeros días de marzo, el gobierno ecuatoriano anunció la detención de sus dos asesinos a los que las víctimas habían conocido en un bar cercano a la playa.

La noticia se hizo viral al circular en Facebook una carta en primera persona titulada "Ayer me mataron...". La misiva fue escrita por una estudiante de comunicación de Paraguay e invitaba a reflexionar sobre la violencia ejercida contra las mujeres y la tendencia a culpabilizarlas por ello.

En algunos medios de comunicación ecuatorianos se planteaban veladas excusas hacia los asesinos alegando que las dos mochileras viajaban solas, como si esa independencia fuera un eximente para el delito cometido.

La reacción no se hizo esperar y asociaciones de mujeres de todos los países latinoamericanos así como Amnistía Internacional mostraron su total rechazo a este punto de vista a través de artículos o de sus propias redes sociales, lo que provocó que se abriera el debate sobre la violencia de género en estos países.

Colombia presenta las cifras más altas de violencia contra las mujeres, y junto con Argentina y Venezuela son los únicos países que tipifican este delito en su Código Penal como agravante del homicidio.

En muchos países latinoamericanos la violencia infringida por el compañero sentimental es aceptada socialmente y en pocas ocasiones se recurre a organismos sociales puesto que se cree que

debe quedarse dentro de las paredes de la casa.

Un caso muy particular es el de México donde el feminicidio se ha vuelto un problema intrínseco



ya que la cifra de mujeres asesinadas no ha dejado de crecer en los últimos quince años.

La violencia de género en muchos de estos países es un arraigado problema cultural y las leyes no transforman la cultura. Recuerdo haber visto hace unos años el documental nicaragüense titulado *Macho* en el que se describe el trabajo realizado por hombres dentro de la organización **Hombres Contra la Violencia** para promover una nueva cultura y eliminar las actitudes machistas.

Lo interesante de este modelo es que los mismos hombres acudían a lugares típicamente masculinos como las peleas de gallos y concienciaban a otros hombres contra el machismo, intrínsecamente bien visto en la sociedad y la cultura nicaragüense. Se ha demostrado que este tipo de política en la que los hombres hablan a los hombres ha conseguido mejores resultados.

El problema no existe solamente en América Latina, y organismos internacionales como el Banco Mundial ha preparado una campaña para tratar de encontrar nuevas soluciones a este problema global.

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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.



Natasha Hanna's lens brings the viewer into a magic world through a focus on the everyday scenes transformed with digital artistry. "My photos are on the cusp of dream and reality... the line in-between is so vague." Thus the name for her current exhibit at Nina's Nook is "On the Cusp" which can be seen from 3/31 through 5/7, ending with an artist's reception at the Nook in Turners Falls.

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 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. Through 5/8.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *On the Cusp*. Exhibit of Natasha Henna's photographic art begins on 3/31 running through 5/7. Closing artist's reception at the Nook on 5/7, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. (see photo this page.)

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 Arts Co-operative, Shelburne Falls: *Earthy Delights* Paintings, fiber, jewelry, photography, wood and pottery by member artisans. Ends 3/29. Starts 3/30, April show: "Transformation". See more next week.

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 greatfallsfarmersmarkettturners@gmail.com

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: Silverthorne Theater Company is sponsoring a competition to select a new play by a local playwright of color for possible production during the 2017 season. The deadline for submissions is September 1, 2016. Complete information about the contest may be found at

<http://www.silverthornetheater.org/new-play-competition2.html>

EVENTS:

THURSDAY, MARCH 24

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Shadow Twisters*. Classic '60s and '70s Rock. 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.

Shutesbury Athletic Club, Shutesbury: *Larry Dulong and Random Sighting*. 8:30 p.m.

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 26

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *The Franklin County Musicians Cooperative (COOP) present All Cooped Up! Music Concert*. Features solo artists, duos, and small groups performing old-timey and new-fangled acoustic folk music, original songs, and sundry Americana. 7 p.m. Suggested donations.

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Kristin Hoffman*. Singer/songwriter. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Definite Maybes*. Uptown blues. 9 p.m.

Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *Ruby's Complaint*. 9 p.m. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Sandy, Zach, Vanessa, Chris, Eric & Orion are FLEETWOOD WHACK* (songs by a band that rhymes with their name!) 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 27

Brick House, Turners Falls: *The Whammies* (playing the music of Steve Lacy), *Jaap Blonk, Vic Rawlings, and Jen Gelineau*. Jazz and improvisation. All ages / substance free; 8 p.m. \$

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

MONDAY, MARCH 28

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

Deerfield Town Hall, S. Deerfield: Tilton Library presents: *When the Road Came Through: How Construction of I-91 Changed Western Massachusetts*, a multi-media show with Barry Dietz. 6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 31

Swift River School, New Salem: *The Friends of The New Salem Public Library is presenting Weird Massachusetts featuring Jeff Boulanger*. He will be exploring the unexplained with a multi-media lecture, Q&A, and book signing; he researches all kinds of local legends, bizarre beasts, surprising cemeteries, and uncovered the best kept secrets from all over the Bay State.

7 p.m.
Deja Brew, Wendell: *Marris Otter*. Original Folk Rock by Jen Spingla & Alyssa Kelly. 8 p.m.

Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *Watchdog Open Mic*. Free Rock 'n Roll show. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 1

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

Shutesbury Athletic Club, Shutesbury: *The Pistoleros*. 8:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Equalites*. Reggae Fantastico! 9:30 p.m.

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Friday, 3/25 - 9 p.m.
Reprobate Blues Band

Saturday, 3/26 - 9 p.m.
The Definite Maybes

Thursday, 3/31 - 8 p.m.
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(songs by a band that
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SUN 3/27 9pm FREE
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THEATER REVIEW

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS AT TURNERS FALLS HIGH SCHOOL

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE


TURNERS FALLS – This weekend's performance of *Little Shop of Horrors* at Turners Falls High School was funny and scary, and sometimes a little shocking. The show is full of humor and great songs, along with a lot of drama, which at times is quite captivating. The musical theater production was written (book and lyrics) by Howard Ashman, with music by Alan Menken. The original

production opened in 1982, playing off-Broadway at the Orpheum Theater in New York City for five years. There have been several other professional productions and a major film in 1986 with Rick Moranis, Steve Martin and Bill Murray.

This TFHS production was directed by Kayla Roth and Chani Craig, who did an outstanding job in bringing the cast to a level of excellence with strong musical numbers and very believable acting. The show featured Hailey Trott as Au-

drey, a confused young woman who thinks she is not good enough to be with a nice boy, and Corey Martineau as Seymour, a young man without parents who thinks a beautiful girl like Audrey would never be interested in him.

The two actors interact perfectly, as they are drawn together, but push each other away out of doubt and insecurity. Trott has a lovely singing voice, and her acting is spot on, especially when she is demonstrating such strong emotions, rushing after



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Orin in fear, haltingly reaching out to Seymour.

This is Martineau's first musical and he has just the right mix of gentle innocence and low key emotionality that makes Seymour such a sympathetic character. His singing expresses emotion with sad tenderness at times which draws the audience in. Some of his most powerful scenes are when he is all alone, struggling with his feelings, or dragging a garbage bag with a dead body in it, where the audience can feel his despair, his conflicted emotions, his guilt, with no words spoken at all.

Maggie Sroka plays Mr. Mushnik, demonstrating her acting skill as she makes this character her own. Even the accent works. Mushnik is not such a nice guy, mean to his employees, Seymour and Audrey, who are just trying to hang onto their jobs.

Audrey is dating Orin, a very nasty guy, a dentist, played by Nevin Shattuck. He is a very '50's character. He succeeds in bringing humor to the part with exaggeration and physicality, with a good singing voice and excellent dance moves, fitting the character and the times.

At the same time, the part is not an easy one. Orin treats Audrey very badly, and gets a lot of grief

for it from the girls on the street. There are some great scenes with the cast and ensemble where the girls tell Audrey she should have a better sense of self-worth because she deserves a nice man.

Throughout the show, a small group of young women and girls perform to tie the story together while interacting with Audrey, Seymour and Orin to challenge them and move the story along. The music has a strong 1950's doo-wop sound, with lots of rock influence. Known as the "Sixers," they are played by Catherine Bezio (Chiffon), Isabelle Farrick (Loquisha), Jenna Hackett (Ronette), Journey Smalls (Crystal), Sammie Thorpe (Clarabelle) and Lydia Wright, who also plays a Wino.

Space constraints forbid mention of every member of the cast and crew here, but suffice it to say that all pulled together as a strong team to make this a memorable production. Sets were by Jeff Jobst and the students of his manufacturing and building construction classes. Jonathan Chappell and the students of his filmmaking classes were in charge of the Audrey II creature design and fabrication. The entire cast and crew were involved with painting sets and preparing costumes.

ELLEN BLANCHETTE PHOTO



Left to right: Audrey (Hailey Trott), Seymour (Corey Martineau, kneeling), and Mr. Mushnik (Maggie Sroka) celebrate the success of the flower shop, due to the amazing Audrey II (center), in "Little Shop of Horrors". The set for last weekend's Turners Falls High School production was built by Jeff Jobst and the students in his manufacturing and construction classes.

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