

LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 13 – NO. 8

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

DECEMBER 4, 2014

LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Property Tax Abatements May Cause Budget Cutbacks

By DAVID DETMOLD

Two property tax abatement appeals pending with the Massachusetts Appellate Tax Board may force serious budget cuts on all town departments, and on the elementary school, for the coming fiscal year.

Town officials have not named the property tax owners who are seeking additional abatements – both have been granted some relief already by the assessors – but the larger of the two, whom selectboard member Peter d'Errico characterized as “one of the largest property taxpayers in town,” is seeking an abatement in the amount of \$6,546,700, over and above the \$3 million abatement the assessors have already granted to him or her.

The other taxpayer is seeking an abatement of \$106,339, over and above the \$31,200 abatement already granted by the assessors. If the appellate tax board were to rule entirely in the property owners' favor, the town would be forced to pay out \$125,696 to the larger of the two property owners, and a little over \$2,000 to the smaller.

In an effort to set aside the roughly \$127,000 that finance see LEVERETT page A7

WENDELL SELECTBOARD

New Grader, Brush Truck, Sidewalk, Flag and Internet Considered

By JOSH HEINEMANN

The Wendell selectboard's November 19 meeting went so late, with four scheduled visitors and one unscheduled visitor, that board chair Christine Heard postponed some less pressing agenda items for their next meeting.

Highway Grader

The unscheduled visitor was highway supervisor Rich Wilder, reporting that the highway department got one bid for a used grader, a Volvo

see WENDELL page A4



The current flag proposal.



ELLIOT LEVIN PHOTO

Sunrise over Barton Cove: Elliot Levin shared this photograph, “Mist on the River,” with us. He took it early Thanksgiving morning at Unity Park in Turners Falls. Got something to share? Send photos and drawings to editor@montaguereporter.org!

A Receptacle for Your Wishes

By REPORTER STAFF

TURNERS FALLS – Are you a young, old, or medium person with dreams, hopes and wishes of any sort this season?

Well, write them down and drop them in the futuristic-looking Magic Mailbox sculpture at Spinner Park, at Fourth Street and Avenue A.

Incorporating three mailboxes, bells, wings, and solar-powered lighting, it bears the text “Wishes,” “Dreams,” “2014” and “2015.”

The sculpture was instigated by RiverCulture director Suzanne LoManto, and made into a reality by local jack-of-all-trades Jack Nelson of Carriage House Designs.

“Suzanne approached me with

the idea of doing this. We had a meeting, and then one work party where we collected the mailboxes and worked out a design, and then I started doing the cutting and fabrication,” said Nelson.

LoManto will be collecting contents, and may reprint them anonymously, both in the *Montague Reporter* and elsewhere.

“I wish my brother is not so fully all the time,” reads one deposit.

Another wisher makes it easier: “Dear Santa, a want an easy bak oven. I’ve been nice. I am six.”

Though the installation is not intended to be affiliated with any holidays, and will last into the new year, Christmas lists left in the box will be collected by Santa Claus at 6:30 p.m. next Friday, December 12, during the “It’s A Wonderful Night” downtown walking event. (See page A8 for more event details.)

“I’ve been thinking about what I want to put in,” says Nelson himself. But wishing isn’t always easy.

“Between December and January is when a lot of people are thinking of making changes in their lives,” reflects LoManto.



MIKE JACKSON PHOTO

Where dreams go: Nelson and LoManto pose with a newly installed Magic Mailbox.

A Transformer for Our Gill Correspondent

By JOE PARZYCH

We lost power on Wednesday, and got it back after dark on Saturday. The Alliance Company, from Lord knows where, worked in the dark on Saturday night to replace the blown transformer.

My neighbor diagonally across the road never lost power. His house gets power from the north on a separate circuit. My house and my brother Louis' house get power from the south.

Our houses are both fed from the same transformer, which gave up the ghost on Wednesday evening in a spectacular blue arcing that lit up the neighborhood, leaving just a small red light on the transformer to signify passing power company people that it had given up the ghost.

Power company employees driving by, successfully ignored it. Eventually, the entire Main Road of Gill, from end to end, had power – except for our two houses.

My brother, who has sense enough to have a generator, made several calls to the power company, only to get a recording each time. I drove to the Gill police station where the chief called in the outage. He also got a recording.

A Bernardston cop who happened to be at the station suggested calling

someone else. Maybe it was God – but they got a real live person to answer, and the live person said they'd report it, also adding that there were two linesmen's trucks working on Route 2 in Riverside, which would probably come right up to take care of the outage.

see POWER page A8



PARZYCH PHOTO

After the storm: Alpacas at the Balise farm on South Cross Road in Gill.

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Progress Made on Shea Plan; “Mount Refuse” Needs a Cap

By JEFF SINGLETON

At its meeting on Monday, December 1, the Montague Selectboard and the newly created Civic Center Commission held a sparsely attended “envisioning” session to discuss the future of the Shea Theater. The meeting may have been sparsely attended because there had already been a similar public forum in early November that drew a large and engaged crowd.

The selectboard discussion focused on the preliminary report of Debra J'Anthony, the consultant hired to oversee the Shea envisioning process. J'Anthony is the former director of the Shea and is currently the executive director of the Academy of Music in Northampton. Her report is based on input at the previous public meeting, as well as conversations with members of the Shea board, the Turners Falls arts community, and potential renters of the venue.

The goal is to provide guidance for a “Request for Proposals,” part of the bidding process for determining who will manage the theater. The theater building itself is owned by the town of Montague while the see MONTAGUE page A5

Building a Living Wage Economy in Western MA

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

GREENFIELD – In our last issue I wrote about “Creating a Bold New Economy” conference held November 15 at Greenfield Community College. Sponsored by Greening Greenfield, those who attended were given an opportunity to consider new perspectives, and a wider view of what is possible if people work together.

After the morning panel discussions and a lovely lunch came the workshops. I found several interesting, but the one that grabbed my attention was “Creating a Living Wage Economy.”

The issue of the minimum wage, and how to create jobs that provide a living wage, was central to this election season. Ballot questions to raise the minimum wage won even in places where Republicans gained seats for Congress – fairness and survival, perhaps, trumping political ideology.

The panel was moderated by Sarah Wing, GCC's Department of Labor grant coordinator, who opened by asking us: “Can we produce jobs that provide a living wage here?”

Before we answered, we needed to consider some facts. Looking at the wider economy we see a government claim that 10.5 million

see LIVING WAGE page A6

The Montague Reporter

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Don't Look Back

One hundred and forty years ago this month, the editor and proprietor of the Turners Falls Reporter, Addington D. Welch, handed the reins over to Cecil T. Bagnall.

"Remember that it is the patrons of the paper who are responsible for its success," wrote Welch in a farewell column. "We bespeak your earnest, cordial support for Mr. Bagnall and the Reporter."

The following is excerpted from Bagnall's own introductory editorial, printed December 16, 1874.

That the new city of Turners Falls will continue in rapid advancement there is not the shadow of a doubt, and when the commercial depression which parades the entire country shall have passed, the shadowing of the brilliant future for this place which is certainly not far distant will be unfolded in a manner that will astonish all but those shrewd capitalists who invested their money and calculated the chances of the speedy growth of the new city.

Turners Falls is certainly the finest controllable water power in this country, as a glance at the engraving on our first page will show, and when the reader reflects that foremost in its development are such men as Hon. Alvah Crocker, Wm. Buckley, Dr. J. C. Ayer, Wendell T. Davis, B. N. Farren, and others, who count their dollars by the million, he cannot but believe this will in a very short time outstrip all other manufacturing towns on the Connecticut River.

Everything that is being done, is in the most substantial manner. The town is not building up in that scattered and promiscuous manner which characterizes many new places, where it seems always the most convenient to build shanties on the corners of leading streets and erect four-story brick buildings in the middle of pig pastures.

The city was properly laid out by that capable civil engineer, Wm. P. Crocker, Esq., before a building lot was sold, and the Turners Falls Company have very wisely placed the price of the most desirable lots on which to erect fine stores, at prices that effectively prevent their being bought and used for any other purpose, while on the less important streets they sell lots suitable for building residences at very reasonable figures.

In the future, it will be the endeavor of the writer to give a paper to his readers containing the

live news of the week, both local and general, and shall not cause the editorial columns to periodically sigh, like a disconsolate wind in a pine forest, for the fate of country editors, whose chief labors in the journalistic profession are devoted to the printing of handbills, to the exclusion of news matters.

The present manager has no hobbies to thrust before the many readers of the Reporter who do not care to be bored to death, week following week, with column articles on very uninteresting subjects.

The columns of the Reporter will always be open to every citizen, of whatever creed, class or station, to express his views on any subject that may interest our readers, but we shall demand brevity where words are not needed, and uniform courtesy to all persons.

We will not allow any unprovoked personal attacks to be made through these columns, under any circumstances.

If any persons think it necessary for their happiness to fight a terrific battle before the public, the paper will make the announcement in its news columns, and suggest Montague Plains as a very good place to fight the matter out with whatever weapons they may mutually agree upon, and if needs be, the editor will be present with a roll of sticking plaster, to show fair play and dress the wounds of the vanquished.

Or, if the matter *must* be given to the public in print, we would kindly but firmly suggest that we do very good handbills at our office!

Not until we cease to edit the Reporter, will private persons be attacked in a scurrilous manner through these columns.

All persons who have paid their subscriptions in advance will be furnished the paper regularly till the expiration of their time, and the present proprietor will collect all arrearages on subscriptions for this paper.

The writer feels extremely grateful to his many friends in this section for their hearty good wishes for his success, and shall endeavor always to be worthy of their regard.

To the press of Springfield, Greenfield, Providence, and other cities, he is also grateful for their expressions of good will.

Bagnall would continue on as editor of the Turners Falls Reporter until his death in 1922, whereupon the paper ceased publication.

"Get away [garbled] for what? Every time you see me, you want to mess with me. I'm tired of it. It stops today. Why would you...? Everyone standing here will tell you I didn't do nothing. I did not sell nothing. Because everytime you see me, you want to harass me. You want to stop me [garbled] Selling cigarettes. I'm minding my business, officer, I'm minding my business. Please just leave me alone. I told you the last time, please just leave me alone. please please, don't touch me. Do not touch me. [garbled] I can't breathe. I can't breathe. I can't breathe. I can't breathe. I can't breathe. I can't breathe. I can't breathe. I can't breathe. I can't breathe. I can't breathe."

Recorded last words of Eric Garner, NYC, 1970-2014
Some are beneath the law - some are above it



JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by DON CLEGG

Paul Hardy of the **Millers Falls Rod & Gun Club** tells the Reporter that the last turkey shoot of the year on November 23 went well, and that the club presented the Montague Police Department with a \$750 donation for its K9 unit.

Officer Jim Ruddock was on hand to accept the check with Artie the dog, and made the first drawing on a sportsman's raffle, which included \$250 gift certificates to R&R Sport Shop, Cabela's, Pipione's and Dick's Sporting Goods.

Come discover the **Great Falls Discovery Center** at the Turners Falls Branch of Greenfield Savings Bank on Saturday, December 6, from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

The Town of Montague has many "best-kept secrets." One of them is the GFDC, located at the gateway to downtown Turners Falls as one crosses from Gill/Route 2 into Montague Township. The Friends of the GFDC will be on hand to share with you factual information on the history and heritage of the Discovery Center, the many programs it has offered, programs that it will offer and the simply "larger than life" exhibits and scenes professionally created.

If you have never been to the center, here is a chance to learn from those who know it the best. If you have already been to the center, please visit it again and come to GSB and pick up some info/facts that you might have missed. Light refreshments provided by GSB in partnership with the GFDC.

There will be a **Used Book Sale at Carnegie Library** from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, December 6. Thousands of books are available in the library basement. All books and VHS tapes are \$2 a bag. DVDs, CDs, and Audio Books are \$1 each. Proceeds to benefit the Friends of the Montague Public Libraries.

Montague Libraries are not accepting more donations until after this sale. For more information, call 863-3214.

Give yourself the present of a **walk in the woods** before the holiday hullabaloo on Saturday, December 6, from 12:30 to 4 p.m. Harvest as much daylight as possible during

this leafless hiking season with its beautiful views of ridges and valleys covered with slender gray trunks and thick green pines.

This 5-mile hike begins and ends at the Northfield Mountain Visitor Center and hikers will climb 800 feet to enjoy mountaintop views.

The downhill walk will be on a quiet, paved road in the fading afternoon light. Participants should dress in layers, wear safety orange clothing, and bring snacks and water. This hike is suitable for people who engage in aerobic activity three or more times per week. Call 1-800-859-2960 to pre-register.

On Sunday, December 7 at its 10 a.m. services, **Our Lady of Peace Church**, on Seventh Street in Turners Falls, will be dedicating a new statue. The 72" Madonna and child, with children representing the various races and cultures of the world, was hand-carved in Italy and made possible by the estate of the late Margaret Pfersich, who passed away last year.

Children will have major roles in the service, and a reception will follow. Father Stan Aksamit says "this particular statue has been a dream of [his] since the founding of the parish" in 2006, saying it represents the parish's work in peace and justice, breaking down social barriers and reaching out to the most vulnerable.

Do you know a child who would appreciate a **telephone call from Santa Claus** this season? The Scottish Rite Masons in the Valley of Greenfield are helping transfer long-distance calls from the North Pole on Monday, December 22.

To sign up, parents or guardians simply fill out a form reminding Santa of some of the youngster's details, a phone number and the best times to call. These calls are a lot of fun for all involved.

Forms are available at the Carnegie Library, Scotty's on the Hill, Second Street Bakery, and the Turners Falls branches of the Greenfield Savings Bank and Greenfield Cooperative Bank, as well as at the library and Foster's Market in Greenfield.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

Shucks, Kev

Your November 20 staff editorial, "A Craving For Legitimacy", was absolutely brilliant. I am grateful to have a newspaper of this caliber in my town.

Sincerely,
Kevin J Smith
Turners Falls

Yours respectfully,
George Sheldon

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Leverett Family Museum Runs Painting Raffle



A watercolor painting of the North Leverett Sawmill by local artist Bill Rathbun is being raffled off to raise money for the repair of the roof at the Leverett Family Museum.

To enter, simply send a donation to the Leverett Historical Society at P.O. Box 57, Leverett, MA, with a designation for the Museum roof. Include your phone number. You

can also drop it off at the Museum in the center of town on the next two Saturdays, December 6 and 13, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

The deadline is Friday, December 19. The winner will be drawn on Saturday, December 20 at 1 p.m. at the museum. The winner will be notified later that afternoon.

Thank you, and good luck!

GUEST EDITORIAL

Volunteers Keep Downtown Planter Vision Alive

By CHRISTA SNYDER

TURNERS FALLS – As someone who has volunteered to help organize volunteers to care for the Ave. A planters, I would like to take some time to recognize those who have helped keep Downtown Turners Falls attractive and fun.

I have been working in Turners since 2007. I have only paid attention to the planters since 2012 when I adopted one late in the season that year. In 2013 I took on the responsibility of helping coordinate volunteers to adopt the planters.

Prior to me, Anne Jemas had been doing an outstanding job in that post. She has set a high standard for keeping the planters adopted and maintained.

Just as there are great stories of the ups and downs of Downtown Turners Falls, there is a history and a fondness for the planters since they were installed in the 1980s.

They are a legacy left from the town administration that got them installed. An administration who understood that having an inviting attractive downtown promotes growth.

They had a vision for this town to be alive, beautiful and thriving. I am especially grateful for the water spigots that have been installed in most of them.

Currently, the maintenance of the planters is volunteer and donation driven. To quote from the "Adopt a Planter" program,

The planter program promotes public participation in the care and aesthetic presentation of the planters along Ave. A. The main purpose of the planters is to enhance the

visual appearance of downtown through the use of plantings beneath the trees lining the street. Diversity is encouraged regarding the contents of living plants and flowers in the planters.

I appreciate all efforts being made by the volunteers helping keep the vision alive.

I would like to say a huge "THANK YOU" to the following people and businesses who have maintained planters in the last two years:

Louise Sauter, Dolan & Dolan, Sherri Roffi, Kali B's, Calvary Baptist Church, United Arc, Tom Sullivan, Greenfield Farmers Co-operative Exchange, Absolutely Fabulous Hair, Madison on the Ave., Moltenbrey Apartments, Montague Catholic Social Ministries, Jake's Tavern, LOOT, The Third Place, Crocker-Cutlery LLP, Montague Libraries, Avenue A Dental, Rist Insurance, the *Montague Reporter*, Friends of the Discovery Center, Kharma Salon, Nina's Nook, Black Cow Burger, Turners Falls Pizza House, Demers Landscaping, Gary's Coins and Antiques, Stuff, David Jensen, FUNK*SHUN, Northeast Foundation for Children, Franklin County Rotary Club, Compost Queen, Between the Uprights, St. Kazimerz Society, Franklin County Home Care, and Twisters.

A separate huge "THANK YOU" goes to Sandy Facto and Alice Johnson, whose tireless efforts keep Turners Falls Beautiful.

Want to see your name in the paper? There are a few planters that will need care in 2015. Please call 863-0003 and leave a message.

ings ago with a revised proposal stating he wanted the building for a dollar; we have an estimate of what it will cost to remove the oil tanks so I'm suggesting that it should be at least for that cost. We should go back to him with the minimum offer to remove the tank because we do not have an appropriation to remove it.

Summary: the board is ready to sell the building for a dollar to get something happening in that building and get it back on the tax rolls.

The board then moved in to an open session and voted to lower the sale price to one dollar.

Some critics have suggested that the lower sale price violates state procurement law, Chapter 30B. If the lower price and other changes in the proposed sale agreement had been known during the initial bidding process, other developers might have applied for the project.

While the selectboard has not addressed this issue publicly, it was briefly discussed at several executive sessions. On June 23, Ramsey expressed doubts about a potential reduction in the price:

I'm not sure reducing the cost down from \$50,000 to \$1.00 is even possible under the current response to the request for proposals because it was valued on a fee.

The notes of July 14, however, state:

Counsel looked into it and looks

like it can be sold for a dollar as there were no other bidders on the project and they looked into the evaluation and all the bidding was done fairly.

The minutes suggest that a key reason for making more concessions to Zaccheo was the board's fear of another empty and decaying town-owned building, combined with concerns about the obstacles to economic development in the region.

At the June 23 meeting Zaccheo, who had just completed a project in Greenfield, suggested he was ready to give up on the Montague Center project because he could not achieve a 25% return on his investment.

Zaccheo: A lot of hard work has gone into this project on the Town's [sic] side and to let you know I have also put a tremendous amount of hard work into this project and I have the very best of intentions to make this happen.

Numbers aren't adding up on this project... If the board needs to move along he's OK cutting his losses and moving forward with other projects...

If you look at returns they are not great even if you take out the new net zero funds [a potential state grant], you're looking at 7.5% return. I'm not being greedy, I want a 25% return. It's just the reality.

Ramsey: The numbers just don't work for any redevelopment property at that profit rate in the county. You're hard pressed to find a project where the numbers do work.

In Minutes Dump, Clues About Stalled Condo Project

By JEFF SINGLETON

MONTAGUE – This fall, the Montague selectboard has struggled to eliminate a large backlog of meeting minutes that have accumulated over the past four years. These include minutes of non-public "executive sessions," which must be carefully reviewed usually by the selectboard with input from legal counsel as needed, and other staff to ensure that the issues discussed are no longer topics of deliberation.

On November 24, for example, the board briefly reviewed and approved for release the minutes of twenty-six executive sessions, dating back to September 2010. Two weeks earlier, the board released the minutes of seven executive sessions, including one as recent as October 6.

But on Monday, December 1, the board received a request from the town counsel to somehow withdraw or reverse the release of eight of these. This request, according to Town Administrator Frank Abbondanzio, is based on "attorney-client privilege" and because the issues were still the subject of deliberation.

Exactly how to reverse the public release of minutes – they had been given to the press during the past month – was not explained. After discussing the issue, a majority failed to approve counsel's request. The motion garnered one vote in favor and two abstentions. So the minutes remain public.

The minutes were released, in large part, due to a request from town meeting member Jeanne Golrick. Golrick has noted that the open meeting law requires the release of minutes in a "timely fashion," and in October, she complained that more than three years of unreleased minutes was not timely.

The long backlog does not appear to be the result of an attempt to withhold information from the public. Rather it is a product of health issues in the central office at town hall and

a lack of staff support.

The problem began several years ago soon after the retirement of a part-time employee who focused on meeting minutes. Without a concrete plan to reduce the backlog, it spiraled out of control, until Golrick made her complaint.

The released executive session minutes deal with a range of issues, including collective bargaining, negotiations with power company FirstLight about the canal in Turners Falls, a wage classification study, and negotiations with the potential developer of the old Montague Center School building, Mark Zaccheo.

**"The numbers
just don't work for
any redevelopment
property at [a 25%]
profit rate in the
county."**

Executive session minutes are notoriously difficult to decipher because, like regular meeting minutes, they do not constitute a complete transcribed record of deliberation. And there is rarely a taped record to check the minutes against. The state requires that minutes show the date and time of the meeting, as well as a list of participants and the topics covered.

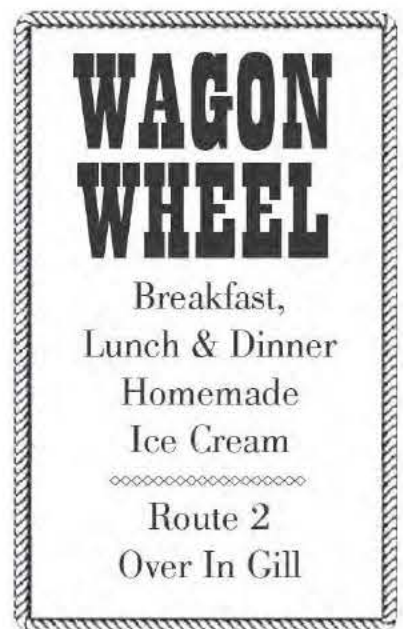
According to the state attorney general's Open Meeting Law Guide, "while the minutes must include a summary of the discussions on each subject, a transcript is not required."

But the meeting minutes can be revealing. For example, the October 6 minutes document the somewhat controversial decision to reduce the sale price of the Montague Center School building to \$1:

[Town planner Walter] Ramsey: Zaccheo came in a couple of meet-



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WENDELL from page A1

that is now in Alabama. The price is \$145,850 delivered, and after trade in of the present grader, \$117,350, less than the amount authorized at the annual town meeting.

Wilder said he would like to inspect the grader before the town buys it, and the company is willing to pay for his airfare there, if that does not conflict with state ethics rules. He would just go and come back in one day, and so would have limited opportunity for a vacation retreat away from the cold that had moved into New England for the week.

The board voted to buy the grader pending Wilder's approval of the machine.

Fire Department

Fire chief Joe Cuneo came in to say the new town brush truck is on its way to being in place. A skid unit is on order. It will hold a pump and 200-gallon water tank, and slide into the truck's bed between the two tool boxes on either side, and it will be bolted in place.

Selectboard member Dan Keller said that he and fire captain Asa de Roode put up less than 20 house numbers and stopped when they ran out of bolts. Citizen Jonathan von Ranson asked about putting a letter "A" on a house number, and town coordinator Nancy Aldrich said the town would have to buy a lot of 25 "A's," so it might be simpler for him to find one at a hardware store.

Friends Waived

Marianne Sundell reserved the town hall for Friday, December 19 for a benefit dinner supporting the Friends of the Meetinghouse. She asked that the normal fee be waived because the building, while not owned by the town, will become a town asset when it is made useable, and the board went along with her request.

Hall Heat

Heard left the meeting for a short consultation with the energy committee to discuss the town hall heating system. Earlier in the fall when Keller and Tom Chaisson went into the crawlspace underneath the main part of the building to clear out the mold smell by spraying bleach, they saw the heating ductwork is in terrible shape, with holes and gaps.

They were surprised that the ASHRAE (American Society of Heating Refrigeration and Air conditioning Engineers) phase II audit of town buildings did not find what must be a large energy loss.

The town has grant money remaining from \$138,000 it got by becoming a green community, and that money must be spent by May 2015. Heard felt replacing the ducts would be a good use for some of it, and communicating that idea was her mission with the energy committee.

Building engineer Jim Slavas recommended a higher-pressure system with insulated and smaller ducts, mini splits for the bathrooms, and a three-speed fan for the air handling system. The change would require a new plenum.

When she returned to the selectboard room, Heard said the energy committee seemed to back the plan, but the change is unlikely before winter.

Unflaggingly

Betsy Ames met the board with a request to change the proposed town flag by adding the words, "Algonquian People 31,000 years BP" (Before the Present).

Ames read from a prepared paper and said that her proposal comes from a perspective that might not have been considered when the flag was designed: one of seeing ourselves as part of a larger human presence in this area.

Only by noticing biases, she said, can they begin to be corrected. She said that only in Wendell would she want to bring this issue forward, and that anthropologist Jean Forward would have come with her in support, but she felt poorly. Ames had gotten her support by email.

Heard said she did not like adding the words to an already-busy design, but did like the idea of extending the town's history. She said it might be better to take away some words.

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich, who is to sew the first flag, said that adding all those letters would be difficult, and adding them might make everything too small to read. She has not started sewing yet.

Keller said it is already "bordering on cluttered," and suggested the names of Turners Falls and Amherst should also be changed. Those changes are not for Wendell to decide.

Ames said that words, even if not clearly understood, can raise awareness of how we as people interrelate. She said the phrase, "First Nations," as used in Canada, is still a European construct, as the people living in the Americas did not think of themselves as nations or tribes but as family groups.

Betsy Ames met the board with a request that the town add the words "Algonquian People 31,000 Years BP" to the proposed town flag.... Nancy Aldrich will not start sewing it until 2015.

Selectboard member Jeffrey Pooser (who brought two kinds of peanuts and a box of small oranges to the meeting) said he felt nothing but gratitude to her for bringing this up. But, he pointed out, the flag design process has been going on two years, and the suggested changes, while totally legitimate, came in the "tenth inning" of the process.

His feeling was that rather than adding words, it may be better to eliminate "Incorporated 1781," or even the town's name.

Aldrich will not start the sewing until 2015, and until then small changes can be made.

Doggedly

Yvette Segal and two of her neighbors, attorney Jan Stiefel, and (town clerk) Gretchen Smith, met the selectboard because she wanted to have them change their order requiring her to have all her dogs on leash whenever they are out of the (fenced) yard.

That order was the result of a hearing that was part of two consecutive selectboard meetings following an incident in which neighbor Ariel Barilla had a bone broken when she tried to protect her dog, Ruby, in a dog fight started by Segal's dog Kodiak.

Two more of Segal's dogs, Paddington and Mica, joined in, and Segal ran forward, pulled Kodiak off, and ended the fight. A fourth dog belonging to Segal, Farley, was right there but stayed away from the fight,

and Segal's reason for coming to the November 19 selectboard meeting was to get Farley removed from the selectboard's order.

Barilla's mother, Beth Erviti, had already written to the selectboard with the same request, and when she talked about that email at the November 5 selectboard meeting, Heard said she was inclined to go along with it, but would have given it more weight if it had come from Barilla herself.

Stiefel asked that the order be amended so that Farley is not on it. She said Farley was so disinterested in the fight that he was not even evaluated afterwards like the other dogs.

Segal said she moved near the Wendell state forest so she can run her dogs and ski with them and have their protection.

Board members were sympathetic with the request, but acknowledged that removing Farley from the leash order would not circumvent the state leash law, which no longer allows for voice control, even in the state forests. In spite of some advice to the contrary the leash law holds in state forests, although because of the area involved and the relatively short staffing, enforcement is a low priority.

Heard said, "We did tell Ariel that we would tell her about any change we made to the order. To change the order without calling her would be rude."

Smith said that Farley is not dangerous. The original hearing, called for by Barilla, was for "nuisance dogs", not "dangerous dogs."

Keller made a motion, which passed, to remove Farley from the selectboard order that all of Segal's dogs be on leash whenever off her property, depending on how Barilla responded to a call. In a call made the next day she did agree, and Farley was lifted from the selectboard order, but Pooser said that in lifting that order the selectboard in no way was advocating unleashed dogs in any context.

The Internet

Robbie Leppzer and Robbie Heller met the board with an update on the WiredWest effort to get a high-speed internet connection to every household in town, and in all the WiredWest towns.

A \$40 million grant has been approved, but the total cost estimate is \$100 million to \$120 million. The difference will be made up by the underserved towns taking out bonds as a collective.

If 50% of households subscribe to the service, the bonds will be paid for; if 65% of households subscribe, there should be a surplus, which could go to subsidize low-income households or something else.

Wendell already has 50% pledged to subscribe, and Leverett, which is getting a bond and paying for placing the fiber-optic cable independently, already has 65% of households pledged.

Going forward is a gamble and a lot of debt, but WiredWest is the only game in town. Fincom member Doug Tanner said real internet connections at homes in Wendell would improve property values, and that the monthly charge for an internet connection would also include television and telephone, and would save him money over what he now pays for the three services.

The spring annual town meeting will have a resolution to authorize borrowing the money that will pay what it costs to connect a fiber-optic

cable to every house in town.

Military Surveillance

The town received a letter from the DEA that stated that none of their surveillance helicopters was flying on September 26, when a helicopter flew at least six low circles over a memorial service that was taking place on the Wendell town common.

An online video identifies the helicopter as LUH 72A which is military, probably National Guard, and military aircraft are not required to comply with FAA rules.

Pooser said that at least this round of protests over helicopter harassment of Wendell citizens is being noticed.

Cane Pin

Adam Drozdowski was unable to come meet the selectboard and receive the town's golden cane award, a replica pin of the actual cane that is in the office building. Board members will call him and arrange a time when they can go to his house and give the award.

Woods Thinning

Ray DiDonato announced that Seth Elwood of Orange offered the town the best bid for a thinning of the Phelps lot off Montague Road, \$8,500. Forester Mike Mauri has marked the trees to be cut, likes Elwood's work, and estimates 20,000 board feet of lumber and 170 cords of firewood. There is a 30,000 lb. weight limit for equipment used and cutting is limited to winter months to minimize soil compaction.

Mauri plans to start work December 1, and according to the deed granting the property to Wendell, money the town gains will go towards education of its children. Pooser suggested that he make the firewood available to Wendell residents first.

Sidewalk Survey

Heard said she had walked a proposed route for a sidewalk from the town common to the Wendell Country Store with an engineer from Stantec. They surveyed property lines, the road right of way, and wetlands. A possible path would be one side of the road with a permeable, bicycle-friendly surface.

At the selectboard's October 8 meeting Nan Riebschlaeger, representing the Friends of the Meetinghouse, had asked if the meetinghouse could connect to the town system. Stantec is the firm that designed the town septic system, and so Heard asked the Stantec representative if that was possible. The septic system was designed to include the meetinghouse, but the meetinghouse is not a town-owned building. In order to include another party the state requires extensive monitoring, with holes punched into the leach field and monitored over years.

Other Business

National Grid sent the town a notice of its intent to trim dangerous trees along their right of way near Farley Road.

Board members signed an authorization that allows the Wendell Country Store to sell alcohol from 10 a.m. until closing, two hours earlier than was allowed before. Pooser asked if the extension could start at 6 a.m.

Aldrich said the town's drinking water passed its regular quality test, and the town has \$298,052 in certified free cash.



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MONTAGUE from page A1

current Shea board is an independent private non-profit.

An open bidding process is required, according to town counsel, because the Shea board failed to notify the town a year in advance of the expiration of the current contract that it wished to continue its management functions. The current contract has been extended to the end of 2015 to provide time for discussions of the Shea's future and the bidding process.

The need for a new contract provided some local residents the opportunity to complain that the Shea board, which they said focused on traditional musicals, was not in step with the emerging Turners Falls arts community.

J'Anthony, however, downplayed divisions over the role of the Shea: "At meetings, everyone was saying the same thing: a mix of programming, and a balance of demographics." She said that she was "heartened" by the strong overall support for the Shea and its mission.

J'Anthony's recommendations focused on the issues of governance and programming. She stated that the board of directors should remain a "community-based non-profit" but should be limited to eight members, adding a representative from the Town of Montague appointed by the Town Administrator. She emphasized that the "responsibility of the

board of directors will be primarily fiduciary, including, but not solely, fundraising."

D'Anthony's biggest, and perhaps most controversial, recommendation was that the board hire a part-time manager. The manager "will be responsible for all aspects of programming, including but not limited to soliciting and cultivating rentals and booking," as well as "building networks with outside venues and collaborations with area arts organizations..."

This suggestion led to some discussion of how the part-time position would be financed. J'Anthony suggested that, in addition to allowing more focused activities of the board, the manager would be able to generate revenue by increasing the number of events at the theater.

On the issue of programming, J'Anthony recommended that the Shea should focus on rentals, as opposed to in-house "producing and presenting": "Rentals should be scheduled to allow for the broadest access possible, and for 'traditional' shows to be given priority. The aim would be to accommodate a diverse programming calendar to include all genres..."

After some discussion it became clear that the Civic Center Commission would need to meet several more times to discuss J'Anthony's findings and to finalize a Request for

Proposals (RFP).

Noting that Town Administrator Frank Abbondanzio appeared to have a completed RFP in front of him, audience member Chris Collins asked if the document would be "massaged" by the Civic Center Commission. Abbondanzio stated that the commission would probably massage the RFP.

Temporary Ease

In other news, town planner Walter Ramsey came before the board to seek approval of various "public takings" associated with the Montague City Road Improvement Project. This involved fourteen "temporary easements" while the project, which is located between the bike path crossing on Solar Avenue and Masonic Avenue, is being completed.

The board approved the takings.

Cane Display Urged

At public comment session, audience member John Reynolds urged the committee to find a way to display the Golden Cane, an award given to the town's oldest citizen. The selectboard has given a facsimile of the award to the oldest citizen but the cane itself has been relegated to a closet in town hall.

Reynolds came armed with a proposal and the board promised to put the issue on its agenda in the near future.

Notes Made, Kept Public

The November 24 meeting was dominated by the process of publicly releasing twenty-six sets of executive session minutes, dating back to September 2010. Each had to be discussed and voted individually.

On December 1, a motion to rescind the release of minutes of eight non-public executive sessions, as requested by town counsel, failed to obtain a majority of the board. (See article, pg. A3.)

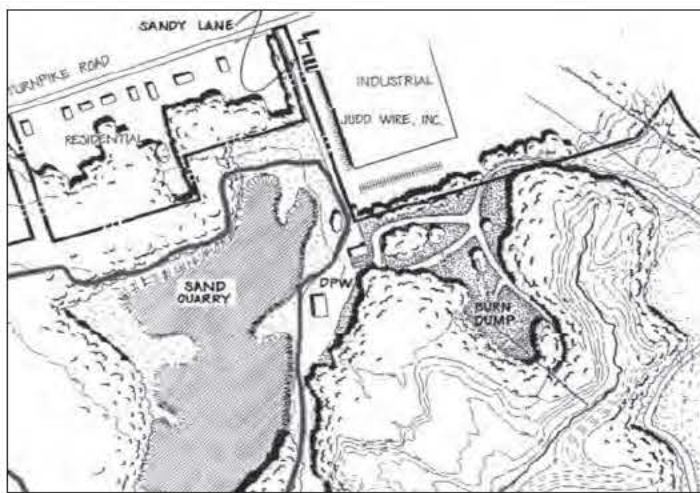
Audience member Jeanne Golrick took the opportunity to thank administrative assistant Wendy Bogusz for all the work she has done to eliminate the backlog of minutes: "She gets the short end of the lollipop in a lot of ways," declared Golrick.

Priorities

At the November 24 selectboard meeting, Ramsey reviewed the town's 2015 to 2018 Community Development Strategy. The document, which "is meant to be a comprehensive, integrated approach to the municipality's community development priorities," is required for the annual application for federal Community Development Block Grants.

Ramsey said the strategy had been the subject of a well-attended hearing of the Montague Planning Board.

After reviewing the town's recent activities, including the Turners Falls Livability Plan and the Unity Park renovation, the document listed 23 initiatives "somewhat" (in Ramsey's words) in order of their priority. First on this list was the



The town is under some obligation to cap its old burn dump.

marketing and development of "vacant municipal properties in village centers," followed by the development of a new industrial park on Turnpike Road. Number three was the updating of ADA accessibility, and number four was a Senior Center feasibility study.

The proposed skatepark, planned for the Unity Park area, clocked in at number six.

Mark Fairbrother asked if the proposal for a solar facility, number nineteen on the list, was going to be on "Mount Refuse," an apparent reference to the former landfill which still needs to be "capped." Ramsey answered in the affirmative.

The board voted to endorse Ramsey's proposal.

Industry

At that meeting, the board also voted to execute a deed to transfer 2.2 acres of land in the current industrial park to Mountain Research LLC, a business that exercised its "right of first refusal" to acquire the land. This was a somewhat controversial move that effectively short-circuited a plan to sell an adjacent property to a baking company earlier this year.

The board, in executing the deed, made no comment on the history of the transfer, but Ramsey stressed that Mountain Research was required to develop the property. He read a portion of a document he called "the industrial park covenant" which states that "construction and improvements shall begin within six months, and be completed within eighteen months."

Ramsey stated that Montague Economic Development Incorporated (EDIC), which had also approved the deed, wanted the town to "keep an eye" on the property to make sure development is taking place.

Dumps

At this point, selectboard member Mike Nelson asked Ramsey about the status of the "old Cumberland Farms Building," an empty and decaying structure on Avenue A near the Discovery Center. Ramsey replied that the EDIC had put the building out to bid the past summer but had received no takers.

The structure, he said, has been "abated" of mold, although there is still leakage in the roof, and is now an "empty shell".

Ramsey then returned to

"Mount Refuse," or the uncapped portion of the burn dump located adjacent to the proposed new industrial park on Turnpike Road. Noting that the town had not received a state grant for the industrial park in this funding cycle, he proposed to make "progress" in the area through a survey of the burn dump.

Ramsey said town meeting had made an appropriation to cap the dump in 2001, but the town "had just not got around to it."

This generated some discussion of why the town had not gotten around to it.

Ramsey and Abbondanzio stated that the previous appropriation had never been adequate – they called it a "placeholder" – and estimated that the real cost might be as high as \$300,000 to \$400,000. The state requires timely capping of old burn dumps, but during the recession of 2003 "called off the dogs" on towns like Montague that could not afford it.

Ironically, the capped dump is being proposed for the location of a regional dog kennel. The board approved an appropriation of up to \$15,000 for the engineering study, with the funds coming from the original 2001 town meeting appropriation.

Speaking of Dogs

Abbondanzio reviewed the status of a biting dog owned by a resident named Jody Rattigan that had been ordered "put down" by the board in October, but that had received a stay of execution on appeal to the local courts. The dog is apparently in the current dog kennel, but will soon be allowed to return home.

Rattigan has worked out a detailed agreement with the Montague Police Chief, Chip Dodge, but will not be able to get insurance recommended by the court and town. She has agreed not to contest the labeling of the dog as "dangerous" if it bites again.

Abbondanzio said this was "the best deal" the town was going to get.

The next board meeting, December 8, would begin early – at 6 p.m. – to allow for a discussion of the status of the current negotiations with Comcast for a new town cable contract. It will be a joint meeting with the Cable Advisory Committee.



MONTAGUE PLANNING DEPARTMENT NOTICE OF INFORMATION SESSIONS SLUM AND BLIGHT DESIGNATION INVENTORIES

The Town of Montague has prepared an inventory of the condition of the infrastructure and building stock in Millers Falls Center and the historic-industrial mill district of Turners Falls. The completion of the inventory and subsequent designation by the Town and State will allow Montague to apply for funding to revitalize these areas over the next 10 years. Potential activities may include a façade and signage improvement program, infrastructure improvements, public parking, housing rehabilitation and other activities that support neighborhood revitalization. The sessions will include a presentation of the findings and an opportunity for community feedback.

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Wednesday, December 17, at 3 p.m.
Montague Town Hall
One Avenue A

TOWN OF MONTAGUE BOARD OF HEALTH

A Public Hearing will be held by the Montague Board of Health, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA. on December 17, 2014, at 6 p.m. to consider adopting tobacco regulations entitled "Regulation Restricting the Sale of Tobacco Products."

The first listed regulation amends the definition of tobacco, includes restrictions on the sale of flavored tobacco products, and increases the minimum legal sales age to twenty-one. The penalty section includes possible revocation of the tobacco sales permit after multiple offences. The regulation is available for inspection in the Town Offices during business hours.

Gina McNeeley, Director of Public Health
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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Board OK's Cost of Living Bump for Town Employees

By KATIE NOLAN

At its November 25 meeting preceding the special town meeting, the Erving selectboard set the fiscal year 2016 cost of living increase for all town employees at 1.5%, the percentage recommended by the finance committee.

The COLA applies to all town employees, including elected officials.

John Waite and Alan Singer of the Franklin County Community Development Corporation (CDC) asked the selectboard to move funds for the Ten Town Loan Fund from Erving account books to the CDC.

The loan fund, funded by grants which have been administered by Erving since 1992, provides loans to small businesses in Ashfield, Bernardston, Charlemont, Erving, Gill, Hawley, Northfield, Warwick, Wendell, and Whately. The CDC manages the loans and oversight of the small businesses that receive the loans.

Waite said that the CDC appreciates “how wonderful the town of Erving has been” in accounting for the loan fund. However, the CDC is applying for a grant from the U.S. Department of the Treasury, and that effort will be aided by

moving the loan fund to the CDC's books.

The selectboard agreed to move the funds to the CDC, pending research into potential effects on Erving by the town treasurer and town counsel.

Selectboard chair William Bembury said he had met with Gill selectboard member Randy Crochier, Erving and Gill police and fire chiefs, Massachusetts Department of Transportation representatives, state representative Denise Andrews and a representative of state senator Stan Roseberg's office regarding suicide prevention improvements at French King Bridge.

One proposal calls for video cameras at various locations at the bridge. The task force has not identified a funding source, but may look for a Homeland Security grant.

The board asked the finance committee and personnel relations review board to review a proposed change in the clothing allowance currently provided to highway and wastewater treatment plant employees.

The selectboard appointed Son Hui May to a vacant position on the school committee.

By KATIE NOLAN

Erving's November 24 special town meeting voted to spend \$582,000 for securing the former International Paper mill, assessors' legal costs, revised secondary education costs, fire department equipment, internet access at the highway garage/wastewater treatment plant, a police cruiser camera system, and other items.

The meeting approved \$150,000 to secure entry, improve site safety, and provide necessary maintenance at the former IP mill. Selectboard chair William Bembury said that the town's insurer, Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association, required the town to board up windows and doors at the property.

Bembury explained that over 200 windows were broken and that the building had been vandalized. During his site visit, he saw evidence of a fire in one room and mold growing on the walls. A contractor gave an informal estimate of \$86,000 for securing the building.

According to Bembury, the selectboard wanted the full \$150,000 “to allow us to close the building up, do major repairs, to move this building along. We don't want to own this building.” The money was voted from the Usher Plant demolition account (\$86,500) and free cash (\$63,500).

Usher Plant re-use committee member Jeff Dubay said that the committee would be coming before the annual town meeting with a proposal for funding further work at the Usher Plant property. In a separate article, \$65,000 was approved for

a market feasibility/infrastructure study at the former IP mill.

The town approved \$125,000 to pay the costs associated with the board of assessors' defense of the town's property assessments. First Light has appealed the town's assessment of the Northfield Mountain project. Assessor Jim Carpenter said, “We need the money to defend ourselves,” and predicted that the town would prevail in the appeal.

Revised secondary education costs of \$105,000, based on accurate enrollment data for the Gill-Montague regional school district, were approved unanimously.

Chief wastewater operator Peter Sanders called the current generators at the Arch Street wastewater pump station and the River Street wastewater pump station “old and tired.” The meeting voted \$60,000 to replace them.

In five separate articles, town voters approved \$40,000 for fire department equipment: \$13,000 for a hose and gear dryer, \$10,000 for a skid unit for the department's Gator ATV, \$10,000 for an enclosed trailer for the Gator, \$5,000 for a cab for the Gator, and \$2,000 for vehicle-mounted GPS units for emergency response vehicles.

Former fire chief Almon “Bud” Meatty suggested that it might be possible to write a grant to cover the cost of the enclosed trailer, and said that gear coming out of the washer/extractor was “98% dry” and could be hung to dry. He noted that the stations are equipped with hose towers to hang hose to dry.

Other expenses approved were:

- \$10,000 for high-speed internet/

broadband service to the highway garage/wastewater treatment plant. Bembury said that when the town's internet lines were upgraded, the wastewater treatment plant was not included, and that the department needed “proper internet service.”

- \$10,000 to maintain, remove and replace trees. Administrative coordinator Tom Sharp said that the town would be revitalizing the former tree planting program.

- \$5,315 for a police cruiser camera system: Police chief Chris Blair said the cameras would feed data directly to the station, in high definition, with audio.

- \$5,000 for building improvements at the Pearl B. Care historical museum: Meatty asked if that expense came under the already existing building maintenance account. Jacquelyn Boyden answered that the work was improvement, not maintenance.

- \$4,025 for a carport at the senior/community center: Bembury said that the carport would keep snow off the roof of the senior van.

- \$3,000 for treasurer's staff wages for additional human resources duties.

The meeting also approved a friendly taking of two parcels of land as a gift from Erving Industries, located adjacent to the former Usher Plant property. The gift came with conditions that include: use of the land for public benefit, ownership of the land by the town of Erving, use of the land for recreational and educational uses and limited commercial activity and installation of a monument with a plaque detailing the property's history.

LIVING WAGE from page A1
jobs have been created during the recovery, but wages are stagnant.

A Massachusetts law recently passed will put the minimum wage at \$11 an hour by 2017, but even this wage will not, according to Wing, fully return real wages to their 1968 value.

So can a new business model ensure residents have a living wage – a salary that would support a family? The group of approximately 20 people looked at barriers to earning a living wage, including education, lack of work experience, disability, and age. Wing also mentioned the disincentive for people in public housing to move into work. We then moved to the panel members and the discussion that included questions from the group.

The co-directors of Springfield's Wellspring Collaborative spoke about their organization, which works to provide job creation through cooperative development. Wellspring, inspired by Spain's Mondragon Corporation, has launched a worker-owned upholstery business, and its next venture is to build a 20,000-square-foot greenhouse.

Fred Rose said Springfield has the lowest adult employment rate in the region. With the rise of the service economy, hospitals and colleges are the biggest employers. Most

highly educated employees – doctors and professors, for example – live outside the city. 55% of workers commute into Springfield from the suburbs.

Rose described a lack of entry-level jobs in Springfield, and said big employers are not providing these jobs, making it hard to overcome significant inequity in the region.

Emily Kawano said the issue needs to be framed differently: building a democratic economic base, building power with a network of local businesses that provide support for each other. She said worker-owned cooperatives can share in profits and create a democratic process in the workplace.

Jennie Davis-Bulko, assistant director of Community Action Youth Programs, spoke next. Her organization provides foundational support to local youth, and she listed reasons that many young people in our area are not competitive for jobs.

Schools, she said, are not giving students the “soft skills” they need for workplaces. Community Action helps provide the opportunities for jobs, career pathways, training, green jobs, hospitality, and building resilience. 95% of young participants come from low-income families.

Asked how they bring young people into their programs, she said

word of mouth among young people brings them in and that they don't need to do outreach – they have a waiting list.

Laura Porter, Good Green Jobs coordinator at Co-op Power, spoke about groups coming together to find solutions, such as tech support for locally produced solar energy. In her position coordinating the Green Jobs project, she says there is great work in the area that requires six months' training.

Co-op Power started working with employers to help provide that training. They are dealing with systemic challenges with Mass Save weatherization. The pay is low in these entry level jobs, but they provide opportunities for moving into better-paying ones in the industry to workers who can stick with it. She said they would rather see them pay more to start, but the pay is based on what the utility companies pay the contractors. Porter said the utilities need to pay contractors more to improve pay to workers.

“Who owns it matters,” said Mark Tajima, CEO of Energia, LLC, which bills itself as a “socially responsible energy services company.” Energia, based in Holyoke, is a

for-profit company partly owned by the nonprofits Nuestras Raices and Nueva Esperanza and by worker cooperative Coop Power. Workers have a share in profits and a say in management.

Energia's unusual structure was intended to avoid the pitfalls of grant-based projects, and gift ownership to local groups. The company is drawing people of color and others shut out of the economy into their efforts to bring jobs into the community.

Tajima described a “green revolution.” Change came slowly: when “going green” was a luxury of the middle class, there wasn't much incentive to grow the industry, but now there is broader demand for efficiency upgrades, and utilities are putting money toward the work. The company's client base is half residential, and half commercial, with much of the work coming through the Mass Save program and the rest solicited from the community.

Tajima said the company started with two people and now has 28 workers, 80% of whom are black or Latino and under 25 years old. A job for a worker with no experience starts at \$10-11 an hour. They

promote from within, and employee turnover is under 10%.

This very interesting and interactive panel discussion ran overtime, so there was no opportunity for further conversation but many connections were made. As we went back to the conference for a wrap-up of the various workshops, many people stayed to talk and exchange ideas. It was a very productive day.

The conference was not just some flowery talk about coming together, feeling good, singing songs and being happy. It was about how to grow a community through hard work and coordination, by pooling resources, considering long-term goals, building a future for the generations to come. It is what many of our ancestors did when they took ships – or airplanes – to America to build a better future for their children.

The last several decades have been led by those who think the world is there just for them, selfish people whose only goal is to grow their own wealth and power. This presents a different view, one that shows how people can start to think about building their own future as a community together.



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NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Town Hall, Riverside Blanketed with Cellulose

By DAVID DETMOLD

After 87% of the town lost power on White Wednesday, the Gill selectboard gave thanks for light and heat on the first day of December, in the downstairs meeting room of town hall.

The meeting took place downstairs because Energia, a Holyoke weatherization company, was still busy installing a plywood deck above the second floor ceiling joists in preparation for insulating the town hall attic, which will soon hold deep drifts of blown in cellulose, the best end use for newspaper since the parakeet.

Energia has recently completed insulating the Riverside Municipal Building, a former elementary school which has kept school children shivering since 1926.

Randy Crochier won the bet he placed with his colleagues on the selectboard earlier this year that the ancient oil-fired boiler in the basement of the Riverside building would not be replaced in time for winter.

The boiler, which looks like Mike Mulligan’s steam shovel after it couldn’t get out of the cellar hole, was constructed by the H.B. Smith Company of Westfield, installed in 1977, has five sections and a tin bucket to catch overflow, and is described in various reports as being between 65% and 80% combustion efficient in providing steam heat for the building, when it is working.

It burns about 1775 gallons of oil on an average year, about twice as much as the town hall furnace. Although that figure should be much reduced by the new insulation, the energy commission intends to replace the Riverside boiler someday

soon with air source heat pumps, which function like air conditioners in reverse.

The insulation projects at town hall and the Riverside building will cost about \$33,000, to be paid for out of the town’s \$139,000 Green Communities grant. Remaining funds will be used in the conversion of the Riverside heating system, and to purchase and retrofit the town’s 48 streetlights to energy efficient LEDs.

Power went out at the town hall last week, but Ray Purington was able to send out the selectboard agenda and keep the lights on using an emergency generator.

Purington will consult with the Red Cross to see how the elementary school could be used as a warming station during winter outages.

Things did not go so well at the elementary school, where the power outage resulted in a blown fuse and minor damage to the boiler; Mackin Fuel and Service was called in for repairs. Now, the selectboard is considering purchasing an emergency generator for the elementary school, as well.

Crochier said, “We do not have a warming station,” for townspeople to use when lengthy power outages occur during winter storms. “We traditionally use the shelter at Turners Falls High School,” said Crochier, “but quite often we get hit harder than they do.”

He recalled a storm a few years back when the Gill-Montague Regional Schools were preparing to open up again for students, and he had to convince the superintendent to keep the shelter at the high school open for another day, because parts of Gill were still without power.

Purington will consult with the Red Cross to see how the elementary school could be prepared for use as a warming station during winter outages.

Brian DeVriese met with the selectboard to go over his architectural plans for replacing the roof on the safety complex. That job, which will likely wait for the return of spring weather, is expected to cost around \$150,000, including design.

DeVriese said the ideal plan would be to slightly pitch the roof membrane toward a new drain in the center of the 7,000 square foot roof, with an overflow scupper to alert the building’s occupants if the central drain gets clogged with leaves. In that event, the architect indicated the highway department, police or firefighters could be called to climb up on the roof and clear away the leaves to unclog the drain.

The selectboard signed off on a conservation restriction for 87 acres at the corner of Main and Mountain roads owned by Chris Polatin and Coleen Sculley. The family will continue to own and farm the land, and Mount Grace Land Trust will manage the conservation restriction, which will prevent the land from being developed in the future.

Eric Vassar and Veniamin Darnachev were appointed as firefighters.

NOTES FROM THE GILL-MONTAGUE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Meeting At Gill, Committee Mulls GCC Credit, Field Trips

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

In a change of venue, the Gill-Montague Regional School Committee met at Gill Elementary on Tuesday, November 18. The table was set up in a semi-circle for the members with their name plates arranged and small baskets with a few gifts and snacks from Principal Kathleen Bailer, who welcomed the committee members in opening statements.

Bailer told members that the nature trail has been restored and would be re-opening the following Saturday. Students would have an opportunity to walk the trail which goes onto conservation land and leads to a neighboring farm.

Thomas Osborn, Principal of Turners Falls High School, made a presentation to the school committee regarding what he said is an inequity in the weight given to courses students take at Greenfield Community College (GCC). Several TFHS students take classes at GCC to get advance credit, or take classes not offered at the high school.

All GCC courses are weighted as honors classes (20% extra), but Osborne listed a number of courses he argued should be approved as equivalent to AP classes, and weighted as such (30% extra). The system is used to calculate student grade point average, and class ranking.

All other academic courses at GCC, he proposed, would be weighted the same as honors classes, and physical education classes given no additional weight, to avoid having top students take lower-level courses at the college simply to raise their class rank.

The school committee voted to approve Osborn’s request.

Superintendent Michael Sullivan reported to the school committee that the selection process for a new technology director for the district was almost complete. He said once a contract is signed they will release his name and more information. In the meantime, former technology director Darin Pawlis will continue working for the district after-hours as needed to keep the network running smoothly.

Sullivan reported that he, Joanne Blier, Director of Business Operations for the district, and school committee chair Joyce Phillips attended a joint meeting of the Montague finance committee and select board on November 12, where he and Blier made a presentation about the upcoming school budget process for fiscal year 2016.

They reviewed the state of the district’s excess and deficiency fund, regional transportation, Chapter 70 funding, and the district enrollment projections. In a discussion about the upcoming budget building process that followed the presentation, Montague officials shared their preliminary estimate of a 2.5% increase in Montague’s local assessment for the district for FY’16.

Due to changes in the student needs at Hillcrest Elementary, Sullivan announced the district will be reviving a special education therapeutic program at the school. Special education teacher Michelle Tirrell is transferring to Hillcrest to start this program. Tirrell has previous experience running such a pro-

gram.

Pam Reynolds, who has been working full-time as special education teacher at Hillcrest, will begin splitting her time between Hillcrest and Gill so that she can provide support to Gill’s special education students. A new psychologist, Karen Regis, will shift her schedule to provide support to students at Hillcrest three days a week. Sullivan said Regis is not only very skilled in helping students with readiness to learn challenges, she is also adept at helping train educators in highly effective practices in this area as well.

Sherry Wood, who works as the behavior engagement coach at Sheffield Elementary, came before the school committee to present information about Responsive Classroom and PBIS to the school committee. Each member received a packet explaining the value and purpose of the educational program.

Wood said Responsive Classroom, a teaching and classroom management approach developed by a company headquartered in Turners Falls, is an excellent strategy. PBIS, which stands for Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports, is a method of addressing behavior problems that encourages students to want to behave well and fits well with Responsive Classroom.

Superintendent Sullivan said the district is re-committed to using Responsive Classroom and that he and the three elementary principals who are committed to using it say it’s a welcome change. They say things in the schools seem more settled, and that kids and parents seem happy.

Phillips told the committee she felt they need to improve the process of approval for field trips, especially those that take students out of town. Specifically, she said they should have more information earlier in the process, so that they are not put in a position of deciding last minute on aspects of a trip they might not be comfortable with.

Phillips said it would be better if they had a full view of what the group was planning ahead of time, with thorough lists of possible activities in which students might participate. This way, if there were anything the school committee felt was not appropriate, it could be taken off the list of activities being considered before it ever got to the point of being a part of the overall schedule for the trip, or before reservations are made.

Committee member Marjorie Levenson raised the question of students who can’t afford to pay for a trip, and how the fundraising works. She wanted to be assured that everyone, not just the students who need help paying for the trip, participates in fundraising. Several members felt certain this was the case, although some students might not be able to participate in fundraising activities if they work after school or on Saturdays.

The board wondered why some students don’t participate in field trips, and a survey to answer that question was proposed. The motion passed with all but Levenson voting to approve it.

The next school committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 9 at Hillcrest Elementary School at 6:30 p.m.

LEVERETT from page A1

committee chair Tom Powers said would represent a worst-case scenario for the town if the appeals are granted in full in the coming fiscal year, department heads and the school committee were called together for a budget hearing on Tuesday, November 25, and told to prepare budget scenarios for next year with cuts of 3.5% to 8%.

The less severe budget scenario would see modest raises for all town employees, in line with the cost of living index, coupled with a rise in the tax rate for all taxpayers of about \$0.51 in the coming fiscal year. The more severe scenario would see raises for all town employees, but no tax increase.

The Amherst-Pelham Regional School, which is forecasting a \$180,000 increase in Leverett’s assessment for the coming year, will not be asked to participate in the budget cutting scenarios. Business manager Sean Mangano said the regional schools would have to cut millions of dollars from the Amherst-Pelham budget in order to provide Leverett with a 3.5% to 8% assessment reduction.

But Bob Mahler, superintendent of elementary school Union #38 said he would make the cuts, as difficult as they may be, because, “It’s a townwide problem.” Rather than let elementary school teachers receive their contractual 2% raises in FY’16, and see all the other town employees forgo raises, Mahler said he would rather see the deeper cuts

in the school budget, if need be.

“To have one town department treated differently creates disunion,” Mahler told the selectboard and finance committee, assembled in joint session. “We take a bigger hit to have all employees treated equally.”

“At 8%, we’re looking at significant reductions.... Every cut we make impacts programs to the children.”

Bob Mahler

This week, Mahler said, “A 3.5% cut, although difficult, is manageable. We’ll have to cut lots of things, but we’ll still be OK.

“At 8%, we are looking at significant reductions. Understanding we are part of the town, if that’s the parameter we have to operate in, we’ll do that. But every cut we make impacts programs to the children.”

Finance committee member Ann Delano asked if the 3% Community Preservation Act surcharge on property taxes above \$100,000 of valuation approved by Leverett town meeting in 2002 could be reduced.

Selectboard chair Rich Brazeau said that process would take time, but d’Errico said that is a discussion the town needs to have. CPA

funds, which are matched by the state, are used for historic preservation, open space acquisition, and, though Leverett is having difficulty finding projects to fund in the third and final category, for affordable housing. Dee Ann Civello, town treasurer, said as of November the CPA account shows a balance of \$892,782.06.

But the budget reductions for FY’16 will proceed regardless, even though the eventuality they are preparing for – a finding in favor of the two taxpayers seeking abatements, one small and one large – may not occur. Indeed, the outcome of those appeals may not be known for several years.

Town meeting has already allocated \$13,000 at town meeting to defend the assessors’ valuations on appeal.

And lest citizens get the idea that a wider tax revolt is brewing in the town, assessor Jim Hicks sought to tamp down any such apprehensions.

“We haven’t had to handle any more people coming to ask for abatements,” said Hicks. “There are no pitchforks at the assessors’ door. We’re doing things as we always do.”

That may be, but many of the smaller departments – such as the police, highway, and fire department – if forced to cut their budgets 3.5 to 8% despite rising costs of materials and utilities – may not be able to say the same in the coming fiscal year.



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POWER from page A1

I drove down to Riverside and stopped one of the yellow trucks. The driver said they were all done getting the power on and he was going back to the maintenance yard – which is now in Hadley – but he

said he'd report the blown transformer and the two outages.

I spotted another yellow truck heading East. I chased him down and stopped him just over the French King Bridge. He said, "I have no way to communicate with anyone.

Call the power company. We're all done in Gill. I'm heading for Northfield to get them going." And off he went.

Without any means of communication, he must have been clairvoyant to know that Northfield needed

him.

I drove to the Turners Falls police station, where the dispatcher called in the outage and blown transformer to a real live person. I got the dispatcher to say the residents were elderly. I wanted to add that they were also feeble, and getting more feeble-minded by the minute, but did not want to push my luck.

After I got home, not one but five white trucks, with "Central" emblazoned on their white doors, showed up. Hooray! We'd soon have light and heat!

One small bucket lift truck even carried a transformer! They'd gotten our message. Two big lift trucks followed behind the transformer. I'd have broken out the champagne, if I'd had any.

The driver of the truck carrying the transformer got out and monkeyed with the tailgate. Another guy joined him. He monkeyed with it. They had a short conference with the others, jumped back in their trucks, and all five trucks turned around and vanished.

Hours went by. The house grew colder than ever. Just as I was debating whether to hang or shoot myself, five more white trucks showed up, just like the previous white knights. These ones had "Alliance" emblazoned across their white doors.

These angels from voltage land must have an alliance with a higher power. By now it was Saturday night, and getting dark. I figured they'd turn around and come back a week from next Wednesday, but instead they turned on big spot lights which also illuminated a 50 ft. spruce tree laden with snow.

Without shutting off the electricity, the linemen, who by now must have been exhausted from working on downed power lines since Wednesday, went about unhooking the blown transformer from live high voltage wires, unbolting the transformer from the pole, and hoisting a new transformer in place while inadvertently illuminating the 50-foot



Suddenly sublime: The Alliance company's spotlights lit up this tree, heavy with the season's first snow.

spruce tree that stood waiting to fall on the wires in a future storm.

The tree looked so Christmasy that I half expected Bing Crosby to begin singing "A White Christmas," which would have been a lesser miracle than getting someone to replace a blown transformer and get the lights and furnace turned back on before I froze to death.

When the linemen were all done and ready to leave, I still had no power or heat. I fought thoughts of taking the gas pipe, had I had one. Most of the breakers at my switch board were on.

I caught their foreman before they all left. He said, "It could be the main breaker, if your meter has one."

It has. He opened a little door below the meter, that I never knew existed, and flipped the main breaker back on. I had lights! Some of them, anyway.

Some of the inside breakers would not snap back on. I violently flipped the breakers back and forth enough times to intimidate them to eventually turn on the remainder of the lights and the furnace.

The lights and heat never felt so good.



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WEST ALONG THE RIVER: BLACK FRIDAY ON THE WINTER BEACH



Snow Bunting (Plectrophenax nivalis)

By DAVID BRULE

MILLERS RIVER – 26 November. I am ready for the storm. The dawn is gray, sky overcast. Sounds of the river rushing just yonder reach the house through the now bare-branched trees.

With 8 to 12 inches forecast overnight, today I methodically finished the last fall chores: the last leaves are raked, the rest of the firewood trundled up to the back door, the woodpile for the 2015-16 winter season already split and stacked: a year ahead or more.

May we live so long! Winter is early this year, Thanksgiving late. Let's see: all bulbs are planted, frog pond mostly dredged, kayak stowed in the garden shed, Halloween pumpkins in the compost, bird

feeders at the ready, snow shoes moved closer to the back door.

Down along the river, beaver has repaired his dam, lodge is dark and snug, winter food supply stashed under the pond's ice line.

Whew! Guess we're ready. Roll on winter!

27 November. *Thanksgiving Day.* On the muffled morning of the first big snow that did come down as they predicted, all is white, the landscape is obliterated, the slate is wiped clean. The trees: pines, cherry, dogwood, and birch all trail their branches to the ground with the windfall white.

Birches bent over in graceful arcs, as Frost would have them. Off in the woods, trees crack, see **WEST ALONG** page B4

By LEE WICKS

LEVERETT – Even the most intrepid reporter could not travel the winding back roads of this paper's reading area and find all the intriguing people living and working here. So, it is wonderful when someone, in this case Laurie Davidson from Montague, gives me a tip about a worthy story.

At the end of a steep gravel driveway that comes off a long stretch of dirt road in Leverett, almost in Shutesbury, there's a house and a barn surrounded by woods. Though the house is attractive and comfortable, the barn is magic. Its second story contains a homemade obstacle course.

This course is used for competitive training in the emerging sport

called Obstacle Course Racing (OCR) by Ethan Nedeau, World Champion in OCR for the 40-45 age group, and his wife, Kim Thalmann Nedeau, one of the top three mountain runners in New England.

What is Obstacle Course Racing? "Contestants came from all over the world," said Ethan, recounting his championship competition in Ohio last summer. "But the United States has embraced this sport more than any other nation."

To visualize a race, Ethan said, "Take a running trail and add obstacles, mud, walls, and water." Of course there are races of varying length and difficulty, but it would be hard to imagine someone who is not in good shape attempting this at all.

It's a sport that has wide appeal



Ethan finished top in his age bracket at the OCR World Championships in Ohio last October.

to former Navy Seals, Marines and cross-country runners. The shortest race is 3 to 4 miles, and the longest can run upwards of 15 to 20 miles over rugged terrain. It sounds like fun – or like Basic Training without the weapons.

Spartan Race, the company that builds obstacle courses and organizes races, states on its website that "the company was created with a simple, yet important, mission in mind – to get people back to their primal roots. To do what they were designed to do: run, jump, climb and sweat."

To this end, Spartan offers races at every level, even children's introductory programs, and the website also provides a wealth of information about daily workouts and nutrition. Still, the photographs feature competitors with rippled muscles, strong shoulders and frightening determination.

Ethan advises beginners to look for one of the "cupcake races." The

see **OBSTACLES** page B8



Kim Thalmann Nedeau and Ethan Nedeau, with Peter and Brooke.

FOURTH IN A ROW: TURNERS DEFEATS GREENFIELD

By MATT ROBINSON

GREENFIELD – The Turners Falls Football Indians capped off a very successful season by defeating archrival Greenfield 14 to 6 in the 2014 Turkey Day game. The victory gives the Tribe its third straight 10-win season, and extends their winning streak in "Thee Game" to four.

And I know from experience that the kids will remember this game for the rest of their lives. Stosh, whom I see at every game, told me about the game in 1956. Turners lost. "We should've won." He said regretfully.

Barry Kostanski, my fifth grade teacher, told me how wonderful it was to win on Turkey Day in 1965: "We had lost 15 years in a row before that," he explained. Mr. Kostanski was even able to tell me about the other games that season.

And Walter Carlisle, Alex's grandfather, who was in high school 70 years ago, remi-

niscated about his football playing days. Yes, the kids are going to remember this game for the rest of their lives.

The Turners Falls Football Indians had to battle more than just Greenfield. The field was a snowy, muddy mess and the sideline had been cleared just enough for the Tribe to stand shoulder to shoulder with their toes on the field. The field conditions and the freezing weather led to penalties, missed opportunities, and slipping and sliding for the both teams, but the determination of Powertown saw them through.

First Half

Turners won the toss and elected to receive. The Offensive Eleven started on their own 35, and banged their way all the way to the Green 20-yard line. Then, on first and 10, Trent Bourbeau scored a touchdown.

But a holding penalty erased the score, and

see **FOOTBALL** page B6



Tionne Brown hands the ball to Trent Bourbeau.

At the Wendell Free Library: New Work by Stephen Petegorsky

By RICHARD BALDWIN

The Wendell Free Library is especially pleased to host an exhibition of new work by professional photographer Stephen Petegorsky of Northampton. The ten works on display are based on stained animal skeletons from the Biology Department at UMass.

The initial images, the results of scientific inquiry, are transformed into elegant visual art works as fascinating as they are poetic.

The prints are all composed of a flat ground on which is superimposed an image of one or two stained skeletons. The inherent symmetry of the animal forms is often juxtaposed against the placement of the whole form on the page.

In his exhibition statement, Petegorsky writes:

"Animals (dead and alive) have often found their way into my photographs. When I learned about a collection of specimens in the Biology Department at the University of Massachusetts, I made contact with the woman in charge, and arranged to see them. Aside from some taxonomy, they also had scores of creatures that had been 'cleared and stained.'

"In this process, chemi-



Fish 3 by Petegorsky. Photo courtesy of the artist.

icals are used to remove the tissues of small mammals, fish, reptiles, and rodents, or to render them translucent. Stains are then employed to make the animals' bones and cartilage a dark color. The specimens are then stored in glycerin, and result allows their structure to be seen and studied in a way that is not possible with other methods.

"Unlike an x-ray or a dissection, this science allows me to see what is inside an animal in a way that is more lyrical than literal;

more poetic than prosaic. Photographing them is a starting point for me; the first images are generally paired with a background I choose from photos taken in the natural world: plants, grasses, bubbles, clouds, leaves, dirt, rocks. What I end up with is much less about science than it is about my sense of wonder and curiosity."

In *Snake 3* and *Frog 3*, the entire skeleton is placed in the center of the page, and while this reinforces the specimen aspect of the

see **PETEGORSKY** page B5

Pet of the Week



“APPLE”

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

I’m Apple, I’m a big mellow girl. My person called me “love bug” and a “lovable meathead”. I know.

I love to play with bones and balls and spend time with my person. I’m house and crate trained.

I get nervous with new dogs at first.

I got the boot because my person could not find us an affordable home where I was allowed.

Landlords! I deserve fair housing too! How could you say no to this yin-yang face?

Senior Center Activities December 8 to 12

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.

Monday 12/8

8:30 Foot Clinic by appointment
10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise
1 p.m. Knitting Circle

Tuesday: 12/9

9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga
Tech School Lunch (tickets)
Noon Lunch
12:45 p.m. COA Meeting
1 p.m. Five Crowns

Wednesday 12/10

10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise
11:15 a.m. Friends Meeting
Noon Lunch
12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday: 12/11

9 a.m. NO Tai Chi
10:30 a.m. Coffee & Conversation
Noon Lunch
1 p.m. Pitch

Friday: 12/12

10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise
1 p.m. Writing Group

WENDELL

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

Call the Center for a ride.

ERVING

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

Lunch is at 11:30 a.m., with reservations required 24 hours in advance. Call Mealsite Manager Rebecca Meuse at (413) 423-3308, for meal information and reservations.

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

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

Typical weekly schedule:

Monday 12/8

9 a.m. Tai Chi
10 a.m. Osteo Exercise
12:30 Movie

Tuesday 12/9

8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
10 a.m. Dance Fitness
12:30 p.m. Painting

Wednesday 12/10

8:45 a.m. Dancing
10 a.m. Chair Yoga
Noon Bingo

Thursday 12/11

8:45 a.m. Aerobics
10 a.m. Healthy Bones
Noon Cards

Friday 12/12

9 a.m. Bowling

LEVERETT

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

Take-It-Easy Chair Yoga – Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$5 (first class free). Senior Lunch – Fridays at noon. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.

WENDELL FREE LIBRARY NEWS

Climate Change Group Hosts Film Screening and Discussion

This Friday, December 5, from 7 to 9 p.m., the Wendell Climate Change Group will be screening *Disruption*, a new documentary featuring leading voices in the climate movement, with a discussion moderated by Robbie Leppzer, Wendell documentary filmmaker and activist. Refreshments will be served.

Disruption documents the story of the greatest crisis ever faced with commentary from the most recognized voices in politics and society today and the efforts to organize

The People’s Climate March - the largest climate rally in history.

Featuring James Hansen, Naomi Oreskes, Van Jones, Bill McKibben, Chris Hayes, Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, Naomi Klein, Rajendra Pachauri, Justin Gillis and others, *Disruption* lays bare the science behind the tipping points, the failure of our political process, the unrelenting industry special interests, and the need for a popular movement to challenge these realities.

Disruption takes an unflinch-

ing look at the devastating consequences of our inaction.

This is the story of our unique moment in history. We are living through an age of tipping points and rapid social and planetary change. We’re the first generation to feel the impacts of climate disruption, and the last generation that can do something about it. The film enlarges the issue beyond climate impacts and makes a compelling call for bold action that is strong enough to tip the balance to build a clean energy future.

Greenfield: Presentation on 1998 Middle Passage Walk

In 1998, a group of walkers left the Peace Pagoda in Leverett on the Interfaith Pilgrimage of the Middle Passage.

This 13-month journey passed through the eastern United States and continued to the Caribbean, Brazil, West Africa, and South Africa, reversing the direction of the Middle Passage symbolically and geographically.

Along the way, participants visited sites associated with the history of slavery, offering prayers for those who had suffered and commemorating the dignity of those held in bondage and those who resisted.

This Saturday, December 6, at the First Congregational Church in Greenfield, playwright and international activist Ingrid Askew, Tim Bullock of the New England Peace Pagoda, and videographer Melinda Holm will share the voices of participants through film, spoken word, and conversation.

This interactive workshop is one of a series organized by Mass Slavery Apology, a local racial justice group which was strongly influenced by the Pilgrimage.

Mass Slavery Apology offers free monthly workshops, performances, and other activities, at the First Congregational Church of

Greenfield.

The organizers hope the series will build a deeper understanding of racism and racial justice while promoting a greater appreciation for our diverse society.

Saturday’s event runs from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and is free. (Donations are welcome.)

The church is wheelchair accessible, and organizers ask that you not wear fragranced products to this event.

For more information, visit the website at www.massslaveryapology.org or write to email@massslaveryapology.org.

THE HEALTHY GEEZER

It Snot a Toothache



By FRED CICETTI

Q. Can a sinus infection give you a toothache?

I can write from personal experience on this one. I had a bad toothache that sent me to my dentist. He did some x-rays and could find nothing wrong. He asked me about my sinuses and I told him I was fighting an infection. Bingo.

Yes, infection in the sinuses located in your cheekbones can cause your upper jaw and teeth to ache, and your cheeks to become tender to the touch. Sinusitis is a nasty malady that can do much more than give you a toothache.

Sinusitis, which is infection or inflammation of the sinuses, creates suffering for about 37 million Americans every year.

The sinuses are four pairs of cavities: the frontal sinuses over the eyes, maxillary sinuses inside each cheek-

bone, ethmoid sinuses just behind the bridge of the nose, and sphenoid sinuses behind the ethmoids. Each sinus is connected to the nose.

Acute sinusitis lasts for 4 weeks or less. Subacute sinusitis runs 4 to 8 weeks. Chronic sinusitis can continue for years. Recurrent sinusitis includes several acute attacks within a year.

Unlike sinusitis, a common cold usually goes away without treatment in about 10 days. So, if you have what feels like a bad cold for longer than 10 days, go to your doctor for a check-up.

Most cases of acute sinusitis start with a cold or allergy attack, which inflames the mucous membranes of the sinuses. Swelling traps air and mucus in the sinuses and they cannot drain properly. The trapped mucus creates ideal conditions for bacteria to grow.

Symptoms of chronic sinusitis may be less severe than those of acute sinusitis. However, untreated chronic sinusitis can cause damage to the sinuses and cheekbones that sometimes requires surgery to repair.

Most people with sinusitis have pain or tenderness. Other symptoms of sinusitis can include fever, weakness, fatigue, nasal congestion, cough and sore throat.

If you have acute sinusitis, your

doctor may prescribe decongestants, antibiotics and pain relievers. Many cases of acute sinusitis will end without antibiotics.

Many health care providers treat chronic sinusitis as though it is an infection, by using antibiotics and decongestants. Others use both antibiotics with steroid nasal sprays. Further research is needed to determine the best treatment.

When medical treatment fails, surgery may be the only alternative for treating chronic sinusitis. The most common surgery done today is functional endoscopic sinus surgery (FESS) to enlarge the natural openings and allow drainage.

FESS is less invasive than conventional sinus surgery. With the endoscope, the surgeon can look directly into the nose while clearing the narrow channels between the sinuses. This type of surgery can be done under local or general anesthesia.

One worthwhile way to help keep your sinuses clear is to use an over-the-counter saltwater nasal wash every day. Most pharmacies carry them. They help remove mucus and bacteria from the nose and sinuses. I use one myself and it has been beneficial.

Questions? Send them to fred@healthygeezers.org.

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I hoped he was not heading to the Sphinx...

The Library at Mt. Parnassus Pt. 50



MIKE SLIVA ILLUSTRATION

By DAVID DETMOLD

I lay in bed til dawn. When the windows paled, I got up and padded barefoot to the kitchen, found a match and lit the gas jet for a cup of tea.

In the dim light from the burner I poured myself a bowl of bran flakes. A coupon like a moth fluttered out of the cereal box.

I always found these coupons at the most uncanny moments. I saved them in a corner of the pantry, hoping someday I might remember to bring one with me to the market when I went shopping.

Each coupon had a little picture of the box of bran flakes it had come out of printed on one side. In the picture, the box was open and upended above a bowl of cereal, just like mine, and in the picture, a tiny coupon was sailing out onto the heaping mound of bran flakes, just as the coupon had sailed out in the dim light of the gas burner this morning onto mine. I imagined if I examined it under a magnifying glass I might see an even smaller image of a box of cereal inside the coupon in the picture, and perhaps, infinitely small, a coupon falling out of that one, too, and on and on.

The idea made me queasy. That, with my lack of sleep, made me want to call in sick. I couldn't face a day at work after a night like this.

But it would look bad to call in sick during my first week. I decided I could tough it out.

All day in my little cubicle I felt bone tired and exhausted. I catnapped in my chair, and no one seemed to notice.

After work, I walked along the Avenue with my face to the harsh wind. The pale sun was in my eyes, hanging low in the west near the abandoned car wash. Gusts of sand were whirling up to the level of the rooftops all along the way.

An old man with a perfectly round head, a thin corona of white hair, and a protruding lower lip, trudged along the opposite side of the street, wearing a shapeless sweater and pushing a walker noisily in front of him.

I hoped he was not heading to the Sphinx; I worried he would never make it. On the verge of the road, where the mounded snow met the frozen ruts of tire tracks, the footing was dangerous even for a man with two good legs.

In my mind's eye I saw the old man falter in the grip of the icy wind. Collapsed by the side of the road, too weak to haul himself upright, he would lie there struggling for a while as evening fell. A few

last cars would pass. The snow would fall. Herr Klee would drive by in his plow eventually, toward dawn, and cover everything on the side of the road in a heavy down blanket of wet snow.

In the morning, they would find the handrail of the old man's walker glinting in a drift. Or perhaps he would lie there until spring, when the warming sun would thaw the last desiccated drumlins, hollowed out above the curbs and gutters, and send the last gray vestiges of winter trickling in sorrow down the cast iron storm drains.

Looking forward to my first paycheck, I hooked up my ancient Autotractor to a borrowed battery charger on Friday afternoon, and by evening, with a shot of ether in the air filter, I was able to get the damned thing running, more or less. I headed south down the pockmarked turnpike toward Attica.

I knew Iona was still working weekends at the Spotted Pig. I had a vague idea I might find her there on break. Or maybe I would wait around until the university students thinned out and steal a few minutes to talk with her alone.

But as soon as I walked in I saw her standing at the front of the oval bar, lit from beneath in amber spotlights, her eyes cast down, and for a second, before I moved to put a pillar in between us, I thought, "She must have seen me in the doorway."

I have this thing with rapid heartbeat. The doctor tells me not to worry about it, worrying only makes it worse. It's called arrhythmic tachycardia, something like that.

If I just backed out and vanished into the night, who would be the wiser?

But then the hostess glided up to intercept me. "Just one," I told her ruefully. She turned to steer me to the left into a long, low room.

She was slim and dirty blond, with snaky hair tied carelessly back, and she was wearing some sort of loose fitting creamy shift that fell to her upper thighs and did little to reveal the shape of her gamine body.

As she turned, the pleated garment swirled like a monochrome barber pole, and I found myself following her without the least trace of resistance, although only a moment earlier I had intended to tell her, "I'll sit at the bar."

She seated me at a two top hard against a short brick wall that blocked my view of Iona, and hers of me. There was still time.

Continued next week.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Opossum, Needles and Snow

Monday, 11/17
8:12 a.m. Caller reports that a female party struck and killed a dog in front of caller's residence. Owner located and notified.
11:47 a.m. Caller from Bridge Street reports that her dog has recently bitten a few people; she isn't sure how to handle the situation. Advised of options.
12:41 p.m. Syringe reported near sidewalk on Fifth Street. Officer picked up.
8:26 p.m. Single car accident on Turners Falls Road; vehicle flipped over and operator was unable to get out. One person transported to the hospital.
9:50 p.m. Caller from G Street reports that someone smashed out the rear window of her red Pontiac Grand Prix. Report taken.

Tuesday, 11/18
9:39 a.m. Complaint that the alley behind Avenue A is blocked by a vehicle and several large trash bags. Responding officer found that vehicle was dead; parties were attempting to jump-start. Party responsible for trash bags stated that a truck would be coming to pick them up.
1:10 p.m. Mail carrier came across a syringe on top of mailboxes on Fourth Street. Officer picked up syringe.
6:27 p.m. First of two reports of a male soliciting on behalf of an environmental group in the areas of Alice Street and Millers Falls Road.
Wednesday, 11/19
7:33 a.m. Twelve year old struck by a vehicle at Vladish Avenue and Turners Falls Road while walking to school. MedCare and TFFD advised. Juvenile with foot injury transported to BFMC; second juvenile skimmed by vehicle brought to BFMC by parent. Operator's license taken and immediate threat filed.
2:15 p.m. Fight in progress at Fifth Street and Avenue A. Involved parties located and spoken to. Two females were trying to prevent another female from driving while intoxicated. Peace restored.
4:14 p.m. Caller from Wentworth Congregate Housing reports that three little knick-knacks have been stolen from her outside windowsill. While on scene, officer was informed by another party that someone has also been taking things (coffee, etc.) from the common kitchen. Advised of options.
4:30 p.m. Caller reports that her car was damaged when she hit the large frost heave on the canal bridge heading towards Greenfield. Greenfield PD advised. Caller asked about making a complaint about the frost heave; advised that it is a state bridge and given contact info for MassHighway. Dispatch

also reported incident to MassHighway.

Thursday, 11/20
12:40 a.m. Caller reports that she was bitten by a dog while out walking her dog; caller suffered bite to hand but declines medical attention. Dog secured at kennel; animal control officer advised.
8:08 a.m. Caller from Wentworth Congregate Housing advises that someone left a condom on her doorknob. Advised of options.
5:06 p.m. Complaint of stationary train blocking Lake Pleasant Road railroad crossing. Pan Am contacted; they will move the train.
7:25 p.m. Calls from tenant and landlord reporting an opossum in a Fourth Street apartment. Gone on arrival.
Friday, 11/21
8:02 a.m. Two-car accident with injuries just south of the Roadhouse on Federal Street. Two parties transported to hospital.
7:18 p.m. Caller from Lake Pleasant advises that there is an alarm on his house put there by the water department — something to do with the sewage level — and that the alarm is now flashing red. Referred to Water Pollution Control Facility.
9:16 p.m. Caller reports that she was walking home alone on Central Street when she was approached from behind by a vehicle carrying two white males, one of whom yelled out to her "Hey, come over here." Party at nearby address allowed caller into their apartment to wait for the police. Investigated.
11:29 p.m. 911 caller reports large group of agitated youths on Avenue A; possible fight just occurred. Responding officer took report from anonymous male on Fourth Street who said that he witnessed two males assault a pregnant woman and the male with her. Investigated.
Saturday, 11/22
11:31 a.m. Caller from K Street reports that her husband's truck was entered overnight and items were taken. Neighbor found some of the items in the bushes nearby with a couple of items that don't belong to the caller. Investigated.
4:24 p.m. Parties soliciting without a proper permit on H Street. Moved along.
5:05 p.m. Report of a 30 pack of beer stolen from Food City. Suspect identified and trespassed from store; will meet with officer tomorrow. Investigated.
Sunday, 11/23
1:01 a.m. Report of a fire on a porch on Fourth Street. TFFD and all units advised. Fire out upon arrival. Responding officer advises that this was an attempted arson; someone had poured gasoline all over the porch and stairs. A resident had put the fire out. Investigated.
9:07 a.m. Report of sewage bubbling up out of a manhole cover in Lake Pleasant. DPW and MCFD advised. Confirmed sewage leak. WPCF contact reached at home and advised.
2:54 p.m. Caller reports that she witnessed a hand-to-hand drug deal on Fourth Street. Referred to an officer.

Monday, 11/24
9:18 a.m. Report of past breaking and entering into a residence on Davis Street. Report taken.
10:44 a.m. Officer and TFFD deputy chief investigating odor that has been detected on Avenue A and all the way to the top of the Seventh Street hill. Determined to be Simon's Stamps. Ongoing issue.
10:07 p.m. Report of 3 mattresses dumped near Silvio O. Conte Anadromous Fish Research Center. Referred to DPW.

Tuesday, 11/25
12:20 a.m. Several calls reporting loud bangs downtown. Unable to locate.
9:14 a.m. Caller reports that the occupant of a vehicle in front of him was throwing lottery tickets out the window from F.L. Roberts up Third Street hill. Operator located and advised.
2:20 p.m. Request for officers to be present as school lets out at Franklin County Technical School. It is the last day of school before the holiday, and a student was suspended today; other students have been talking about burning out as they leave school today in protest. Officers on scene; no problems.

Wednesday, 11/26
First snowstorm of the season! 6 calls regarding motor vehicle accidents; 23 calls regarding traffic/safety hazards (trees/wires down, etc.); and 10 calls to assist motorists.
3:22 p.m. Report of two males in Rite Aid attempting to buy syringes with invalid IDs. When caller refused to sell items to subjects, they became argumentative and stated that she was making it so that they had to use "dirty needles"; one male stated that the other male was "sick" and that if he used that male's needle and caught what he had, it would be the caller's fault. Unable to locate.
9:28 p.m. Caller from Burnett Street complains that his neighbor, who is snowblowing his driveway, is being loud.

Thursday, 11/27
Snowstorm aftermath: 13 reports of traffic/safety hazards; 10 requests from DPW for snow tows; 3 reports of motor vehicle accidents with property damage; 4 reports of disabled motor vehicles.
11:46 a.m. Caller reports that the janitor in his mother's apartment building just swore at him because of where he parked his vehicle; requests assistance mediating situation. Caller advised to speak to building manager.
12:14 p.m. Dispute over neighbor plowing snow onto caller's property. Peace restored.

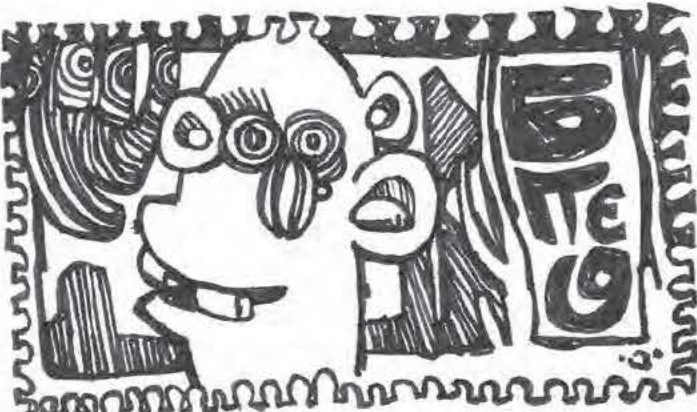
Friday, 11/28
Snowstorm aftermath, cont.: 7 reports of traffic/safety hazards; 1 disabled motor vehicle; 1 accident with property damage.
6:28 p.m. Report of illegal dumping on Third Street; ongoing problem. Advised of options.

Saturday, 11/29
6:44 a.m. Report of a vehicle at Crocker Avenue and Davis Street that had apparently been broken into and entered. Investigated.
12:37 p.m. Abandoned 911 call from pay phone at Food City. Officer in lobby at time of call advised that no one was at the payphone.
12:43 p.m. Caller from Country Club Lane was just informed by her neighbor that hunters shot a deer in her yard with a bow and arrow; deer is still in caller's yard, bleeding and staggering around. Referred to Environmental Police Dispatch.
3:07 p.m. First of several reports from same caller regarding suspicious activity near Fourth Street and Avenue A. Investigated.
8:32 p.m. Report of a party sitting on the peaks of the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge looking upset. Responding officer found that party had climbed up there to have a cigarette. Advised that if he did this again, he would be charged with disorderly conduct.

Sunday, 11/30
10:35 a.m. Report of high-pitched beeping sound coming from a small building next to the propane tanks at the transfer station. DPW contacted; advise that beeping is caused by the power outage during the storm. Will reset tomorrow.
2:22 p.m. Report of landlord pushing snow into road on Fourth Street. Investigated.
6:45 p.m. Caller reports a pit bull on Second Street attacked her dog for the second time and has also bitten her in the past. Referred to animal control officer.
6:58 p.m. Complaint of neighbor smoking indoors at Powertown Apartments. Referred to building manager.
7:33 p.m. Report of large bonfire close to barn on Sunderland Road. MCFD determined that this was a cooking fire.

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LOOKING BACK

10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on December 2, 2004: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Arts and Eats in Turners Falls

On December 4-5, artists are opening their studios to the public, and local eateries are also participating in the event.

The idea behind Arts and Eats began a couple of months ago when Michael Bosworth, director of the Brick House, and artist Jack Nelson began talking about a way to call attention to the arts in downtown Turners.

Bosworth initially had the idea of holding a show of local talent at the Brick House, but Nelson decided to take it one step further. Remembering the success of open studios in Northfield, where he used to ply his craft, Nelson contacted other artists who enthusiastically approved the idea of opening their studios to the public.

Many in town, of course, have known for some time that art is alive and well in Turners Falls, but as Bosworth notes, an event of the sort can "provide a true indication of what is possible here."

Nelson says open studio tours create a more intimate relationship between the artist and the public. He said there is a major difference between seeing art displayed in a gallery and viewing that same art in the artist's work space: "When you enter an artist's space you enter the artist's world. You can see firsthand what it takes to make art, see the process, actually get to know the artist, not just the work."

On learning about Arts and Eats, a friend told Jack that it seemed Turners Falls was finally arriving as a place where the arts could flourish. Jack corrected him. "No," he said. "Turners isn't arriving. It has arrived."

Police Cruiser Damaged

Gill police chief David Hastings filled the Gill selectboard in on details of a collision involving one of the town's cruisers. On November 28, the cruiser, driven by officer Adam Sokolosky, was involved in a collision with a vehicle driven by Amy Hayes of Orange, during a rainstorm that night, as officer Sokolosky pulled into traffic in pursuit of a passing speeder. Neither Sokolosky nor Hayes sus-

tained injuries in the crash, which resulted in \$2300 worth of damage to the cruiser. The vehicle is currently under repair at Doug's Auto Body. The speeder got away.

Community Forum on Library in Wendell

On December 4 the library building committee is holding a forum to try to build consensus about the best site for a new library in town. The forum will be facilitated by the project architect, Gail Sullivan.

"Gail has been a weekend visitor to Wendell for years, and a regular patron of the library," said librarian Rosie Heidkamp. "She is very community minded, and she wants buildings to function for communities." Sullivan will have to work within certain constraints to find a consensus on the best site for a new library.

Heidkamp said the library trustees were keeping an open mind on the possibility of renovating the town office building to make room for the library, at least until their architect has a chance to demonstrate what the costs of the project would be.

WEST ALONG from pg B1

laden with heavy wet snow. If even a squirrel or a cardinal were to perch on the weighted branches, the extra four ounces would be just enough to send them to the ground.

The Thanksgiving sun is rising up over the valley rim. Now let's hope the softening and melting will begin, freeing up the burdened branches and getting back to November's normal.

28 November. Plum Island. The malls and department stores are in one direction, I made a bee-line in the opposite direction, away from the drumbeat of hammering commercialism and lines of shoppers waiting for Black Friday bargains in the hours before daybreak. Instead, I headed for the primal shore of the Atlantic, getting out and away as far as I could to the distant dunes.

Along Route 2, up I go through beautiful snowscapes in the high lands beyond Athol and Gardner, ever climbing. Once past the imposing Wachusett, and by the time I reached Newburyport on the coast, there was hardly an inch on the ground, compared to the foot of snow back in the valley.

Winding through the busy streets of that seaport town, I have to concentrate on my goal, to not get sidetracked and drawn into the pre-Christmas excitement by checking out the colorful shops. That can wait; I'm focused on heading for the seclusion of Plum Island.

The man at the reserve's entrance had a pleasant hello, as I flashed my Senior Pass, good for a lifetime of free entry into all the Federal Parks and recreational lands. This was the same man who, two years ago, had diplomatically suggested that I might qualify as a Senior, so I thanked him for mentioning it back then. When he asked where I was coming from, I answered:

"I came out from the Connecticut River valley to get away from the Black Friday madness."

"What part of the valley?" he asked. "I went to UMass. I think I graduated, but it's kind of hard to remember! Back in the '60s everything was pretty much a Purple Haze."

I chuckled at the reference. A lot of us survivors from the '60s have the same lapses of memory about those college days back then.

Still laughing, I thanked him and motored on quietly down the deserted roadway into the reserve. I had popped a CD of classic Vivaldi concertos into the player ("Il Proteo"), and gentle, achingly beautiful music filled the car as I floated down the smooth pavement in a bubble of peace and bliss.

A magnificent soaring bird, a rough-legged hawk, drifted in circles just overhead, turning in seeming time with the phrasing of the baroque violin. The music and the hawk were one, I was the witness.

All the way to the mouth of the Ipswich River I went, and parked at

the last lot, and headed out to hike along the winter beach. The tide was rolling in, crashing over the out-lying rocks offshore. True to form and reputation, a lone purple sandpiper flirted with the crashing waves on the rock, lifting up as one wave after the other washed over. The sandpiper then dropped back onto the barnacle-covered surface until the next wave swept up and over it all.

Diving ducks were strung out in long lines, riding the waves and plunging below: eiders, loons, mergansers, bufflehead and one lovely Oldsquaw. To be politically correct, some bird bureaucrat changed the name of this diving duck to Long-tailed duck. The "squaw" being considered offensive by many, this hardy Nordic duck now has a new name.

By three o'clock, the mid-afternoon sun was already low in the west. My next and last visit was to be the long and winding boardwalk through the dunes, a favorite spot, and my ultimate destination. The gently sloping sand hills were already cast in shadows of tawny brown and gray under a brilliant blue afternoon sky.

The grasses were bleached out, here and there were suggestions of russet, with brush strokes of red berries, dusty blue bayberries and juniper, the all was offset by random patches of snow and sand.

Suddenly, ahead of me, a flock of more than one hundred snow buntings floated and lilted in a cloud over the boardwalk, swirling like snowflakes in the wind. They settled as if on command, and effectively disappeared into a swale of goldenrod and blond grasses. Perfectly plumaged for camouflage in the tundra or seaside dune, the one hundred melted and disappeared, now invisible, into the hollow out of the wind.

I circled wide around the spot, and waited.

Sure enough, eventually one moved, and suddenly they were all revealed, hiding in plain sight, moving among the goldenrod, plump, secure, like little dumpling buntings. I watched to my heart's content, this was a rare find for me.

But at some given signal, they all rose up in unison, swirled round and round again, a lilting cloud drifting and playing over the dunes, coming back and circling up and over me like a cloud of butterflies, and then, by God, they were gone.

I stayed there transfixed, overwhelmed by the simple pleasures the birds and nature can provide. The Algonquian prayer of Thanksgiving repeated itself in my mind as these frail yet hardy winter birds from the far north drifted away into memory.

"Tau-botdan-tamock wut-che wame."

We give true thanks for all these things.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Plenty of Road Trouble

Monday, 11/17

9:45 a.m. Disabled box truck at Route 2 bypass. Stood by until tow arrived.

4 p.m. Disabled tractor trailer, Route 2 at West Main Street. Assisted until it could be removed.

Tuesday, 11/18

10:30 a.m. Motor vehicle lockout. Entry gained.

2:15 p.m. Assisted on scene of medical emergency, Lillians Way.

5:40 p.m. Disabled motor vehicle on West Main Street. Assisted until tow arrived.

9:20 p.m. Assisted on scene of medical emergency, Mountain Road.

Wednesday, 11/19

12:35 p.m. Assisted on scene of medical emergency, Care Drive.

4:45 p.m. Traffic hazard, Route 2 at Christina's. Same was removed from roadway.

Thursday, 11/20

8 p.m. Report of unse-

cured residence on High Street. Found to be secure.

Friday, 11/21

6:30 p.m. One-car crash, Route 2 eastbound at bypass. No injuries.

7:40 p.m. Report of suspicious motor vehicle at Old State Road residence. Gone upon arrival.

Saturday, 11/22

3:25 p.m. Report of possible illegal dumping on Laurel Lake Road. Checked area.

Sunday, 11/23

5:45 p.m. Report of loose dog, Central Street area. Unable to locate.

6:30 p.m. Assisted on scene of medical emergency, Church Street.

Monday, 11/24

1:15 p.m. Assisted on scene of medical emergency, Briggs Street.

Tuesday, 11/25

9:37 a.m. Motor vehicle crash with rollover, Route 2 in Farley. No injury!

1:45 p.m. Alarm at

Goodell Place. Secure; found to be workers.

6:40 p.m. Motorist reports almost hitting a dog, Route 2 in area of Christina's. Unable to locate. Animal control officer advised.

8:51 p.m. Suspicious person at Northfield Road residence. Checked out OK, no issues.

Wednesday, 11/26

11 a.m. Carbon monoxide alarm at Pleasant Street address. Erving FD responded.

12:19 p.m. Tree down, Route 63. Removed from roadway.

3:15 p.m. Took report of two-car crash at Lester and West High Streets.

3:30 p.m. Lines down, North Street. Officer on scene. National Grid advised.

4:40 p.m. Report of lines down on Mountain Road. Unpassable. National Grid advised.

5:40 p.m. Report of lines

down on Central and Prospect Streets. Power is out. WMECO advised.

5:50 p.m. Motor vehicle crash on North Street. No injuries.

7:30 p.m. Report of lines down on Maple Avenue and State Road.

10:30 p.m. Took report of motor vehicle crash on State Road.

Thursday, 11/27

1:30 p.m. Assisted on scene of medical emergency, High Street.

Friday, 11/28

9 a.m. Welfare check at Old State Road residence. All were fine.

11 a.m. Report of loose running dog at Northfield Road residence. Unable to locate.

Sunday, 11/30

9:30 a.m. Criminal application issued to [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], for operating without a license, on-revoked registration, and speeding.




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Paige Bonarrigo
Emily Denison
Lenora May Dickson
Jacob Dodge
Isabelle Farrick
Abigail Hoynoski
Isabella Johnson
Natalie Kells
Mackenzie Martel
Dylan McLaughlin
Mercedes Morales
Taylor Murphy
Audrey O'Keefe
Catherine Reynolds
Mercedes Rivera-Drew
James Robison
Lana Spera
Amber Taylor
Taryn Thayer
Jade Tyler
Kolby Watroba
Olivia Whittier

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Haleigh Greene
Alexis Lynds
Derek Martin
Sonjai Rathore
Jacob Sak
Kelli Schneider
Julie Sprankle
Shelby Terounzo
Nicholas White

Third Honors:

Timothy Agapov
Vincent Carne
G-anni Garcia
Nicholas Lyons
Dalver Perez

Grade 7:

First Honors:

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Cameron Bradley
Jakob Burnett
Alden Courtemanche
Josy Hunter
Hailey Jackson
Eliza Johnson
Joseph Kochan
Madison McCassie
Chantelle Monaghan
Alyson Murphy
Karlie Porter
Dabney Rollins
Brody Trott
Lucas Upham
Abigail Waite
Allison Wheeler
Lindsay Whiteman

Second Honors:

Carson Carlisle
Mirela Cioclea
Karissa Fleming
Joshua Gaulin
Shelby Jordan
Mason Kucenski
Tucker Millane
Kaitlyn Miner
Marcus Sanders
Emily Sisson
Journey Smalls
Lucy Spera
Connor Waitkus

Third Honors:

Jonathon Fritz
Gram Hancock-Pezzati
Colby Mailloux
Korey Martineau
Edward Reipold
Kayani Rodriguez
Lyuba Sankova
Jaden Whiting-Martinez
Makenna Young

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First Honors:

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Ryan Campbell
Dominic Carme
Reilan Castine
Andy Craver
Kyle Dodge
Rodney Duteau
Reagan Fiske
Cailyn Gobeil
Jenna Jacobsen
Anna Kochan
Jacob LaBelle
Dizarré Lopez
Garrett Martel
Mireya Ortiz
John Putala
Hunter Sanders
Keltyn Socquet
Ayden Stacy
Sarah Studlien
Holly Tetreault
Will Turn
Kyra Turner
Victoria Veaudry
Sarah Waldron
Hannah Welles
Cassidhe Wozniak

Second Honors:

Madison Adams
Lindsey Bourbeau
Shawn Cullen
Timothy Fritz
Katherine Garcia
Deven Goshea
Rebecca Harrell
Ryan Kucenski
Danielle Lively
Katherine Moreno-Sibrian
Tyler Murray-Lavin
Tyler Noyes
Kallie Ryan
Kallista Vega-Alobaidi

Third Honors:

Jared Bergmann
Kayleigh Curtiss
Grayson Funk
Alexis Lacey
Bianca Martin
Edison Ovalle-Bartolon
Ethan Shilo-Draper

PETEGORSKY from page B1

images, the snake makes a languid, lyrical loop filled with delicate fine lines against a jet black ground.

In *Frog 3* the image is set against a light gray background filled with seemingly random markings. This results in the image of the frog skeleton feeling ghost-like. The viewer's attention moves from figure to ground and back again, making the whole more mysterious than any specimen by itself.

The images all possess a strong graphic sense, much like drawings done in only a few colors and a wide range of values. The delicate bones become collections of rhythmic lines with edges feathering into the backgrounds.

The grounds themselves vary considerably, from almost jet black as in *Snake 3* to light gray with subtle markings in *Frog 3*. In *Fish 3*, the background is an all-over mottled light gray. In *Two Frogs* the bright orange stain in the edges of the bones shows up as orange marks like sparks in the otherwise almost black ground. The result is both beautiful and slightly frightening.

Color in these prints is both subtle and very dramatic. In *Bat*, *Two Frogs*, and *Fish 3*, light yellows, intense oranges and brilliant reds make the images glow from within as if magically illuminated by sources unseen, creating vibrant images from bones.

Petegorsky was educated at Rhode Island School of Design, Amherst College, and Brandeis University. He has taught at Northampton, Amherst College, the University of Connecticut, Hampshire College and Smith College, and has shown his work in numerous group and one-person exhibitions throughout the country. He has received many grants and awards for his work and is represented in many museum and private collections.

Readers are invited to visit Stephen's website, www.spphoto.com, to view more of his work. His several online portfolios are extraordinary.

We also encourage you to visit this exhibition during new Library hours: Tuesdays from noon to 6 p.m., Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Thursdays from 3 to 7 p.m., Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and Sundays from noon to 4 p.m.

The exhibition opened in November and runs through January 3,



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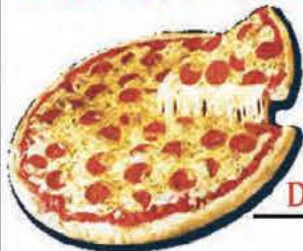
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FOOTBALL from page B1

moved the Indians back to the Green 30.

Trent pounded ahead 4 yards, and Jalen Sanders got 4 more, but another penalty made it third and 27. A Green Wave offside gave Powertown a third and 22, but an incomplete pass forced a fourth down.

Coach Chris Lapointe opted to try a pass but Tionne Brown was intercepted and the Blue Indians came up empty.

The Powertown D allowed only 5 yards on three plays, and the Tribe got the ball back with 3:43 left in the first quarter. Turners managed to work the ball to their own 48 but on fourth and 6, Green Wave took over on another interception.

Truly, this was not a day for passing. But, as it turned out, this interception was as good as a punt. Instead of taking over on downs in Blue Territory, Green Wave got the ball on their own 30. And then they fumbled. Emmitt Turn came up with the rock, and the Blue Indians were back in business.

With 30 seconds left in the quarter, the Turners Falls Football Indians had a first and 10 on the Green 35. Trent slid ahead for 2 yards, then spun and twisted for 4 more.

And on third and 4, Trent finally broke loose. He broke a tackle, ran behind a blocker, and then sprinted all the way into the end zone. With Emmitt Turn's PAT, Turners led 7 to nothing with 9:21 left in the half. And they never looked back.

Turners tried an onside kick but it went out of bounds. Green got the ball at midfield and tried something novel. The quarterback lined up behind the center, one player lined up to the far right and everyone else set up on the far left.

But Coach Lapointe was ready for this. Three plays later, on fourth and 12, Greenfield had to punt. But the punt kept bouncing until it was finally downed on the Blue 2 yard line.

The Offensive Eleven got some wiggle room but on fourth down, Turners finally punted the ball. The Powertown Defense continued their dominating play and prevented any first downs in the entire first half.

And when Greenfield got the ball with only two minutes 9 seconds left in the half, Turners began calling time outs to stop the clock, in hopes of scoring again.

Turners took over on their own 20, with one minute 39 left in the half. They advanced the ball all the way to the Green 5 but on fourth down an incomplete pass ended the half.



Season's greetings: a gang-tackle in the snow.

Second Half

Greenfield got the ball first in the second half. A QB sneak on fourth down, kept the Green drive alive. Turners forced a fourth and 1 but Greenfield got the first down. Turners wasn't discouraged and forced a third and 7. But on this key play, Greenfield again got the first down.

Powertown banged and smashed and forced another fourth down, but on another key play, fourth with 3 to go, Greenfield got the touch down and with three minutes 6 seconds left in the third quarter, Greenfield was on the scoreboard.

Down by one point, Greenfield opted to try the 2-pointer. But Tanner Castine stopped the runner and Greenfield was unable to take the lead. To quote a cliché, the Blue D bent but didn't break.

The game was getting rough. It was anyone's game. The two teams were going toe to toe. Bang for bang. Hit for hit.

Jalen Sanders had his jersey ripped off his body and had to wear #8. A Greenfield player had his helmet torn off. But the teams kept playing. It was cold and wet and muddy but the teams kept going and trying as hard as they could.

A Greenfield sack led to a second and 17 for the Blue Indians, and they had to give up the ball. Green took over on their own 43 and piled ahead 14 yards for the first down, and the third quarter ended with Green Wave behind by just one point and in Turners Falls territory.

A loose ball, a Tanner Castine stop, a penalty, and an incomplete pass which was broken up by Tyler Charboneau gave Greenfield a fourth and 12.

Turners got the ball back on their

own 12-yard line. Trent Bourbeau squeezed through a hole to the 20. Then he got the first down to the 23, and the Tribe were out of the Red Zone.

Jalen Sanders dashed ahead 8 yards, Trent got one more, and on Third and 1, Trent inched his way to the 33 and the Tribe was still alive. Jalen Sanders weaved ahead for 8 yards but on second and 2, another penalty moved the ball back five yards. Alex Carlisle got four back and on third and 3, Jalen got to the Blue 45, just enough to keep the drive going.

Trent crashed and smashed for 9 yards and was finally taken down by his face mask. The penalty advanced the ball to the Green 25. On the next play, Trent could only manage 2 yards and then he was tackled for a loss. And on third and 9 from the 24, Trent could only get 8.

So the Tribe was facing fourth

and 1 from the 16. One more key play for the Cardiac Kids.

Trent was hit, but the line opened a hole just big enough for Trent to bull ahead to the 12 yard line. The play worked, and the Blue Indians earned another first down.

With one minute 56 seconds left in regulation, Greenfield stopped the Tribe, allowing only 1 yard. On second and 9 from the 11 yard line, Turners got 6 yards but one more penalty moved the ball back 5 yards, giving Powertown a third and 8.

Gut check time. Tionne Brown faded out to pass, but no one was open. He then tucked the ball and sprinted for the end zone.

With the Green Wave honing in on him, he left his feet, dove forward, extending the ball as far as he could toward the pylon, and was crushed by the Greenfield tacklers who were sprinting at full speed toward him. He came up short.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Bear on Mountain; Bad Crash

Monday, 11/10
5:35 a.m. Suspicious motor vehicle in center of town. Located owner at Center Road residence.
7:40 a.m. Bear reported on Mountain Road.
9:25 a.m. Past breaking & entering reported at a River Road barn. Under investigation.
Tuesday, 11/11
7:41 a.m. Medical assistance requested at West Gill Road residence.
2:30 p.m. Assisted in moving hazard from roadway on North Cross Road.
Wednesday, 11/12
2:50 p.m. Assisted 7-year-old boy down from a tree

on Boyle Road.
Friday, 11/14
10:45 a.m. Disabled motor vehicle towed on French King Highway.
1:30 p.m. Lost wallet reported in Lyons Hill Road area.
3:50 p.m. Medical assistance requested at Main Road residence.
6:15 p.m. Medical assistance requested at Main Road residence.
7:20 p.m. Greenfield PD requested a check on a Mountain Road resident due to erratic operation of a motor vehicle.
Sunday, 11/16
7:30 p.m. Motor vehicle

accident, possibly fatal, on Mountain Road. Operator Life Flighted.
Monday, 11/17
2:10 p.m. Property found on Mountain Road.
Wednesday, 11/19
8 a.m. Center Road business reported overnight breaking & entering.
3:15 p.m. Restraining order issued for resident.
Thursday, 11/20
11:15 a.m. Court papers served to Boyle Road resident.
12 noon. Resident on South Cross Road served suspension of license order.
12:45 p.m. Assisted Maine

State Police with firearms issue concerning resident.
2 p.m. Suspicious motor vehicle reported at West Gill Road residence. Checked out OK.
7:45 p.m. Suspicious motor vehicle reported on West Gill Road. Vehicle identified as disabled.
10:30 p.m. Motor vehicle vs. deer accident on Main Road.
Friday, 11/21
3:30 p.m. Phone scam reported by Mountain Road resident.
5:05 p.m. Center Road resident complained of annoying phone calls.

Pioneer Valley Symphony Orchestra's
Holiday Concert and Food Drive

Next Saturday, December 13 at 7 p.m., The Pioneer Valley Symphony Orchestra and Chorus will present their Annual Family Holiday Concert and Food Drive to benefit the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, at Deerfield Academy's Hess Center for the Arts.

The program blends holiday favorites with classical gems, and includes Otto Nicolai's *Christmas Overture* on "Von Himmel Hoch"; Hector Berlioz's "L'adieu

des bergers" from *L'enfance du Christ*; "Frosty the Snowman"; *Dance of the Tumblers* by Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakoff (with the PVS Youth Orchestra, Director Jonathan Brennand); Vince Guaraldi's *A Charlie Brown Christmas*; and three choruses from *Messiah* by Georg Frederick Handel, with the Deerfield Choral Society, Director Maaja Roos.

The Festival Chorus of Deerfield and members of the Deerfield

Orchestra and Pioneer Valley Symphony Youth Orchestra will also join in for several selections.

Tickets are \$28, \$23 and \$7 at the door, and can be purchased in advance at a discount, online at pv-soc.org/single-tickets, and at World Eye Books (cash or check only).

Concertgoers are encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item to the concert, to be donated to the Food Bank.



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EVERY SUNDAY

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *TNT Karaoke*, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

EVERY MONDAY

Montague Center Library: *Evening Story Time*. Young children and their families are invited to wind down at the end of the day with stories. 6:30-7 p.m.

EVERY TUESDAY

Slate Memorial Library, Gill: *Story Hour*, stories, popcorn, and a hands-on craft project. We welcome new families, 10 a.m.

Leverett Library *Spanish Conversation Group*. Brush up on or improve your Spanish in a casual and friendly environment, 4 to 5 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Free Texas Hold 'em Poker tournament*, with cash prizes.

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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

EVERY THURSDAY

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

EVERY FRIDAY

Between the Uprights, Turners Falls: *Karaoke with Dirty Johnny*. 9 p.m. to midnight. Free.

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ART SHOWS & MUSEUMS:

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Face Nook*. Small self-portraits on canvas created by current and former students in the art department at Greenfield Community College on display through December 6. All proceeds from these sales will be donated to the Art Department. Most canvases are 6x6 inches.

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: New work by professional photographer *Stephen Petegorsky*, of Northampton. The ten works



Pothole Pictures "All Beatles Weekend" both Friday December 5 and Saturday December 6, with a 50th Anniversary screening of *A Hard Day's Night* along with live Beatles songs performed on stage by Daniel Hales and The Frost Heaves. The live Beatles tunes begin at 7 p.m. and the film starts at 7:30 p.m.

on display are based on stained animal skeletons from the Biology Department at UMass. Photography Exhibit in the Marion Herrick Room through January 3, 2015.

Smith College, Northampton, Oresman Gallery, Hillyer, Brown Fine Arts Center: Work by *Sasha Rudensky*, Russian-born artist living in New York and Connecticut. Her photos focus on the slow dissolution of Soviet consciousness, the ideological vacuum left in its wake, and reconstitution of new post-Soviet Ukrainian and Russian identities. On display through 12/19.

CALL FOR ART:

Call for art submissions for the Fourth Annual *Triple S: Sensual, Sexual, Smut* show. Looking for a wide spectrum of erotic art from regional artists, previous participants encouraged. Exhibit opens February 2015 at Nina's Nook, Turners Falls. Send to naban@verizon.net before Jan 23. www.ninasnook.com

EVENTS:

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Roosters*, classic rock by Bruce Scofield & Mark Feller, 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5

Greenfield Community College main campus, *Holiday Concert* with GCC Chorus and audience singalong, 12:15 - 12:45 p.m.

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Palberta, Cloud Becomes Your Hand, Pyramid and Shoe*, and *Bromp Treb*. Editor's choice. All ages/substance free, 7 p.m.

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *A Hard Day's Night*, 50th anniversary screening of the 1964 Beatles movie. Beatles songs performed by Daniel Hales and the Frost Heaves at 7 p.m.. B&W, runs 87 minutes, not rated but should be suitable for all ages, \$, 7:30 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *The Joshua Incident*, 8 p.m.

for all ages, \$, 7:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Jukin*, rock/reggae/funk, 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

Smith College, Northampton: *Christmas Vespers*. An annual tradition which tells the story of Advent through hymns and other anthems, prayers and Scripture readings. Music features the Smith College Chorus, Glee Club, Chamber Singers, Handbell Choir and Orchestra. Free-will donation for the Hampshire County Interfaith Cot Shelter Program. John M. Greene Hall, 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Maris Otter*, original folk-rock by Alyssa Kelly & Jen Spingla, 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9

Smith College, Northampton: *Music in the Noon Hour Works of C.P.E. Bach* performed by Alissa Leiser, piano, and Joel Pitchon, violin. Sweeney Concert Hall, Sage Hall, 12:30-1 p.m.

Madison on the Avenue, Turners Falls: *Deep Sea Love, Shea Mowat, O. Godardzi, and Wheat Penny*. 8 sharp.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10

Arts Block Cafe, Greenfield:

Hammond Organ/Guitar Duo. Local musician and Hammond Organist Ted Wirt will be jazzing the Christmas Classics with NYC transplant/Jazz Guitarist. Free, 5 p.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12

Turners Falls: *It's A Wonderful Night* presented by RiverCulture. Holiday activities for the whole family, art exhibitions, live music, restaurant specials, performances and unique gift buying opportunities. Children and adults alike are encouraged to put a wish list in the Magic Mailbox, as well as notes of hope for themselves, friends, family and the world! See www.turnersfallsriverculture.org for more info, 5 to 10 p.m.

Great Falls Harvest Restaurant, Turners Falls: *Ken Forfia* (key-board) and *Vernon C. David* (cello), Jazz Standards, 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Welcome Yule- Midwinter Music, Dance, Songs & Stories*, \$, 7:30 p.m.

Five Eyed Fox, Turners Falls: *It's A Wonderful Life* film showing, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Barrett Anderson*, renegade blues, 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Kristen Ford*, 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

Montague Common Hall, Mon-

tague Center: *Make &Take Fair* Make gifts for your family and friends, teachers and neighbors. Craft projects for all ages, refreshments, 10 to 3 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Welcome Yule- Midwinter Music, Dance, Songs & Stories*, \$, 7:30 p.m.

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MONTAGUE REPORTER

Montague Center subscriber Karen Werner writes:

"I spent the last week in Kilfinane, Ireland, for the Hear Say International Audio Arts Festival, and of course brought the Montague Reporter along."

"I took this picture at the 'Lady's Well,' which is a pre-Christian-era sacred spring surrounded by a Hawthorne tree. The sacred water 'heals what ails you'."

"I figured our beloved Montague Reporter would enjoy some extra water blessings for its continued success. Who wouldn't?" (Thanks, Karen!)

Going somewhere? Take us with you. Send your pics to editor@montaguereporter.org.

ON THE ROAD

MONTAGUE CRYPTOJAM!

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OBSTACLES from page B1

"Tough Mudder" series, for instance, focuses on team-building. He also warns that OCR can be a high-risk activity for people with former injuries.

Last Monday, Kim and Ethan introduced OCR to the home school cooperative that meets at the Montague Retreat Center every week. After a brief indoor presentation, the children went outside to create some obstacles and run in the slushy snow.

Parents received an email prior to the event asking them to pack a hearty lunch and bring a complete change of clothes! What fun to imagine fifty wet and muddy kids, all grinning at the end of the course, not even thinking about what might be on television.

Kim has had some injuries in the past. She was a competitive runner in college and took time off when the children came along, but she's back at it now with an eye towards OCR in the future.

They both train every day in shifts. Kim gets up at four-thirty each morning and runs on woodland trails before daylight. Ethan works out at night, using the equipment in the barn to develop upper-body strength.

He built the course himself. Completing a round from one side to the other without touching your feet to the ground involves a re-

verse monkey bar, a rope, a set of small spheres hanging on chains that you have to grab, another set of spools, a hanging log and more. All develop upper body strength, not to mention determination.

In addition Ethan likes to run, bike and snowshoe. Neither Kim nor Ethan runs on roadways, which they say can be dangerous. Instead, they take their chances with bears, moose and other wildlife in the surrounding woods.

They are home schooling their two young children, Brooke and Peter. Ethan, a fresh water biologist, runs an environmental consulting business from home, so there's a unity in their life that is hard to find these days when so many families scatter for eight hours each day to school and workplaces.

The dining room table is heaped with art supplies. The kids spend time in the barn, trying out the equipment at their own level. Their parents' commitment to fitness has clearly worn off on them.

I watched Peter, who is just six, shimmy up a rope, and Brooke, age seven, demonstrate the monkey bars, gracefully dropping off when it became too challenging.

In a quiet way, Kim and Ethan are sending a powerful message about the joy of fitness in the natural world.



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