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The Montague Reporter

YEAR 14 – NO. 27

also serving Erving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

APRIL 21, 2016

Gas Pipeline Project: "SUSPENDED"

By MIKE JACKSON

FRANKLIN COUNTY – Citing a lack of commitment at both the supply and demand ends of its proposed Northeast Energy Direct (NED) natural gas pipeline, Kinder Morgan announced Wednesday afternoon that it was suspending the project, and would not be spending any more money to advance it.

"There are currently neither sufficient volumes, nor a reasonable expectation of securing them, to proceed with the project as it is currently configured," the company wrote.

The news was met with cel-

ebration and excitement among the project's opponents, though some expressed disbelief, and others said they would be shifting their efforts to stop Spectra's Northeast Access pipeline, which would transport shale gas through Connecticut into the eastern part of the state.

It was initially unclear whether the DPU proceedings over local distribution company Berkshire Gas's contracts for gas from the project's "supply path" would continue. The town of Montague was granted status as an intervenor in that case, and several other area

see PIPELINE page A6

Despite Criticism, Crowded Fire-Water Meeting Approves Staffing Increase Unanimously

By JEFF SINGLETON

TURNERS FALLS – Despite well-publicized criticism of a proposed fire department budget increase for the coming fiscal year, an annual meeting of the Turners Falls Fire District at Hillcrest Elementary School on Tuesday night unanimously approved every article on the warrant. This included a combined fire-water district budget of \$2,741,334, roughly \$80,000 more than the budget proposed by the district's finance committee. The increase will add two additional firefighters to the staff.

The meeting was attended by approximately 70 residents, a relatively high turnout for the district's annual meeting.

In an article in this newspaper the previous week, district finance committee member David Thompson had questioned the need for new firefighters, stating that "This is a little village. It's not the city."

Thompson elaborated on those criticisms at the meeting, arguing that the addition of two new firefighters would just be a first step, given the statistics on call increases and the decline in volunteers cited

see FIRE DISTRICT page A3



Tuesday's district annual meeting was better attended than many in recent years.

Three Vie for Erving Seat

By KATIE NOLAN

This spring, Erving has a three-way race for its top seat. Arthur Johnson, George "Moonlight" Davis and Scott Bastarache are all candidates for a three-year term on the Erving selectboard.

The incumbent, Johnson, has served on the selectboard for eighteen months, after being elected to complete the term following Eugene Klepadlo's resignation. He is a former member of the finance committee, and serves as the town's animal control officer.

Bastarache is the chair of the Erving school committee, and also serves as representative to the Union #28 regional school committee.

Davis is on the planning board, and is chair of the newly reformed cable advisory committee.

The annual town election will be held on Wednesday, May 4 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the downstairs conference room at town hall.

We asked each of the candidates six questions about the town, and what they would bring to the office.

MR: What do you think are the best features of the town of Erving?

"Something I just helped with," Johnson said: "our taxes are lowered to \$6-something per thousand, and we're getting the same services. Departments are level funded this year."

Johnson said that because of the tax base and the townspeople watching expenses, "the selectboard can focus on what's best for the town. There's not a lot of fighting about

see ERVING page A4

Downtown TV Store Reopens As Gun Shop

By MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS – Their market was dwindling, but another presented a wide-open opportunity.

That's what Norm Emond, Jr. decided about a year and a half ago, as he and his father Norm, Sr. assessed the writing on the wall at the Audio Video House, the communications business the family has run on Avenue A since the late 1980s.

"Things just changed. Technology changed," he said. The business had become reliant on networking homes with DirecTV, but that service was increasingly offered by conglomerates.

The final push came when AT&T acquired DirecTV last year. New customers were few and far between, and the payment structure no longer provided much benefit to local middlemen like the AV House.

So Norm, Jr. set about rededicating the storefront at 151 Avenue A, a commercially zoned downtown building the family has owned since 1989, to a market with a demand for storefronts: he became a licensed firearms dealer.

This week, the space is reopening as the Gun Rack, in advance of an official grand opening late next month.

"There's not many [firearms] dealers around here that are bigger dealers," Emond explained. "To get the selection, you have to drive.... You're looking at R&R in Belchertown, and Guns Inc. in West Springfield."

Since 1998, Massachusetts has not granted licenses to dealers operating out of their homes. Existing area stores tend to carry small selections of guns, according to Emond. Dick's Sporting Goods doesn't



MIKE JACKSON PHOTO

Norm Emond, Jr. said he was surprised he had not heard more local opposition to his business plan.

offer handguns, and Greenfield's Jurek Brothers only sells to law enforcement.

The Gun Rack, on the other hand, will carry all sorts of guns. "I'm hoping within six months to literally have hundreds," Emond said. "I'm hoping to have down here 3 or 400, anyway."

But, he said, it will take the shop some time to stock up on a diverse range of guns from wholesalers, who

see GUN RACK page A6

As Annual Town Meetings Approach, School District Seeks Budget Compromise

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

TURNERS FALLS – At the April 12 Gill-Montague school committee meeting, district business director Joanne Blier and superintendent Michael Sullivan informed members of the current status of the budget process. Blier had attended a joint meeting of Montague's selectboard and finance committee two weeks earlier, at which town officials chose to stick with their position of supporting what they consider an affordable assessment amount, in effect rejecting the district's FY'17 budget as approved by the school committee.

This leaves a gap of \$57,715

between what the town says it can afford and the current GMRSD budget for FY'17.

In response, school committee members discussed at length their possible options, but decided to make no changes to the budget at that time. They did agree to reach out to the towns and keep the dialogue going. Blier and Sullivan agreed with the judgment of the school committee members that they should not wait until town meeting to work out their differences, but seek to find middle ground.

Although the town has said they could not accept the assessment as presented, they did indicate a willingness to meet the school district

"halfway." School committee members took this to mean they would need to reach out to the towns and request a dialogue.

The committee agreed that accepting what the town considers an "affordable" assessment would be very difficult for the district. Joyce Phillips, member from Montague said, "It's like we're in a boat without oars. We're not able to do what we have to do."

Sullivan picked up the thread and agreed, saying, "We're operating from a place where it's hard to improve. Cutting over \$57,000 would be very hard to do."

There was a consensus on the see GMRSD page A4

TFHS Hosts Regional Student Council Meeting

By LEE WICKS

Members of the Turners Falls High School Student Council lined up in front of their school on Thursday, April 14 to welcome busloads of student council representatives from twelve other schools in western Massachusetts. For the first time in eleven years, TFHS was hosting the annual spring meeting of the Western Massachusetts Association of Student Councils (WMASC).

The twelve schools sent a total of 240 students to elect a new executive board, report on the year's community service projects, and engage in exercises to help develop leadership skills.

WMASC is the western region of the Massachusetts Association of Student Councils, an organization that seeks to allow student leaders to be more involved in their community by inspiring their peers to be their best.

The theme for the Association's



LEE WICKS PHOTO

TFHS Student Council members applaud their visiting peers.

2015-2016 service project was *Music and Memory*. After learning that people with dementia and Alzheimer's experience temporary relief from some of their symptoms by listening to music from their childhoods, students collected used iPods, and raised money for new earphones, iTunes gift cards, and used CDs in order to make customized playlists for patients.

Chani Craig, the TFHS school li-

brarian who also serves as the faculty advisor to the student council and director of the spring musical – this year it was *Little Shop of Horrors* – seemed as excited as the students, even though no students from TFHS were running for a place on the executive board.

She said, "One girl thought about it, but she had never been to a spring conference, and so she was nervous

see COUNCIL page A3

The Montague Reporter

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Poverty: The Ultimate Fossil Fuel Pipeline

It was good to hear activists opposing Kinder Morgan's Northeast Energy Direct (NED) pipeline immediately turning their attention toward comparable projects further afield as soon as they heard the NED had been shelved.

Over the past two years, the controversy over the project, which would have cut through hundreds of miles of sparsely settled, well-conserved land in New York, Massachusetts and Connecticut, took on a life of its own.

The immediate impacts it could have had on protected land – and possibly rural water supply, wildlife management areas, unexplored areas of archaeological interest, and the property of unwilling landowners – were debated alongside questions of supply and demand, energy pricing and consumption, moratoriums and export schemes, and the planet's warming climate.

It would be a shame if we managed to make the project too troublesome in our own area, only to watch as similar pipelines were built through more populated zones in order to lock in New England's dependence on cheap gas from Appalachian fracking fields.

There is still a serious proposal on the table to charge electricity ratepayers up front to help electric utilities fund new gas infrastructure.

On May 5, the state's Supreme Judicial Court will consider whether the Department of Public Utilities should be able to approve companies like National Grid and Eversource entering long-term contracts for gas from Spectra Energy's Access Northeast project.

Whether or not the up-front fee would pay off in future savings is beside the point – there are good reasons we shouldn't let those utilities dictate our energy mix.

There is a frustrating circularity to debates over utility policy. Generally speaking, we regulate utilities heavily, because of the relative power they wield. In particular, we mandate that they do everything in their power to minimize the costs of their product to consumers.

This has unintended negative consequences. One of the more curious is that these corporate behemoths are among the only large institutions in America that can claim to be acting in the direct economic interest of the poor.

Real wages have stagnated since the mid-1970s; the costs of education and healthcare have ballooned;

and the one-third of Americans who rent their homes have given a steadily higher proportion of their incomes to their landlords.

According to the Employee Benefit Research Institute, 26% of American workers – that's *workers*, mind you – have less than \$1,000 in savings.

The two things that have gotten cheaper along the way are food and energy – closely related factors, because the way we grow and distribute food in turn uses a lot of energy. The Energy Information Administration tells us our energy expenditure as a share of income bottomed out in around 2001.

For an entire generation, this has been a key tradeoff. For tens of millions of people, if energy costs begin to rise again seriously, it will be an economic last straw.

American poverty has become our fossil fuel industry's greatest economic reserve.

For a good example of how this works, check out americaspower.org and energycitizens.org, where the kind of direct and attractive demand for working-class economic security the labor movement and Democratic Party rarely manage to make, put forth instead by the American Coalition for Clean Coal Energy and the American Petroleum Institute.

Environmentalists won't create a path out of fossil fuel dependence by outmaneuvering those who want the cheapest possible energy now. They will do it by helping them.

This will mean opposing cuts to fuel and food assistance. It will mean fighting for affordable housing, education, and transportation.

It will mean replying to those who hope cheap energy will bring more work to their region – because they themselves face chronic unemployment or job security – with tangible solidarity, instead of blanket claims about the coming miracle of Green Jobs.

When we live in a society that guarantees a basic minimum standard of living, we will be much better able to make long-range decisions and investments together.

So to those looking for another dragon to slay now that the NED has slithered back into a briefcase in Texas: listen to those around you who are worried for what its loss might mean, take their root concerns seriously, and imagine what a climate movement that refuses to see these things as a trade-off might look like.



LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by DON CLEGG

Check out the 5th Annual **Giant Western Massachusetts Remote Control Flea Market** on Saturday, April 23, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Franklin County Technical School, 82 Industrial Boulevard in Turners Falls.

Browse, sell, or swap at the largest western Massachusetts remote control flea market. Anything remote-control including boats, planes, or cars can be sold. For more information or to reserve a table, contact David Korpiewski (413) 695-2191.

The lack of a website puts anyone wanting to compete at a disadvantage. Having a site that is not attractive, hard to navigate and not user friendly, is almost as bad as not having any.

Mik Muller of **Montague Web-Works** will be at the Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls on Saturday, April 23, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. to answer any of your questions or concerns regarding websites as an advantage to businesses, agencies, municipalities and non-profits.

Muller is offering information to folks attending. This is not a sales presentation. No reservations required. Please come, and share a coffee and ideas with your peers.

Join "**History Detectives**" at the

Erving Library on Sunday, April 24, from 2 to 4 p.m. with genealogists and Erving historians Sara Campbell and Shari Strahan on their quest for information from the past. This program is for school-aged children and adults.

The library is open on Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m. Register with Jane Urban at the Erving Elementary School: (413) 423-3326.

Jessica Bartlett, Montague Center resident and surgical physician assistant, will report on her recent **trip as part of a surgical team to Haiti** at the Montague Center Fire Station, 28 Old Sunderland Road, Montague, on Monday, April 25 at 7 p.m.

All Montague Center residents are welcomed to attend this community event. Refreshments will be served. The event is sponsored by the Montague Center Firemen and EMTs.

Frank Grindrod of Earthwork Programs will present two programs at the Carnegie Library for the **Homeschool Science Program**. On Wednesday, April 27, enjoy "Native Crafts and Skills Working with Fibers," and on Wednesday, May 4, learn "The Art of Making Fire". Both programs start at 1:15 p.m.

These programs are supported in part by a grant from the Montague Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the

Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Wake up very early and enjoy "**Early Bird Spring Birding with John Green**" on Saturday, April 30, from 7 to 10 a.m. Yes that is 7 a.m.!

Get a jump on learning about spring migratory birds with the bird-song expertise of John Green. Green will lead you on a walk to discover the birds along the Canalside Rail Trail, at Unity Park, and along Migratory Way. This free program is perfect for beginning and intermediate birders.

Meet at the main entrance to the Great Falls Discovery Center. Space is limited so please register soon by calling (413) 863-3221 or emailing shawn.t.kennedy@state.ma.us.

That Saturday will also be **Park Serve Day** at the Discovery Center. Join DCR staff and the Great Falls Discovery Center Friends Group from 10 a.m. to noon as they prepare the center for its upcoming 2016 season.

Some of the group's projects will include spreading mulch and beautifying the garden beds, trash and leaf clean-up, and other simple yard tasks to help Great Falls really shine all season long.

Bring a friend or family member or two, a pair of work shoes and prepare to get your hands and knees a little dirty as you volunteer to make Great Falls the great State Park it is. All tools needed will be supplied.

Registration for the **Montague Summer Playground Program** begins Monday, May 2. Call 863-3216 for program information.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

GUEST EDITORIAL

Next Week in Northfield: Come Out to Support Our Local Newspaper!

By YOLANDA CAMPBELL

As a long-time resident of Turners Falls, I was pleased with the invitation to join the board of directors at the *Montague Reporter* last fall.

Having worked with several other small non-profit organizations, I had respect and admiration for a newspaper dedicated to local news, stories about the wonderful people we have in this community, the history of our community, and educating us about what is happening right here. I felt then, and continue to believe, that we have a rare gem in our community newspaper.

We on the *Reporter's* board of directors are committed to ensuring the maintenance and growth of the newspaper, and need the support and cooperation of the community. We are planning events that we hope will attract and appeal to many of the different facets of our community, and we invite and encourage all of our readers and writers to participate.

We are reaching out to the small towns and businesses in our valley to include them in this community – we want to be inclusive. Our ultimate goal is to broaden what we see as the newspaper's three R's: Readership, Relationships, and Revenue.

Next weekend, Saturday, April

30, from 6 to 9 p.m., is our Spring Showers event at Cameron's Winery in Northfield.

This spring evening will be a great opportunity for readers who are passionate about the *Montague Reporter* to come out and support us while enjoying many delicious local flavors!

Leslie and Paul Cameron are providing a beautiful space, a splash of wine, and wonderful music by Corki & Ken for the event. The Camerons have also provided one of the baskets for our basket raffle.

Thomas Farm of Sunderland is offering a taste of goat cheese and crackers, and Mo's Fudge Factor of Shelburne Falls a taste of their handmade chocolates. Both will be available to buy as well, with a percentage of sales of chocolate and cheese donated to the *Reporter*.

There will be a basket raffle with beautiful, fun and creative baskets, graciously donated by a number of local individuals and businesses. \$10 will get you 26 chances to win, and the basket raffle will entirely benefit the newspaper. We hope you will pitch in!

We're already grateful for the support of a whole community in making this a special event. Readers have even started buying tick-

ets for the raffle, businesses and individuals have provided baskets for our raffle – thank you everyone for your help!

While towns like Northfield, Sunderland and Shelburne Falls are not necessarily in the masthead of the paper, some of our readers and fans live there, and we want to recognize that the communities in this county are interconnected. Heading out to Northfield gives us an opportunity to meet new people and build new relationships.

In the past year, we have hosted fundraisers at Wendell's Deja Brew, Erving's French King Restaurant, and the 99 Restaurant in Greenfield, and we're planning more local events at familiar venues later this year. Keep an eye out!

I hope you will all join us – we look forward to seeing everyone and sharing a fun evening with you.

Many folks feel passionately about the paper, and the *MR* board does especially.

In order to keep the paper going we need to build new relationships while maintaining the old ones, broaden our readership, and strengthen the *Reporter's* bottom line, so we can continue to read this local, not-for-profit gem every week for years to come!

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FIRE DISTRICT from page A1

by the fire chief. He estimated that this would eventually lead to six new staff, and a budget increase of nearly \$1 million.

In the *Reporter* interview, Thompson also suggested that "there's a lot of people who feel the same way I do, but they don't want to say anything because they don't want to rattle the fire department." However, at the district meeting there seemed to be a number of skeptics who eventually voted for the staffing increase after a lengthy presentation by fire chief Bob Escott. Even Thompson failed to register a "no" vote.

Montague finance committee chair John Hanold said that he thought criticisms raised prior to the meeting had led to a strong presentation by Escott, who at times appeared to answer questions before they were raised. Escott cited data on the increased number of calls, including for medical emergencies and to assist other towns, combined with the reduction in the number of "on call" volunteers.

He repeated the assertion made in the *Reporter* that the district needs roughly 30 such volunteers but currently has only 12. This leads to periods when the station is under-staffed, particularly during weekdays and when the department must respond to multiple calls.

The bulk of the meeting was taken up by Article 5 of the warrant, which dealt with the annual budget. The moderator, former fire chief Ray Godin, read down each line item,

many of which Escott successfully modified with proposed amendments to the finance committee's recommended figures.

The item for "Probationary Firefighters" was the first to be amended, raised from \$35,234.20 to \$120,451.92. This \$85,000 increase would add two new firefighters to the staff. Other items were amended up or down depending on the impact of the staff increase. For example, the line items for military leave, sick leave and vacation relief were amended down because overtime hours could be reduced using regular staff. On the other hand, there were significant increases in group health insurance and withholdings for Medicare and unemployment insurance.

Although an occasional clarification was requested by the audience, all line item amendments were approved by unanimous voice vote.

Ambulance Fund

Another article which was approved unanimously, but generated a number of questions from the audience, established a so-called "enterprise fund" for the district's ambulance service. The fund will contain ambulance revenues and be used to finance the cost of the new service.

Escott stated that "it has always been the intention" of the district to finance the ambulance from a dedicated revenue stream funded by its fees. State representative Steve Kulik recently guided enabling legislation through the legislature to allow an enterprise fund.

The motion approved unanimously also transferred \$30,886 from free cash, "an amount equivalent to Ambulance Surplus," into the fund, and then appropriated \$35,000 from the new fund for "operations of the enterprise." Former Montague selectboard member Pat Allen asked how more money could be transferred from the fund than it contained. Escott stated that more surplus money from ambulance revenues was available than had yet been "certified." The finance committee did not weigh in on this arrangement.

Land Deal

Another warrant article that sparked some interest involved the potential lease of water department land to the Mohawk Ramblers motorcycle club. The Ramblers are being evicted by the state from their longtime clubhouse on the Montague Plains. The district is proposing to lease approximately 5.95 acres of land on the east side of Lake Pleasant Road to them.

The article was approved unanimously after former selectboard member and Montague Center resident Sam Lovejoy, who does not live in the district, questioned the open-ended time frame of the lease. The motion simply stated that the property would be leased "for a period in excess of three years".

Water commissioner Mike Brown noted that the property would need to be "put out to bid" under state procurement law.

Other highlights of the meeting

included:

- Appropriations for new trucks for the fire department (\$50,000) and water department (\$52,000).
- Unused sick leave (\$25,300) and vacation (\$14,700) pay for the retiring fire chief. Escott stated that he planned to retire in August, and that the district prudential committee would be discussing the process for hiring a new chief at their next meeting.
- \$25,000 appropriated for roof repairs at the Lake Pleasant Pump Station. Mike Brown stated that there were five attached buildings at the site. The pump station is approximately 130 years old, and in poor condition.
- The water department requested, and received, an allocation of \$5,000 "for the purpose of improving and maintaining an existing road on district property..." The existing road, it turns out, is so-called "Dry Hill Cross Road" to the south of Dry Hill cemetery. The town of Montague is attempting to improve access to this historic town cemetery. "That's good news," said town planner Walter Ramsey of the appropriation.
- Another water department request approved by the meeting created a revolving fund "into which fund will be placed forestry funds collected. Brown said the department hires a forester to harvest timber for sale "every few years." The article also allocated up to \$5,000 from the fund "or the purpose of conservation, maintenance, and surveying of district property."



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Riverside Cemetery Association of Gill, MA: ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

Wednesday Evening
May 4th at 6:30 p.m.

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

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COUNCIL from page A1

about the speech. I had her talk to Chelsea Schurch, one of the candidates for president, to discuss how even if you have stage fright it's still worth it to run. She has promised to run next year!"

With Ms. Craig for inspiration, and administrative support from school principal Annie Leonard, it seems pretty certain that TFHS will have a candidate for office next year. As the group's advisor, Ms. Craig guides the students into opportunities and service projects while remaining sensitive to individual needs.

At a meeting two weeks prior to the regional conference, Ms. Craig talked about a summer leadership camp, T-shirt designs, and community service projects. Midway through that meeting, Ms. Leonard came by, and reassured students that funds would be found if someone expressed a sincere desire to participate in the annual leadership camp and could not afford the tuition.

Leonard said, "Although people typically think about leadership as something that comes with a title or position, the reality is that leadership is a behavior: encouraging or empowering others to reach their goals. What we see at the WMASC conference is the emergence of that leadership behavior on a mass scale.

"As I said in my remarks to the conference participants, it is their



Turners students greet the visiting dignitaries at the school's entrance.

passion and purpose that impresses me the most. The knowledge and skills they acquire in school are not worth much in the world beyond school unless they are accompanied by passion and purpose."

The day began with breakfast where baked goods were provided by the culinary program at Franklin County Tech. Participants then filed into the auditorium to hear speeches from the candidates running for office.

The passion Ms. Leonard referenced was most visible here, where students compared leadership and decision-making to sailing a ship through choppy waters, or putting together the best possible baseball team.

Lizzie Howland, a tenth grader

from Greenfield High, running for secretary, talked about values, transparency and promoting an environment where everyone can express their true selves.

Tim Bollea from Palmer High School, a candidate for vice president, asked the audience, "What will you endure for something you love? Being a leader is hard at first, but worth it when you turn your ideas into reality."

Alyssa Garvin, an eleventh grader from Greenfield, also running for vice president, quoted Ralph Waldo Emerson.

Ethan Gasteyer, a tenth grader from Minnechaug, running for the same seat, provided the baseball analogy.

Presidential candidate Chelsea

Schurch, an eleventh grader from Smith Academy, offered an extended metaphor comparing leadership to sailing. She took to the stage wearing a white sailing cap, as other representatives from her school, also wearing white caps, cheered her on.

The other contender for president was Minnechaug eleventh-grader Sam Zeno. He spoke of superheroes, and of growing student council membership into a "super family" of heroes committed to the ideals of leadership and community.

When the votes were tallied, the winners were Zeno, president; Bollea, vice president; and Howland, secretary.

In a true spirit of collaboration and civility, all students listened to the speakers respectfully, and offered rousing applause after each one. In late morning when the students were divided into small groups and given team-building tasks, they solved problems together and became better acquainted.

At the final assembly when the winning candidates were named, they cheered one another, knowing they are all on the same team with the same goals to improve their schools and their surrounding communities.

Proud to have hosted this conference, TFHS students waved and whistled at the departing busses, with high hopes for the year ahead.

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money. "Being able to give the fire department, police department and schools the best of what they need makes you feel good."

Bastarache pointed to the nature of the town. "I like the fact that we are a small community, and most residents know each other." He said he also appreciates the town's open space, and "residents willing to be involved."

Davis said that "what has sold me on Erving is we live in a beautiful area of the state, surrounded by nature's beauty. I would not want to see us lose any of it."

MR: *The town will soon have a new administrative coordinator. How do you see the board interacting with the new administrative coordinator?*

Johnson described the coordinator position as "the backbone, the central line, the artery" of town government.

With a new coordinator, Johnson said he feels the board and board meetings will be more organized, and both the selectboard and the department heads will be better informed. He sees the administrative coordinator as "the missing link" keeping everyone in town better informed.

Bastarache said he would like to see an administrative coordinator "with some level of authority, so if the board is not available, the administrator knows where we are and is able to make decisions on the fly, if needed."

He added that the administrative coordinator "is not a mayor - doesn't have full control, but should have some scope of authority."

"In order for the selectboard and new administrative coordinator to work as a team," said Davis, "they need mutual respect between all parties. The most positive thing is for the new administrative coordinator to come in and be willing to learn how things run in Erving."

MR: *The board is very involved with setting the town's budget. Do you have a good understanding of the budget process?*

"I have absolute confidence in my budget skills," said Johnson. "Before I was on the selectboard, I was on the finance committee, so I have experience in making sure everything works well." Johnson says an essential step has been for the selectboard to review budget and capital requests and set priorities.

Bastarache said he "would like to look at expenses first, what we need to function, before seeing what the pool of money is."

He said that, when working on the school committee budget, he has asked the school to determine the needs "in totality" and then decide "is that within the means of the town?" He said he prefers that approach rather than, "here's the pot of money we have, how do we spend it?"

Bastarache also added that, regardless of the outcome of the elec-

tion, he would like to bring up this conversation with the selectboard.

"I haven't been on the finance committee," said Davis, "but I've read a lot, and have been listening to citizens. Citizens need more information so they can make better decisions about the budget."

Davis said he sees problems with decisions made while building the senior center - such as the heating system and plumbing, problems that will cost the town money to repair.

He feels the selectboard should be foresighted, and wary of "cutting corners" in determining how to allocate town money.

MR: *What special skills do you bring to the selectboard?*

Johnson cited his business background and mediation skills: "I have been in business many years, where I kept and maintained my own budget. Sometimes I have had to make difficult executive decisions.

"I have worked to mediate, and figure out the best solutions if someone comes to the selectboard upset about something in town."

"Over the years," said Bastarache, "I think it's the ability to communicate and carry myself with the decorum needed, even if I don't like the direction of the decision." He said he tries to remain "neutral and level headed," and exercise due diligence before making a decision.

As a school committee member, Bastarache said he has seen the adverse effects when people make knee-jerk decisions out of emotion. He said he likes to "see both sides and make an informed decision."

"I am able to sit in a room with people with different opinions and hear those opinions," answered Davis. "I am not afraid to speak my opinion.

"I am for the best interest of the citizens of Erving, not self-generated or special interests - all the citizens of Erving and beyond."

MR: *In general, if you have a problem, how do you go about solving it?*

"As a board," said Johnson, the incumbent, "I've tried to work together. Sometimes something doesn't go your way. You hope you can communicate with the other members, and convince them that your way is right."

When he has a problem, Bastarache says he speaks "directly to the source - go to the source, and see if you can get resolution." When he's encountered a problem as a school committee member, he brings it forward, saying "here's my problem; here's why I think it's a problem; and here's a possible solution."

Davis described himself as "the kind of person who likes to gather information and work out a plan." He said he likes to take a wide view, looking at various ways to solve a problem, not just taking the easiest solution, but also asking "What else can we do?"

Davis gave an example: "They terminated the DPW supervisor,

who was well-liked and went above and beyond in his work. They could have added a part-time secretary to help him do his job, rather than let him go. They could have resolved the issue with long-term vision.

"The board has had long-term vision on money issues, but not people issues."

MR: *Is there anything else you think voters in Erving should know about you?*

"Erving is my home, today and tomorrow," said Johnson. "I chose to live in Erving. I grew up in Erving, lived other places and moved back.

"I feel the reason why people voted me in a year and a half ago is that the fire chief was ousted, [and] the highway department head was ousted in executive session. The number one problem has been transparency, there were too many secrets. There need to be checks and balances in town government."

Johnson said he insisted on bringing in the team from UMass' Collins Center to lead the town through its search for a new administrative co-

ordinator. "As selectman," he said, "I am there for the people."

Bastarache replied, "I've been in town for ten years, and on the school committee for seven years. I enjoy being in town and enjoy being involved. I'm looking forward to contributing to the town in a different way."

"I have a passion for things, a desire for Erving and its government to do better," said Davis.

"In the beginning, my wife and I got involved with town business because we were concerned citizens about the [Kinder Morgan] pipeline. Since then, I have realized there are many other issues in town that need attention."

Davis describes himself as "the only candidate that is actually opposing the pipeline."

Davis said he joined the cable advisory committee and is "working to televise meetings, so people can be more informed about what's going on and participate." He added that making the town work better "is not possible without the involvement from the citizens."



GMRSD from page A1

committee that making positive improvements within the district is difficult under current budget constraints, and any further cuts would only make it harder.

Sullivan said the next school committee meeting, scheduled for April 26, will be the last opportunity to change the budget before town meeting. Montague's annual town meeting will be held Saturday, May 7, and Gill's is on Monday, May 9.

Rules require that a budget presented at town meeting can be adjusted downward, but cannot be increased.

Sullivan suggested it was possible that Montague town meeting members might approve their budget as it stands, but it was generally agreed that continuing to seek an agreement with town officials prior to town meeting was preferable.

Blier said she and Sullivan would be willing to meet again with members of the selectboard and finance committee to seek middle ground.

Sullivan discussed the town's position on some of the capital investments the school district is asking Montague to support, including the stage at Hillcrest Elementary, which is in serious need of repair. He said they are requesting \$70,000 for the repairs. "I would love to see it approved," he said.

"The budget is our budget," said Valeria "Timmie" Smith, member from Gill. "We should be at these meetings." She asked that the school committee be informed when any meetings with town officials are being held so they can join members of the administration in attending. "It shows we're interested in this, that we're partners in this." Sullivan agreed to keep the

committee informed.

In discussing the pressures on the town of Montague, Blier said the selectboard is worried about the cost of state-mandated removal of underground oil tanks. Phillips said, "Both capital improvements and school budget shouldn't wait until town meeting." She said the district should look for ways to maintain a dialogue with the towns. "If it doesn't come back to them, [the towns] might think it's not important to us."

Marjorie Levenson, member from Montague, agreed. "We should keep the dialogue going," she said. "No one likes surprises." She went on to say, "I believe in giving Hillcrest what they need. I do believe it's a town building. I sympathize with the town. I'd rather go halfway to give teachers what they need."

Sullivan, in his superintendent's report, said that he has been working with a rural advocacy group interested in advancing an agenda that will inform state legislators about fiscal challenges unique to small and rural school districts. He attended a meeting of area superintendents on March 23, hosted by Mohawk superintendent Michael Buoniconti.

Sullivan said preliminary topics of discussion include the need for increased transportation aid, the creation of a "sparsity aid" factor in the Chapter 70 formula that would account for higher-than-average per-pupil fixed costs associated with small districts, and a change in the funding formula for charter schools.

The next regular school committee meeting will be held on April 26 at Turners Falls High School, at 6:30 p.m.



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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Fire Regionalization Study On The Horizon

By EDITE CUNHA

The Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) is currently working on a memorandum of understanding for a fire services regionalization study. The memo is slated to be ready sometime in May, and Gill is one of the potential towns to be included in the study. At their April 19 meeting, Gill's selectboard discussed the possibility of the town joining in the study.

By signing to the study, the town is not bound to implement the results. Signing on shows interest, and grants the study access to interview firefighting staff. The FRCOG's goal, according to town administrator Ray Purington, is to reduce costs to towns without reducing services.

Fire chief Gene Beaubien spoke against any regionalization of services.

"I believe it hurts the town more than it helps," he said. "And I'm not sure it would really work." He added that he would be retired by the time regionalization was ready for implementation, but said he would not want to leave the town with such a plan.

"I have yet to find it to be cheaper," selectboard member Randy

Crochier said of department regionalization. He noted that in some cases, towns may end up with more professional departments, as has happened with some town health departments, but at higher costs.

"I am open to listening," Crochier said.

No action was taken on the matter at the meeting.

The fire department's Engine 2, which was recently damaged when it came in contact with a mailbox in Erving, has been repaired.

The cost of repairs was \$1,200. With an insurance deductible at \$1,000, the selectboard agreed that it would be most prudent to not file a claim, as it would likely increase insurance premiums in the future. The mailbox has been repaired.

Upgrades (and Downgrades)

The board signed a purchase order for emergency management department pagers, to be paid out of the Vermont Yankee fund.

Speaking as the town's emergency management director, Beaubien reported that while everyone in the department currently has a pager, they have no backups for when equipment breaks.

Insulation work has been com-

pleted on the safety complex. Roof work is still underway and nearing completion. Purington has been waiting for the job to be completed before calling for the necessary roof warranty inspection.

Weather permitting, street lights will be replaced this week beginning on Thursday in the Riverside neighborhood where faulty photo sensors purchased with Green Communities grant money have caused lights to remain on most of the time, according to Purington. Workers will be taking down problem sensors and replacing them with new ones.

The failed lights, which were rated to last many years, have failed in less than a year.

Speed Monitoring

Purington asked selectboard to consider whether they wanted to take the FRCOG up on an offer to do traffic counts and speed monitoring in town again, and if so, in what areas of town.

The board agreed that there have been problems with drivers speeding through town center, but were not sure how the service could effectively be used to remedy this. Purington suggested that they could ask the FRCOG to have

the monitoring equipment moved closer to the town center. He also noted that the state insists on using information collected by the monitors in setting speed limits.

Cleaning Up

The board awarded the annual street sweeping bid to A Whole Lot of Lines, the same firm which did the work last year. Their bid came in at \$115 per hour.

The stump pile which has accumulated in the lower field off River Road since the ice storm of 2013 will soon disappear. The board signed a purchase order for tub-grinding the debris, which has been the source of trouble in the past, when the fire department had to respond after someone set the pile on fire.

"We spent one cold night putting that out," said fire chief Beaubien, noting also that it was on a night when the department was needed elsewhere.

The highway department has uses in mind for the chips.

A "Clean Sweep Bulky Waste Day" will take place on Saturday, May 21 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Northfield Highway Garage. Residents may dispose of tires, appliances, scrap metals, televisions, rigid

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Other Business & Announcements

Pricing on the printing of annual town reports by the Franklin County Sheriff's Office has come in at \$4.15 per copy. Purington reported that there is enough left in FY'16 budget to print a couple of years' worth of town reports, which are currently backed up six years.

The Riverside Cemetery Association will hold an Annual Meeting, probably its final one, at 6:30 p.m. on May 4 at the public safety complex in Montague.

A hearing on the renewal of the town's cable license with Comcast has been scheduled for May 17 at 6 p.m.

The Northfield VFW is hosting a spaghetti dinner for service members, veterans, spouses and widows at 5 p.m. on May 20 at 545 Mount Hermon Station Road in Northfield.

Bob Perry was appointed as elections constable through June 30.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Leverett Voters to Consider Schools, Solar and More at April 30 Town Meeting

By ROB SKELTON

The Leverett selectboard met Tuesday with town moderator Larry Farber to review the warrant for the annual town meeting, which will take place next Saturday, April 30.

Article 1 is general town housekeeping regarding the elected positions of moderator, town clerk, and 3 constables.

Articles 2 and 3 are ballot questions changing the tree warden and assistant moderator from elected to appointed positions. This change is urged by the selectboard as a matter of practicality, due to the minor nature of the jobs.

Article 4 puts forth changes in the Leverett Code contingent upon the passing of Articles 2 and 3.

Articles 5 and 6 speak to school funding and regional agreements.

Article 7, requested by the school committee, asks the moderator to form an exploratory committee to continue to push forward a regional elementary school consolidation, in the face of Shutesbury's disinclination to join Amherst, Pelham and Leverett in doing so.

Article 8 is the town budget, and **Article 9** sets the salaries of

elected officials.

Articles 10 through 14 seek voter authorization for the expenditure of Community Preservation Act monies, specifically for cemetery upkeep at the Moores Corner and Jackson Hill burial grounds. Article 14 asks to spend \$125,000 to pay for the "rehabilitation and preservation of the 1948 original Highway Department Building."

Article 15 is a tweak of the solar by-laws, as requested by the selectboard, and put forth by the planning board.

Three size categories are delineated for ground-mounted solar arrays: "small," up to 1,750 square feet of panels, may be built anywhere in town subject to setbacks and other regulatory controls; "medium," between 1,750 and 40,000 square feet of panels, shall be permitted by right, but will require a site plan review except under certain conditions where a special permit is required; and "large," 40,000 to 200,000 square feet, will require a special permit in all zones except where they are expressly not permitted, such as the Rattlesnake Gutter Overlay, the Lake and Stream, and the Rural Village Districts.

Planning board member Richard Nathhorst seeks to add a "friendly amendment" to reduce the 100-foot property line setback to 37 feet, to comport with the state's model bylaw.

Size notwithstanding, there is no minimum parcel size requirement, and panels can be built on lots that are not approvable for residential or commercial construction. Existing zoning bylaws require systems over 10 kilowatts to be on a legal building lot.

Article 16 authorizes a grant-enhanced purchase of a paper compactor for the dump; **Article 17** assigns \$5,580 to fix the heating system in the library; and **Article 18** buys carpets for the library.

Article 19 transfers \$6,500 from free cash for the purchase of new turnout gear for the fire department; and **Article 20** transfers \$14,000 from free cash toward the purchase of a new 2,000-gallon tanker, contingent on a federal grant for the remaining 90% of the cost.

Article 21 asks voters to approve \$5,000 to aid the town of Montague's legal efforts to intervene before the Department of Public Utilities on the matter of Berkshire Gas' con-

tracts for gas from the controversial fracked-gas pipeline proposed by Tennessee Gas Pipeline.

Article 22 updates previously-approved funds from a 2014 annual town meeting vote for fire department equipment.

Article 23 rescinds previous votes involving electrical aggregation, as the town is "not ready to offer specific proposals. We're close, but town meeting is not the time" to take on proposals of this magnitude, according to selectboard chair Peter d'Errico.

The energy committee will not be making a presentation of its findings at annual town meeting, said d'Errico.

Articles 24 through 26 transfer funds from town accounts for financial housekeeping, and **Article 27** pays a planning board expense from last year.

Article 28 sets up a revolving fund to account for transfer station monies. **Article 29** re-authorizes revolving fund expenditures for town departments, and **Article 30** authorizes selectboard expenditure of Transportation Bond monies.

Article 31, by petition, calls to overturn the Citizens United ruling

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Articles 32 through 35, petitioned by citizen and former landfill coordinator Richard Drury, address management of the transfer station, and ask the town to reconsider its contract with the Franklin County Solid Waste District, with which the selectboard has no problem at this time.

Members of the Tax Relief Committee will be offering snacks for donations at the annual town meeting, which will be held at the Leverett Elementary School auditorium at 9 a.m. on Saturday, April 30.

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PIPELINE from page A1

towns are considering donating toward Montague's legal expenses at their town meetings this spring.

Berkshire told the Springfield Republican on Wednesday evening that despite the suspension of the NED, it did not plan to lift its moratorium on new gas customers.

State representative Steve Kulik and senate president Stan Rosenberg condemned the company's decision.

"For many months now, I've been pressing Berkshire Gas to articulate what their 'Plan B' would be," Rosenberg wrote in a public statement, adding that the moratorium "constrains economic development in the region."

Jim McGovern, who represents Massachusetts' second congressional district, which includes Montague, Gill, Erving, Wendell and Leverett, in the US House of Representatives, said that he believed the suspension of the NED was "the right decision," and "a big victory for western Massachusetts."

Intervention Pending?

Montague selectboard member Rich Kuklewicz said it was unclear Wednesday whether Article 33 on the warrant for the May 7 annual town meeting was still necessary. "It's too early to tell," he said. "I don't think anyone's had a chance to completely understand what 'suspend' means... We need to understand what Berkshire Gas does with the DPU proceeding."

Kuklewicz said that when he ran for office last spring, he opposed the pipeline project mainly because of the effects of hydraulic shale fracturing, the main method used to produce the gas it would transport.

"As I learned more throughout this year," he said, "I also became less convinced that there was a need for the gas in the region - given other sources of supply, and other alternatives that Berkshire had, but chose to ignore."

Montague's appointed "pipeline liaison," Ariel Elan, said she noticed that Kinder Morgan's announcement talked specifically

Hallmark "Evaluating Its Program Offerings," As Parent Company Sues Its Former CEO

By MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS - Despite the recent postponement of the annual spring open house at the Hallmark Institute of Photography, parent company Premier Education Group, LP (PEG) told the Reporter that it will continue its operations.

"Advances in technology have brought about a decline in the demand for trained photographers, which has resulted in a decline in Hallmark's student population," the company explained in a written response provided by PEG vice president and general counsel

Jessica Mastrogiovanni.

The statement went on to say that the school is "currently evaluating its program offerings to ensure it is providing the best educational opportunities to its students," that "we will carefully consider options," and that "[d]uring this process, Hallmark will continue its operations in Turners Falls."

A request made Tuesday for an interview with Hallmark campus director Ed Martin was not granted.

PEG acquired Hallmark in 2009 from People's United Bank after its owner, George Rosa III, defaulted on loans from the bank. Rosa re-

mained president at the school until 2012, and in 2014 pled guilty to bank fraud and tax evasion. Former vice president Gregory Olchowski also pled guilty to tax evasion charges that year.

Rosa's house and 10-acre property on East Guinea Road in Conway were purchased in September 2010 for \$460,000 by "MC, AC & MC LLC," an entity associated with two family members of Gary Camp, then PEG's president and CEO.

In the latest twist, Camp himself is apparently no longer with PEG, and the company is suing him.

According to Pennsylvania

Eastern District Court filings reviewed by the Reporter this week, the company is claiming that Camp owes it \$1.7 million, stemming from \$1 million in loans he took from the company in 2007.

Those loans were to be repaid upon "the termination of Gary Camp's employment with the Lender for any reason."

The lawsuit calculates a "default interest rate" on the debt beginning on October 13, 2015.

Reached by phone Wednesday, former Chief Operating Officer Dr. Nick Hastain confirmed that he is now PEG's CEO.

about the project's "market path" - the segment from Wright, NY to Dracut, MA that would have passed through Franklin County - and not its "supply path," the segment from Pennsylvania to Wright. She wondered whether the company had plans to revive the supply-path section by itself.

"They required everybody that wanted to buy gas through the NED pipeline to apply for two separate contracts," she said.

Technically speaking, Montague is intervening against Berkshire's contracts for gas from the supply path. "They could still be planning to serve customers through their existing pipelines, picking up gas in Wright," she said. "We don't know yet whether our proceeding at the DPU is going to be cancelled."

Elan said that the Pipeline Boogie Dance Party, an event scheduled for this Saturday night at the Montague Retreat Center on Ripley Road to raise money for the town's defense fund as well as the Massachusetts Pipeline Action Network (MassPLAN), will still be a sliding-scale fundraiser.

More and More Opposition

Others are looking forward

to it more as a celebration, after Wednesday's news.

"We're thinking that might turn into a victory party," said Rosemary Wessel, founder of the group No Fracked Gas in Mass!

Wessel said she thought the news of the project's suspension was "absolutely fabulous."

"It's a lot earlier than any of us really expected," she said.

"I don't know what the final nail in the coffin was. We all knew they had been having trouble getting customers. But they've also been under tremendous financial stress. The producers in Pennsylvania have been dropping like flies, which is great, from a climate perspective."

Wessel said she wondered whether proceedings last Friday in the Berkshire Superior Court influenced the company's timing. Presiding over a case in which another Kinder Morgan project would pass through Otis State Forest, a judge there said he found it likely that Kinder Morgan's claim that the US National Gas Act pre-empts Article 97 of the state constitution - which requires two-thirds majorities of both legislative houses to approve projects on conservation land - would rise to the state's Supreme

Planned Natural Gas Pipeline Would Cut Straight Through County



From the January 23, 2014 edition of the Montague Reporter.

Judicial Court.

"Maybe they realized that doing that for over 100 properties for NED was going to be an absolute nightmare," she said.

"There's also the fact that the [state] senate committee on climate change just announced a hearing on the project - maybe they realized they're going to meet more and more opposition from official channels," Wessel continued, adding that she expected that Spectra's Access Northeast pipeline "might find that they're going to run into the same degree of opposition that this one did."

"We're somewhat in disbelief,"

said MassPLAN director Katy Eiseinan. "Nobody wants to totally let down their guard, but we think this is a huge victory."

Eiseinan also referred to the Access Northeast project as her group's next priority. "That's the one that, as currently proposed, would be funded by all National Grid or Eversource customers in the New England states," she said.

"So that's something we can focus on more - stopping this ratepayer financing of fossil fuel infrastructure."

Eiseinan said her group "had heard in the past several weeks various rumors pointing in this direction," including the halting of surveying on properties that would have been affected, as well as layoffs of contractors and management.

"You don't know until they pack up and go home whether the project's really ended," she said.

"We're now trying to get everyone to come to this Pipeline Boogie."

As of press time, calls to Laborers International Union Local 596 of Holyoke, which had been publicly vocal in its support for the project, and a Berkshire Gas company spokesperson had not yet been returned.

GUN RACK from page A1

tend to offer "hot" models for limited times as they receive runs from manufacturers. So the Gun Rack will open with a more modest 75, as well as ammunition, targets, holsters, locks, and other related gear.

Emond says he intends to cater to a different niche than the existing Avenue A gun dealer, Pipione's Sport Shop, whose owner, Richard Mascavage, he describes as "a pillar of the community." "I'm trying to stay away from any kind of sporting, any kind of fishing," he said. "I believe we can both coexist."

According to the state's Firearms Records Bureau, the annual number of sales by licensed dealers to licensed customers in Massachusetts rose from 42,106 in 2007 to 108,290 in 2015.

Much of this is accounted for by first-time owners. "I know for a fact that a lot of people are going for their licenses," Emond said. "A lot of people have been just coming in and saying, 'hey, I need mine to buy my first gun.'"

The Gun Rack, he said, will host safety courses required of all residents seeking their firearms identification (FID) and license to carry. He estimates about half of his potential customers will be new to

gun ownership.

Bars now line the windows of the former AV House, and firearms rest in glass cases and wall-length racks, which Emond and friends built from hardwood acquired from the defunct New England Candle Company.

Though the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) only required "a lock on the door, end of story," he has installed steel doors, a system of high-definition cameras, and a glass-break sensor.

"The store needs a little more work," Emond said on Tuesday. "Honestly, the biggest thing is inventory - getting more stuff in."

While many of the shop's downtown neighbors have expressed surprise at its rapid conversion, Emond has been preparing for over a year. When he applied for his federal firearms license, the ATF agent sent to Turners Falls verified with town hall that the location was zoned for commercial retail, checked out the space itself, and then conferred with Montague PD.

Last week, he completed licensing with the state, after training to use the Massachusetts Instant Records Check System (MIRCS).

"I think a lot of people in town know me," said Emond, adding that



Some downtown residents were surprised to see the Gun Rack's sign appear in the window of the former Audio Video House.

he is a scoutmaster for Boy Scout Troop 6 and a trustee of the Montague Elks. "It's not like Joe Shmoe is coming in and saying, 'I'm going to open up a gun shop.'"

But he also acknowledged that not everyone will be excited to hear of the new business.

"I know a lot of people are iffy about gun shops," he said. "And I know that. I'm surprised - I was expecting a little more backlash, I'm going to be honest with you, even with my own friends. But I

haven't gotten any."

Emond said that he does not plan to go to gun shows, or sell over the Internet.

"I wanna meet the person directly," he said. "The ATF and Mass. are nice enough to give us the authority that we can deny anybody, for any reason. In order to exercise that, I want to be able to see the person -- if that person's sputtering about something negative, I'd like to have that option."

Montague building inspector

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the poetry page

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

- William Carlos Williams

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

April Poetry Page
featuring work by
Christopher Janke

Bluets and buttercups or how I learned to garden

the summer will rise, push clothes from our backs, fill the land with a coat of queen green, squeeze from each living

thing some upwardness, an urge, a phallus to rise, the bee to pillage the panties of the flower, bluets and buttercups give way

to pearly everlasting – the oldest laurels find fecundity to sprout bright green from brittle creepy tentacles, while below the pearls fall

into the breeze, which lifts, carries, and drops them the way it would on venus if venus had plants for its wind, for its weather – and all these birds i can't name –

tiny rabbits in the myrtle, eyeless hairy worms, the mother with aquarium eyes, dark translucent moons – i peer in and almost fall – may 20 – meals tax due, got to keep the

lettuce in my own mouth, the sun in my leaves, wind in my stalks, and the bible says birds don't worry – or jesus did – but what

does jesus know about birds – their hyper twitching, leaps from high places, a jitteriness that betrays a distinct lack of faith, constant flitting

from a formerly indoor cat who can't discern a game from real war, whose supermarket tastes don't fancy the gamey meat once

it's tipped and in the mouth – butcher, slice, package – boil field and her fauna into pellets – i saw spring rise through snow and now

swamp azalea, wild violets, all manner of other purples staking claim – propagate, leaf out, push up, invade, these genuine

rebellions – a push from each to destroy whatever it must in order to mate – rip through a crevice crowd out a bush – fight for calcium, nitrogen

hungry hungry carbon, and now a sip of coffee – the land rises and falls

a ridge of pink rock scraggled with laurel – across the road, a field of firs in lines cultivated for a season of white –

tiny bird from honeysuckle to laurel to dogwood – there's something nervous about living, all the pressure

to keep doing it, even when you're not sure why you're doing it, or if you want to keep on doing it, the ground bees have eaten

a corner of the hillside, the voles have their own trench, the world refolding itself like a careful dirty meringue, everyone trying to swim

up to the top – a surface wind – a deep ocean movement – giant creatures in the sea – the bluets the bluets the bluets they're eating all the worms and out of that

you came, out of the world a desire to stay in the world a fight for fuel – the songbirds attack the hawk – the hawk rides the wind – the wind eats the earth – nature produced

its creatures – its creatures are eating nature footless and taking out policies w. lloyd's and trying to find a work/life balance while contemplating a sustainable

alternative mostly because they're not so busy anymore looking for food – all that history to get to consider the planet: a taste for meat,

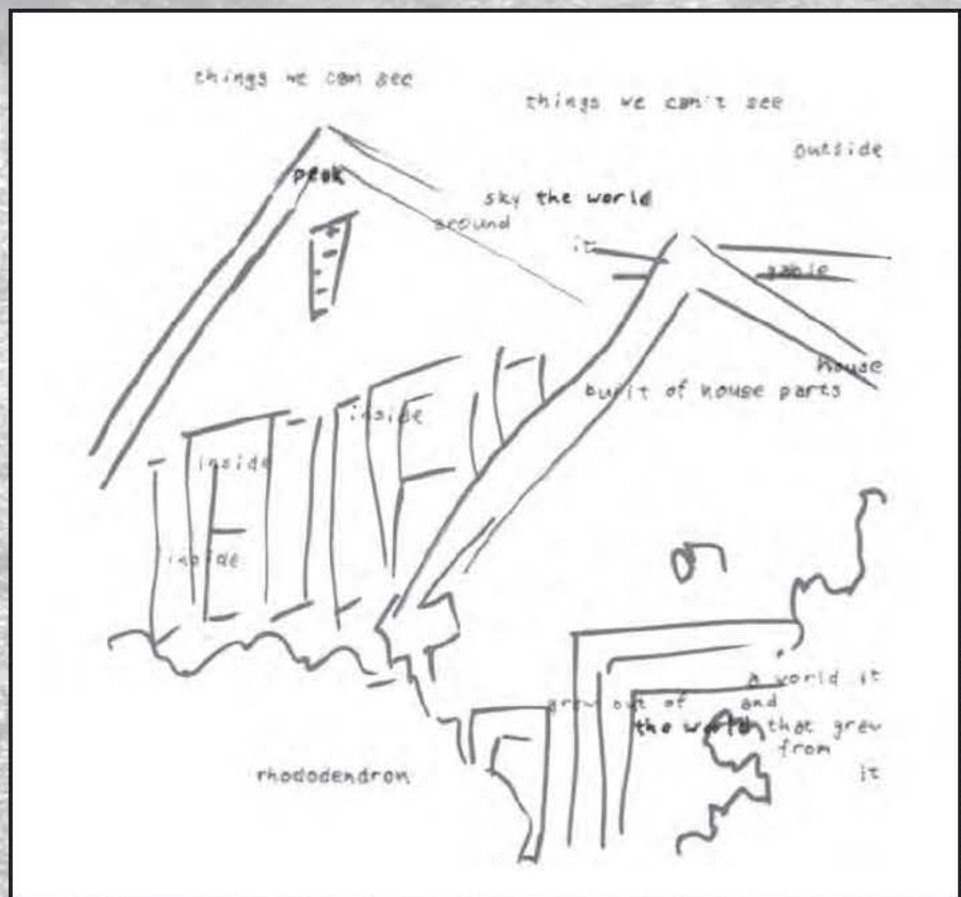
an argument in a shower about a bicycle, nero, shakespeare, a lone crusader in tears crying for his lord as he goes home to paradise

Christopher Janke has a social security number and knows it by heart. He has had 8 phone numbers in his whole life. His mother lives in Greenfield. He was born aged 0.

He bartends at The Rendezvous most Saturday nights, and he has a book coming out from H_NGM_N Press called *psalterium | blepharism* in 2016. He's a poet and visual artist and recovering entrepreneur. He is interested in the intersection of different value systems, that is, where money seems to translate into activities that aren't usually valued by a market, and he's interested in the ways that institutions where this crossing occurs can express their power by resisting market forces.

He teaches Financial Management in the Arts at UMass when they let him. He writes sentences like this one and wears bad shoes.

The below illustration comes from his 2013 poetry installation *How the World Wears its Words*, in which Janke positioned words and images on sheets of Plexiglas at a friend's house in Greenfield.



CHRIS JANKE ILLUSTRATION

CHRISTOPHER CARMODY PHOTO

The Then-Known Universe

assuming we've entered how could there be a further assuming if a then b –

and a, so let's reach towards your squeezable giraffe

assuming, that is, this alley, and people, you know – people –

us – and a hiding from herself, and

who could imagine at any point to have a world

present this present world

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NEWS ANALYSIS

State Aid to Towns and Schools: *The Figures*

By JEFF SINGLETON

BOSTON – The Massachusetts state budget is moving forward with appropriations that could have a significant impact on local budgets in our region, and the town meetings that debate them.

The role of “local aid,” as it is known, varies a great deal from town to town depending on its wealth, population, and the number of miles of roads. But local budget shortfalls occur “on the margin” – that is, gaps between revenue and spending increases can appear to be relatively small numbers of dollars. But they can make a very big difference and involve important choices in the level of services.

Take, for example, the school assessment for the town of Montague proposed by the Gill-Montague Regional School District. The assessment is roughly \$50,000 over the town’s “affordable assessment,” a concept embodied in a long-term financial plan that ended state fiscal control a few years ago.

Now \$50,000 is not a lot of money if you consider the total school district budget, which is over \$19 million dollars, or the town budget, which is over \$20 million, including the sewer district and school assessments.

But when a finance committee has spent the past three months trying to make revenues equal expenditures, rejecting a variety of legitimate spending requests in the process, that \$50,000 gets bigger and bigger. And Montague would argue that going over the affordable assessment, as it did last year, will eventually negate the long-term financial plan.

This is where the state budget, and its local aid numbers come in. The budget proposed by Governor Baker at the end of January totals roughly \$40 billion. The House’s ways and means committee has

tweaked the governor’s numbers, proposing a state budget that is roughly \$76 million lower, but increases one of the key local aid accounts, Chapter 70 school aid.

\$50,000 seems an even smaller deal when you think about these numbers. But consider this: The House’s budget increases both state Chapter 70 aid and the state reimbursement for transportation costs to regional school districts above those of the governor.

This could mean Chapter 70 aid will rise by approximately \$38,000 to the Gill-Montague district, and transportation aid will increase by nearly \$35,000.

Assuming that approximately 85% of these new revenues is allo-

cated to reducing the Montague assessment (with the rest going to Gill) then you have essentially eliminated Montague’s budget assessment gap.

The state budget is a moving target. The state Senate will weigh in with its own numbers, probably during May. There will be negotiations between the two branches of the legislature, and with the governor’s office.

Hopefully the final numbers will be out by the end of June, when the new fiscal year (FY’17) starts. But that will be after town meetings have met and voted on budgets.

Let’s step back and take a quick look at the state aid numbers for the towns and school districts served by the Reporter.

Chapter 70 aid to school districts:			
	FY’16	FY’17 (Gov)	FY’17 (House)
Gill-Montague:	\$6,092,669	\$6,114,489	\$6,152,674
Amherst-Pelham:	\$9,349,517	\$9,379,437	\$9,431,797
Ralph C. Mahar:	\$5,339,690	\$5,352,850	\$5,375,880
Swift River:	\$635,007	\$671,492	\$671,492
Leverett Elem.:	\$279,816	\$281,836	\$285,371
Shutesbury Elem.:	\$613,366	\$615,276	\$619,85
Erving:	\$438,270	\$442,970	\$451,195

Unrestricted General Government Aid:			
	FY’16	FY’17 (Gov)	FY’17 (House)
Gill:	\$224,229	\$233,871	\$233,871
Montague:	\$1,321,612	\$1,377,972	\$1,377,972
Leverett:	\$164,548	\$171,624	\$171,624
Wendell:	\$160,661	\$167,569	\$167,569
Shutesbury:	\$156,331	\$163,053	\$163,053
Erving:	\$61,960	\$64,624	\$64,624

Chapter 90 (From Transportation Bill):		
	FY’16	FY’17
Gill:	\$150,995	\$149,861
Montague:	\$496,866	\$496,088
Leverett:	\$150,935	\$150,679
Wendell:	\$190,353	\$190,153
Shutesbury:	\$135,329	\$135,622
Erving:	\$84,515	\$85,400

HAITI UPDATE

Montague Center Residents are invited to a presentation on Haiti, 6 years post earthquake. Please join us for this community event.

JESSICA BARTLETT, MONTAGUE CENTER RESIDENT, WILL REPORT ON HER RECENT TRIP AS PART OF A SURGICAL TEAM.

COURTESY OF MONTAGUE CENTER FIREMEN AND EMTS

APRIL 25, 7 P.M. Montague Center Fire Station
Old Sunderland Road, Montague Center

Chapter 70 and other school aid

Chapter 70 aid is by far the largest form of state aid to cities and towns in the Commonwealth. The House has increased the governor’s allocation by over \$3.7 billion. This is primarily the result of increasing the allotment from \$25 to \$55 per student for all districts that don’t receive aid increases under the core formula – 75% of all districts in the state.

Neither the governor’s budget nor the House bill finances the recommendations of the Foundation Budget Review Commission. The Review Commission, created last year by the legislature, has recommended a significant increase in the so-called foundation budget, one of the key elements of the Chapter 70 formula.

The Senate has proposed a bill (S. 2203) to phase in the recommendation of the commission, possibly over a period of seven years. While this may eventually increase Chapter 70 to some districts in the region, neither the commission nor the legislature has estimated the impact on individual districts.

As noted previously, the House budget increases local aid for regional transportation. However, their budget also reduces the state reimbursement for local charter school costs.

UGGA

The next largest form of aid to cities and towns is called “unrestricted general government aid.” This is primarily receipts from the state lottery.

The House budget mirrors the

governor’s proposal, allocating a total of \$1,021,928,272 to this account. The increase of \$42,000,000 or 4.3% over the previous fiscal year reflects the growth in state tax revenues. According to the Massachusetts Municipal Association, this is the largest increase in this form of local aid “in nearly a decade.”

Looking at other forms of local aid, the House bill tends to follow the governor’s budget, with the reimbursement for state-owned land level funded at the 2016 rate. The House bill includes a small cut in veterans’ benefits, and an increase in aid to regional public libraries.

Chapter 90

The third-largest form of local aid, Chapter 90 highway aid, is funded primarily from the state gasoline tax. The governor and legislature have level funded this account at \$200,000,000.

Chapter 90 is a state bond that helps finance local road repair. Allocations to each city and town are based on population, the number of road miles and employment data. Cities and towns then apply for funds from their allocations to finance specific eligible projects.

Chapter 90 spending may impact local budgets indirectly, but they are not part of the annual budgets that appear before local town meetings.

At the state level, they are not part of the legislature’s annual budget described above, but rather were funded through a separate transportation bill signed by the Governor on April 14.



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B1

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OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER

APRIL 21, 2016

Erin McKeown – Plus a Hamilton for the Masses – at the Shea



Erin McKeown

By REPORTER STAFF

TURNERS FALLS – There’s an event at the Shea this weekend that could satisfy for a multitude of reasons not usually encountered in a single evening. You might go to “Erin McKeown: In Song & Conversation with Monte Belmonte & Hamilton Singalong” because you want to support the Shea, and a ten-dollar Saturday evening event makes this pretty painless.

You might want to go because you are an Erin McKeown fan and want to hear her play your favorites and hear her new material as well.

Or... you are a big fan of American history, and are curious about the hit musical *Hamilton*; or you are already a big fan of the musical *Hamilton* and want to sing the lyrics with other big fans, like Monte Belmonte, Erin, Ben and Lori Holmes Clark, Jim Zaccara, and Rob and Damia Stewart; or you are some weird radio groupie who follows Monte Belmonte up and down the valley.

Erin McKeown is a musician, writer and producer “whose complex and specific lyrics filter

through her clarity of melodic line and rebellious use of rhythm,” according to *Playbill*. A noted activist in areas such as immigration and media reform, McKeown’s work is hard to classify, and the *Boston Globe* says her playing “is so muscular, her arrangements so well conceived that she succeeds brilliantly. As with all truly great guitarists, the wonder is less in her chops than her choices.”

McKeown has been creating new material for the score of an exciting new musical *Miss You Like Hell*, recently featured in the *New York Times* and co-written with Quiara Alegria Hudes, Tony-nominated writer for *In The Heights*, the first Broadway smash for *Hamilton* author Lin-Manuel Miranda.

Says Hudes, “I’m honored to be collaborating on her first musical... She’s already sharing gems and inklings about her next works, so it seems the theatre bug has bitten. She’s a mature artist with the child-like energy of someone new and fearless – a wonderful combination.”

Miss You Like Hell chronicles a road trip with a teenager and her see SHEA page B4

Jinx: Movie Serials for Urchins, and Serious Slop for Swine

This excerpt is from *Jinx: A New England Mill Town Urchin’s Life, the Depression through 1952* written by Jerry “Jinx” Collins about growing up in Turners Falls.

Collins prefers to write in the third person, and in his memoir seeks to present “not just the pleasant memories showing him in a glowing light but also those that aren’t so favorable.” A copy of this book is available at the Carnegie Library.

This week: A few more memories of growing up in the old downtown.

By JERRY COLLINS

Bad Boys

The west end of the alley behind “the Block” [the Cutlery apartments on Third Street] ended at the rear of the Shea Theater building. Between it and the long row of woodsheds was a small opening about four feet wide leading to another alley behind the houses on the south side of Second Street, and the woodsheds.

The opening provided a quick way to Avenue A – as well as to Second Street – when the children headed to play under the Gill-Montague bridge, or to slosh around in the large water pools formed in the rocks below the dam when the floodgates were closed.

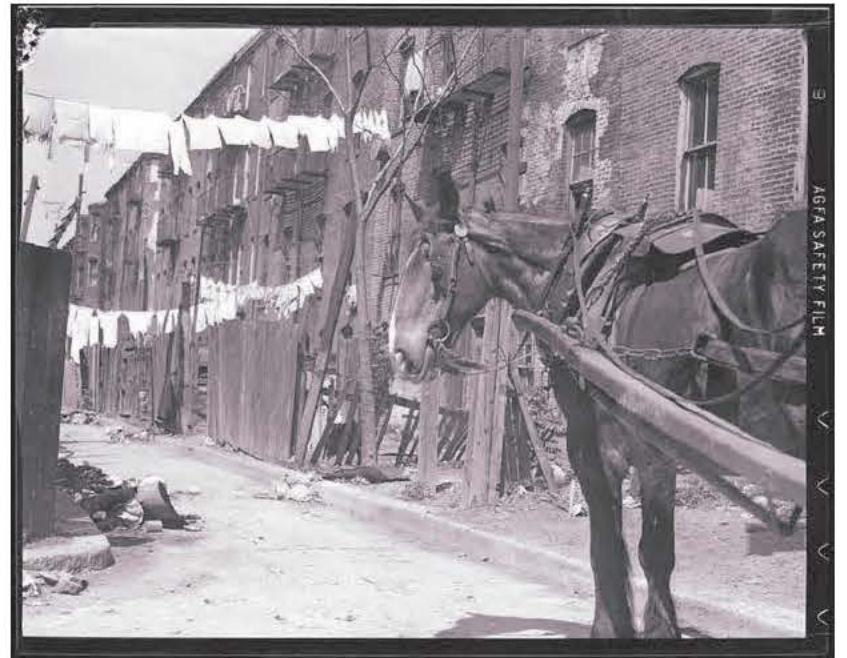
Just as one exited the alley from “The Block,” to the left of the cut between the woodsheds and the Shea building, was a side emergency exit from the theater. Not having a lot of money – only what any of the kids might scrape together by selling found milk or Coke bottles – the young urchins would chip in a few cents so that one of them could purchase a ticket to the Saturday matinee (usually a cowboy film).

When inside, and just as the show started and the crowd of youngsters started yelling and screaming their approval, that boy would sneak over and open the emergency exit door – no alarm system in that day – and the rest of the urchins would crawl in and hide among the paying customers.

Jinx is sure the management knew it was happening, but never interfered. Bad Boys!

Nickel Serials

During the school year, the kind



Horse drawn garbage collection circa 1927 in the South End of Boston. Photo by Leslie Jones. Boston Public Library collection.

management of the Shea Theater would have special Monday shows at around 5 p.m. It only cost a nickel and consisted of a “good guy/bad guy” action movie and another short “to be continued” serial movie, which ended with a suspenseful scene, such as the hero being thrown off a cliff by the villain.

Of course, the beginning of the next week’s feature would find the hero saved by catching hold of a tree branch that was miraculously protruding from the side of the cliff. Deafening screaming and yelling from all the youngsters, as they jumped up and down in their seats, lasted through the hour-and-a-half performance.

Now in that era, even a nickel was a lot of money and most of the local parents found it hard to come by, particularly if you had four kids.

Fortunately, most of them were blessed to have grandparents or other relatives who would give them an empty milk bottle that they could return to Bertha LaPierre’s little ice cream shop in exchange for – yup – the needed nickel.

Looking back on this, Jinx feels guilty about having snuck in to the Saturday performances knowing how generous the theater owners had been to all the poor urchins.

Recycle

Most of today’s society equates the beginning of recycling (to save the planet) to recent years. However, it has been going on throughout history.

Kids used old bicycle inner tubes to make slingshots and toy guns; straightened old bent nails for re-use;

see JINX page B4



MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK PRINT

THE GARDENER’S COMPANION

Garden Philosophy

once every five years or so when I wanted to dig a new plot, or was at my wit’s end trying to get rid of brambles and wild rose in a flower bed and was willing to trade loss of the bulbs to removing the invasive weeds.

My thought about these infrequently used tools is this. Each small neighborhood like mine needs only one rototiller, one chainsaw, one electric weed chaser, and one gas-fired snow eater. I would happily put my name on the list when I needed one of these tools, in exchange for being the owner of just one, which we all share.

I once inherited a metal roller which could be filled with water to weight it and pushed over areas seeded for grass. I lent it to my neighbors much more often than I bothered to use it. Eventually, I got rid of it, because I valued its space in the tool shed more than the roller itself.

Weeding can be a pleasant chore in small doses, as it takes only hands and eyes, leaving the mind free to wander. Major weeding is tedious, and can be avoided by using mulch in garden paths and around plants.

You can purchase wood chips or straw or use grass clippings, newspaper or plastic. If see GARDENERS page B3

By LESLIE BROWN

MONTAGUE CITY – Some might call me a lazy gardener. It’s true. When possible, I do avoid both spading and weeding.

Just recently, we were at a garden and farm supply store. Among other items, rototillers were on sale. While I was investigating pea fencing and gloves, Ken was admiring these metal beauties, thinking one would make a great birthday gift for the gardener.

He was quite put out when she declined.

I’m not inclined to turn under my garden plots annually as some like to do. Sure, it’s not a favorite chore, but my choice is also a matter of philosophy. Churning up the earth to several inches annoys the earthworms, some of the best friends a gardener can have.

Earthworms aerate the soil, helping to oxygenate plant roots. They also provide their castings, which are a great natural fertilizer.

If we owned a rototiller, it might get used

AUTHOR ROBIN BROOKS OFFERS HEALING WORKSHOP

By JOE KWIECINSKI

TURNERS FALLS – Monday, April 25 will be an evening of truth and sharing with Robin Lynn Brooks, who will offer a program called “A Celebration of Healing” at the Montague Catholic Social Ministries Women’s Center in Turners. The program is free and presented in honor of Sexual Abuse Awareness Month.

Robin, who wrote the prose poem memoir *The Blooming of the Lotus: A Spiritual Journey from Trauma into Light*, will bring forth positive guidance, sharing the steps and tools that helped her heal from past trauma.

Brooks hopes participants may “feel inspired towards your own healing so that, little by little, you learn how to feel not alone, worthy, good enough, and even full of joy. Each time we nurture ourselves, each time we give to ourselves in even small ways, we are reclaiming what was stolen from us, and this is cause for celebration.”

For instance, when a girl is sexually abused by her father, or another trusted figure, her self-worth is taken from her. “Confusion comes, and she loses her ability to trust in others and in herself,” explained Robin. She believes her most powerful message is that it is possible to heal from “the deepest darkness into the light and to the fulfillment of all you came here to be.” She feels that even in the recounting of her story, she inspires and encourages other survivors.



COURTESY ROBIN BROOKS

A survivor of abuse, Brooks wrote her memoir in collaboration with a trauma specialist.

Robin Lynn Brooks speaks from experience. She was born in Tokyo, Japan where her first language was Japanese. Her mother was an artist, and her father wrote poetry. Robin survived incest, torture, and violence in her childhood.

She came to write *The Blooming of the Lotus* in collaboration with Dr. AnDreya Wilde, a trauma specialist, who organized the poems “to follow the natural order of healing.”

Readers are invited to approach the material in the book sequentially, or to pick a chapter that has resonance in the moment. What is see BROOKS page B4

Pet of the Week

Hi there, my name is Bebo. I am a little bit nervous here and may need some time to adjust in a new home.

Once I get to know you though, I am a friendly boy.

I have lived with other small dogs in the past and enjoy playing. One of my favorite games to play is fetch.

I'm an entertaining boy to watch, I always made my pre-

vious person laugh. I enjoy a good laugh myself.

If you would like to meet me, stop on in and ask an adoption counselor for more information!

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



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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 4/25
1 p.m. Bird Songs w/ David Root

Tuesday 4/26
9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga
1 p.m. Knitting Circle

Wednesday 4/27
9 a.m. Veterans' Outreach
12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 4/28
9 a.m. Tai Chi
1 p.m. Cards & Games

Friday 4/29
1 p.m. Writing Group

ERVING

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

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

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

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

Monday 4/25
9 a.m. Tai Chi
10 a.m. Osteo Exercise

Tuesday 4/26
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
10 a.m. Stretching & Balance
11:30 a.m. Homemade Lunch
12:30 p.m. Crafty Seniors

Wednesday 4/27
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Chair Yoga
Noon Bingo, Snacks & Laughs

Thursday 4/28
8:45 a.m. Aerobics (fast moving)
10 a.m. Healthy Bones
12:30 p.m. Creative Coloring

Friday 4/29
9 a.m. Quilting
9:30 Bowling Fun
11:30 Pizza Salad & Dessert
12:30 p.m. Painting

LEVERETT

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

WENDELL

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

MODERN VOIDS



BY MADELINE LAPORTE

MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

Lots to See on MCTV

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

This Saturday, don't miss the 3rd annual Franklin County Spring Parade & 5K Race, beginning at 11:30 at Turners Falls High School! (Day-of registration starts at 10 a.m. for \$30 – or pre-register at www.classy.org/FCSpring5k.)

This year's theme is "Under the Sea."

Every week, you can check out our live broadcast of local meetings including the Montague selectboard meeting on Mondays at 7 p.m. and the finance committee meeting on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. And don't forget to check out our archive of videos online, available for stream-

ing and download at montaguetelevision.org. This includes past meetings, such as last week's school committee meeting, and a whole host of other shows, including new programming listed below.

Check out the following videos now available in the TV schedule:

- Montague Congregational Church service, April 16: Watch this week as the children of First Congregational Church put on a service featuring the colors of creation. 37 min.
- The 2016 Center School Variety Show: Join the children of the Center School as they put on a night of music, song and dance! 97 min.
- Immigrant Voices performance,

April 9: The Center for New Americans and the Shea Theater present "Immigrant Voices: A Celebration of Arts," featuring twenty performers and groups in a sold-out show. Watch it again on MCTV! 61 min.

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

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

THE HEALTHY GEEZER

The Takeover



JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

By FRED CICETTI

Q. This may sound like a crazy question, but is it possible to use your own stomach to take over for your kidneys when they aren't working right?

This question isn't as bizarre as it seems. It is possible to use the abdominal cavity, which includes the stomach, to perform kidney functions.

Kidneys are designed to remove waste and extra fluid from your blood. These organs contain millions of tiny blood vessels to handle this task. They also make hormones that keep your bones strong and your blood healthy.

If your kidneys aren't working properly, unwanted substances in the blood can be removed through a process called dialysis. Most people who need dialysis can lead a

reasonably normal life.

There are two types of dialysis: hemodialysis, and peritoneal dialysis.

In hemodialysis, a patient is connected to an artificial kidney. This mechanical kidney – or dialyzer – filters the blood and then it is returned to the patient. The treatment time typically lasts three to four hours.

Most people suffering chronic kidney failure require hemodialysis three times a week. Hemodialysis can be done in a healthcare facility or at home.

In peritoneal dialysis, the filter that is used is the peritoneum, the large, blood-rich membrane lining the abdomen and the organs within it. A fluid is sent into the abdominal cavity via a catheter inserted into the abdominal wall. This fluid (dialysate) is left in the cavity long enough to absorb blood wastes. Then the fluid is drained and replaced.

There are several kinds of peritoneal dialysis, but two major ones are Continuous Ambulatory Peritoneal Dialysis (CAPD) and Automated Peritoneal Dialysis (APD).

Continuous Ambulatory Peritoneal Dialysis (CAPD) is the only type of peritoneal dialysis that is done without machines. You do this yourself, usually four or five times a day at home and/or at work.

You put a bag of dialysate (about

two quarts) into your peritoneal cavity through the catheter. The dialysate stays there for about four or five hours before it is drained back into the bag and thrown away. This is called an exchange.

You use a new bag of dialysate each time you do an exchange. While the dialysate is in your peritoneal cavity, you can go about your usual activities at work, at school or at home.

Automated Peritoneal Dialysis (APD) usually is done at home using a special machine called a cycler. This is similar to CAPD except that a number of cycles (exchanges) occur. Each cycle usually lasts 1-1/2 hours and exchanges are done throughout the night while you sleep.

Dialysis is usually prescribed when kidney problems are responsible for the following: heart failure, abnormal brain function, inflammation of the sac around the heart, an overload of body fluid, high acid or potassium levels in the blood.

More than half of the people on long-term dialysis are 60 or older. Older people often adapt more easily than younger people to long-term dialysis. However, seniors are more likely to find the treatments tiring.

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

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Sharon Cottrell
Property Manager

GARDENERS from page B1

you use an organic mulch, your plants will enjoy virtually weed-free living and have the extra benefit of moisture retention. In the end, these natural mulches will rejoin the soil and add to its nutritional value as well.

It feels like spring has finally arrived. Just a few days ago, the white-throated sparrows stopped by for a rest stop on their journey to the northern woods. We note their arrival by the rusty start to their signature song, often down the scale rather than up and a little halting at first. Like the chickadee, they are sociable birds, often accompanying us on woodland hikes.

Such a sweet call from a small bird which often goes unseen, but which brings me memories of our move from suburban Chicago to the woods and mountains of Vermont. This time in my life is so long ago that we went blueberry picking on Stratton Mountain long before it saw the mechanical beginnings of the ski resort it is now.

This reminiscence brings to mind the crass, metallic and environmentally insensitive pipeline plan. What destruction we humans bring, all in the name of progress – which is often motivated by greed.

In any case, it's time to take up the potato rake and use its curved tines to soften the topsoil and prepare to set in leaf crops and soon the peas. In the sunroom the tomatoes continue to grow. They are happy

with the current sunny, hot days and most of the plants are showing at least one set of true leaves. About half of them have graduated to two inch pots. They have had a light feeding of well diluted seaweed emulsion, and are looking very thrifty.

The lilac buds are swelling, the little white stars of the apricot reach toward the sky, and soon the apple blossoms will open. The yard and woods are bright with the yellow of daffodils and the white blood root.

The squirrels chase madly up and down the trees. The birds are nesting. They are ingenious in using everything at hand: frayed threads of blue tarp, a string hanging from the clothesline, the occasional bit of cat fur or human hair.

This is such an upbeat season. Every day there is something new to see in the yard, or on our walks in woods and fields. There's a strong itch to put fingers in the dirt, to plant something new to relish the eye or the palate.

Then, at the end of the day, dirty and muscle-sore, the pleasure of pulling up the lawn chair and toasting our progress and the beauty of the long, light days when the air cools in the early evening and the moon and stars pop out in the darkening sky.

We are grateful for the season and to be alive on this green earth.

Happy gardening!



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

The Songbirds Are Chirping, The Trees Are Budding, And The River Is Surging With The Season's Melted Snow

Monday, 4/11

9:32 a.m. Report of plastic bottles/magazines dumped in a food/compost dumpster at Food City. Advised of options.

4:27 p.m. Caller from Randall Road reports neighbor tampering with mail in other tenants' boxes. Report taken.

9:59 p.m. Caller from Turners Falls Road complaining of neighbor, possibly intoxicated, playing some sort of video game with very loud music, yelling, and slamming things. Officer spoke to male party, who will be quieting down for the night.

Tuesday, 4/12

1:24 a.m. Caller from Fourth Street complaining of 3-4 males outside her building speaking loudly, using "foul language," and disturbing the peace. Area search negative.

7:37 p.m. Walk-in report of a male who has been hanging around a Fourth Street property, checking doors of vehicles that don't belong to him. Advised of options.

8:03 p.m. Caller reports that he parked his vehicle at Railroad Salvage around 3:30 today to use the bike path; when he returned at approximately 4:20, he found two of his tires slashed. Officer located vehicle and spoke to caller. Report taken.

Wednesday, 4/13

6:35 a.m. Motorist reporting that the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge is very icy. Call placed to MassDOT.

8:20 a.m. Caller from Swift River Hydro Electric reports that rocks were thrown through windows overnight. Report taken.

8:55 a.m. Caller from Fifth Street requesting animal control officer to assist with a squirrel in the common hallway of her building. ACO clear; squirrel has been removed.

12:05 p.m. Animal control officer spoke with Chief Dodge, and party subsequently contacted MPD, regarding a female who threatened to blow up the kennel if her dog was not released to her. Advised of options.

3:28 p.m. Party from G Street reports that today she discovered someone had shot at her bedroom window with a BB gun. She also listed several other incidents of vandalism over the past year that she did not report. Report taken.

5:47 p.m. Caller from Swift River Hydro Electric reports that a group of kids on bikes just passed his location and were screaming obscenities at him; he believes that these may be the parties who broke several windows this morning. Advised of options.

6:19 p.m. Previous caller reports that he located the parties who he suspects of breaking windows and screaming obscenities earlier today. Officer responded and checked area; spoke again to caller, who was out driving around in his truck, and advised him to allow MPD to handle this. Officer advises that he located the two involved parties; they stated they had been yelling and screaming at each other, not at the caller.

7:47 p.m. Report of smoke in the downtown area and an odor of something burning. TFFD notified and on scene. Copied via radio that Greenfield FD located the source of the problem: a woodstove in Factory Hollow.

9:22 p.m. Employee from F.L. Roberts reports that a female party known to them from previous shoplifting incidents is outside bothering customers and asking them to purchase alcohol for her. Officers spoke to party, and she was moved along.

11:29 p.m. Report from F.L. Roberts that a male party just shoplifted candy bars, soda, and chips. Officer unable to ID person from surveillance footage; will check area.

Thursday, 4/14

2:24 a.m. Report from F.L. Roberts that two males were just in the store; one of them took a 12-pack of beer and walked out. Caller states that he followed them out of the store and found the beer on the side of the building. While on line, caller reported that the male parties came back into the store and asked if the caller knew where they left their beer.

[Redacted] was arrested and charged with shoplifting by asportation. Courtesy transport to Patch provided to other party. Officer advised he is unable to find a place for the party to stay, so he will be taken into protective custody.

7:53 a.m. Employee reports that the front door to the Salvation Army was smashed overnight; it does not appear that entry

to the business was made. Report taken.

11:16 a.m. Caller from Randall Road reports that a neighbor just stuck some religious materials in her door; when she advised the neighbor that she did not want them and gave them back to her, the neighbor stuck the materials in the caller's child's stroller. Advised of options.

12:03 p.m. Motorcycle vs. deer on Mormon Hollow Road; no injuries; deer no longer on scene. Report taken.

5:18 p.m. Caller advising of intoxicated male in alley near L Street and Second Street; male is urinating everywhere and has fallen down a few times. Caller concerned about her daughter arriving home soon and the male causing a disturbance. Area search negative.

Friday, 4/15

2:56 p.m. Second call regarding man on G Street walking his puppy on the tree belt and allowing the dog to defecate without picking it up. Caller advises that the front area is "starting to smell like a litter box." Caller advised that earlier complaint was given to animal control officer as well as board of health.

3:17 p.m. 911 call reporting fire behind Turners Falls High School near the cemetery off Turners Falls Road. TFFD on scene advising approximately 1/2 acre burning at this time. Patrol units clear; FD is all set. Officer called advising he is at the baseball game and believes there is a party there who may have been involved with the fire. Officer advised. Fire extinguished.

Saturday, 4/16

8:37 a.m. [Redacted] was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license.

12 p.m. Caller reports that she just passed a car vs. deer accident on Turners Falls Road; homeowner whose house the accident was in front of claimed the deer, and the operator left with the vehicle.

Operator later called reporting that she struck a deer and will come to MPD to have an officer observe the damage. She advises that parts of the deer are still stuck to the front end of her vehicle. Report taken.

2:07 p.m. Caller reports that sometime between last night and 1 p.m. someone entered his home and stole cash and coins out of a locked closet. Report taken.

7:20 p.m. Parties into lobby to report items stolen from their vehicle parked in front of their residence on Park Street last night. Report taken.

9:57 pm. Caller complaining of harassing phone calls from a New Hampshire number; female caller is threatening to beat her up. Requesting that an officer contact this party and advise her to stop calling. Services rendered.

Sunday, 4/17

11:44 a.m. Caller reports that a man stole his bike in the parking lot behind Black Cow Burger and was trying to antagonize the caller into fighting him. Officer spoke with suspected party, who advised that the caller was not on a bike when he saw him and that the caller looked like he was trying to hide from someone in a vehicle that was circling the block. Officer requesting second unit. Caller came into the alley and stated that he was in the Army and was going to get a gun so he could get his bike back. Officer en route to speak with caller. Report taken.

9:05 p.m. Caller from Grove Street reporting that she can hear what sounds like someone yelling into a loudspeaker coming from the Third Street area. 9 minutes prior to this call, the Mountain Project called to advise that they would be testing their PA system. Advised caller that the test is likely what she is hearing. Officer checked area and did not hear anything resembling what the caller described.

Make-A-Wish of Massachusetts

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

The Make-A-Wish Foundation is an organization that grants wishes to children with life-threatening conditions.

It was inspired into being in 1980 by a 7-year-old boy named Chris, who had leukemia, and wanted to be a police officer. A friend of the family who was a US customs officer wanted to help, but ran into problems. He talked to a spokesman for the Arizona Department of Public Safety; he then talked to his director and he was given the okay to grant the boy's wish for him.

This included giving him and his parents a helicopter ride to the headquarters, and a bunch of gifts including his own uniform, an old badge, a Smoky the Bear hat, and naming him "the first and only" honorary officer of the state DPS.

A group of people which included two actual DPS officers, named Jim Eaves and Frank Shankwitz, were involved. One brought a patrol car and the other brought his motorcycle. They set up a motorcycle driving test for Chris to take to earn the wings that officers get.

After he passed away, the boy was given "a ceremony of a fallen officer" by these individuals. Officer Shankwitz talked about creating an organization which granted more wishes.

More people got involved, about \$2,000 in donations were made, then tax-exempt paperwork was filled out. With that all taken care of, the group's first official wish was granted. A boy named Frank "Boppy" Salazar had three wishes, which were "to be a fireman, go to Disneyland and a ride in a hot air balloon."

The kid got all three granted.

The foundation now has chapters all over America. There are a couple of offices in Massachusetts: one in Boston, and one in Springfield.

According to Nicole, a young woman who works in the communication department of the Boston Make-A-Wish office, "It's global."

She has been with the organization for three years. "Our mission is to provide hope and joy to children," she said. They "rely on individuals' donations, and communities" in filling the wishes of the kids.

The state Make-A-Wish organization hosts a golf tournament to raise funds, and has been doing it for "over 20 years," according to Nicole. The golf tournament will be on June 27, 2016 at Salem Country Club in Peabody, Massachusetts. Another golfing event will also happen at Springfield Country Club in Springfield.

There are several other fundraising events that people host in communities.

Also mentioned by Nicole in connection with famous people being involved in this organization, "sometimes they wish to meet famous actors and athletes; depends on the child's wish." The official website states that it "granted 14,800 wishes last year alone."

The reasons given why someone would want to work or volunteer at the foundation are described by Nicole as being "personal and various, but most want to help children." As they should, since anything to do with helping children is a worthy cause.

I believe it would be hard for people to disagree. That alone should be a reason for the Make-A-Wish Foundation to be successful for a long time in the work they do.

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SHEA from page B1

free-spirited Latina mother, and premieres in the fall. McKeown will share a few new pieces from the repertoire for that show.

So, what's the big deal about *Hamilton*, a musical about one of the founding fathers of our country?

For one thing, Alexander Hamilton is a very complicated, contradictory, and fascinating historical figure. He was born out of wedlock around 1757 in the British West Indies, and was orphaned at an early age. Self taught, he first attracted attention to his writing when he was 17, enough so that some wealthy men sponsored his education in what were then the Colonies.

Hamilton went on to become an aide to George Washington in the Revolutionary War, founder of *The New York Post*, first Secretary of the Treasury, a proponent of strong central government and champion of immigrants, and a passionate character who got into some ten duels before dying from wounds gotten while dueling Aaron Burr in 1804.

But Miranda, putting this story to hip hop, with its catchy rhythms and high speed rhyme, has remade the subject in a way that captures the urgency of the Revolution and the human side of the figures involved – obviously, Hamilton had a self destructive streak.

Joanna Freeman writes on *Slate*, "Deeply traditional in its praise of an American founder, yet radical in its reinvention of that founder as an immigrant in a multicultural, inclusive world whose *lingua franca* is rap, Hamilton embraces both poles in polarized times; it is a play that everyone can love."

Although only the top tier of Franklin County wage earners may actually get to see the original show while it runs on Broadway (tickets go for hundreds to thousands of dollars apiece), that hasn't prevented a fan base for the musical from forming locally.

Says Belmonte in the press release for the event, "Let's face it: You're probably never going to get to see it on Broadway unless you mortgage your house. We can

all at least commiserate and sing-a-long together."

He adds, "Most of us have it memorized. Many diehard fans do. But if you need lyrics, you should bring them."

The sing-a-long will probably consist of nine or ten songs, and there may be "surprise guests" on stage as well.

Erin McKeown: In Song & Conversation with Monte Belmonte & HAMILTON Singalong, Saturday, April 23, 7 p.m. at the Shea Theater and Arts Center.

Tickets \$10 in advance, brown-papertickets.com/event/2531407, or \$15 at the door.

Want to support the Shea while staying home and listening to all the *Hamilton* songs on YouTube? Search for "Light Up the Shea Theater" on Indiegogo.com.

Love Erin McKeown, but too tired from spring cleaning to get out to the show? She does a cool online show called "Cabin Fever" on her website: erinmckeown.com/cabinfever/.

**BROOKS** from page B1

important, stresses Robin, is that the reader has the sense that they are not alone.

Local writer Emily Stone had this to say: "Robin's memoir is a brutally honest retrospective, with amazing rays of hope filtered in.

The verse is an inviting blend of the simple and the complex – words on the page that stop you in your tracks at times and, at others, hold you in peaceful resolution. Poetry that recollects trauma is difficult to write and difficult to read, but it is the very essence of doing so that frees both writer and reader."

In her forward to the book, Wilde, who has a Ph.D. in clinical psychology, writes: "I have heard many accounts of trauma over the years, yet it is rare to discover one captured so perfectly and expressed with such candor, beauty, and grace. Robin's inexhaustible courage, perseverance, and insight through the maze of self-discovery and healing are reflected on every page."

Robin feels the lotus is a power-

ful symbol for her life. "The deeper the mud the lotus grows in," said Brooks, "the more beautiful the bloom. This has certainly been true for me. Perhaps my poems will help the lotus in you begin to bloom."

She is also a graduate of the Women's Center S.O.A.R. (Skills, Opportunity, Action, Recognition) Program, where participants learn to design and facilitate groups that reflect each woman's personal skills and interests. Robin's healing workshops for women survivors grew out of her training at S.O.A.R.

The "A Celebration of Healing" workshop will be at the Women's Center at 43 Third Street, from 6 to 8 p.m. on Monday April 25.

For more information on Robin Brooks, who is also a playwright, book and web designer, and sculptor in addition to being a writer and poet, please visit her website: bloomingofthelotus.com. For information about these and other programs at the Center, call (413) 863-4804 or mcscommunity.org.

**JINX** from page B1

spread coal cinders on snow-covered, icy streets and sidewalks in the winter before the use of salt to melt the frozen water; how about cardboard in worn shoes? – these are just a few examples Jinx recalls from the early 1940s.

However, one example clearly comes to the forefront of his mind that displays signs of humor and yet sadness.

Creaking down the back alley comes the large, horse-drawn wagon with its flatbed holding several very large barrels. Hanging off the rear by their steel handles, clanging together like church bells out of key, were three big slop pails used to collect garbage from the tenants in "The Block."

Sitting on the front, buckboard style bench, slumped over and holding the reins, sat "That Old Man" (a name the neighborhood kids impolitely called him). The tired looking nag plodded along, stopping at each tenement without any voice com-

mand, as if having a special sense (though Jinx is sure that the strongly built driver's gentle hands holding the reins had lot to do with it).

At each pause, "That Old Man" would dismount, walk around to the back, remove a pail, and proceed to empty the vegetable and meat swill that each family had dumped in a separate can on the backporch of the tenement, so as not to be mixed in with the regular trash. The regular trash was burned at the town dump, referred to nowadays as the landfill.

Tenement after tenement, this bull of a man would stagger up the stairs with an empty or partially filled pail, empty the tenants' pails into his, and with this heavy load trudge back to the wagon and empty the contents into one of the large barrels on the flatbed.

As a side note, the family's empty can would then be scrubbed clean by one of Jinx's brothers, as he was too small for that chore. Thank God!

Now back to "That Old Man."

He had been known to imbibe in the spirits, sometimes to excess, and by the end of his usual Saturday rounds it would not be unusual to see the old nag pulling the wagon, with "The Old Man" completely smashed, up the Third Street hill towards the farm.

That animal must have been pretty smart, as he never varied from the path home. Jinx always wondered how "That Old Man" ever unloaded those fully loaded barrels of swill and finished slopping his pigs.

As a young boy, watching this, Jinx thought it very humorous and would laugh at "That Drunken Old Man." Reflecting on it today, Jinx thinks it was really sad to witness how alcohol could affect the life of such a hard working individual, and how foolish it was to have laughed at the situation. Well, Jinx told you that he didn't always do things to be proud of.



April 23: Free Cordwood Marking and Thinning Workshop in Athol

Learn how to manage and improve your woods with this free hands-on workshop for landowners at Skyfields Arboretum in Athol, home of Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust.

Come chat with other local woodland owners, foresters, and community members about your woods. This workshop is sponsored by DCR Service Forestry and is a great opportunity for local landowners to share information and ask questions about your land.

The workshop runs from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 23 at 1461 Old Keene Road in Athol. Lunch will be provided. Dress for the outdoors, rain or shine.

Pre-registration is required, as space is limited. Please RSVP to Fletcher Clark: fletcher.clark@state.ma.us or (413) 262-2367.

May 4 to June 8: Healthy Eating Workshop for Older Adults in Greenfield

Starting on the first week of May, the Healthy Living Program at LifePath (formerly Franklin County Home Care) will hold a six-session workshop series at the Greenfield Senior Center called "Healthy Eating for Successful Living in Older Adults."

The workshop series will take place each Wednesday, beginning May 4 and ending on June 8, from 1 to 3:30 p.m. – except for May 18, when the workshop will take place from 12 to 2:30 p.m.

Please register for the workshop series in advance by contacting Marcus Chiaretto, Healthy Living Program Coordinator, by phone at (413) 773-5555 x 2304 or (978) 544-2259 x 2304, or by email at mchiaretto@lifepathma.org.

LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was April 20, 2006: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Australian Fish Making a Splash in Turners Falls

In the back of the Australis indoor aqua-farm, located in the industrial park in Turners Falls, tanks 20 feet wide and two stories high stretch to the ceiling. Each tank holds more than 150,000 gallons of water, each one nearly as large as the main tank at the New England Aquarium in Boston.

At Australis, there are ten tanks this size. Inside those tanks, tens of thousands of fish born in Australia and raised here in the largest fish farm in America dart past.

They are called Barramundi and they are one of the most popular table fish in Australia. With a natural buttery taste, this native favorite used to be available to Americans only as an expensive import. But if Joshua Goldman has his way they will soon be just as popular in American kitchens.

Equi's Spanish Garden Changing Hands

David Frendenburgh and Mark Jackson came before the Montague selectboard on Tuesday, April 18, representing Crystal Springs Investments, LLC in a proposed liquor license transfer from owners Ed and Janice Hartnell of Equi's Spanish Gardens in Miller Falls. The new owners plan to transform the Spanish Gardens into a bar and grill with lunch menu, named Miller's Pub.

"The property is beautiful and we are glad someone is enterprising," said selectboard chair Allen Ross.

"I look forward to having a beer there," added selectboard member Patricia Pruitt. The board approved the transfer.

Lady Killigrew For Sale as Founders Move On

WANTED: Someone who loves Montague, knows the Bookmill and wants to run a thriving small business in a beautiful historic building with a scenic view.

Finding the right people to purchase the Lady Killigrew Cafe is important to Matthew Latkiewicz, 27, and Sarah Reid, 30, who founded the popular European-style cafe inside the Bookmill complex two and a half years ago. They are ready to move on.

"We're not closing," said Latkiewicz. "We want the Lady Killigrew to continue, and it will continue. Personally, Sarah and I never wanted to be long-term restaurant owners. We opened the cafe not because we had a dream about owning a restaurant but because we loved this old building and we loved the community. We feel the community could really benefit from this type of food service and we were in a position to do it."

"Now that the cafe is financially sound, stable and seemingly popular, it seemed like a good time to pass the baton." The Lady Killigrew Cafe is listed on the market for \$78,000.

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JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

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.



Sci-fi pop trio Bunnies will play with locals Bunwinkies, the Easthampton Savings Band, New Yorkers Wanda & Wonder and Golden West Service, and a number of poets at the Brick House this Saturday night.

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.

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. Through 5/28.

Leverett Arts & Crafts, Leverett: *The Birdwatchers*. Through 4/30.

Leverett Library, Leverett: *Where is Leverett?* Photographs, paintings, wall hangings, poems, and riddles about special places in Leverett. Through April 28.

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. Through 5/7. Closing artist's reception at the Nook on 5/7, 5 to 7 p.m.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Buddha Nature*. Paintings by Juliet Seaver who spent one year painting a Buddha each day; on exhibit are 20 paintings from that exercise. Also *The Hawley Bog & Recent Works* by Ashfield painter Peggy Grose. Both exhibits through 4/30.

Sawmill River Arts Gallery, Montague Center: *From Darkness Into Light/ A Spring Exhibit*. Recent works by gallery members of this collaborative. Though 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:

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 21

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

Arts Block, Greenfield: Pioneer Valley Jazz Shares presents: *Chris Lightcap's "Bigmouth"*. 7:30 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Definite Maybes*. Uptown blues. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 22

Replay Gear, Greenfield: *Ruth Garbus with Julia Tadlock; PG Six; Anthony Pasquarosa; Bryan Gillig*. All ages. 8 p.m. \$

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Hip Hop in Greenfield: DELGADO featuring Makuhmilli, Gnarlard, Nliten & DJ Mellow* 8 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Grave Diggers Union*. Hard driving bluegrass and old time country. 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 23

Rock Dam, Connecticut River, Turners Falls: *Troubled Waters Picnic: A Shortnose Sturgeon Walk, Talk and Lunch at the Rock Dam*. Meet at entrance gate to Silvio Conte Fish Lab G St. 11 a.m.

Montague Retreat Center, Montague Center: *Earth Saturday dance party with Pioneer Valley band Trailer Park*. Fundraiser to support the Town of Montague's intervention in a DPU proceeding with Berkshire Gas and to benefit PLAN-NE. Food provided by event co-sponsor Hillside Organic Catering. 7 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Surly Temple*. Jim Henry, Guy Devito and Doug Plavin rock. 8 p.m.

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Bunwinkies, Bunnies, Easthampton Savings Band, Wanda & Wonder, Golden West Service, and poets*. All ages, substance free space. 8 p.m. \$

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Erin McKeown. In Song and Conversation with Monte Belmonte*. See photo and caption this page. 8 p.m. \$

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Ladies in Jazz; Samirah Evans with Mary Witt*. 8 p.m. \$

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

Ashfield Lake House, Ashfield: *Arc Iris, Home Body*. 9 p.m. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *A.M. Gold*. 70's & 80's hits and more. 9:30 p.m.

MONDAY, APRIL 25

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

THURSDAY, APRIL 28

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Marris Otter*. Original Folk Rock with Jen Spingla and Alyssa Kelly. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Seven Mile Line*. Bluegrass. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 29

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Charlie*

Scott & the Mighty King Snakes. Blues baby blues! 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *A-Rhythmic Sound Experiment*. 9:30 p.m.

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TFHS: The Week In Sports

By MATT ROBINSON

After a week of snow and rain postponements, the Turners Falls Spring-sports season got into full swing, squeezing in 18 games in the second week. The two tennis squads played 4 matches each, 3 of which were played in 3 consecutive days. Likewise, the boys played 4 baseball games and the State Champion Softball team dusted off their gloves and took their first two games by a combined score of 20-2.

Boys Tennis

The Boys Tennis team traveled to Forest Park to face Sabnis on Wednesday, April 13. The very next day, they got on the bus and trekked to the Berkshires to challenge Lee, and a day later, they hosted Lee. Then after a 3-day rest, they hosted Pioneer Valley Christian. After 5 matches, Turners sits at 2 and 3.

April 13: Sabnis 3 – TFHS 2. Ricky Carver was the lone singles winner for the Tribe, sweeping his match 2 sets to nil (6-1, 6-2). Powertown split the doubles matches, with Giovanni Ruggiano and Brian Porier coming up on top 6 games to 1 and 7 to 6.

April 14: Lee 3 – TFHS 2. Avery Palmer won his match in straight sets 6-4, 7-5 while Jimmy Vaughn and Carver dropped their single matches in 5 sets each. Ruggiano and Porier kept their winning streak alive by sweeping their doubles match 6-4, 6-4.

April 15: Lee 4 – TFHS 1. Lee beat Turners for the second straight day. This time, they held the Tribe to 1 win. Palmer prevented the shutout by winning his match 2 sets to nil (7-6, 6-4).

April 19: TFHS 3 – PVC 2. After a weekend of rest, Powertown got back on track by defeating Pioneer Christian, 3 sets to 2. Palmer and Carver both won their single matches, while Ruggiano and Porier won in their doubles match (4-6, 6-3, 6-2).

Girls Tennis

It was a disappointing week for the girls' tennis team. They dropped two games against Belchertown, and two against Lee. With these four losses, the Lady Indians slip to 1-5.

On Wednesday, April 13 and on Monday, April 18, Belchertown swept the Tribe 5-0.

On Thursday, April 14 and Friday, April 15, Turners took one match in each Lee contest. In the second Lee match, Alysha Woz-

niak swept, 6-2 6-1.

Baseball

Preacher Roe once said, "Sometimes you eat the bear, and sometimes the bear eats you." And although baseball has changed in the seven decades since Mr. Roe pitched in the Majors, his adage still holds true.

In both the Easthampton and the Franklin Tech games this week, there were wild score changes fraught with errors, as well as crisp, heads-up play. In both games, either team could have won, but as the Preacher said so long ago, sometimes the bear eats you.

Lenox 12 – TFHS 1. On Wednesday, April 13, Turners lost their first game of the year, and slipped to 1-1. It took four innings for Powertown to break the shutout when Jay Fritz knocked in Kyle Bergmann.

Bergmann and Jalen Sanders both went 2 for 3 at the plate, Josh Obuchowski cracked a double, and Fritz had one hit. Nick Croteau, Tyler Lavin and Obuchowski took turns on the mound for the Tribe.

Easthampton 9 – TFHS 6. The home opener played on April 14 could have gone either way. Although Easthampton scored 3 runs to Powertown's 1 in the first inning, the Tribe never gave up. And when Hampton piled on two



Tionne Brown slides across the plate as the Turners Falls Indians take on the Easthampton Eagles at TFHS. The Eagles came away with the win 9-6.

score 5-1, Turners followed suit by matching the two runs in the bottom of the inning.

In the fifth, Blue scored two more runs, knotting the game at 5.

But sometimes the bear eats you: the Eagles broke the stalemate by scoring two runs in the sixth, and although the Indians had men in scoring position, they could only answer with a single run of their own. Easthampton added two insurance runs in the seventh off Blue errors and Turners couldn't answer in their final ups.

Quinn Doyle was perfect at the plate, going 4 for 4, scoring 3 runs, banging a double and knocking in a run. Jalen Sanders went 2 for 3, scored a run and batted a run in.

Tanner Jones walked a run in, Kyle Bergmann made a hit, and Brown scored twice. Doyle pitched 5 innings for the Indians, while Croteau and Trevor Mankowski each pitched one.

Mahar 16 – TFHS 3. The Indians dropped their second straight game by losing to Mahar on Friday, April 15. The Tribe led 3-0 going into the bottom of the second, but let up 16 straight runs on 12 hits and 5 errors.

Doyle and Brown scored the 3 early runs for Blue on RBIs by Sanders and Jones. Brown, Jones, and Tyler Lavin all had hits, while Sanders added 2. Brown, Fritz, Obuchowski and Mankowski shared duties on the mound.

TFHS 11 – Franklin Tech 10. In a wild, windy, dusty affair, the Turners Falls Indians outlasted the Tech Eagles 11-10 on Monday, April 19. Tech jumped out to a 4-0 lead after two innings. The Indians scored twice in the top of the third, had a 5 run rally in the fourth, and added 3 insurance runs in the top of the fifth to take a comfortable 6-run lead.

But like the Tribe, the Eagles never gave up. Their bench was just as loud as Turners'. And both coaches tried to keep their team in the game – Tech's Brian Winslow trying to keep his boys from giving up, and Turners coach Scott Minckler advising his team not to sit on the lead.

The Eagles chipped away two runs in their half of the fifth, putting the score at 10-6. "We scored three runs in that inning – they only scored two," Minckler called from the bench.

But even after Doyle retired the side on three pitches in the sixth and Turners scored another run in the seventh, Tech was firmly staring into Turners' rear view mirror.

In the bottom of the seventh, Tech loaded

It's Outta Here!



Jenna Putala watches her 2-run homer fly over the outfield fence at Mahar Regional School in Orange on April 15. Jenna slammed the home run her first time up at bat this season, a feat she also accomplished the previous two seasons! The Turners Falls Indians went on to blank the Mahar Senators 8-0. See next week's Reporter for in-depth softball coverage.

the bases with no outs then scored four quick runs. With no scoreboard, the fans had to wonder exactly what the score was. Luckily, statistician Sean Crowell kept many informed, while Tyler Lavin's little brother (in between swinging the bat) gleefully announced every twist and turn of the game.

And with the score at 11-10, Turners was able to get the last two outs and preserve the victory.

Sometimes the Eagle eats the Indian, and sometimes the Indian eats the Eagle. The game was close as close could be without going into extra innings. Both teams had rallies, made mistakes – and finished with almost identical stats, with 8 hits and 4 errors apiece.

For the Tribe, Sanders cracked in 2 runs on a homer, scoring twice. Doyle had a 2-run triple and scored three runs. Mankowski also had two RBIs, going 3 for 3 from the plate, and scored twice.

Obuchowski also was perfect at the plate, going 3 for 3, chopping a double and scoring two runs. Lavin accounted for the other two runs for Turners. Doyle pitched all 7 innings.

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