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YEAR 14 – NO. 25

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

APRIL 7, 2016

A Showcase for Immigrant Voices at the Shea Theater

By JEN HOLMES

TURNERS FALLS – This Saturday, April 9, the Shea Theater will be hosting “Immigrant Voices: A Celebration of Arts,” a showcase of artistic performances by talented immigrants residing in the Pioneer Valley.

The show, organized by the Center for New Americans (CNA), will feature dancing, singing, instrumental performances, and poetry readings by immigrants from

countries all over the world, including Costa Rica, Guinea, Moldova, and Senegal, to name a few.

Many of the performers, most of whom are CNA students, have been practicing their crafts for years, but few have had the opportunity to perform and share their talents with such a large audience.

“The students are all really excited,” says Tamara Kaplan, who teaches English in Greenfield for CNA. “We were just talking

see **SHOWCASE** page A3



PHOTO COURTESY CENTER FOR NEW AMERICANS

Students in Tamara Kaplan's English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes crowd into the WRSI studio last week to promote this Saturday's Center for New Americans showcase at the Shea Theater.

Gloria Steinem's Talk Has NMH Buzzing

By EMILY ALLING

GILL – Writer, activist, and renowned feminist Gloria Steinem arrived in Gill on March 29 to spend the day at Northfield Mount Hermon School, visiting classes and talking with small groups of students and faculty before delivering an evening address to the entire school community in Memorial Chapel.

“It was the most exciting and nerve-wracking planning period ever,” said history teacher Sally Komarek, whose class welcomed Steinem for a question-and-answer session. Students read selections from Steinem's work in advance, and had the opportunity to query her extensively about her life, work, and the state of feminism today. “[Students] were ready to engage her on things that were her passions,” said history department chair Chris Edler, whose class also met with Steinem.

Junior Ama Edozien described

Steinem's visit to her class as “amazing...she's got this very calm wisdom. It was interesting meeting her and seeing what she had to say. She answered questions respectfully and with her own opinions.”

Komarek echoed these observations, adding that students and faculty were impressed with “how good a listener she was. She's connected with so many people and movements based on her ability to empathize and listen.”

Steinem's visit to the school came in the wake of controversial comments regarding young women and politics that she made on the HBO program *Real Time with Bill Maher* in February. At the start of her all-school address in the chapel, Steinem told the audience that she had been given two assignments for the evening: discussing those remarks, and helping students to understand that “being a feminist is everyone's job.”

see **STEINEM** page A4



Gloria Steinem, seen here signing a book for a student, spent the day at the Northfield Mount Hermon School on March 29.

GILL SELECTBOARD

Sign of the Times: Riverside Cemetery Association Announces Plan To Dissolve

By MIKE JACKSON

GILL – “It's become quite obvious, locally, that a number of cemeteries have come to the same end that we have,” Bob Perry told the Gill selectboard Monday night. “The volunteerism isn't there, the family interest in historic family burial plots is not there, and the administration that is currently in place – as the youngest member at 66, and people in their 70s – it's just too much.”

Perry is the president of the Riverside Cemetery Association, stewards of the large private cemetery on Main Road. Last week, after a long struggle with declining leadership capacity and member interest, the Association's executive committee gave him the go-ahead to announce that they plan to dissolve, and ask the town to take over ownership and operation of the burial ground.



JACKSON PHOTO

The Main Road cemetery has been maintained by the Association since the 1880s.

“We're basically turning over the keys to the family car, if you so choose to accept,” Perry told the board.

The Association's leadership – Perry, a treasurer, clerk-sexton,

and three assessors – has been having trouble holding meetings, and has been unable to elicit interest from the membership, comprised of everyone with deeds to plots in the

see **GILL** page A5

PREPARING FOR PLANTING



NINA ROSSI PHOTO

Greenfield Home Depot store manager Matthew Bess, Erving senior center director Paula Better, and community volunteer Cynthia Dale work on building waist-high garden boxes at the Erving senior center on Wednesday. Dale was instrumental in arranging the community service project with the store, which donated materials and staff to build six large boxes. Better says the seniors are “enchanted” by the idea of growing their own vegetables and herbs. The center serves about thirty meals a day from its well-equipped kitchen, and all are looking forward to using the fresh produce in season.

Town's Wastewater Transition Plan Encounters Clog

By JEFF SINGLETON

MONTAGUE – At its March 28 meeting, Montague's selectboard approved the items that will be voted on at the annual town meeting on May 7.

The proposed articles, including a lengthy revision of a town bylaw involving solar installations in the business districts, were read in their entirety by Rich Kuklewicz, who received a hearty round of applause. But some in attendance felt that something was missing.

“The one article that you didn't read [relates] to the WPCF reorganization,” stated Water Pollution Control Facility superintendent Bob Trombley. “As I understand it, this is not recommended to town meeting?”

“It's not,” responded town administrator Frank Abbondanzio.

“What exactly does that mean about the future of the proposal?” asked Kate Jones, the facility's administrative assistant.

“It means,” Abbondanzio replied, “that the labor attorney has advised that the reorganization is considered a collective bargaining matter, and shouldn't go to town meeting before it's gone to collective bargaining.”

“How long might that process [take]?” asked Jones.

“It's anybody's guess. We're just now starting,” responded Abbondanzio.

“So realistically, the reorganization might be evaluated some time in the future? When might that be?” she asked.

see **WASTEWATER** page A5

District Defends Special Education Programming at Hillcrest Elementary

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

GILL-MONTAGUE – Two families who have pulled their children from Hillcrest Elementary have stirred debate in the community over their concerns about the school's use of a “calm-down room.” The families' criticism of the facility on Facebook this winter led to public discussion of its use, and in February the nonprofit Disability Law Center (DLC) sent staff to investigate their claims of abuse.

The DLC has not issued a

report on its findings, but an article on the topic last week in the *Recorder* newspaper left district staff and administration feeling the school's policies had not been fairly portrayed.

I met this week with Hillcrest Principal Sarah Burstein and some of the special education program teachers at the school. The program we discussed is designed to serve children who need help learning to regulate their behavior.

These are all students with Individual Education Plans

see **HILLCREST** page A7



BLANCHETTE PHOTO

The reading nook in the therapeutic classroom at Hillcrest Elementary. Students can sit and read, or play with the small objects on the shelves on bean bag chairs if they need some quiet time.

The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

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How To Dissolve

It's easier to start an organization than it is to finish it.

That's why we admire the work of timely, transparent organizational dissolution Bob Perry is undertaking at Gill's Riverside Cemetery.

Mr. Perry finds himself the youngest, and therefore the last, leader of his cemetery association, due to his sense of civic duty, as well as duty to his ancestors – to care for their plots, and to continue their legacy as the site's stewards.

It is a handsome and well-kept cemetery, its maintenance funded by occasional new arrivals, as well as a tiny trickle of revenue on down-payments made generations ago. But it can no longer sustain its own governance, as its plot-owning members are scattered to the four winds, and the remaining dedicated locals are now past retirement age.

The founders of the Riverside Cemetery Association did not think, back in the 19th century, to write into its bylaws a proper mechanism for calling it quits. But few founders do.

When a mission, or unmet need, outlasts an organization's capacity, when should it pass its resources on, and to whom?

In all too many instances, when the time comes to face that question openly, it's already too late; institutions, in the end, will often collapse in confusion and acrimony, causing damage to the very people and causes they are designed to help.

During a period of decline in which renewal is still possible, we are discouraged in many organizations from planning for a successful failure. In voluntary groups, optimistic leaders can nudge out capable realists.

There are very few resources, toolkits, or even vocabularies available to people in organizations weighing their termination. Doubters tend to exit, and too few new joiners are prepared to pivot toward shepherding groups toward sensible ends.

In the business world, all of

this is less of a problem; market failure is clear enough, and there are laws and even special services available to help firms liquidate. But it's a classic problem for non-profits, encouraging poorly performing groups to continue competing for scant resources long after they should have merged, split or shut down.

The principle of "cooperation among cooperatives" is all too often read as a call for propping coops up, rather than supporting them through disbandment.

And it's also an issue faced, in different forms, by civic and public-sector organizations, as well as informal ones, including activist, religious and performing arts groups. It's not simply a crisis of volunteerism; it's that volunteering too often means being dragged into a governance vacuum.

Our society is crawling with zombie organizations, replicating themselves administratively long after their peak in effectiveness – or enjoyment. And many younger adults are responding by avoiding recruitment into membership-based groups, preferring instead to mobilize networks of individuals to accomplish specific tasks.

That model of collective action may work for gathering immediate aid for survivors of a disaster such as a fire, but not for keeping more mundane institutions running over the long term – or, in the case of a neighborhood cemetery, in perpetuity.

Our heart goes out to Mr. Perry as he leads his association toward dissolution, and prepares to hand over responsibility for the final resting place of generations of Gill families, including his own.

By moving now to preserve the mission, at the sake of the organization, he is doing the right thing by preventing a situation in which both fail. And none of us should ever be afraid to look at the organizations we are in, and assess whether it is time to do the same.

Thanks for Egg Hunt Help

Hundreds of children and adults from throughout Franklin County (and beyond) attended Montague Parks & Recreation's Annual Peter Cottontail's EGGstravaganza, held on Saturday, March 26 at Unity Park in Turners Falls.

Children aged four to twelve were given the enviable task of find-

ing well over 5,000 toy and candy-filled eggs placed around the park, as well as getting their picture taken with Peter Cottontail.

The EGGstravaganza would not have been possible without the generous support from the Montague Elks, Greenfield Savings Bank, Ha-leigh Greene of Montague, and our

many volunteers. We would also like to make a special thanks to Peter Cottontail for setting aside time from his busy schedule to be present during the festivities.

See you all next year!

Jon Dobosz
Director, Montague
Parks & Recreation Dept.

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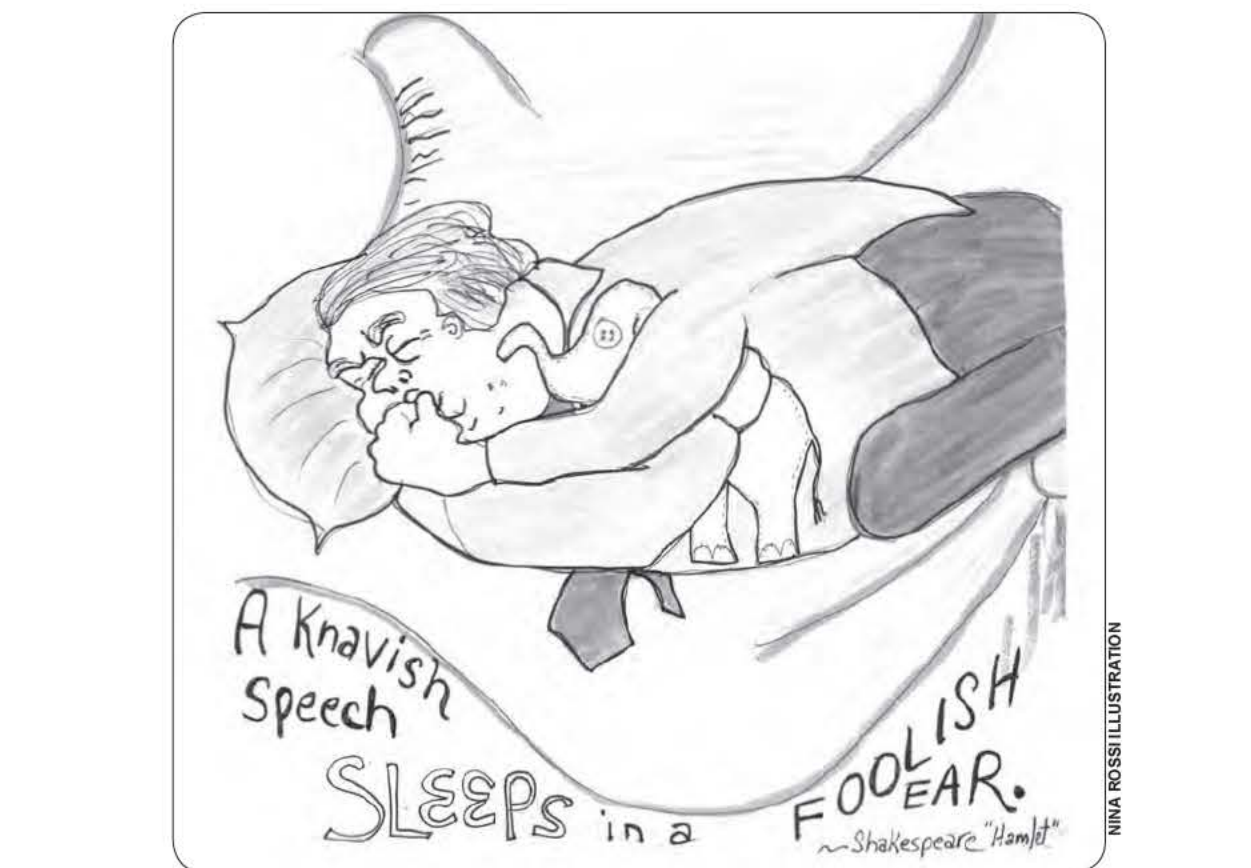
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Letters to the Editors

Leverett Transfer Station: A Reply

I appreciate Rich Drury's commitment to the Leverett Transfer Station and its operation, as he expressed in his letter on March 25. I, too, support an efficient, safe, and compliant operation – not only in Leverett but also at the other sixteen town transfer stations within the Solid Waste District.

Since early March I have provided Mr. Drury with all of the public documents and financial information that he has requested.

However, I have not provided him with information that he has NOT requested, such as how Leverett benefits from its membership in the Solid Waste District in ways other than hauling contracts for the transfer station.

Mr. Drury is allowed his position. However, I believe a closer examination of the Solid Waste District's services as well as costs and benefits

will reveal a different scenario than is being portrayed by Mr. Drury.

I look forward to an opportunity to discuss with Leverett residents the benefits of membership in the Solid Waste District and to provide further details on the services this organization provides the town.

If it becomes apparent that the Solid Waste District is not providing

a high level and variety of programs and services to the town then I will be the first to encourage change in whatever form is in the best interest of the Town of Leverett as a whole.

Sincerely,

Jan Ameen
Executive Director, Franklin
County Solid Waste District

Montague Energy Committee to MA State Legislature: Lift Barriers to New Solar!

Dear President Rosenberg, Speaker DeLeo, and Members of the Conference Committee:

As an energy committee in Massachusetts, we are committed to the ambitious greenhouse gas emission reduction goals set by the Massachusetts Clean Energy Climate Plan for 2020 and to our Green Community goal of reaching and exceeding a 20% reduction in municipal energy consumption.

We more than doubled our number of solar installations with participation in the Solarize Massachusetts program and advise the town in its adoption of energy efficiency measures.

In our advisory role, we would like to thank you for considering an omnibus energy bill that takes a comprehensive look at our Commonwealth's energy policies. However, out of concern that delaying a vote on solar incentives will damage solar development in the short and long term, we request that you immediately pass legislation, separate from the omnibus bill, that lifts the barriers to expanding solar.

With Solar Renewable Energy Certificates (SRECs) having reached capacity, and several utilities, affecting 175 communities, having also attained their net metering caps, medium to large scale solar development is at a standstill. This negatively impacts our state's previously expan-

sive solar industry and its associated climate emission reductions, jobs, and \$11 billion contribution to gross state production to-date (according to the Mass Clean Energy Center).

The Town of Montague anticipates that the proposed reduction of net metering rates alone, to wholesale rates, could make its solar development on its landfill no longer viable, resulting in higher ongoing municipal electricity costs. In addition, solar employers in our region would likely experience significant long-term job losses should passage of key solar incentives be delayed or no longer supported.

We call on you to reinvigorate the Commonwealth's rapid adoption of solar and its associated environmental and economic benefits, by lifting net metering caps and by expanding SREC capacity *for the long term.*

These two measures will ensure that Massachusetts continues as a leader in promoting the growth of an important source of renewable energy and local economic development.

Thank you for considering our input.

Sincerely,

Chris Mason,
Chair, Town of Montague
Energy Committee

The Montague Energy Committee endorsed this letter on March 29, 2016.

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LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by DON CLEGG

Here is a rarity, postal rates are decreasing. Effective April 10 the price of a forever stamp drops from 49 to 47 cents. Other mailings such large envelopes, small packages and our own *Montague Reporter* will have a small decrease. This change is due to overestimated fuel costs projections the last few years for the USPS fleet of vehicles.

As the saying goes, "every little bit helps." Cheaper gas prices at the pump equals a drop in the cost of mailing items. Wonder why no one else has seen fit to pass back savings to the public?

Stop by the first ever seed swap at Greenfield Savings Bank, 282 Avenue A, Turners Falls, Saturday, April 9 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Enjoy refreshments and a look back in time at the Opening Reception for "Vintage Powerhouse: Cabot Station – One Hundred Year Retrospective" on Saturday, April 9, from 1 until 3:30 p.m. at the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls. This exhibit features historical photographs dating from the early 1900s.

Together, these photos tell the story of the construction of the new concrete dam at Turners Falls, new

power station and the power canal expansion. At the time of its construction and for many years after, Cabot Station was the largest hydroelectric facility east of Niagara Falls.

This exhibit will run through May 28. This is a free event and no pre-registration is required.



The Country Creemee is back! The Creemee will reopen at 11 a.m. this Saturday, April 9 for the season in the corner storefront of the Crocker Building, at Second Street and Avenue A in downtown Turners Falls. Owners Cynthia Ahearn and Robyn Mason have been hard at work in the new space (sneak peek featured above), and told us they would like to thank the Mobawk Ramblers MC and everyone else who helped make their move successful, and Margaret Culley for her generous gift. Robyn said they're still finalizing the hours, but they'll be open every morning at 11.

Learn to make your own outdoor audio recordings using your smart phone or comparable device at the Leverett Library on Saturday, April 9, from 1 to 3 p.m. Sounds are important to many, and they help trigger memories, they tell stories, and bring out a sense of peace and tranquility.

This workshop begins a year-long project to have volunteers record the Seasonal Sounds of Leverett as part of a grant from the Leverett Cultural Council. Free, please register by emailing sounds@rat-tlesnakeguttertrust.org.

Laughing Dog Farm of Gill is offering a class entitled "Farming the Fringe: Practical Horticulture

for Foodies, Activists and Lonely Hearts" on Sunday, April 10 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

This class begins with a brisk lecture/discussion by farmer Dan, followed by a farm/greenhouse tour, a pipe bending demo (making low tunnel "hoops"), and an informal Q and A session over homemade food.

Space is limited, please RSVP. Call 863-8696 for more information and directions.

The public is invited to a flag raising and child-friendly event in honor of Child Abuse Awareness Month on Thursday, April 14, on the Greenfield Town Common at noon. Local dignitaries, Department of Children and Families, Children Advocacy and songs by the students of Federal Street School will contribute to the celebration.

The Our Lady of Peace Women's Group will be hosting their 2nd Annual Stash Bash in the basement of Our Lady of Peace Church, 7th Street, in Turners Falls on Saturday, April 16 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For sale will be an assortment of items (to make a wide variety of different crafts) such as fabric, quilting supplies, yarn, ribbon, beads, etc. Several vendors will have these items reasonably priced to help sell their overstock of "stash"!

Lunch will be served, and there will be a bake sale. Free parking is available in the church lot or the Elks Lodge lot off L Street. For more information, or to donate your surplus fabric or art/craft supplies, please call Bev at (413) 863-7783 or Chris at (413) 367-3052.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

SHOWCASE from page A1

about it today – they were trying to help each other figure out rides."

Kaplan has been teaching full-time at CNA for five years, but has been involved with the nonprofit for nearly 20. While she's naturally excited to see her own students perform, Kaplan says she's looking forward to the event in general, and learning more about other immigrants' backgrounds.

"Through music, or art or dance – there's a whole other means of communication that transcends language," she says.

"You just get something from it that sometimes words may not be able to convey."

"I'm just excited about the cultural sharing that's going to happen," she adds.

The Center for New Americans is an "education and resource center for immigrants and refugees in western Massachusetts". In addition to providing English classes, the organization also gives job coaching, legal services, and assistance with the naturalization/citizenship process.

"Our goal is to help people become fully integrated into the community and to become economically independent," explains Laurie Mill-

man, executive director of CNA. "We do whatever we can to support immigrants to become full participating members of the community."

The organization, which has been active for nearly 25 years, has worked with immigrants from over 50 countries, and is recognized by the U.S. Department of Justice. There are centers located in Northampton, Amherst, Greenfield, and Turners Falls.

Millman explains that having a show in Franklin County felt very important to them, as most of CNA's events, including their July 4 Naturalization Ceremony, take place in Northampton, despite their centers being located in both Hampshire and Franklin counties.

The Shea Theater felt like a natural choice for an event location, says Millman, as Monte Belmonte, whose Shea Theater Arts Center (STAC) group recently became the new operator of the historic theater, has been an active supporter of the Center for New Americans for many years.

"When the Shea Theater changed hands, and it became clear that Monte was committed to a community space, it just felt like a great opportunity," Millman explains.

"And so we asked him if we could

have access to the space."

Turners Falls resident Belmonte has covered many of CNA's events over the years in his role as an on-air personality for WRSI 93.9 – The River.

"I admire the important work they do for immigrants, and for our newest Americans," he says.

Belmonte says he was more than willing to make the space available, and that the STAC is underwriting the event to further support the Center for New Americans.

He says he feels strongly about ensuring that "the Shea remains a space that has different types of programming, for all sorts of different people and at all different levels of affordability," emphasizing that supporting immigrants in particular is important to him, "especially in the current political climate."

"What better way to celebrate immigration as the backbone of American society than to celebrate the talents they add to our melting pots?" he adds.

Millman says she hopes that the event will highlight not only the number of immigrants in our community, but also the rich and diverse talents they possess. Additionally, she hopes a diverse audience will at-

tend as well. "We're hoping to have the space feel available to everybody," she says.

Tickets for the event are \$5, and any amount given beyond that will be donated to the Center for New Americans, partly to support their current operations, but also in hopes of making this event an annual one.

"What we really want is for people to buy tickets and fill the house, because we want to be able to do this event again next year," says Millman.

"Most are not professionals – many sing in their churches – but there is a sprinkling of some who absolutely are professionals," she says. "People are in for a treat."

The show will be bracketed by performances by Kabisco Kaba and Sekou Sylla, and the event is directed by Marilyn Sylla, a Five College dance lecturer and director of the Bamidele Dancers & Drummers.

Apart from the fundraising aspect, "Immigrant Voices" is about raising awareness of the diversity of nationalities within western Massachusetts and celebrating their unique cultures and traditions.

The individuals involved in this performance are enthusiastic about sharing their heritage, while simul-



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Journey Smalls

taneously invested in learning to integrate into American society, a feat that is certainly admirable, and for many of us, reflective of our own heritage.

"We are a nation of immigrants," says Kaplan, "and many of us have an immigrant history. A century ago, it was my ancestors' time. But now, this is their time."

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Part VI: Making Recommendations, and Hard Choices

By MICHAEL NAUGHTON

The time has come for the selectboard and finance committee to finalize our recommendations for the FY'17 budget. We've made a few small decisions along the way, but the bigger decisions were still waiting, and they need to be finalized in the next couple of weeks.

On March 30, we went through every money article on both the special and annual town meeting warrants (both to be held on May 7), taking a vote on each.

The special town meeting articles were fairly straightforward: augmenting the current year's reserve fund, and recommending money for a compactor at the transfer station that is expected to pay for itself in reduced hauling costs. (A request to increase the current year's library budget was withdrawn by the library director.)

The annual town meeting articles were both more numerous and more problematic. The exact figure has fluctuated as information has been updated, but going in we knew that if we tried to fund all of the requests in front of us, we'd be short by over \$700,000. In my previous columns, I've described some of the new and noteworthy items among them. Even knowing that some requests were simply estimates and others were unlikely to be recommended as presented, we knew we had a problem.

We also had two potential solutions. At our previous meeting, we'd received recommendations from the town administrator, Frank Abbondanzio, which presented a balanced budget. In response, the finance committee chair, John Hanold, had



distributed his own recommendations, some of which agreed with the town administrator and some of which did not.

Areas of agreement included reducing the requested increase in the selectmen's budget, made in anticipation of the town administrator's expected retirement. (The reduction shortened the overlap time for the administrator and his successor.)

They also included reductions to the department of public works (DPW) budget, and lesser reductions to the police, public building utilities, and other budgets. These were somewhat offset by recommending an additional building maintenance position for the DPW, one of three new positions requested by the superintendent.

These recommendations were accepted without individual votes, but not without discussion. Several members felt strongly that at least one of the two additional ground-keeper positions should also be recommended, and after some discussion both boards unanimously recommended one of them.

With that decided, a final figure for the town operating budget was recommended.

The next discussion concerned the Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF), where it was revealed that

the selectboard had not yet reached a recommendation on the proposed staff reorganization. Given that, the boards voted to recommend the budget as requested, with the understanding that it might be revisited. (See story, page A1.)

The Gill Montague Regional School District (GMRSD) assessment request was almost \$50,000 higher than the town's calculated affordable assessment, and there was some discussion about whether the town could afford to fund all or part of the difference. Proponents pointed to the fact that the district has made great efforts to keep its requests near the affordable figure; opponents noted that we might not be able to afford everything that we'd already voted.

In the end, it was decided to recommend the affordable amount, again with the understanding that this item may be revisited.

For the rest of the special articles, any disagreements between Abbondanzio and Hanold gave way to wider discussions. Up to that point, votes had been unanimous, but now a few were split.

A request to replenish the DPW discretionary fund to a level of \$100,000 was passed by a majority of both committees, with the opponents questioning whether the town can afford this. The finance committee also recommended by majority a request to add \$50,000 to the legal fund for the town's intervention in the proceedings before the state Department of Public Utilities – which the town administrator had not recommended – and the selectboard recommended it unanimously.

Both boards declined by majorities to recommend purchasing a new

software package for the town clerk and selectboard, with opponents arguing that it hadn't been adequately reviewed by the IT coordinator. The boards split on recommending a contribution to the Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) Trust Fund, with the finance committee voting by majority to do so and the selectboard declining unanimously.

Finally, the finance committee deadlocked on recommending an increase to the Franklin County Technical School (FCTS) Stabilization Fund, while the selectboard unanimously recommended a smaller amount.

There were a number of other articles, all of which were voted up or down unanimously by both boards. Much of the funding came from taxation, and several times during the evening, the town accountant warned that we had exceeded our estimated sources. (This realization also prompted some of the "nays" on the split votes.)

My own feeling, which I think others shared, was that I wanted to see where we were after funding the things that we felt were necessary. We've now done that, and the latest figures show us to be about \$90,000 in the hole.

How best to deal with that will be the topic of our next meeting.

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

STEINEM from page A1

Starting with the latter assignment, Steinem set out to establish the interdependence of feminism and other social justice movements, which, she said, "have tended to grow up in silos." She gave numerous examples of feminism's connections to economic justice, environmentalism, foreign policy, LGBTQ activism, and anti-racism, stating that "you can't be a feminist without being anti-racist."

Steinem also advocated for supporting men moving out of traditional gender roles and participating more fully in loving and nurturing their children. Urging the audience to embrace the dictionary definition of feminism – equality for women and men – whether or not they choose to use the word "feminist" to describe themselves, Steinem equated the human race to a bird with two wings: "If one wing is broken, the bird can't fly."

Steinem then took on the controversy surrounding her response on Bill Maher's program in February to Maher's observation that younger women "really don't like Hillary [Clinton]."

Having earlier in the program praised today's young women as being even more activist than those of her generation, Steinem, a Clinton supporter, attempted to explain young women's support for Bernie Sanders by theorizing that unlike men, who become more conservative as they age, women become more radical over time. She went

on to predict that young women are "gonna get more activist as they grow older...And when you're young, you're thinking, you know, where are the boys? The boys are with Bernie..."

This response, which came around the same time as remarks made by former secretary of state Madeleine Albright to the effect that young women are duty-bound to support Clinton, quickly went viral and inspired a social backlash of sorts against "old-guard" feminists who are perceived as assuming female solidarity with Clinton based on her gender, while overlooking elements of her record and platform that many find problematic.

In addressing the NMH audience regarding the controversy stemming from her remarks, Steinem freely acknowledged that "if I had said what people thought I said, I'd be mad at me, too." She alleged that it was Bill Maher who was "downplaying young women's political will" and that Maher cut her off, thinking she was "talking about sex, but I was talking about power."

Expressing sympathy with 15 year old girls who are being cyberbullied, she lamented how "the beginning of an interrupted sentence can appear on the web and become reality across the world," undoing 45 years of work. (In this writer's opinion, Steinem has offered a more convincing apologia for her remarks elsewhere, but, however ill-advised one might consider her comments, allowing 15 seconds on

a late-night TV show – at age 81 – to overshadow a lifetime's work seems equally ill-advised.)

Wrapping up, Steinem once again invoked the interdependence of feminism and other movements, and proclaimed that if God is in the details, "the Goddess is in the connections."

Following a standing ovation, Steinem fielded questions from several students. She delighted some in the audience while taking others aback by dropping an ebullient f-bomb (in the chapel!) while describing her passion for her work as an activist.

One young white male argued that "the pendulum has swung too far" and equated himself, as a victim of political correctness, to Steinem when she was his age. Steinem did not buy that equation and noted that "no one is keeping you from talking – they're just getting mad at you."

Filing out of the chapel and back to their dorms for study hall, students were still buzzing about the talk, and the conversations continued well into the next day and beyond.

Does Steinem's message still resonate in a world that has changed significantly since second wave feminists were NMH students' age? While they may want to believe otherwise, history teacher Edler sensed that after Steinem's address, students grasped that "we haven't fixed the problem yet."

Junior Edozien concurred, stating that while she herself is too

young to have experienced all of the forms of inequality that Steinem discussed, such as the wage gap, "her message is still relevant."

Edler added that at age 82, Steinem is challenging ageist stereotypes as well, impressing students and demonstrating that "you can be active and intelligent throughout your whole life."

While this visit constituted an introduction to Gloria Steinem for many on campus, others grew up with her and were thrilled to have the opportunity to meet one of their idols. Edler noted that for people who are now in their forties through sixties, "if you were anybody who thought of yourself as a feminist...she was your beacon."

Komarek spoke of how "as a woman, but also as a U.S. and women's history teacher and a former college athlete, the work that she and so many others have done has affected my life and my pursuits." Edozien said that more than anything else, she would remember Steinem's "dedication to equalism."

Steinem's lecture was video recorded and can be viewed on the NMH website. Her visit was the latest in the Jacqueline Smethurst Series, which was established in 1998 to bring notable speakers and performers to Northfield Mount Hermon.

The writer moonlights as the library director at Northfield Mount Hermon School.

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GILL from page A1

cemetery, to step forward to replace them. Because many deeds have been passed down within families long after they have moved away from Gill, the Association does not even know how to track many of its members down.

"We're trying to avoid making a mess of the process," said Perry, outlining the Association's current plans.

The current executive committee intends to resign at an annual meeting on May 4, and, barring a push from members to keep the private cemetery going under fresh leadership, ask as many of them as possible to sign a document declaring the dissolution of the Association.

"A search of the records didn't show how to dissolve," he added.

Gill has an active cemetery commission, which oversees its public cemeteries. Cemetery commission chair Carrie Stevens indicated that her group had discussed the matter, and seemed willing enough to take on the responsibilities.

"We've more or less agreed that whatever monies that they have will remain with the Riverside Cemetery only," Stevens said on Monday.

According to Perry, that consists of a perpetual care fund of about \$29,927, generating an income of about \$60 a year toward maintenance, as well as about another \$6,000 in assets.

The rest of the property the Association hopes to hand over includes crypt keys, maps, deeds, and financial and organizational records dating back to 1883.

"In 1883, there were I think four Perrys on the committee," Bob Perry said, adding that perusing the original deeds was "like opening up potato chips, they're that old."

It also includes land, which could pose opportunities and challenges to the town.

The existing cemetery has space for between 100 and 150 additional burials, according to Perry. But the Association also owns the abutting 2-1/2 acre plot on the corner of Main and Mountain roads, and under his proposal, this largely wooded area would also become town-owned.

Bruce Yukul, a Riverside water commissioner as well as the owner of land running from that lot to the French King Highway, noted that the proximity of an aquifer prevented him from building a house on Mountain Road, because a septic system could contaminate the groundwater – a factor that could also preclude the future development of the additional lot as a town cemetery, or limit its marketability.

Selectboard member Randy Crochier pointed out that even if the second lot is never developed, adding the over 100 new public plots available within the "cemetery proper" could benefit the town.

Stevens said that her stepson, who does dowsing, has offered to assist the town in locating groundwater.

Yukul also wondered whether transfer to public ownership would

open the land to investigation as a potential Native American archaeological site.

"We're going to face those questions whether the town accepts the cemetery," Crochier said, "or the cemetery folds and somebody else ends up taking care of it – or, worst case, it falls into disrepair like some of the others have."

The board did not take a vote, but told town administrative assistant Ray Purington to consult with counsel as to how to proceed.

"You didn't leave us much room to say no," selectboard member John Ward told Perry.

"Given that Gill's town meeting is May 9, and this vote wouldn't happen until May 4, I think we're looking at a special town meeting for the town to take action," Purington said.

Crochier replied that the month's notice that Perry was giving might be considered sufficient to send an article before the annual town meeting warrant, which could be withdrawn if the Association decides not to disband on May 4.

"I'm resigning as an official thing, but I'm not going to let the thing fall apart," Perry stressed. "If it's going to take five months, or six months, to move it along," he said, he could continue overseeing the current landscaper and attending to other details.

"My grandmother used to go over there on weekends with my uncle," he said. "She made the lemonade, and my uncle and volunteers mowed the lawn on Saturday – it was a social thing. You know: cookies, lemonade, mow the lawn, everybody go home."

Perry said he would be publicizing the May 4 meeting widely, in hopes that residents might reach out to any friends or family they thought might hold deeds to plots in the cemetery.

"Everybody that we can get at the meeting, that's a legal member of the association, I want to sign it," he said, referring to a draft declaration to dissolve the Association. "Because I feel it's a big deal to have gone this long, and finally come to the cultural end of the road, where this is the step that most private cemeteries are hitting. Not one I would like, but you've got to face facts."

"If I were 20 years old and just starting off in service to the town, it'd be a different story – but those days are behind me, too."

Windows

Vicky Jenkins of the Energy Commission came to the board with a proposal to spend the remaining \$6,423.06 in the town's Green Communities Grant fund on fully restoring two windows at the Riverside Municipal Building, and adding storms to the rest.

The board approved this proposal by consensus.

The town will have spent \$139,900 of Green Communities money on projects that will save on energy costs in the long run, and plans to apply for a second round of the grant next February.

WASTEWATER from page A1

Abbondanzio answered, "We don't really know."

Jones then asked why the proposed reorganization of the police department to include a new Lieutenant position, was being considered by town meeting. Abbondanzio responded that the police union had "signed off" on that change, but that "the Water Pollution Control issues are much more complex."

"Bob is leaving in December," stated Jones. "So we do feel that time is of the essence. I'm a little bit confused about what the options are."

The comment was greeted by initial shrug from Abbondanzio. But Kuklewicz said that the options would be discussed the next day at a meeting including himself, Abbondanzio and Trombley. The discussions would be "based on what the attorney had to say."

Longtime WPCF superintendent Bob Trombley will indeed be leaving on December 18, 2016, "at the latest," he disclosed to this newspaper. "It could happen sooner," he added.

Trombley presented an initial reorganization or "succession" proposal to the finance and capital improvements committees last December 2. On January 4, he elaborated on the plan to the selectboard, distributing copies in cranberry-colored file folders.

Then the process seemed to stall, as the selectboard awaited the return of Abbondanzio from sick leave.

The plan is still a work in progress, says Trombley, but the initial draft contains some surprising elements. For example, Trombley's superintendent position is eliminated completely and replaced with two top-level positions, called "Administrator" and "Chief Operator."

The former, Trombley said, should be filled by Jones, now an Administrative Assistant, and the latter by John Little, currently an Operator. Trombley stated that Little has been the facility's chief operator, but his new job description would include "add-ons," including greater supervisory functions and a greater role in budget preparation.

According to the chart of "future staffing," Jones would supervise the current secretary and lab technician, Tina Tyler, whose position would be renamed "Lab Tech/Industrial Pretreatment Coordinator." Little would supervise three operators, two of whose positions would be upgraded, and three laborers.

However, the town's labor legal firm, Sullivan Hayes & Quinn LLC of Springfield, has indicated that job description changes of such magnitude, as well as the potential wage rates that go with them, would need to be ratified by the union. Or perhaps one should say unions: the operators and laborers are in the United Electrical, Radio & Machine Workers of America (UE), while Jones and Tyler are members of the Town of Montague Employees Association (TOMEA).

Cheryl Clark, the steward of TOMEA at town hall, stated she was under the impression that the two WPCF employees in her union had obtained a statement that the union "doesn't have a problem" with the job changes since they involved upgrades.

Abbondanzio said that he was not at liberty to talk about the reorganization plan, although he has given his own recommendations to the selectboard. He said discussions with the WPCF were continuing.

"We're talking about their concerns," he told the *Reporter*.

Town officials may have their own concerns about eliminating the position of superintendent, who serves as a single "point person" for relations with the town. Trombley appears at least once a month to make various requests of the selectboard. The succession plan is a bit vague on who would play this role, although both the Chief Operator and Administrator are described as "preparing and administering department budgets." The proposed WPCF budget heading for town meeting this year is \$2,331,733.

Another issue may well be who would deal with state and federal agencies. The WPCF is heavily regulated, interacting continuously with the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) on a range of issues. The transition plan is relatively silent on this key issue, although it notes that both top administrators would develop budgets "consistent with statutory requirements, state and federal regulations, and wastewater treatment standards and town bylaws."

Trombley hopes his proposal will institutionalize the innovations at the plant, as well as the internal culture that produced them. He stated that many key policies and new process ideas are discussed collectively, and he credits the department's staff with its successes.

"We're doing something so radical here," he told the *Reporter*. "I'm taking over half a million dollars" in revenue generated by dewatering sludge from other towns, "and I would hope that would be recognized. These people should be compensated."

He portrayed the reorganization as promoting continuity, "the best for our town, with as few bumps as possible."

**Activism**

The selectboard voted unanimously to sign a letter in protest of a decision by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to allow test flows of as low as 1,500 cubic feet per second out of the Turners Falls Dam during three months this spring, considered key spawning months for the endangered Connecticut River shortnose sturgeon, which spawns at the Rock Dam.

The letter cited a study estimating that "continuous minimum flows of 2,500 cfs are necessary" during these months to support the species.

"It surprises me that FERC would allow test flows that low," said Crochier, who also voiced criticism of the practice of terming the stretch of the river bypassed by the Turners Falls Power Canal as the "Bypass Reach."

It also unanimously signed a letter to the state's Foundation Budget Review Commission, which is discussing Chapter 70 education aid to districts, supporting a previous letter sent by the Gill-Montague School Committee requesting the state publish estimates of how a proposed reformulation would impact each district.

Surveillance

The selectboard considered an application by the town's police department for a \$3,580 grant from the state Executive Office of Public Safety and Security for four body cameras, in order to pilot a camera program.

"The unintended consequences – the ownership of information that's gathered, the potential civil liberties infractions – again, it seems like one of those good things with a lot of good points, but when you really dig down deep, what are the things that can be problems?" asked Ward.

"Is the problem that we're solving worse than the problem we're creating?" said Purington.

"It's the never-ending question, when it comes to technology," mused board chair Gregory Snedeker.

They approved the request unanimously.

Other Business

Regional health agent Glen Ayers has come up with a possible alternative configuration for purifying the drinking water at Gill Elementary, which had tested positive for *e. coli* and manganese, at significantly less expense than that proposed by engi-

neers working on a USDA grant associated with the project. Purington said there would be another "meeting of the minds" as to its viability.

If the Department of Environmental Protection approves it, the annual cost of treatment and filtration could be in the \$1,200 to \$1,500 range, rather than the \$7,000 to \$8,000 range, per year, and the initial installation cost could be as low \$50,000, as opposed to the working quote of three to four times that much.

The board unanimously approved the nomination of four new firefighters – Marcus Aucoin, Patrick Crowningshield, Mathew McCarthy, and Scott Nicholas – to the Board of Fire Engineers.

It accepted the resignations of Pam Lester from the energy commission, and of Suzie Hale, who has been serving as clerical assistant to the zoning board of appeals, planning board, conservation commission, and board of health.

"It might be time to really look at that position," said Crochier, adding that if a new town staff position were created, it could also take some tasks off Purington's plate.



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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Wendell Inches Toward WiredWest Withdrawal

By JOSH HEINEMANN

The Wendell selectboard office was filled to standing room only on March 23 for the broadband committee’s discussion of the next steps in the process of getting internet service to every household in town. WiredWest has asked the town for \$1,000 to continue their efforts to get a regional fiber-optic network established, even though they have met the disapproval of the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI).

Selectboard member Dan Keller said that he is inclined to have Wendell withdraw from WiredWest, that the new operating agreement and proposals that WiredWest has offered are essentially the same as the ones that MBI rejected late in 2015, and the concerns that MBI raised are concerns that Keller held himself.

Broadband committee member Ray DiDonato agreed that WiredWest has come up with nothing new, and that their proposals since MBI pulled their funding have done nothing to address the problems it raised. Member towns would still borrow money to buy assets that they would not own, and the group’s financial projections are overly optimistic.

DiDonato suggested a smaller, six-town regional network that might get a seat at the table with MBI to get fiber-optic connections to homes.

Broadband member Ben Schwartz said that WiredWest has been a pain for years. He thought Wendell could be a leader in a different approach. Broadband committee members from New Salem and from Shutesbury, two towns in a potential smaller region, look at WiredWest with more favor than he does.

Wanita Sears said the broadband committee voted against sending WiredWest the dues that were requested.

Alistair MacMartin said he has little faith in MBI. The MBI construction of a fiber-optic middle mile that connected town municipal buildings went over budget, and took years longer than projected. Following the Leverett model, and paying for construction with town money, would take years of meetings, but “work could start tomorrow.” Wendell might be reimbursed by MBI eventually.

Robert Heller noted that almost 50% of Wendell households sent \$49 to WiredWest to subscribe to their service and support their effort.

At the direction of WiredWest, Wendell and other towns created a Municipal Lighting Plant (MLP) which would oversee the town’s participation in a network. In Wendell, the MLP is the selectboard, and a vote of the MLP is all that is necessary to withdraw from WiredWest.

Selectboard chair Christine Heard said she preferred to bring the decision to the whole town. She asked for a straw vote among the broadband committee, and that vote was 7 to 4 in favor of withdrawing.

Scheduling

The board discussed the date of the town’s 2016 annual town meeting.

A committee was proposed to explore proposals to hold it on a Saturday morning or on a weekday

evening, both of which have proponents and people who dislike them very much. Giving up a Saturday in June is painful, especially to a gardener, and there are many gardeners in Wendell. Late weeknight meetings are difficult for working people, and Wendell has many of those as well.

Some people are both gardeners and workers.

A Saturday morning meeting in March is less of a burden for a gardener, but the finance committee works hard to have the entire budget ready for the annual town meeting so that no money needs to be spent at any of the special town meetings. That way, assessors have a fixed number to use as they figure the tax rate.

March is too early for the fin com to have budgets from town departments and the other figures they need to establish the year’s budget.

The committee to study meeting date options never formed. Town clerk Gretchen Smith proposed Saturday, June 4 as the date for this year’s annual town meeting. But both Keller and town moderator Kate Nolan have a conflict with that date.

Keller said the fin com would be happy with a date of June 11, which would give them another week to set all the budget figures.

At the selectboard’s April 6 meeting, though, it turned out that June 11 would not work for fin com chair Doug Tanner, and after considerable discussion, a date was finalized: **Wednesday evening, June 8.** *(Full article in next week’s paper.)*

Conservation

The meeting’s first attendee was Mount Grace representative Jaime Pottern, who came with Bill and Laurel Facey to get selectboard approval for a conservation restriction (CR) on Sugarbush Farm, which the Faceys own and run.

Mount Grace is getting a conservation partnership grant that will help pay for the legal and surveying work, and the Sugarbush CR may join with contiguous land in Montague to form a block of over 500 acres. According to the CR, Mount Grace would have a first option to buy the farm at an agricultural price, and Wendell will co-hold the CR with Mount Grace.

The selectboard voted unanimously to support and accept the restriction.

The conservation commission met the board and reported that although they worked hard to avoid it, Solar Design Associates is appealing in superior court the conditions that the commission would put on the solar generating plant proposed for land behind Kemsley Academy.

Initial meetings reduced the projected size from 2 MW to 1.5 MW, but the proposed site is still near wetlands, and the con com’s actions to protect those wetlands and the buffer zones around them conflicted with the company’s plans so much that the company appealed. They need to be ready to act when the state lifts its net metering cap for commercial solar generating plants, because any increase that the state allows in net metering will be snapped right up.

The appeal will cost both parties money and time.

NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Cable Access Contract Finally OKed

By JEFF SINGLETON

At its March 28 meeting, the Montague selectboard accepted a recommendation by the town’s cable advisory committee to approve a three-year contract between the town and Montague Community Cable, Inc. (MCCI) for the latter to provide local access service to cable subscribers.

MCCI is required to tape key local meetings, such as the selectboard and town meetings, cover other local events as requested, and provide training and access to those who might wish to produce their own shows.

The current contract, which expired over a year ago, has been the subject of much controversy. Critics have charged that there has been a lack of local content and community involvement in the station. This complaint led to a town meeting resolution last May that any contract should be accompanied by a long-term plan to address these problems.

The MCCI board, on the other hand, has complained that the cable advisory committee (CAC) has often shown a bias against the station, failed to implement periodic evaluations as required, and did not comply with the state open meeting law. The controversy led to a number of resignations from the CAC last year.

The situation was further complicated by delays in approving the broader ten-year license agreement between the town and the cable company Comcast.

“I’m not going to ask you for an extension this time,” joked CAC chair Jason Burbank as he sat down at the front table.

“Great,” said selectboard chair Michael Nelson. “How are things going?”

Burbank responded that at its last meeting, his committee had a “lengthy discussion” of the access station’s long-range plan, and came to the conclusion that MCCI had “met the requirements” of the town meeting motion. The committee therefore recommended that the town approve a three-year contract, as also required by the town meeting vote.

The selectboard appointed Laurel Facey as an alternative representative to the Municipal Coalition Against the Pipeline (MCAP). Keller said that several towns have already sent Montague payments to help cover the cost of its legal intervention before the Department of Public Utilities.

Personnel

Wendell’s library trustees met the selectboard and asked for an increase in the salary of librarian Rosie Heidkamp. Heidkamp has been librarian over 20 years, and not only started the town saving to build its new library, but worked closely and on her own time with its construction, and then used the larger space to start many new programs and activities.

Kathy Swaim said she is truly a department head, not just a superior clerk. Phyllis Lawrence said the fin com compares her salary with that of other town librarians, who Sylvia Wetherby said are also un-

der-compensated. Heard said, “No one [in town] is paid what they’re worth.” She added that the town should not raise any given salary without considering the whole pay system for town employees.

Selectboard member Geoffrey Pooser echoed that thought, and said a decision should not be just about Heidkamp, or any other specific person.

Lawrence suggested renewing the personnel committee to look at pay and compensation.

Shared town coordinator Nancy Aldrich said New Salem has a personnel committee, but that it does not make the matter simple.

Fin com member Garrett Sawyer volunteered to be a member of the committee that would consider employee compensation. Treasurer Carolyn Manley was on the prior personnel committee, and board members suggested a member of the road commission.

Beer and Wine License

The selectboard approved a request from Jason Hunter of the Berkshire Brewing Company for one-day licenses to serve beer and wine at Shea Theater events on April 2, 23, and 30.

Rich Kuklewicz expressed concern about “how many events there might be” seeking permits on a one-day basis. “I support the Shea, I want to see the Shea do well but... how many day permits are we allowed to issue?” Kuklewicz suggested that the board needed to consider issuing a special permit or asking the legislature for an additional liquor license.

Monte Belmonte of the Shea Theater Arts Center responded that “beer and wine is an essential part

of the business model, to make it work.” He said that the restaurant the Five Eyed Fox would be soon getting a full liquor license, so their beer and wine license would revert back to the town. “We’d like to be considered in line for that,” he said.

There was some discussion about the process for determining who was “first in line” for such a license. Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio said that in the past, the town had considered requests like that being made by the Shea.

“We’re in the water first,” said Belmonte.

Other Business

The board approved two transfer requests from Brian McHugh of the Franklin Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority. One “reprogrammed” \$1,624.71 from the Avenue A Streetscape Project (Phase 1) to the Housing Rehabilitation program. The other transferred \$10,343.32 from the Montague Housing Rehabilitation Revolving Loan Fund to the FY’14 Housing Rehabilitation Program.

The transfers will be used to fund change orders for a rehab project at a two-family home in Turners Falls. Mr. McHugh declined to give the address of the property on the basis that the information was confidential.

After a very brief hearing, the board allocated \$3,000 for repointing brickwork and \$2,000 for maintenance at the Shea Theater. The funding source is the community development discretionary fund.

The board approved the warrant for the upcoming May town meeting, after Rich Kuklewicz read the entire document. The selectboard will vote on whether to recommend specific articles at future meetings.

Water Pollution Control Facility staff Bob Trombley and Tina Tyler asked why their department’s proposed reorganization had not been placed on the warrant as requested.

Abbondanzio stated that counsel had informed the town that the issue had to be the subject of collective bargaining before it could be voted by town meeting. (See story, page A1.)

Regulation

In the two weeks since the prior meeting, Aldrich checked regulations of farm plates, because of a residence that has more than the two unregistered vehicles that town by-law allows without a permit. That residence also has a large collection of junk and scrap in the front yard. The occupant claims the vehicles are legally registered by his farm plates.

Aldrich learned that farm plates require that the user is legally engaged in an agricultural pursuit, and they specifically exclude passenger vehicles and SUVs.

Heard said he might be growing something.

The police can do nothing about improper use of a farm plate, unless they find him driving on a road using it. The town can start fining him \$25 per day per vehicle for any vehicles it considers unregistered as the by-law allows.

No board member expected to see the money, but they can send him one invoice a month.

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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Grant in Hand, Erving Scrambles to Resolve Questions About Park

By KATIE NOLAN

The Usher Mill re-use committee has a vision for the Erving Riverfront Park: a brick-columned arch across Arch Street inviting visitors in, creative play structures, a picnic area, historical markers, hiking trails, and a band shell.

The committee wrote a long-shot proposal for a grant through the Park Acquisition and Renovation for Communities (PARC) program, and the state Department of Conservation Services awarded \$400,000 for the project.

Selectboard member Arthur Johnson said that, when he and selectboard chair William Bembury attended the grant awards in Northampton in December, he was amazed that a small town like Erving received \$400,000, while larger towns received only \$10,000 or \$20,000. The total cost approved by town meeting is \$775,000. Once the town has developed the park, DCS will reimburse the town for up to \$400,000 of the expense.

Originally, the committee understood that the town had a year to develop plans and obtain permits, but when Bembury attended a PARC workshop in February, he found that the town must submit the final design and construction documents and obtain all necessary permits by June 1. If that June 1 deadline is not met, the town could lose the grant.

With the deadline in mind, the selectboard hired Rebecca Sherer of Tighe & Bond as owner's project manager in February, and design consultants Milone & MacBroom to work on the final design plans. M&M had developed the preliminary design plan, and were already familiar with the project and the town.

As the committee and selectboard worked to meet the tight deadline, they found what committee chair Jeanie Schermesser called "hurdles" slowing them down. The hurdle issues were major discussion points at the March 28 and April 4 selectboard meetings, and an April 5 joint selectboard/re-use committee meeting.

Work Without a Contract

At the March 28 selectboard meeting, the board reviewed M&M's proposal for \$94,000 in design work and consulting work on the bidding and construction phases of the project. Debra Smith said that, at the last re-use committee meeting, it was stated that M&M has already started surveying at the property. Selectboard member Jacob Smith was concerned that M&M had already started the proposed work although the town had not signed their contract yet. The town is waiting for comments on the contract from Franklin Regional Council of Governments.

"Who is authorizing work without a contract?" Jacob Smith said. He said he understood that the re-use committee and designers were working under time constraints, but there was a potential risk to taxpayer money if contractors were working without a signed contract.

Assistant assessor Jacqueline Boyden wondered whether the committee was authorizing work without including the selectboard.

She commented, "I feel the committee is overstepping."

Debra Smith commented that, because Bembury attends re-use committee meetings as selectboard liaison, the committee assumes he is "blessing" their decisions about the project. "As a resident," she said, "I think there isn't a lot of concern as to how they are spending my tax dollars."

Also at the March 28 meeting, Scott Bastarache commented that the communication between the committee and the board was "not effective" and that the charge to the committee seemed "muddled."

Jacob Smith agreed that the scope for the committee had changed, "now that it's a construction project."

Boyden said that, considering the various players – the committee, M&M and the Tighe&Bond owner's project manager – "They [the committee] are not the final signoff on the work, the selectboard is."

The board members decided to attend the committee's April 5 meeting.

Overhead Wires

In February, DCS project manager Melissa Cryan informed the town that no overhead wires are allowed in parklands, and that existing electric wires along Arch and Crescent Streets must be buried. However, she said that the grant provided no money for burying the wires.

The selectboard contacted National Grid to determine the feasibility and costs of burying them. National Grid requested that the town survey the roadways, utility poles, and railroad right-of-way in the park location, and said a cost estimate would be forthcoming.

At the joint April 5 meeting, Bembury stated that the town had determined that the utility poles and overhead wires are all located on the town's roadway right-of-way, and would not be in the park. Therefore, he said, the wires should not need to be relocated.

However, the town still needs to discuss this decision with Cryan, and get DCS' approval.

Land Survey

At the April 5 meeting, M&M's Mark Arigoni stressed the need for a full survey of the park parcels in order to create a final design. Highway foreman Glen McCrory said that the town was surveying the roadways and utility poles for National Grid. Arigoni said that, while there was some overlap, M&M needed more information than is provided by the town's survey.

Jacob Smith said that the surveying overlap was an example of lack of communication resulting in "inconsistency in what is being done." He said, "We need to be clear that everyone is working together."

However, the board and committee agreed that the M&M survey was needed, and should go forward.

Fire Truck "Bubble"

From the early days of the design process, fire chief Philip Wonkka had requested that the design allow access to the two hydrants on the park property and space for fire

HILLCREST from page A1

(IEPs), worked out between parents, teachers and counselors, as well as Burstein herself.

The school's therapeutic classroom is designed to be a safe, warm and welcoming place, with opportunities to learn in an environment that supports individual educational needs. Lessons include a system of ways for students to name and express their emotions, with a color-coded structure to identify their current mood. There are many books, games, and other objects they can use in active play.

I asked to see the program's "calm-down room." It is a small, plain room with some mats and bean bags on the floor, and bright drawings on the wall. The door does not have a lock on it, and Burstein told me that children are never left unsupervised in the room.

According to the school's policies, the room may be used when a child's behavior has escalated to the point where staff decides he or she needs to be isolated for his or her own protection, or that of others in the classroom. Burstein said the teacher would go into the room with the child, unless the child wanted to be alone, or the teacher felt at risk of being harmed. In such cases, the teacher would then stand directly outside the door, watching the child through the door's window.

Burstein explained that when a child has become so upset they are having trouble calming down, being in a quiet space for a time can help them relax. In this heightened emotional state, children often become full of adrenaline and seem very strong for their size. They could throw objects, such as pencils or chairs, and hurt someone.

School policy dictates that, if a child has not calmed down within a



This "calm-down room" is the focus of public allegations of abusive isolation made by parents of former district students.

half hour, the teacher must seek other alternatives.

Burstein said she has seen the current group of students grow in their ability to manage their behavior. She said the program is designed to help students develop these skills with the goal of their eventually joining a regular classroom.

Gill-Montague superintendent Michael Sullivan spoke of his disappointment in the way Hillcrest was portrayed in the press. He said he felt the comparison with other schools was unfair and misleading, in that it failed to report that Hillcrest uses the same methods as those other schools.

He told the Reporter that "neither of the families discussed in the Recorder story filed any complaints with the district prior to their unrolling their students."

Sullivan also said in a public statement that the district "has not been informed by the DLC of any specific allegations," and has received no communication from the nonprofit since its staff toured the elementary school and conducted interviews on February 12.

Re-use committee member Jeff Dubay cautioned that DCS might not agree to changes and additional costs that weren't presented in the in the grant application. Arigoni said, "I need to move forward with the design."

Johnson protested at the micro-management of the project: "Here we are wasting 15 people's time discussing little circles [in the road]."

The board and committee agreed that Arigoni could develop a simplified turnaround plan and present it to Cryan. Wonkka considered the current plans, and suggested the best placement for hydrants.

Communication and Schedule

Bastarache told the joint meeting, "The lines of communication are not clear."

"No one wants to isolate a child," which is why the calm-down room is only used rarely, said Karl Dziura, president of the Gill-Montague Education Association, and a teacher at Turners Falls High School.

Dziura said the negative media attention "was so demoralizing for the staff, who are doing their best every day to educate children." He also said he felt the coverage was "demoralizing for the school and the town."

Joyce Phillips, school committee member from Montague, said the comparison made with other schools' larger classrooms should have been made with Hillcrest's therapeutic classroom, rather than its calm-down room.

At a school committee meeting on Tuesday, April 5, the committee discussed the issues with Principal Burstein and members of her staff. After the discussion, the committee gave the Hillcrest school, and its special education program and staff, their unanimous vote of confidence.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Found To Be A Kayaker

Monday 3/21
6:45 p.m. Tenant-landlord dispute on Northfield Road. Same mediated.

Tuesday 3/22
11:50 a.m. Criminal complaint application issued to [redacted] for speeding, operating a motor vehicle with revoked registration, uninsured motor vehicle and attaching plates.

Friday 3/25
3:58 p.m. Motor vehicle crash, Route 2 westbound at Ledges. Assisted state police.

Saturday 3/26
2:05 p.m. Assisted Northfield PD with motor vehicle failure to stop.

Sunday 3/27
6:11 p.m. Assisted Montague PD at Unity Park for physical altercation.

Tuesday 3/29
1:10 p.m. Possible breaking and entering at Moore Street. Found to be secure.
Wednesday 3/30
9:14 p.m. Spoke with subjects at Dorsey Road Bridge, advised to quiet down.
10:19 p.m. Report of sus-

picious activity at River Street residence. Arrested [redacted] for two counts of being a fugitive from justice (CA).

Thursday 3/31
9:40 a.m. Arrested [redacted] for a probation violation warrant.
11:48 a.m. Assisted on scene of medical emergency on Lillians Way.
12:10 p.m. Report of a suspicious vehicle in area of Swamp Road. Patrolled area.

12:25 p.m. Report of landlord-tenant dispute, Northfield Road residence. Mediated same.

4:20 p.m. Spoke with solicitor, advised needs a permit from the town to solicit. Same moved along.

Saturday 4/2
12 a.m. Assisted Northfield PD with structure fire on Millers Falls Road. Road shut down for fire.
12 p.m. Report of suspicious person at intersection of Route 2 and Prospect Street. Found to be kayaker waiting for ride.

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A Sacred Journey, in Montague and Beyond



WICKS PHOTO

Flags behind the Congregational Church outline the future labyrinth.

By LEE WICKS

MONTAGUE CENTER – On Center Street, behind the First Congregational Church, an arrangement of blue and white flags appeared this spring, along with a swirl of white tape. People in the neighborhood first thought it had something to do with Easter, but the flags and tape mark the outline of what will be a labyrinth. Snow is now covering the tape and the white flags can't be seen, but a week ago the tape and flags stood out against a spring-green background.

The labyrinth is part of a grant-funded "Sacred Journey," explained Pastor Barbara Turner-Delisle in an email from France, where she is spending part of a three-month sabbatical. Pastor Barb, as she often calls herself, and her husband are scheduled to return to Montague on May 15.

She wrote, "We (the church and I) applied for a grant to cover our sabbatical costs. The theme for the

proposal was 'Sacred Journey'. Mine is taking me and my husband through Europe, looking at beautiful cathedrals, and searching for the Black Madonna.

"I am trying to follow the travels and goals of Sue Monk Kidd and her daughter, which they wrote about in their book, *Traveling with Pomegranates*."

While Pastor Barb and her husband travel, the church is integrating similar sacred journey activities for its own spiritual growth during this time. The grant is covering a couple of retreats for church members, a *Traveling with Pomegranates* book study, T'ai Chi classes to be held at the church and the Common Hall, and a bus trip to the Museum of Russian Iconography.

The T'ai Chi classes, bus trip (if there's room), and book discussion are open to the community, and the labyrinth will always be available for public use.

Janet Andrews did a major portion of work on the grant, chairing

a committee of five, said Reverend Turner-Delisle. The grant is for churches and clergy who are taking a sabbatical. It covers the cost of a ministerial substitute, Rev. Dr. Christine Fontaine, as well as projects for spiritual development, and the cost of travel for the pastor and her husband.

The First Congregational Church of Montague was one of six churches in Massachusetts awarded a grant, which is managed by the Cincinnati Theological Seminary and the Lilly Corp. The grant came to just under \$50,000, said Pastor Barb.

The range of activities supporting such a variety of spiritual practices seems a wonderful way to celebrate diversity together. For news about the T'ai Chi classes and other activities, check out the church calendar at www.montaguechurch.org.

When the Pastor returns, she plans to share some of her experiences and insights in a follow-up article.

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FACES

& PLACES

Catherine Bezio, aged 12, of Erving (right) is awarded a first-place ribbon by Kent Lage, chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Massachusetts 4-H Foundation, at the state organization's annual Visual Presentations Day last Saturday in Framingham.

Bezio, who is in the Bernardston Trailblazer 4-H Club, has been in 4-H for five years, and it was her fourth time participating in VP Day, which features the best of the organization's rising, young public speakers.

Bezio won her ribbon in the Performing Arts category, for a presentation entitled "Scales: Why Are They Important?" Her presentation discussed the history and use of the solfège scale as it relates to pitch and sight reading.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

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By LESLIE BROWN

MONTAGUE CITY – Unseasonably warm, then big cool downs; wet, then over-dry.

We’ve been lulled by the sounds of spring: the morning lilt of the song sparrow, the cluck of the wood frogs and the shrill cries of the “peepers,” the ocean roar of the big river, full high. Our spirits have lifted with the sight of a handful of snow geese traveling with the raucous flock of Canada geese, the first yellow buds of the daffodils and the bright red tips at the tops of the maples. My first bouquet of Pussy Willows ushers the season in.

Then, in typical fashion, the cold, raw days which demand a steady day-round fire in the wood stove, and a return to multiple layers of clothing: gloves, winter hat, and on one recent windy day, a parka.

It may have been a mild, mostly snow-free winter, and yes, the vernal equinox has made spring official, but winter weather isn’t done yet. The wood frogs are silenced with the wet snow, although the peepers are made of stronger stuff. The crocuses are beaten down by wind and the damp white flakes.

On April Fool’s Day, the weatherman announces the approach of a clipper system which will bring sharp winds, cold weather and varying depths of inches of snow-fall. Just joking or for real?

Meanwhile, on a sunny day the temperatures in the sunroom are spring-like, often seventy degrees and above. The tomatoes respond accordingly.

However carefully I set in seeds, there are always early and late bloomers from these tiny seeds. It is a challenge to set them

THE GARDENER’S COMPANION

Spring, in Fits and Starts

in at uniform depths. No matter, though, as the late bloomers always seem to catch up eventually, and if the tall ones get too high for the lid of the propagator, they can always be set out into small pots as they develop a second set of true leaves.

Overnight it is fifty degrees out there so often that we plug in the warming mat to keep the seedlings from experiencing too great a range of change, which might slow their growth. It’s important to not fuss too greatly; if these plants are to be hardy at garden planting time, they have to be ready to tolerate the potential extremes the early summer New England weather can bring.

The greatest risk to these young seedlings is not temperature but over-watering. If sprouting hasn’t occurred within ten to fourteen days of planting, it’s best to reseed as the seeds have likely rotted. Check seed packets for the specific emerging time for the seeds you use.

New plants should be kept damp, not wet. Heavy wet soil sets up ideal conditions for damping off, a soil-borne fungal disease which causes rotting of plant tissue in stems and or roots.

Outdoors, the garlic tips stand out proudly, as they are cold tolerant. As soon as the earth in the raised beds can be worked into crumbles, it is a fine time to plant out seedlings or seeds of your favorite cold crops: any leaf plants like spinach, lettuce, chard or kale will thrive in the cool weather. In fact, these cold crops dislike the heat. You can also plant onion sets, broccoli starts and radish.

The farm markets and grocery stores have pansies and viola now. These plants are also hardy to a light frost, and will add a spring-like note to the garden or

see GARDENER’S page B5

Art Scene, Here and There

By NINA ROSSI

TURNERS FALLS – Expressionistic ambiguity rules at the Great Falls Harvest. Just as the tongue searches to recognize what delectable spice sends humble root vegetables over the top to make a memorable mouthgasm during a meal there, the colorful paintings on the walls of the restaurant play cognitive hide and seek.

Painter Joel Paxton of Turners Falls says his paintings are all unplanned, and would be considered purely abstract expressionistic paintings if it were not for the addition of eyes to the composition: “As soon as you add the eyes in, that’s the whole thing. It’s folk art, it’s a knick knack, whereas before it was just abstract art.”

Perhaps because of the eyes, other forms in the exuberantly colorful and loosely worked paintings look like appendages of one kind of another. Which makes us want a story of some sort, but there is no story.

“There’s no story,” said Joel. “There’s no plan. And this is not a thematic show. It’s just stuff that I had around.”

Joel is primarily a “drawer” and was busy putting up works on paper when I stopped by on Saturday night, the day before the opening reception for the show. He was a little concerned that the unframed drawings on the wall were vulnerable to mishandling. It looked like there were a lot of drawings to put up.

His eight-year-old daughter, Effie, was the curator of this part of the show, and selected his work according to parameters of her own devising. “I don’t think they were totally consistent parameters, but she made her own deci-



One of Paxton’s paintings, on display at Great Falls Harvest.

sions,” explained Joel.

At various points in time, Joel had college level art classes in several places. He used to do linoleum block prints, but found them lacking in immediacy. He tried oil

see ART SCENE pg B3

Aid for Animals: Medicine Mammals

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

WENDELL – Medicine Mammals, located on Morse Village Road in Wendell, welcomes volun-

teers to help rehabilitate sick and injured animals, as well as food, medical and cleaning supplies, and drivers for animal transport.

“This is the start of my 18th year

of doing this,” says the organization’s director, Loril MoonDream. “I have been taking care of wild animals since I was a little girl. There’s not a lot of places for injured wildlife to go – they’re not pets.”

Loril, a licensed wildlife rehabilitator, explains that while some groups limit the types of animals they work with, “as long as it’s a mammal, we take it.... We do all mammals. We do amphibians.” There was a frog and a spotted turtle when I visited the place. “We sometimes have snakes,” she said.

I also learned that last year they took in a fisher cat. “It was a baby that had been run over in Northfield,” Loril said.

Medicine Mammals runs full-time, and educates the public about “the state of wildlife in MA” with a slideshow and live animal programs.

see MAMMALS page B8



Wildlife rehabilitator Loril MoonDream, with Nyx the raccoon.

Warming Up for Spring Season at TFHS



DAVID HOIT PHOTOS

LEFT: Quinn Doyle is ready to field a bit during early spring practice.



BELOW: Jack Putala slides to the base as Coach Scott Minckler instructs.

By MATT ROBINSON

TURNERS FALLS – The spring sports season is once again upon us. And that means the community puts winter sports into our collective memory banks and turns our attention back to the diamond, the court, the track and the field.

Spring doesn’t necessarily mean warm sunny days. There’ve already been snow postponements. But the weather will heat up and hopefully, Powertown’s six spring squads will do likewise.

Here is a preview of what Turners Falls High School sports fans have in store this season.

Tennis

The Girls tennis team, which is coached by Victor Gonzalez in his sixth season, competes in the Tri-County North League. They began their season on Wednesday against Greenfield.

On Friday, April 8, they host Pioneer Valley Christian School for a 4 p.m. match. On Monday the 11th, their home match against Lee begins at 3:30 p.m.

On Wednesday, April 13, Belchertown comes to town. And then the Girls travel to the Berkshires to play Lee on Thursday, April 14.

The Boys team, which also competes in the Tri-County League, is coached by David Bulley, in his fifth season. They open their season in Westfield against the Saint Mary Saints on Thursday, April 7. Next, they host Lee on Monday April 11 for a 3:30 match. On Wednesday the 13th, they play an away match against the Sabis Bulldogs of Springfield, and on Thursday the 14th, they also travel to Lee.

see PREVIEW page B4

RIGHT: The Turners Falls Indians look determined to have another championship season. Maddy Johnson throws to the base during spring practice.



BELOW: Powertown bitter Jenna Putala will be a force to contend with.



Pets of the Week

Hi, I'm Tigress! I came here from a shelter in New Jersey. Talk about a long ride!

Not much is known about my background, but as the Dakin staff gets to know me better, they'll be able to tell you more about me. Come on down and visit.

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



“TIGRESS”

Senior Center Activities APRIL 11 to 15

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 4/11
8 a.m. Foot Clinic Appts.
1 p.m. Knitting Circle

Tuesday 4/12
9:30 a.m. NO Chair Yoga
1 p.m. “My Life, My Health”

Wednesday 4/13
9 a.m. Veterans’ Outreach
11:15 a.m. Friends Meeting
Noon Birthday Lunch
12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 4/14
9 a.m. Tai Chi
10 a.m. Coffee & Conversation
1 p.m. Cards & Games

Friday 4/15
1 p.m. Writing Group

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

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

Monday 4/11
9 a.m. Tai Chi
10 a.m. Osteo Exercise

Tuesday 4/12
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
9:30 a.m. COA Meeting
10 a.m. Stretching & Balance
11:30 Homemade Lunch (rsvp)
12:30 p.m. Crafty Seniors

Wednesday 4/13
8 a.m. Volunteers to build Garden
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Chair Yoga
Noon Bingo, Snacks & Laughs
1-3 p.m. Veterans Services

Thursday 4/14
8:45 a.m. Aerobics (fast moving)
10 a.m. Healthy Bones
11:30 a.m. Brown Bag Pick-up
12:30 p.m. Creative Coloring

Friday 4/15
9 a.m. Quilting
9:30 Bowling Fun
11:30 Lunch Out: Johnson’s Farm
12:30 p.m. Painting

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.

Area Poets Read, Talk Shop With Franklin County Tech Students



Poets (from left to right) Amanda Lou Doster, Janet MacFadyen, and Cynthia Snow read and discussed their work at the Franklin County Technical School on Wednesday.

TURNERS FALLS – Poets Amanda Lou Doster (Greenfield), Janet MacFadyen (Shutesbury), and Cindy Snow (Shelburne Falls) read their poetry at the Franklin County Technical School library on Wednesday morning.

They are all part of Slate Roof Press, a local publisher of short “chap books” of poetry. The poets talked about how they get ready to read to an audience, and how they listen to poetry.

Students took the opportunity to ask the poets afterwards about what inspires them, and received a variety of responses.

Doster said she needs to “carve out space” for her creative spirit or she gets cranky; Snow talked about finding inspiration in the friction of things that rub up against each other in weird ways, such as beauty and death; and MacFadyen explained that her poetry has sometimes been a way to speak of things she “could not speak out against, except in a disguised way.”

The reading and discussion were part of a Local Cultural Council grant from Greenfield

funded through the Mass Cultural Council. This grant supports Slate Roof Press and its activities, including readings, book fairs, the publication of this year’s books, and readings such as this one.

Slate Roof Press currently has a Chapbook Contest with a deadline of May 15. The winner receives a prize and becomes a published member of the collaborative press.

For information, see SlateRoofPress.com, or call Ed at (413) 498-4343.



JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

By FRED CICETTI

Q. I have vivid memories of my mother’s dentures in a glass next to her bed. As I enter my seventies, is this what I have to look forward to?

Let’s start with a definition. “Dentures” – also called “complete dentures” or “plates” – are for people with no teeth. Dentures cover your entire upper or lower jaw. There are removable partial dentures, too; these are made of replacement teeth attached to plastic bases, which are connected by metal framework.

If you practice good dental hygiene, you should be able to avoid dentures as you get older. Losing your teeth is not considered a normal consequence of aging. Teeth are designed to last a lifetime.

Advancements in treatment and better oral hygiene have made dentures less necessary. One reputable survey showed that the rate that seniors lose their teeth has dropped by 60 percent since 1960.

But, if you are among the unfortunate who require dentures, here is some useful information.

Those dentures your mother

THE HEALTHY GEEZER Your Glass of Teeth

wore can’t compare to the modern choppers. The latest technology and better materials make the dentures of today more comfortable and better looking.

Dentures are placed on the gums, which are over bone. Sometimes one or more natural teeth are kept and they fit under the denture. A denture that is anchored by real teeth is called an “overdenture.”

An overdenture is more stable; it inhibits shifting in the mouth. Teeth used in overdentures are usually given a root canal, which replaces the pulp with filling material. The pulp is known commonly as the tooth’s “nerve.”

Immediately after dentures are made, they often feel odd in the mouth. There’s a period of adjustment. One difficult challenge is eating, which is never the same as it was before dentures.

The following are some pointers for eating with dentures:

- Don’t bite with your front teeth or pull your food outward from your mouth.
- Chew food on both sides of your mouth simultaneously to stabilize your dentures.
- Cut food into small pieces.
- When you first eat with your dentures, you should avoid sticky foods, raw vegetables and hard-to-chew meats.
- It is more difficult to feel inside your mouth when you wear dentures, so be careful with hot foods and anything with small bones.

And here are some more challenges that usually confront denture-wearers:

- Speaking is a different experience. You should try speaking slowly at first, and practice by reading aloud.
- You may have more saliva in your mouth.
- When you sneeze, cough or yawn, your dentures may loosen.
- Dentures have to be removed at least once daily to rest the tissue below them. Most denture-wearers remove their plates before bed, and store them in a cleaning solution.
- After you have been wearing dentures for years, your jaws become smaller, and the dentures don’t fit as well. Slippage, gum irritation and odor indicate that your dentures may not fit correctly.

If your dentures need a correction, go to your dentist. Relining and rebasing are alterations that adjust your dentures. Rebasing involves making an entirely new denture base, while relining modifies the existing one. Both procedures maintain the denture’s existing artificial teeth.

It is also a good idea to make regular visits to the dentist. In addition to tending to your dentures, your dentist can examine your mouth for bone loss, oral cancer, infections and other conditions.

One last note about adhesives. They make wearing dentures easier. However, adhesives should not be used to compensate for dentures that don’t fit correctly.

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

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The “Altered Books” exhibit at Easthampton’s Eastworks opens this weekend.

ART SCENE from page B1

painting, but found it “gloppy,” and too pungent in a possibly toxic way.

His current paintings are acrylic, which now and then requires open windows while working, because if the paint is cheap, it can get smelly.

Although there is no plan or story, there are crucial decisions involved in painting. “Good paintings have that immediacy, and then there’s the stepping back process where you have to decide things, or you can ruin them by not stopping when you should,” he said. “Just the slightest smudge might change the personality completely.”

Joel wants to concern himself with the process of making more art, rather than promotion and selling, and opportunities such as this one have found him often enough that it seems to be working out for him.

His brother Tim put together a book of his drawings last year which is available via Amazon Books and called *The Gifted Toad Stool Swappers: Artwork by Joel Paxton (The Book of Joel, Volume 1)*. “It is an Amazon print-on-demand book – they are fairly inexpensive, and if you know how to do it, you can make them look really nice,” said Joel.

Unique art plus creative food makes a great combination. Check it out at the Great Falls Harvest during business hours. You may also see Joel’s work online at fluxmass.org.

Also of Local Interest...

The “Altered Books” exhibit, curated by Montague artist John Landino opens this Saturday, April 9 from 5 to 8 p.m. at Eastworks in Easthampton. Artists from western Massachusetts and New York have converged upon the theme of books to create this diverse exhibit of sculpture and book arts.

The results of three rounds of the Rotation Book Project, where handmade books on different themes are shared among artists who each contribute a page in every book, will be available for perusal.

Thirty years of welded book sculptures by Landino, protesting censorship, are also on display.

The opening will feature music, mild mayhem, and contributing artists who hail from New York City, DC, Paris and San Francisco, who Landino has roped into the fray. Dean Nimmer and Landino, backed by several jazz musicians, will turn book art into song.

Saturday at Eastworks is also the date for a giant book sale on the first floor of the building starting at 1 p.m. This book sale was attended by 2,000 people last year, and the Altered Books exhibit will be open during the sale as well.

On Wednesday, April 13 there will be a reading at Eastworks, also part of Altered Books. Local authors Christopher Sawyer-Lauçanno, David Detmold, and John Bos will read from published and unpublished works from 6 to 7 p.m. Sawyer-

Lauçanno will read from his latest book of poetry, *Remission* (see the March 17 *Montague Reporter* for a book review and interview with Sawyer-Lauçanno).

David Detmold describes his latest literary efforts thusly:

... excerpts from a travelogue I wrote bicycle tripping through Ancient Greece last fall. It’s about love ventured and nothing gained, with Donald Trump standing in as Creon and Reince Priebus in black lace décolletage as Antigone, scraping offal onto the bloated remains of the Republican Party while he licks his master’s boots and wolves howl in the balkan foothills of our collective unconscious.

In the end, Kronos devours all his children, all except one – who escapes on the wings of a giant bat, screaming “Will to Power! Will to Power!” as Don van Vliet plays moog on a mobius strip and the iron curtain falls on Matagorda.

John Bos will read from an anthology:

I will be reading one of my pieces entitled “Tell Me About Your Cancer” from a book that Pam Roberts, facilitator of the Cancer Connection “Spirit of the Written Word” workshop, and I produced and published in 2010. The book contains writings by people who were part of that workshop for many years.

I’ll also read a recent piece that looks back at my year working my way through my dance with melanoma. John Landino and I are members of the Cancer Connection men’s support group. I am one of three surviving members of that group which we formed in 2002.

The public is invited to bring books to contribute to the making of a large book sculpture at the gallery, which will take place from 7 to 8 p.m.

Vintage Powerhouse Exhibit

Back here in the village of Turners Falls, you will find an intriguing exhibit of photos of our very own Vintage Powerhouse at the Great Falls Discovery Center during April and May. The Cabot hydro-electric generating plant in Montague City near the Farren Care Center turned 100 years old this past February.

This exhibit features historical photographs dating from the early 1900s, detailing the construction of the new concrete dam at Turners Falls, new power station, and the power canal expansion. At the time of its construction and for many years after, Cabot Station was the largest hydroelectric facility east of Niagara Falls.

There will be an opening reception April 9, from 1 until 3 p.m., and the Center will be open Fridays and Saturdays during those months. There will also be public tours of Cabot Station itself in June, so stay tuned for details about how to sign up for a tour!



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Dumping Trash at Cumby’s; Getting Drunk at Suzy’s; Peeing In the Safety Complex Parking Lot; Racing Subarus

Monday, 3/21

10:06 a.m. Caller from Fifth Street reports that the driver’s side tires on her vehicle have been slashed. Report taken.

11:26 a.m. Caller from Marshall Street reports that her vehicle was broken into overnight and multiple items, including a wallet and bag, are missing. Report taken.

3:07 p.m. Party into station to report her 16-year-old daughter missing. Daughter did not get off bus today, and later texted her mother to say that she was running away, no need to look for her, she will be fine. Subject entered as missing person.

6:35 p.m. Caller reporting two-car accident on Third Street. Two females transported by MedCare.

Tuesday, 3/22

9:17 a.m. Caller from Third Street Laundry requesting to know his options about a male party who has been continually hanging out in the laundry, not as a customer. Advised of options.

4:05 p.m. [redacted] was arrested on a straight warrant.

Wednesday, 3/23

1:26 p.m. Illegal dumping at Cumberland Farms. Verbal warning issued.

4:33 p.m. Party into lobby to speak to an officer reports that she left her residence this morning to go downtown to the post office and other errands and was almost struck multiple times by speeding vehicles along the way. Advised that this would be on record.

7:23 p.m. Officer at skate park to move parties along.

Thursday, 3/24

10:23 a.m. Report of a past theft of a roll of \$20 lottery tickets from Montague Village Store. Caller has reported theft to lottery commission and learned that some of the winning tickets have already been redeemed. Report taken.

5:07 p.m. Caller wishing to remain anonymous reporting that a male party on Third Street is intoxicated, being loud, and acting disorderly. Last seen walking on toward Avenue A, wearing a blue hoodie and pushing a shopping cart; has been walking back and forth for some time. Unable to locate.

6:47 p.m. Disorderly party taken into protective custody near Skinner Park.

7:48 p.m. Caller reports that her husband, who has dementia and is not supposed to be driving, was able to start his vehicle and left in same around 1:30 this afternoon; has not been heard from. Male described as Italian with a

temper. Officers checked area. Caller called back to report that her husband was located in Medford, MA.

Friday, 3/25

12:16 a.m. Caller from Avenue A complaining of the noise coming from downtown; DPW is using leaf blowers to clean the sidewalks. Referred to an officer.

5:06 p.m. Caller reports a large amount of glass in the roadway at Court Square/North Taylor Hill Road from an accident earlier today. DPW advised of call; they will have someone respond.

6:28 p.m. Party into station to ask an officer to speak to his 6-year-old daughter about continually getting out of her car seat when the vehicle is moving and how dangerous this is. Services rendered.

10:04 p.m. Caller from L Street complaining of grocery carts that are continually dumped in her yard or in front of her home. One cart in the yard next door appears to have been filled with trash, and it was dumped over in her driveway. Referred to an officer and advised of options.

Saturday, 3/26

12:19 a.m. Caller from Avenue A reports that a male party just broke into his apartment and assaulted both him and another male. One party transported to hospital; officer requesting two summons for arrest.

10:21 a.m. Report of suspicious activity on Greenfield Road; four vehicles pulled up and occupants exited with cameras. Officer advises that he observed subjects in area a short time ago and they appeared to be train watchers, which is not uncommon in that area.

12:50 p.m. Community policing at Egg Hunt event at Unity Park.

1:24 p.m. Officer flagged down on O Street by a resident reporting a sewage backup at his residence. DPW advised.

3:37 p.m. Caller observed 8 to 10 parties with paintball guns shooting signs in the area of the main power line on Hatchery Road. Officer located parties and advised them of the complaint. No permanent damage observed.

3:43 p.m. Caller from G Street reports that she can see 4 to 5 youths with skateboards riding in the area; they have been in the road at times, and caller feels they are obstructing the way for walkers and bikers. Officer located parties and advised them of the complaint.

4:39 p.m. Caller reports that a woman and two young children are picking up trash on the hill near Scotty’s; they are in a bad spot, and caller is concerned for their safety. Officer spoke to party, who reluctantly moved to the other side of the road.

6:36 p.m. Caller from Third Street Laundry reports that he was approached inside the business by a male party who appears to be highly intoxicated; party was stumbling, drooling on himself, and grabbing onto the caller to keep his balance. Party located and taken into protective custody.

8:02 p.m. Caller from L Street reports that two male parties went behind a dumpster at one of the empty houses being renovated; caller now sees flickering lights, like a fire being started. Parties identified and moved along.

9:31 p.m. Caller complaining of the noise level coming from Hubie’s Tavern and Restaurant; reports that noise is worse when the door opens. Officer advises that he could not hear anything outside except when the door opened; spoke to owner, who voluntarily turned the volume down.

9:46 p.m. [redacted] was arrested and charged with assault and battery (domestic).

11:40 p.m. Officer advises that he just moved a few people along from the skate park.

Sunday, 3/27

1:12 a.m. Caller from Third Street reports 3 to 4 people skateboarding on sidewalk in front of her residence, being loud and yelling. Unable to locate.

11:33 a.m. Caller from L Street reports that two of her vehicle’s tires were slashed overnight. Report taken.

5:41 p.m. Following a fight on Third Street, [redacted] was arrested and charged with assault with a dangerous weapon and disorderly conduct.

6:31 p.m. Complaint regarding aggressive, unleashed dog on Old Sunderland Road; ongoing problem. Copy of call left for animal control officer, who spoke with owners of dog and advised them to keep the dog on their own property and/or contained.

8:53 p.m. Caller from Turners Falls Road advising of bear on his back deck; his wife has several bird feeders hanging off the deck. Bear left during call. Copy of call left for

animal control officer.

Monday, 3/28

4:08 a.m. Caller from L Street concerned about parking tickets given tonight. During conversation, caller stated that earlier tonight he saw two people running from behind L Street and then saw a vehicle with slashed tires. Caller refused to expand on matter further; same was still concerned about parking tickets. Attempted to call back x3; busy signal each time.

Tuesday, 3/29

5:20 a.m. Officer out with suspicious male and vehicle on Swamp Road. Owner/operator of vehicle was picking up cans on the side of the road. Clear.

10:29 a.m. Report of soliciting on Montague City Road; party requesting access to caller’s meters could not produce ID and left quickly when caller informed him she was calling the police. Caller advised to call back right away if male returns.

2:53 p.m. [redacted] was arrested and charged with intimidating a witness.

Wednesday, 3/30

12:16 p.m. Report of shoplifting from Food City; subject reportedly stole several alcoholic beverages and is on the surveillance tapes. Report taken.

5 p.m. Caller from Hillcrest Elementary School requesting an officer to remove the TV news trucks from the property. Officer advises trucks are not on school property.

6 p.m. Caller advising he can see 2 to 3 kids on the roof of the red building at the Railroad Salvage complex. They appear to be throwing things off the roof. Unable to locate.

6:17 p.m. Caller reports two white Subarus racing in area of Turners Falls Road and Willmark Avenue; vehicles estimated to be traveling at 60+ mph. Referred to an officer.

9:33 p.m. Caller advising that 5-6 people are threatening physical violence against him near the skate park; he has his German Shepherd out there with him. Officer spoke with a group leaving the skate park and with the caller; sounds like “threats” were mutual. Caller advised to contact PD first if kids in the skate park are causing trouble.

Thursday, 3/31

3:57 a.m. Caller from Millers Falls agitated and upset regarding the DPW using leaf blowers

see MPD page B4

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MPD from page B3

to clean the sidewalks/streets. Attempted to advise caller that complaint would be passed along to officer, but caller became more agitated and disconnected the line.

Friday, 4/1

2:48 a.m. Assisted Wendell PD with reports of a Jeep fire and shots fired in same area.

7:28 a.m. Report of past breaking and entering into vehicle on Second Street; iPad stolen. Report taken.

9:13 a.m. Caller reports that his unlocked vehicle on K Street was broken into overnight and items taken.

9:58 a.m. [REDACTED] was arrested on a default warrant.

5:36 p.m. Chief Dodge observed a male urinating outside of a vehicle with VT plates in the MPD parking lot. Summons issued.

10:44 p.m. Caller from Quarry Road reports that there was a bear in their yard, but he thinks it has since moved on. Advised to keep pets in house.

11:25 p.m. Caller from Central Street reports loud party in apartment above her. Responding officer found that 2nd floor tenant is moving and this was source of noise. Male advised to quiet for night and move at a more appropriate hour.

Saturday, 4/2

1:44 a.m. Caller from Crescent Street complaining of loud party with possible fireworks down street from her. Quiet upon officers' arrival; resident advised of complaint.

1:49 p.m. Two 911 calls reporting 2-vehicle accident on J Street. EMS requested for evaluation, but medical attention refused. Written warning issued for stop sign violation.

4:25 p.m. Caller requesting to speak with officer regarding a cruiser pulling into his driveway daily. Caller concerned he is being "harassed by the community for starting the federal investigation at the school." Officer contacted caller and advised him of options.

Sunday, 4/3

5:42 p.m. Caller advises that he just witnessed what he believed was 2 parties "shooting up" in a minivan on Sixth Street. Caller called back to report that vehicle had left.

MP

PREVIEW from page B1

Track and Field

The Boys Track team, with first-season coach Chris Kusek, is in the Intercounty League. Their opening meet is in Orange against Mahar on Friday, April 8. Then on Thursday, April 14, they travel north to compete against Mohawk.

The Girls Track team is also in the Intercounty League, and they are coached by Roman Tsipenyuk. Their first meet is also in Orange on the 8th against Mahar.

Softball

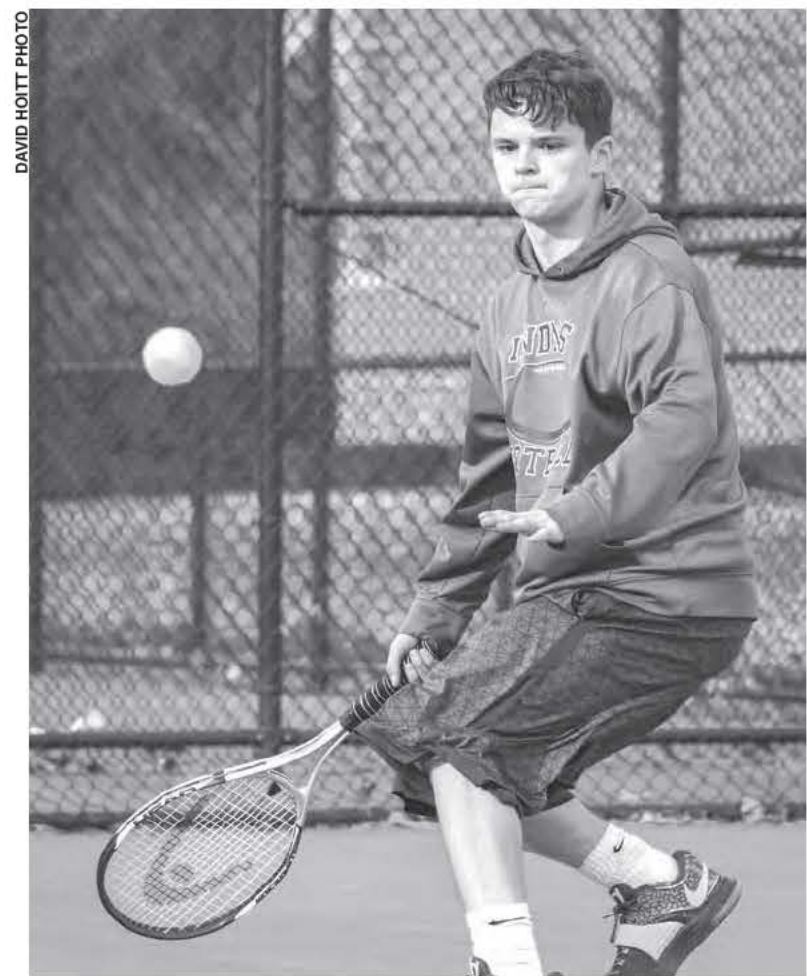
The State Champion Softball team is of course coached by Gary Mullins, and it will be his 37th season. They host a play day this Saturday, April 9 at 8 in the morning. Then on Monday, April 11 at 4 p.m., the Mount Everett Eagles travel to Turners Falls.

Baseball

The Baseball team is coached by first-year skipper Scott Minckler. Opening day is this Friday the 8th in Hatfield, against the Smith Falcons and their home opener is at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 12 against the Mahar Senators.

On Wednesday, April 13, they go to the Berkshires to play Lenox, and on Thursday, April 14, they host Easthampton.

MP



Ricky Craver prepares to return the volley during a pre-snow practice.

MONTAGUE CRYPTOJAM !!!

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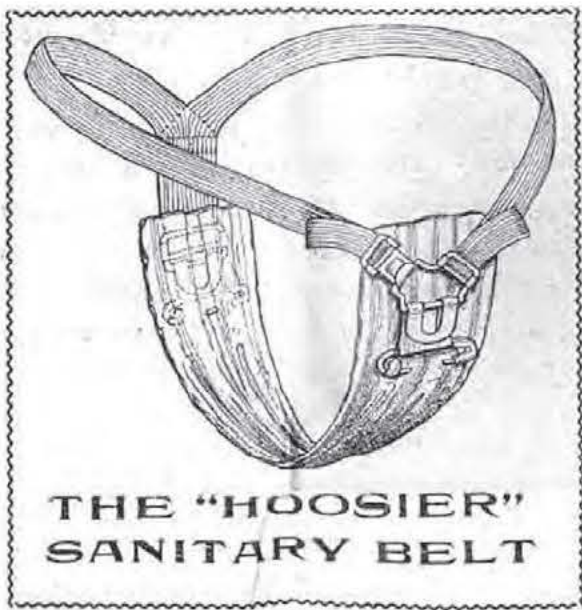
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OYSTERGIRL's guide to REAL LIVING

by Vanessa Query



Packaging for a sanitary napkin belt from the 1920s.
Courtesy of the Museum of Menstruation, mum.org.

By VANESSA QUERY

I'll be honest: I was a little hesitant at writing this piece, for a number of reasons. It was partly because menstruation is a bit of a taboo subject – though not as much in the social circles I tend to run in – and also it's something I generally don't like to talk about.

I appreciate there are people who experience menstruation as a positive, or at least neutral, thing. I am not one of those people. I have always suffered during my menses. Not getting it was my favorite thing about being pregnant and breastfeeding; I was so upset when it returned.

What I do like to talk about is how I handle the not insignificant amount of my menstrual effluvia.

That is how this article started: in the form of my previous articles, as a set of suggestions to inspire other menstruating people to cut down on the amount of money and wasteful products used for this monthly miracle (or curse, or however you experience it).

Then I started looking into the history of menstruation and in particular, menstrual care (or "feminine hygiene," or "femcare"). I was both disturbed and inspired by what I found: a stunning lack of recorded history, a variety of cringe-inducing practices, and a fascinating parallel between cultural access to decent menstrual care and the enfranchisement of women.

I realized I had to share this with you. The silence, ignorance, and terror with which most of the history of civilization has handled menstruation may slowly be mitigating in modern times, but we still have a ways to go.

Even today, when menstruation is discussed ("discussed" is a strong word; "alluded to" is usually more appropriate), it is generally in the context of advertising: in trying to sell women products to cover up this awful, inevitable thing so that no one knows about it.

A Short, Comprehensive History

History points to the idea of a "dual nature" of menstruation: It is both taboo and commonplace, so usually left unspoken. Plus, you know, history generally being written by the men and all.

One fun fact is that underwear didn't exist until pretty recently. So the earliest examples of femcare had to stay in place on their own – they were the predecessors of tampons.

In Ancient Egypt, papyrus, similar in consistency to hemp rope, was softened by soaking it in the Nile before inserting like a tampon. In ancient Greece, cotton lint was wrapped around splinters of wood, and reused. In ancient Rome, wool was used.

After that, things got a little less horrific: moss, grass, and leaves were used, as well as sponges and cotton rags.

The most common method of femcare throughout history – especially from the Middle Ages through the Victorian era – seemed to be simply bleeding into clothes.

Maybe it just looks that way because of the lack of recorded history, but there is evidence that points to this.

Dr. Laura Klosterman Kidd studied early American pioneer women's diaries, inventories of wagon trains, and letters women wrote back east with advice on what to pack for the trip. There was not a single reference to period management.

#14: The Surprising History of Menstrual Care, Part 1

There is also this gem, from late 19th century Germany: Friedrich Eduard Bilz's *Das Neue Naturheilverfahren* (*The New Natural Healing*). These observations are right in line with my earlier piece about a lack of hygienic care during certain times in European history:

"Many women do nothing to protect their underwear, bed sheets and cover from the blood that runs from their sex organs. They place nothing in that region and so in addition to the outer sex organs, underwear, sheets and bed covers, the lower belly and thighs are stiffened with dried blood."

Eventually, as access to absorbent, manmade materials increased, folded cloths (likely tucked into a belt or girdle) became commonly used as a sort of early pad.

It was believed that stopping the menstrual blood from flowing freely was dangerous, so anything like a tampon was out of the question.

It also looks like it was generally just the higher classes that covered up their menstruation. Some female factory workers, for example, would work standing up, knee deep in straw, and bleed freely. Not dissimilar to a farm stable, the straw would be mucked out periodically, when it got really gross.

Enter Disposable Commodities

In 1896, Johnson & Johnson introduced the first commercial disposable pad. Due to a lack of marketing finesse – how do you discuss an unmentionable function? – they didn't sell well, and were quickly discontinued.

During World War I, a new product called Cellucotton – highly absorbent cellulose – was used as bandages for wounded soldiers in army hospitals. Nurses began using them as menstrual pads.

Cellucotton rebranded as Kotex in 1920 – short for "cotton-like texture" – and began an awkward, halting, but eventually massively successful marketing campaign for the new sanitary pad.

The modern tampon, with its signature applicator, was patented by Dr. Earle Haas in 1929. The patent, along with its suggested brand name, Tampax, was bought by Gertrude Tendrich in 1936 and began being sold to the public that year.

The sales of these products were slow at first, largely because they weren't perfect. Early pads were bulky and uncomfortable, caused chafing, and were attached with pins or clips to elastic belts, which made them prone to slippage. Early tampons were clunky, awkward to insert, and not terribly absorbent.

But advertising and technology pressed on, and pads and tampons soon became culturally ubiquitous.

In 1969, the Stayfree pad was the first on the market with adhesive strips – no more awkward belts!

Pads and tampons continued to get more absorbent, see OYSTERGIRL next page

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Lister's Towels are a boon to women for regular use and nurses prefer them to any other pad for use in obstetric, gynecologic, cancer and such cases. They are cheap, hygienic and do not need washing. They save time, money and annoyance.

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Ad for Lister's Towels, circa 1896.

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GARDENER’S from page B1

to hanging baskets.

Last month and this one are perfect for pruning fruit trees although, as with any flowering plant, be aware that trimming will also remove any blossom buds for this season on any branches that are removed.

Well, of course, we did get snow,

enough to close all of the schools in the area.

We’ll try to consider this just another dose of poorman’s fertilizer, as the old farmers said, and wait for a sunny day. Meanwhile, the lilac and apple buds continue to fatten, the daffodils are blooming and the birds are singing valiantly. The grass has been greening up and the

tiny clematis set in to grow over the pergola is leafing out.

Gladys Hasty Carroll once wrote: “Spring is just around the corner but it’s looking the other way.”

Likely after this cold snap, when the snow melts, it really will be spring.

Happy gardening!



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LEVERETT POLICE LOG

Uber Snoozer; Buddhists Burgled

Saturday, 3/5
3:25 p.m. Residential alarm at a Juggler Meadow residence. All secure, party did not have proper code.
Monday, 3/7
6 p.m. Assisted fire department with a chimney fire at a Juggler Meadow Road residence.
Wednesday, 3/9
12:30 p.m. Assisted Sunderland PD with a disturbance in Sunderland.

Thursday, 3/10
6:10 p.m. Medical at a Long Plain Road residence. Subject transported by Amherst FD ambulance to Franklin Medical Center.
Friday, 3/11
7:45 a.m. Assisted Sunderland PD with a car vs. trailer truck accident on Route 116.
Sunday, 3/13
8:33 a.m. Caller from the Buddhist temple on Cave

Hill Road reported overnight someone broke into a donation box at the temple and stole donation money. Under investigation.
Monday, 3/21
1:30 p.m. Caller reported finding an overturned boat in the Sawmill River off Dudleyville Road. Owner located; no problems.
Tuesday, 3/29
9:10 a.m. Caller reported a vehicle blocking their

driveway, male operator passed out in the seat, vehicle running. EMS and fire department also sent. Officer called off EMS and Fire: operator was an Uber driver taking a nap while waiting for a fare... at the wrong address. Driver shown the correct house and sent on his way.

OYSTERGIRL from previous page

slimmer, lighter, and less detectable.

Since the 1990’s, the biggest upgrade to menstrual technology has been birth control pills and “menstrual suppression” drugs. We can now choose how often we menstruate, if at all.

“New Freedom”: More than a Brand Name?

It’s hard to deny that pads and tampons are amazing, liberating things, especially when you know what came before them.

We’re lucky to have access to myriad things that make it possible to manage menstruation in socially acceptable ways: indoor plumbing; laundry facilities; the choice to buy disposable products, reusable products, or to make our own with the limitless natural and handmade materials within our reach.

People in other parts of the world aren’t so lucky. For example, 10 percent of school-aged girls in sub-Saharan Africa routinely skip school when they have their period, or drop out altogether. This is due to a lack of private, clean bathrooms at schools, plus a lack of femcare technology.

This is not a statistic from the past. This is happening right now.

It is likely that at one time, prior to the rise of

agricultural civilization and the rise of patriarchal societies, menstruation was not taboo. More likely, it was something that was an accepted part of life, not shameful or to be hidden. I can’t really imagine members of a hunter-gatherer community feeling the need to contain monthly flow.

But that has not been the case throughout recorded, “civilized” history. Women have felt the pressure to hide their flow, be it for supposed reasons of hygiene or cultural decorum. Given the lack of decent options, menstruation likely hampered women’s mobility, both literally and socially.

The history of modern femcare could be a significant part of the history of women’s freedom. Consider this: The same year Kotex pads were put on the market in 1920, women were given the right to vote.

The time self-adhesive pads became available in the early 1970s was right in the midst of the second wave of feminism, or “women’s liberation.”

Is it a coincidence? Or a which-came-first-the-chicken-or-the-egg thing? (No pun on ovaries intended.) I don’t have an answer, but it sure is a fascinating question.

Please join me next time, as I explore the potential problems of modern “feminine hygiene” technology; the insidious rise in grooming standards intended to fatten the pockets of femcare technology manufacturers; and alternatives to disposable, chemical-laden products, including my own routine.

Femcare Workshop

If you’re inspired by this piece, or want to learn more about natural menstrual care, check out this upcoming event hosted by Wise Women Gathering at the Brick House Community Resource Center this Sunday, April 10 from noon until 4 p.m.

Called “Red Tent for Moon Time,” this is an opportunity to handcraft your own re-usable pads. Learn how fertility awareness can support reproductive health with Kristen Avonti. Moon Time is an intergenerational gathering for women of all ages.

There will be light snacks, and chocolate. Donations, sliding scale fees accepted. To register, contact Elyssa at (413) 279-4194 or fullmoongirlsinfo@gmail.com.

Vanessa Query, aka Oystergirl, digs all things local and sustainable, and identifies mostly with the ancestral/paleo movement. She writes about food, movement, and more at theycallmeoystergirl.com. She welcomes responses and questions at oystergirl@montaguereporter.org.



The Beltless Feminine Napkin

Now Stayfree gives you a feminine napkin that goes on with 2 simple adhesive strips. Goodbye, belts and pins and fuss.

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Stayfree MaxiPads. We're the future.

Early ad for the first “beltless” self-adhesive pads on the market. Courtesy of the Museum of Menstruation, mum.org.

save the date...

saturday, april 30 – 6 to 9 p.m.

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with music by corki & ken, chocolate by mo's fudge factor, cheese & crackers from thomas farm, and a splash of cameron's wine to finish

this is a complimentary event! we hope that you will support the *montague reporter* through our basket raffle. we look forward to seeing you!

LOOKING BACK:

10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was April 6, 2006: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Taking a Stand for the Skate Park

The town of Montague came together last night in a way not often seen, as three dozen teenagers sat down with members of the selectboard, police department, parks and recreation commissioners, interested parents and residents of downtown to work out a plan to reopen the skate park.

Jon Dobosz, director of parks and recreation, started the meeting with a reality check, detailing the condition of the ramps, with splintered boards and jagged landings. He estimated the cost to repair the park at \$7,875, with the majority needed to repair large sections of the chain link fence.

But Justin Smith, one of the teens in attendance, said, “Not all of the money would come from taxpayers. Some of the money has been earned by kids putting on shows.” The faces of adults in the crowd at the Great Hall of the Discovery Center looked doubtful until Brick House director Nancy Edmond took the mike and told them, “We have raised \$6,650 raised by the kids in one month. How very proud I am of all of them.”

Students Organize Teen Conference

Students from Greenfield and Turners Falls high schools have been meeting since October to plan an all-day youth conference that will take place Tuesday, April 11 at the Great Falls Middle School. The conference, called “Youth Take Action to Make a Difference,” is the fifth annual youth conference planned with the support of the Community Coalition for Teens, a program of the Franklin Regional

Council of Governments.

Greenfield junior Adriana Lara has been presenting workshops for three years running. This year, Lara has teamed up with TFHS sophomore Marilyn Lorenzo to plan one of the workshops, called Fighting Racism.

Lara explained, “A lot of people don’t want to hear about racism. Parents are closed minded about it. We hope to break through the barriers and reach the kids.” She and Lorenzo will have a big crowd to work with. Out of the 260 young people from area high schools and 80 adults (mostly teachers) who have registered for the conference, 32 have signed up for their workshop.

Gill's Noise Bylaw to be Debated

The selectboard revisited the idea of enacting a noise bylaw on Monday. The issue has been raised due to numerous complaints from residents of a West Gill Road neighborhood, who have called town hall and police for more than a year to complain about repeated incidents of noise from “souped-up” ATVs being ridden “all day long” on nearby property.

The noise complaints center on the use of recreational vehicles on private property, but the complainants say the people riding the ATVs are disrespecting their right to the peaceful enjoyment of their own homes. They say the ATVs in question have been altered by eliminating mufflers, and are plainly audible from a distance, according to town officials.

Board chair Phil Maddern said, “I don’t think this is something you should have to pass a law on. It should be common courtesy.”

But Anne Banash replied, “right now it is ‘in your face.’ This at least gives them something to lean on, with a fine attached to it.”

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NatureCulture: The Science Page

WARREN ONDRAS PHOTO

BOOK REVIEW:

Lives in Ruins

Lives in Ruins: Archaeologists and the Seductive Lure of Human Rubble, by Marilyn Johnson (HarperCollins Publishers, New York, 2014).

By LISA MCLOUGHLIN

This book is an amusing way to explore the field of archaeology. Each chapter tells the story of an archaeologist and the type of archaeology they do.

While most archaeologists don't make their living doing archaeology, the field itself is wide and varied, with everything from careful chemical analysis in a lab and pains-



taking recovery and preservation of artifacts, to wild trips to exotic, far-away places, and reenacting life and events from hundreds or thousands of years ago.

In Switzerland in 2014 I saw an excellent example of this reenactment. Experimental archaeologists were building prehistoric housing us-

ing all ancient tools and techniques. Visitors to the museum where this experiment occurred could wander through the huts themselves (openarchaeology.info/venues/historisches-museum-bern-ch).

Archaeologists are as varied as their work, but if the book is to be believed, they lean toward strange, independent types who enjoy adventure and are largely impervious to discomfort.

If you like travel literature, you'll love this book, because the real-life characters not only travel, but get to do very cool stuff that sheds light on mysteries, such as: what were the lives of ordinary people like hundreds or thousands of years ago; what were Native American civilizations like before colonists arrived; and are we related to Neanderthals?

Recommended Websites

Featured Scientific Organization:

heetma.org/squeaky-leak/natural-gas-leaks-maps/ The Home Energy Efficiency Team (HEET) has compiled the industry reports from seven pipeline companies to create maps showing all the leaks as of March 2015 in these pipelines across Massachusetts. They provide a town by town mapping of the leaks, as well as an "action manual" to explain their effects and what to do if you'd like to get involved in the efforts to get them plugged.

Gas pipeline leaks are not mandated to be fixed if they are not considered "potentially explosive," but because the utilities are losing gas in transit, the cost is passed on to the consumer in terms of health and environmental effects, as well as increased rates for fuel and electricity.

Some leaks are decades old and have not been ad-

ressed. For example, Deerfield has one un-repaired leak from 2014; in Ayer there are 51 un-repaired leaks, the oldest from 1997; and Boston suffers from 1,853 leaks, the oldest from the 1980s.

This is a fascinating site that shows how mapping and computer information systems technology can be used to help clean up some of our less progressive infrastructure.

Adventures:

Canoe the entire length of the Connecticut River using the Paddlers' Trail, "a series of primitive campsites and access points from the river's headwaters south to Long Island Sound. It is managed by a group of partner organizations who collaborate with trail development and stewardship." For more information: connecticutriverpaddlerstrail.org

Endangered Connecticut River Sturgeon Gets its Own Beer

GREENFIELD – The People's Pint Brewery and the Connecticut River Watershed Council (CRWC) are partnering to raise awareness of the endangered shortnose sturgeon with a new beer, the Shortnose Stout.

Beer aficionado and world traveler Mary Colleen MacDougall likened it to Murphy's Stout from Cork, Ireland which bills itself as "the quaffable stout." She reviewed Shortnose very positively as a drinkable beer that'd go well with food, more like a Porter than a Stout, but with the little bitter finish people like so much from Guinness.

This bodes well for the Shortnose Stout. The shortnose sturgeon is having a harder time.

Shortnose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*) are anadromous fish that can weigh up to 50 pounds and grow to 4.5 feet long over their 30 year (males) to 65 years or greater (females) lifespan. There are two population groups of shortnose sturgeon in the Connecticut River: one partially landlocked between the Holyoke and Turners Falls Dams, and one below the Holyoke Dam.

The Watershed Council is working to help both groups. The section of the Connecticut River that is by-

passed by the canal in Turners Falls is an important sturgeon spawning area and is subject to fluctuating water levels that can impact reproduction, so CRWC is speaking up for the sturgeon during the hydro-power relicensing process.

They've also spent over 10 years in coordination with the Holyoke Gas & Electric and other stakeholders in the effort to design upstream and downstream sturgeon passage facilities at the dam. Construction is just about complete, and 2016 will be the first year that this facility is operational for sturgeon.

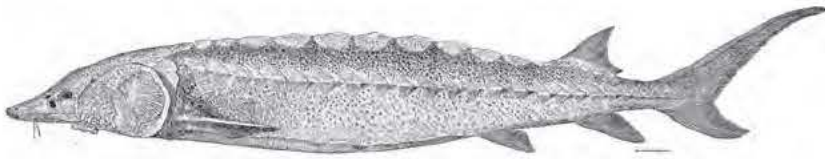
You can invite CRWC to speak to your group about the hydroelectric relicensing of dams on the Connecticut River and how you can have a say for our rivers and for our fish. For more information, visit ctriver.org/pw-pw, or email cbent@ctriver.org.

Sturgeon Walk, Talk and Lunch

Dr. Boyd Kynard, short nosed sturgeon expert, and environmental journalist Karl Meyer will meet interested persons at the G Street parking lot on the Patch to hike to Rock Dam in Turners Falls for a talk covering short nosed sturgeon biology and history at 11 a.m. on April 23.

Meyer will speak on the natural and human history of Rock Dam, a geological gem and natural spawning site for the sturgeon. Bring a lunch if you wish, and wear sturdy shoes. No pre-registration required, just show up.

For more information about our shortnose sturgeon, visit the additional sources used in writing this article: ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2723&q=326092 and nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/species/fish/shortnosesturgeon.htm.



THE SHORT-NOSED STURGEON

Acipenser brevirostrum, L. S. (p. 999)

Drawing from a historical illustration collected at Ford's Hall, Mass. 1971

Illustration by George Brown Goode, 1884 Fisheries and Fishery Industries of the United States: Section I, Natural History of Useful Aquatic Animals.

If you have a scientific idea you'd like to write about, a science-related book to review, an activity to advertise, or would like to share your experiences with science or any related field, please be in touch: science@montaguereporter.org.

Lisa McLoughlin, editor

"TORTURING HER SECRETS FROM HER"

Remaking the Creator in their own image in the vicinity of six billion souls ghosts of fiction wrestle ghosts of science Oppenheimer, Frankenstein looking over their shoulders back to Francis Bacon, back to Descartes putting Nature in constraints "torturing her secrets from her."

Then we awoke one night hearing far below in the dungeon ungodly noise from behind barred doors. Some remained in their chambers turned back to sleep, or raised a book with which to sleep soon enough. Others rose and paced the floor,

afraid, puzzled.

And some lit a candle, retraced their steps, and pounded on the basement door, calling: "Victor! Stop! Please! Open the door!"



And outside those walls, in the real world, lightning struck and thunder crashed. The wind howled through darkened lands. The rain fell in sheets as if to wash away some awful plague.

— Don Ogden

From *Bad Atmosphere: A Collection of Poetry & Prose on the Climate Crisis*, available at World Eye Bookshop in Greenfield. Illustration: *Nature Unveiling Herself to Science*, by Ernest Barrias (1841-1905).

Moon Calendar for April 2016:

Thursday, April 7: New Moon
Wednesday, April 13: First Quarter
Friday, April 22: Full Moon
Friday, April 29: Last Quarter

Sky Events Calendar by Fred Espenak and Sumit Dutta (NASA's GSFC). Moon image by NASA / Bill Ingalls. Create your own custom sky calendar at: eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov/SKYCAL/SKYCAL.html

NatureCulture Events

Transit of Mercury Talk

Club member Kevin Collins will be talking about the May 9th Transit of Mercury across the Sun. Learn about the history of Mercury transits, when it will happen, how and where to observe and photograph it.

Friday, April 8, 8 p.m. Amherst College Planetarium, Morgan Hall, 165 South Pleasant Street, Amherst. Info: amherstastronomy.org

Quabbin Tracking with David Brown

Immerse your senses while we search for wildlife signs of bears and other animals that begin to stir and wander abroad, leaving their tracks in spring mud.

Saturday, April 9, and Sunday, April 24, 10 a.m. Pre-registration required. Fee. To register: (978) 544-8175; info@dbwildlife.com

Wetland Exploration Program with John McCarter

A day-long adventure exploring wetlands for signs of beavers and other wildlife.

Activity Level: Moderately strenuous, off-trail. Waterproof boots are highly recommended.

Saturday, April 16, 10 a.m. New Salem. Fee and registration required.

Contact: (978) 544-6083 or walmuthilltracking@verizon.net Info: walmuthilltracking.com

"Early Bird" Birding with Jeff

Explore the North Quabbin area looking for spring migrant birds. Come for as long as your schedule allows. Severe weather cancels.

Friday, April 22, 7 a.m. to noon. Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main Street, Athol.

Info: Jeff Johnstone, (978) 249-9052.

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ONGOING EVENTS:

EVERY SUNDAY

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

ONE MONDAY EACH MONTH

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

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

EVERY TUESDAY

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: Crafts and activities for children of all ages. 3:30 to 4:45 p.m.

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Story Time*: Thematic stories, projects, and snacks for young children with Mez, 10:15 to 11:30 a.m.

Leverett Library, Leverett: *Tales and Tunes Story Hour*. For ages 0 to 5 and their caregivers. 10:30 a.m. to noon.

EVERY THURSDAY

Carnegie Library: *Music and Movement with Tom Carroll & Laurie Davidson*. Children and their caregivers invited. 10 a.m.

The People's Pint, Greenfield: *Derek Bridges*. Live acoustic

guitar. 7 p.m.

Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *Watchdog Open Mic*. All musicians, comedians, and magicians are welcome! 8 p.m.

EVERY FRIDAY

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

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



At the Leverett Arts & Crafts, April 1 to 31:

The Birdwatchers, an exhibit about "birdwatchers, birders, bird photographers and painters, and what they create from a hobby which often borders on obsession." Reception Sunday, April 10, from 4 to 6 p.m. Above is a painting in the exhibit by Macaylla Silver.

EXHIBITS:

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

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Vintage Powerhouse—Cabot Station: A One Hundred Year Retrospective*. This exhibit features historical photographs dating from the early 1900s that tell the story of the construction of the new concrete dam at Turners Falls, new power station and power canal expansion. At the time of its construction, Cabot Station was the largest hydroelectric facility east of Niagara Falls. Opening reception 4/9, 1 to 3 p.m. Through 5/28.

Leverett Arts & Crafts, Leverett: *The Birdwatchers*. See photo this page for details.

Loot, Turners Falls: *Zuihitsu*: paintings by Greta Svalberg. *Zuihitsu* is derived from two Kanji characters meaning "to follow" and "brush." 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 to 7 p.m.

Sawmill River Arts Gallery, Mon-

tague Center: *From Darkness Into Light/ A Spring Exhibit*. Recent works by gallery members of this collaborative. Show runs until 5/31.

Shelburne Arts Co-operative, Shelburne Falls: *"Transformation" A Group Show*. Featuring the work of member artists in paintings, fiber art, jewelry, photography, wood, pottery and more. Through 4/25.

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. Deadline is April 18 for submissions. Questions: ask Donna Francis at (413) 687-1277 or email at greatfallsfarmersmarketurners@gmail.com

Slate Roof Press, a member-run 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. 5/15 deadline. For full contest guidelines, visit www.slateroofpress.com.

Silverthorne Theater Co., Greenfield: 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 9/1. Complete information at www.silverthornetheater.org/new-play-competition2.html

EVENTS:

THURSDAY, APRIL 7

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Collected Poets Series featuring poets Anne Love Woodhull and Jane Yolen*. 7 p.m.

Flywheel Arts, Easthampton: *Lydia Lunch & Weasel Walter, Other Mother, and Do Not Forsake Me O My Darling*. 7 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Eric Love*. '60s & '70s Gold. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Falltown String Band*. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 8

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

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Friends of the Center presents its monthly coffeehouse with: *Windbourne*. Internationally acclaimed folk band; mostly a cappella. 7 p.m.

Donations.

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Lonesome Brothers*. Hick rock. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Barrett Anderson*. Hypno Boogie Blues. 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 9

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Opening Reception for *"Vintage Powerhouse: Cabot Station - One Hundred Year Retrospective"*. See under "Exhibits" for details of show. 1 to 3 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Center for New Americans presents - *Immigrant Voices: A Celebration of Arts*. Enjoy an evening of music, dance, and spoken word by immigrants in our community. 7 p.m. \$

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: Movie, *The Pyx*. (1973). Monthly movie in Wendell Library's series Science Fiction/Fantasy and Horror/Monster movies. "Montreal detective Christopher Plummer investigates the death of prostitute Karen Black and satanic black masses." 7:30 p.m.

Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *AfterGlo*. 9 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Escape Route*. Highly dance-able classic rock. 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *From the Woods*. Groove based Americana. 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 10

Montague Congregational Church, Montague Center: *Musica Historia Presents - Shakespeare: the life, times and music of his plays*. Music from Shakespeare performed by 6 member musical group Musica Historia. 2 p.m. Donations.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Crow's Rebellion*. Warped Americana. 8 p.m.

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

MONDAY, APRIL 11

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

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Shout Lulu*. Southern string band. 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 14

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Screaming J's*. Ragtime boogie woogie band from South Carolina. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 15

Arts Block Cafe, Greenfield: Silverthorne Theater Company will hold a gala fundraiser with proceeds going to the Company's upcoming 2016 summer season. Hosted by Marv Shedd. Entertainment galore and au-

dience participation an option! Come and meet the members of the company. 7 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Josh Levangie & the Pistoleros*. Outlaw Country. 9 p.m.

Memorial Hall Theater
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Friday, April 8 at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 9 at 8 p.m.
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Eric Love

Friday, 4/8 - 9 p.m.

Barrett Anderson

Saturday, 4/9 - 9 p.m.

Escape Route

Sunday, 4/10 - 8 p.m.

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SAT 4/9 9:30 FREE
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We All Scream For... *THE SCREAM*

By **RICHARD ANDERSEN**
and **DIANE LYN ANDERSEN**

NEW YORK – Edvard Munch. His mom died when he was three, and his beloved sister passed when he was nine. His preacher father told him the deaths were God’s will. A younger sister became mentally ill, and another relative died within months of her wedding.

And they weren’t the only ones. Munch once claimed consumption and insanity were his family’s inheritance. Fear of going crazy, sorrow from the loss of loved ones, and bafflement over a god that would bring a person into the world to paint what he saw condemned Munch to a life of anxiety and depression.

Encouraged by an aunt to express what he felt on canvas – a practice his father thought was “unholy” – Munch painted from an early age. He also drank, brawled and, as he grew older, read all the stories of Edgar Allen Poe.

Then he caused a scandal by falling in love with his cousin’s wife. It didn’t end well. His family began talking about him as if he was a one-person Norwegian crime wave. They wondered if he might have to be committed, too.

Then, in 1895, when he was twenty-seven, Munch won a state scholarship to study for two years in Paris. There he discovered the works of three painters with whom he shared a similar perspective of disillusionment with the world: Paul Gauguin, Vincent van Gogh, and Henri Toulouse-Lautrec.

Munch fashioned Gauguin’s use of color, van Gogh’s sense of intensity, and Toulouse-Lautrec’s preoccupation with decadence and darkness into a style of his own. Within a year, he created the work for which he is universally renowned: “The Scream.”

Three more versions would follow. The single best of these, along with other works by Munch and other Expressionists, is currently on display through June 13 at the Neue Gallery in New York. As iconic as the “Mona Lisa” and “Whistler’s Mother,” “The Scream” is said to represent everything, from the fear of waking up from a nightmare to the universal anxiety of modern man.

Some would say the universal anxiety of modern man is a nightmare. I see it as a rational response to an irrational world. Munch said the painting is a “study of a soul, of my own self.”

Whatever the interpretation, a specific meaning seems to be immediately clear to anyone who sees it. In 2012, the version of “The Scream” on view at the Neue Gallery sold at auction for \$119,922,500, the highest amount ever paid for a painting up to that time. It’s the only one of the four not housed in a Norwegian museum.

“The Scream,” like most works of art, is also biographical. See the man leaning over the railing looking

into the water below? That’s the relative who killed himself by jumping off the bridge. And those buildings just below the upper right-hand corner? One of them is the asylum where Munch’s sister was institutionalized.

Now look at the lines that radiate from the screamer like sound waves. They extend to the farthest corners of the canvas. Death and despair are everywhere. They are what life is all about. When he finished painting “The Scream,” Munch vowed never to fall in love again. And he kept his word.



The 1895 pastel version of The Scream.

“The Scream” was a resounding, immediate success. By 1897, its creator was the darling of the German Expressionist School, and Munch was anointed its unofficial headmaster in Berlin.

Although he moved to Berlin and lived there for several years, Munch never cared much for the accolades he received, and cared even less for the German Expressionists. The Austrians weren’t much better.

Tired of being adored, he moved to a small town just outside of Oslo, where he died at the age of 80 in 1944. Norway was occupied by Germany at the time, and Munch was given a huge Nazi-style funeral, but it had as much effect on him as the Expressionists in Berlin. He was, as he always looked forward to being when he died, finally free of the world that had driven him to scream.

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The place is relatively big, and “adjacent to a 3,000-acre wildlife sanctuary.” When the animals are ready to survive on their own, they are released into an appropriate habitat.

Loril is also a resident storyteller for the Commission of Native Affairs, and offers a storytelling program. She identifies as White Mountain Apache, and states the stories that she tells are “the ones that are passed down to me by my grandparents.”

Medicine Mammals sells jewelry of their own making for funds that go to the organization, and has a performing arts group that does Native American contemporary and traditional music. Loril’s partner Peter, who helps work with the animals, is Blackfoot, and the performing art group includes two Iroquois singers and a Penobscot dancer.

Loril explains that you don’t need to be Native American to volunteer with the group, and that volunteers can just “call us up” to find out how to help.

This woman is good with the animals. I observed her sitting with a raccoon in her arms. As she was

feeding the animal pieces of apple, Loril said she guesses that people were already feeding the animal due to it being comfortable with it. That animal at the moment has a problem with her eyes. They call her Nyx, “after the goddess of the night sky”.

Medicine Mammals vaccinates the raccoons quite thoroughly, which means all the mammals there have been vaccinated for rabies, parvo, and other diseases. “Not only will they not get sick,” Loril explains, “but they won’t spread it,” after they are released into the wild.

She also mentions that “I take baby raccoons for walks by a pond, because I can make raccoon calls.” She was able to get one to come out using that call. I also saw a raccoon in an observation, due to having scarred skin where fur won’t grow, which doesn’t help him in the winter. She made it possible for me to get a look at two possums which were out there as well.

This woman sounds like a very hands-on person when it comes to dealing with mammals. She made me feel that she is a dedicated and kind person to be doing this work.



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