



# The Montague Reporter

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

YEAR 12 – NO. 16

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

FEBRUARY 6, 2014

## State: No Medical Pot Licenses for Franklin County

By CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUCHANNO

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) announced last Friday that 20 out of 100 applicants will receive registered marijuana dispensary (RMD) licenses. None of the three Franklin County applicants – ANL, Inc. (A New Leaf), MR (Absolute Medical Resources, Inc.), or J.M. Farms' Patient Group – made the cut.

ANL and MR Absolute Medical had both applied for licenses to operate in Montague; J.M. Farms was looking to set up in Deerfield.

The DPH did approve dispensary license locations in Northampton and Holyoke, but awarded no licenses to Berkshire, Franklin, Dukes or Nantucket counties.

It does not mean the book is closed on a dispensary coming to Franklin County. According to the DPH, "Eight highly qualified applicants who were not granted their proposed location will be invited to seek a change of location to a county without provisional approval..."

"This phase will allow the Selection Committee to review high-scoring applicants who wish to seek a change of location to an

see RMD page A7

## God, Democracy, and Revolution At Greenfield Community College



AHMET ERGENC PHOTO

Street protestors in Cairo have pressured two heads of state out of office.

By PATRICIA PRUITT

The Greenfield Community College Senior Symposia Series for Spring 2014 began last week with a very informative, and much-needed look at the reasons and causes behind the eruption of "uprisings" or "revolutions" in the Muslim world, beginning in 2010 in Tunisia, spreading to Egypt and Libya, and grinding on in a mass destruction of life and infrastructure in Syria.

The meeting room at GCC's downtown location was full of attentive listeners as speaker Ted Thornton of the Oak Meadow School in Brattleboro began his talk.

Mr. Thornton joins his considerable historical understanding of the Middle East with an interest in Religion (he is also a part-time Episcopal minister, fluent in Ara-

bic, who studied both at the Tantar Ecumenical Institute in Jerusalem and at the American University in Cairo).

Thornton's talk, entitled *God, Democracy, and the Arab Revolutions*, traced the region's convoluted historical events since WWI. "WWI never ended in the Middle East," said Thornton, citing the 1918 English and French decisions to retrace the boundaries between the then-Middle Eastern nations according to European interests, thereby creating Lebanon, Jordan and a larger Iraq.

Thornton also explained the historical roots of the Sunni-Shi'a divide, or "proxy war" as he described it, which dates back to 632 and the death of Muhammad, the founder and prophet of Islam, and the lack of a designated successor and many ambitious relatives.

see SPRING page A5

## Montague Voters Approve New Dispensary Zoning, Reject Building Demolition

By CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUCHANNO

At a highly charged special town meeting on January 30, town meeting members widely discussed, then voted on five articles.

A zoning change to allow a registered marijuana dispensary to be located in town in four zones – General Business, Industrial, Central Business, and Historic Industrial districts – was overwhelmingly approved.

But article 2, asking whether town meeting members would allow for the demolition of the former Cumbies building, at 38 Avenue A, was voted down for the third time.

### Medical Marijuana

Town planner, Walter Ramsey, told the members that the new zoning was necessary because without it a registered marijuana dispensary (RMD) could be allowed in any district that allowed for retail sales and service use.

Ramsey emphasized that the new zoning would restrict facilities to non-residential areas. He also stated that according to the Attorney General, no town can prohibit an RMD from setting up shop in their community.

He also stated that RMD's are under very stringent state control: they have high security, do not

have "marijuana advertisements or signage," and are open by appointment only, and only to those with a prescription.

He also noted that there were at present two applicants for a license in Montague, and that both intended to grow the pot plants indoors. (The next day, the state announced that no preliminary licenses were granted for Franklin County.)

Despite Ramsey's attempt to confine the issue to zoning, members peppered him with questions and comments.

Jeanne Golrick from Millers Falls asked where the applicants wanted to locate their dispensaries. Ramsey replied, rather hesitatingly, that they were both intending to site their businesses in the industrial zone.

"Which industrial zone?" asked Golrick.

"Off Industrial Boulevard, in the current Industrial Park," replied Ramsey.

Jacobo Roque, also from Precinct Two, asked if the chief of police could weigh in on the issue.

Chief Charles (Chip) Dodge responded that initially he was nervous about a facility coming to Montague. "But after meeting with the prospective companies and finding out more about the state regulations, I felt much more

see MEETING page A6

## COMMUNITY FORUM

### Drug Addiction and Mental Health

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

**GREENFIELD** – Heroin is cheap and available in Franklin County and the surrounding area, and fatal overdoses are on the rise. The entire northeast is being flooded with heroin, and Western Massachusetts seems to be a major hub for distribution. At the same time, funding for services that used to exist have been cut over the last decade, so there are fewer resources available for treatment.

At a well-attended forum held Thursday evening, January 30, at the Greenfield Middle School, a panel of experts in mental health and drug addiction expressed their concern over the increasing number of heroin overdose deaths and the easy availability of opiates in the region.

Sponsored by the Community Health Care Initiative, the forum, "Mental Health and Drug Abuse in Franklin County: A Community in Crisis," was led by a panel of local medical practitioners and law enforcement officials.

Ruth Potee, M.D., a family practice doctor at Valley Medical Group in Greenfield who specializes in drug addiction, spoke of the danger to addicts from overdose, and of a particularly dangerous mixture of tainted heroin that is cut with fentanyl, a pain

drug used for terminally ill patients.

This particular batch of tainted heroin has been linked to 22 deaths in Pennsylvania, as reported in the New York Times on February 2.

Potee emphasized the importance of getting an addict off of illegal drugs because there is no way to know what is in any individual packet bought on the black market. She said she works with addicts in her practice to help them detox and find good treatments that work for them.



STEPHEN MARTIN PHOTO

*Dr. Potee has led a charge to treat opiate addiction as a public health priority in the county.*

Franklin County Sheriff Christopher Donelan provides treatment at the House of Correction to addicts arrested for possession and other drug related crimes. Donelan said addicts were safer there than out on the street because it gave them time to let their minds clear in a safe environ-

ment.

He emphasized that he did not believe this to be ideal, but that given long waiting lists for hospital beds and drug treatment programs, the House of Correction is sometimes the only place available to keep them safe. He said he tries to help addicts get clean and offer them hope for a path to a better life.

John Merrigan, Register for Franklin Probate and Family Court and Donna Stern R.N. who works at Franklin Medical Center, serve with Dr. Potee and Sheriff Donelan on a task force working to increase access to drug treatment and mental health care.

They all agreed the county needs more money for treatment, more detox beds, more hospital beds for the mentally ill in crisis, and better residential and outpatient services for the seriously mentally ill.

Stern, a registered nurse on the Franklin Medical Center psych unit, said, "We have a mental health crisis." Stern said the only way for a person in crisis to get treatment is to go to the emergency room at the hospital and declare themselves suicidal. Even then, she said, they can wait several days for a bed.

With the closures of residential facilities for the mentally ill in the 1970s – brought

see HEROIN page A8

## Bill to Protect Archeological Resources Receives Spirited Local Hearing

By DAVID DETMOLD

**POCUMTUCK/SOUTH DEERFIELD** – For the past 12 years, Peter Kocot (D-Northampton) and Ellen Story (D-Amherst) have jointly filed a bill in the Massachusetts House to protect the archeological, geological, and paleontological riches of the Connecticut River Valley.

During all this time, they have not heard one peep of constituent concern. But this year, when the bill gained steam and was reported favorably to the House Ways and Means Committee, constituents – including representatives of regional Native American tribes – called a meeting with Kocot and legislative aides on Friday, January 31 to air their concerns.

About two dozen people showed up at the South Deerfield municipal building to talk about the bill (House 744), which seeks to establish a fact-finding commission to review the laws governing the protection and disposition of the cultural and archeological heritage of the Commonwealth, specifically as those laws pertain to the fossils of dinosaurs, and to the preserved remains and relics of the indigenous peoples in the Valley.

Kocot said his interest in filing the bill was to make

sure unscrupulous individuals could no longer profit from stealing the patrimony of the Commonwealth, for example by selling cultural artifacts and fossils on the internet.

But representatives of Native American groups said they were more worried that two of the five seats reserved for special interests on the proposed commission are to be set aside for appointees from the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) and the UMass Archeology Department.

They said these two entrenched bastions of Massachusetts historical preservation and archeology appear to have been working in tandem over the years to keep the public – including local historic commissions, and federally recognized tribes

with ties to the region – from having access to information concerning archeological digs in the Valley, and the results of studies and surveys done on public lands.

"Do you know there is a long history of abuse of the law pertaining to the [MHC] and UMass Archeological?" Joe Graveline, of Northfield, president of a local Native American advocacy group, the Nolumbeka Project, asked Kocot.

He pointed to the recent experience of the town of Gill, which seeks to develop light industry on a 12-acre parcel of land on West Gill and Main Road. The town-owned land, formerly known as the Conway property, is commonly referred to as the Mariamante parcel.

see BILL page A7



SAWYER-LAUCHANNO PHOTO

*Gill's Mariamante parcel, on the corner of West Gill and Main roads, is the focus of much local historical interest.*



# The Montague Reporter

*"The Voice of the Villages"*

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August, 2002

## In Praise of Town Meeting

Over the many years we have participated in town meeting, we have been consistently struck by this extraordinary democratic institution in which everyday citizens gather together to become participatory legislators in their own towns.

This form of government – of, by and for the people – is truly the purest representation of democracy in the United States.

With the exception of Montague, which has a representative town meeting, all of the towns we cover in this paper – Erving, Gill, Wendell and Leverett -- have open town meetings.

To our way of thinking, the open town meeting, only possible in towns with populations under 6,000, is truly the most democratic form of government.

Perhaps because its more recent roots are in New England, it is only in this part of the country where town meeting is still alive and well.

And as the towns in the eastern part of the state are becoming larger and larger, and doing away altogether with town meeting, it is out here, in Western Massachusetts, where this institution continues.

We feel blessed that this form of citizen participation is still so pronounced and so present and so important in our neck of the woods.

Although those who arrived on the *Mayflower* enacted council meetings, the first recorded gathering of (male) voters in America was in Dorchester, MA in 1633.

At their first meeting, the townsmen voted to meet at regular intervals to see to the “good and well ordering of the affayres of the Plantation.”

Within a few years, the larger Boston area had begun adopting the process and as the colonialists advanced south, north and west, they took the idea of town meeting with them.

Democracy, of course, was already in place before the arrival of the English. The Iroquois League (later the Iroquois Federation) practiced a form of town meeting in that it brought together in a council the sachems from the five (later six) different tribes to discuss issues and make decisions by casting votes.

The Penacook Federation had a similar form of democratic governance.

And according to some historians, the example of the democracy practiced by the Wampanoags influenced the Pilgrims in their formation of self-governing councils.

Town meeting, as it is practiced now, is not all that dissimilar from that convened by the early colonists. What is different is the level of participation.

Fewer citizens now participate than they did even 50 years ago, but at the same time, town meeting is far more democratic now than it was until 1920, since until that year women were prohibited from voting.

Our observations of town meeting over the years are that it truly is a place where citizens can air their views, debate the issues, occasionally become contentious and even revolt against selectboard or finance committee initiatives, and then, at the end, walk away and shake hands with one another.

We have heard some complaints that town meeting is not as orderly as it should be. We don’t think that’s a problem. Democracy is occasionally messy, and it should be.

Not everyone of course agrees or has agreed that town meeting is effective in getting the work of the town done.

On February 13, 1788, James Madison wrote in *The Federalist Number 55*, “In all very numerous assemblies, of whatever characters composed, passion never fails to wrest the scepter from reason. Had every Athenian citizen been a Socrates, every Athenian assembly would still have been a mob.”

We tend to agree with Henry David Thoreau, who wrote in his famous anti-slavery lecture, “When, in some obscure country town, the farmers come together to a special town-meeting, to express their opinion on some subject which is vexing the land, that, I think, is the true Congress, and the most respectable one that is ever assembled in the United States.”

### An Apology

As many of you noticed, our January 30 issue (Vol.12#15) was printed out of order – pages A4 and B4 were switched.

This made following article continuations confusing, and may have provided particular difficulty for households with two bathrooms.

We extend our sincere apology for the mixup. It has never happened afore, and we have been assured by the printer that it will never happen again.



## Letters to the Editors

### Checking Each Other For Facts

It’s always good to provide information about Lyme disease, as was done in the Healthy Geezer column of January 23. A couple of comments:

By no means do all infected persons develop a skin rash. It’s the larval deer tick that is minute, and it has only six legs.

The eight-legged adult deer tick is about two-thirds the size of the familiar dog tick, and the nymph (juvenile) stage is about half that size, but still quite visible. The hard-to-see larva is happy to bite us, but not usually infective, because it has not previously fed and rarely contracts the bacteria from the mommy tick.

When they bite us they don’t actually burrow in; it just looks as if they do. What happens is that our tissues swell up around the tick in response to the stuff they spit into us to keep our blood from coagulating.

Sorry about the gross-out, but we geezers – and everyone else – need to remain vigilant.

Melinda Godfrey  
Wendell

### Open Letter to Baystate Franklin Medical Center President Chuck Gijanto

So many in our community are depending upon you to come to the negotiating table and show that the owners of a very fine hospital and you, their representative, prioritize our community as much as your nurses do.

The nurses have demonstrated personally to me, my friends and family, dedication to professionalism, competence and kindness while we underwent serious medical procedures.

Without a just settlement and with a disgruntled staff, there would be no Bay State Franklin Medical Center and no cohesive Franklin County.

We urge and need you to demonstrate the ability to support one goal that preempts all else.

That is to end the strike compelling situation by bargaining and settling differences now.

Looking for a job well done,

Sincerely,  
Nina Keller  
Millers Falls

### A NOTE FROM OUR DISTRIBUTION MANAGER...

When the first issue of the *Montague Reporter* came out on October 2, 2003 the price of a first class stamp was 37 cents, and the cost to mail the paper to our first subscribers was 57 cents.

As of January 26 of this year, the price of a first-class stamp is 49 cents, and the cost to mail the newspaper is 70 cents.

Subscriptions to the *Reporter* which are mailed are priced at \$50 per year. We publish 46 issues per year and spend 70 cents to mail each issue, which means \$32.20 out of every mailed subscription goes to the United States Postal Service.

This leaves a balance of \$17.80 to go towards all other business expenses to publish a weekly newspaper, including printing costs, stipends to reporters, rent, supplies, and telephone and internet service.

And that’s just for our smallest size. This week’s issue, for example, is full of local news and we needed

to increase the size of the newspaper to 14 pages.

That small change increases the mail weight to just over 2 ounces, so add another 21 cents. This week’s issue will be loaded with stamps, adding up to 91 cents.

The *Reporter* is a non-profit corporation, but should not be losing money in serving those subscribers who receive their weekly newspaper via the mail.

For many years the *Reporter* used “bulk mail”, which is really second-class mail. That changed in 2010 for three reasons: the price difference between 1st- and 2nd-class mail was reduced, 2nd-class mail was getting slower, and the regional headquarters of USPS eliminated bulk mailing from the Turners Falls Post Office.

Bulk mailings would have to be brought over to the post office in Greenfield by 1 p.m., a tough deadline to meet when the newspaper ar-

rives at our office from the printer at about 2 p.m. So our only option was to go back to first-class mail.

The USPS does a very good job getting the mail delivered anywhere in the United States, and we think 49 cents for letters and 70 cents for our newspaper is still reasonable.

The *Reporter* certainly appreciates all of the customers around the country, and we currently mail the newspaper to 19 states and Puerto Rico.

This month I will be asking the *Montague Reporter’s* Board of Directors to approve a price increase to \$60 for mailed subscriptions.

If they approve it, it may come with an across-the-board increase that would include hand-delivered newspapers.

Many subscribers already include an extra amount when they renew, which is greatly appreciated.

Don Clegg

... AND FINALLY, OUR POETRY PAGE EDITOR REQUESTS YOUR LOVE POEMS FOR A SPECIAL VALENTINE’S DAY EDITION NEXT WEEK. SEND TO: EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

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## LOCAL BRIEFS

JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

Compiled by DON CLEGG

**Newt Guilbault Little League** (Cal Ripken) **Sign Ups** are beginning at the Montague Police Department Community Room on Wednesday February 5, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. and Sunday February 9 from noon to 2 p.m.; and at Turners Falls High School gym (use side door) on Saturday February 8 from 10 to noon.

Bring a **copy** of your child's birth certificate if signing them up for the first time.

We welcome all children from Montague and surrounding communities, except for students in the Greenfield, Mohawk and Frontier school districts. Please sign up early. More dates to be scheduled.

The **Mutton and Mead Medieval Festival** will be hosting cast auditions for their 2014 season on February 7, 8 and 9 with snow dates on February 10 and 11 with callbacks the following weeks. Please see [www.muttonandmead.com](http://www.muttonandmead.com) for more details about the festival and these auditions.

The 2nd annual art show sponsored by the Greenfield Local Cultural Council, "**01301/2: photos of Greenfield**," will feature photos chosen from submissions to the Master Plan photo contest, and ones submitted directly to the GLCC.

The show runs from February 6 through the end of March at the Greenfield Community College Downtown Campus at 270 Main Street. Building hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and in the evenings when classes are being held.

Northfield Mount Hermon School students perform a **concert** to

**benefit Big Brothers Big Sisters** of Franklin County on Friday, February 7 starting at 7:30 p.m. Community members are invited for an evening of music by talented NMH student musicians. Admission is free, and donations will be accepted to benefit Big Brothers Big Sisters of Franklin County. The concert will be held in Raymond Hall at Northfield Mount Hermon School in Gill.

The Leverett Library Film Club will present **Tootsie**, at 7 or 7:30 – TBD – on February 7 at the **Leverett Library**, 75 Montague Rd, Leverett. This PG-rated romantic comedy is one of the classic films of the 1980s with Dustin Hoffman, Jessica Lange, Charles Durning, Teri Garr, Bill Murray, and Geena Davis.

Ward off the winter doldrums with **chocolate**, chocolate, chocolate on Friday, February 14. Select chocolate treats for your Valentine – or for you, get a cake decorated for you by Culinary Arts students at Franklin County Technical School, take a chance on some beautiful Valentine gift baskets, or participate in a silent auction for some special Valentine items.

You can also enjoy Clinical Notes performing "Love-ly Songs" in the main lobby (12:15 to 12:45 p.m.). Proceeds from this year's Chocolate Fantasy will **benefit patients and services in BFMC's Rehabilitation Department**. Held in Baystate Franklin Medical Center's Conference Rooms ABC, located at 164 High Street in Greenfield from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Also February 14: Eveline MacDougall and Douglas Reid, **Fire Pond**, present a wide variety of music: old-time fiddle tunes, swing, roots music, Celtic, Eastern European, folk, gospel, and

originals. The Valentine's Evening show at the Great Falls Discovery Center will feature many types of love songs (love for the earth, love for each other, good jokes, family, chocolate, & community).

The concert will be geared for people of all ages and all walks of life. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., concert begins at 7 p.m. Refreshments are available. Museum and museum store open at intermission. Donations (\$6-\$12 suggested) help the Friends support free programming at the Great Falls Discovery Center, at 2 Avenue A in Turners Falls.

On Saturday, February 15, the Nolumbeka Project will present the documentary "**Great Falls: Discovery, Destruction and Preservation in a Massachusetts Town**" at 11:45 a.m. at the Great Falls Discovery Center. Discussion to follow. Free admission, donations to the Nolumbeka Project gratefully accepted.

A dramatic story of environmental and cultural preservation, the film chronicles a 2009 attempted expansion of Turners Falls' airport which called for the removal of a Native American ritual site. Directed by Ted Timreck, produced by Timreck and Peter Frechette. The film is part of the Hidden Landscapes Project, which represents a new collaborative approach to the long standing controversy surrounding the stone ruins of Eastern North America.

On this day, the Nolumbeka Project will be celebrating its first year as the holder of the deed to, and stewards of, the historic 10,000 year old Wissatinnewag village site in Greenfield, MA, on the west bank of the Connecticut River at the foot of the Great Falls.

Members of the Project are humbled and grateful for the challenges and rewards this stewardship has manifested and welcome others to join the organization.

Snow date: May 18, 2014. Information at 413-657-6020 [www.nolumbekaproject.org](http://www.nolumbekaproject.org).

**Montague poets** will give a **reading to benefit the Unity Skatepark** at the Rendezvous, 78 3rd Street, in Turners Falls on Sunday, February 16, beginning at 4 p.m. Luke Buckham, Janel Nockleby, Chris Sawyer-Lauçanno, and Paul Mariani will read during the first set. From 5:30 to 6:30 there will be a break, with music provided by the 4th Street Rhythm band.

At 6:30 p.m., a second set of readings will occur, beginning with Kevin Smith, Allen Fowler, Edite Cunha, and David Detmold, followed by Patricia Pruitt, Kristen Bock and Chris Janke.

Members of the skatepark committee will be on hand to provide an **update on plans to build a permanent skatepark** in Unity Park in Turners Falls.

The Rendezvous will donate 10% of all sales between 4 and 8 p.m. on February 16 to the Unity Skatepark campaign fund. MCTV will videotape the reading for rebroadcast and home vimeo. For more information, go to: [unityskatepark.com](http://unityskatepark.com) or [rendezvousfma.com](http://rendezvousfma.com).

Celebrating its sixth anniversary, the Eventide Singers will present their fourth annual **Hospice Benefit concert** on Sunday, February 16, at 3 p.m. at the First Congregational Church at 43 Silver Street in Greenfield. The concert is being sponsored by The Arbors, Buckley Nursing Home, with additional support from Charlene Manor.

Eventide is an all-volunteer gathering of singers whose primary purpose is to sing in small ensembles for anyone whose illness may confine them to their home or care facility and for the terminally ill and their caregivers.

As a large ensemble, Eventide sings at important public memorial services for the Hospice of Franklin County, the Veteran's Administration Hospital, Meals on Wheels, and others. The benefit concert will also feature two speakers sharing their experience of Eventide singing for their loved ones.

Requests for Eventide's free

bedside and home singing services have grown steadily over the past six years. In 2013 Eventide sang at 63 engagements, comforting the sick and home bound. Besides private sings, Eventide sings at the Fisher Home in Amherst, the Buckley Care Center, Charlene Manor and Poet's Seat Nursing home in Greenfield, the Farren Center in Turners, and the New England Health Center in Sunderland.

Admission to the February 16 concert is by suggested donation ranging from \$12 to \$15. For additional information call (413) 774-5828 or email [joetoritto@yahoo.com](mailto:joetoritto@yahoo.com).

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## GUEST EDITORIAL

## Gill's Splendid Opportunity For A Cottage Industry

By JOE  
PARZYCH



For decades, I plowed snow for the State as hired equipment. When plowing the Gill-Turners Falls Bridge with a plow truck, a State plow truck led the way.

The State foreman often instructed us to plow snow away from the bridge sidewalk by plowing on the left side of the bridge into the face of oncoming vehicles, during periods of light traffic.

It was intimidating; for them, anyway. Going around to plow a second swath in the same direction sent much of the snow through the railings into the river.

The following day, the foreman often instructed me to clear snow with my 4-wheel drive bucket loader at intersections, rest areas, the French King Bridge, the Gill-Turners Falls Bridge and the Factory Hollow Bridge and its sidewalk, which led all the way to Factory Hollow.

Half of each bridge mentioned lies in Gill. After plowing, I cleared snow banks from the Gill-Turners Falls Bridge on the side opposite the sidewalk, and assisted the State Bridge Crew from the Northampton office by loosening snow, packed down into ice by pedestrians walking on the unplowed sidewalk, now frozen solid from the dam's spray.

The state foreman instructed me to cast the snow into the river. The bridge crew also cast snow into the river, which makes sense, since snow melting on the bridge drains into the river.

The State Bridge Crew never quite got the sidewalk cleared before it snowed, again, since they had to travel from Northampton to the Erving State Garage.

From there, the crew retraced their route to the Gill-Turners Bridge, took numerous coffee breaks, an extended lunch break back at the Erving Garage, another coffee break at the Glen, back to Erving for an early start to get to Northampton before quitting time.

That left little time to chip at the ice and snow on a sidewalk they never finished clearing. It was

largely an exercise in futility, but an exercise at good pay.

My job was to clear the Factory Hollow bridge snow banks, as well as snow on the bridge sidewalk, dumping snow into the Falls River.

I did very little clearing of the French King Bridge, half of which also lies in Gill. But with Gill willing to go into the sidewalk clearing business, that could change.

It perhaps is a serious mistake for Gill to start down the slippery slope of assuming responsibility for clearing the Gill-Turners Bridge sidewalk.

If we establish a precedent by assuming that responsibility, based on half of the bridge being in Gill, then it only follows that we should assume responsibility for clearing, salting and sanding, then sweeping off the sand in the spring, of not only that bridge, but the Factory Hollow and French King Bridge, as well.

In addition, were we to take on the responsibility of clearing snow and ice from any of the bridges, there's the inherent liability we'd assume for anyone slipping and falling on the sidewalk that we'd agreed to maintain.

Any kind of responsibility could possibly lead not only to lawsuits but cleaning and painting the sidewalk railings, since half of the railings are in Gill.

Since the railings are bolted to the sidewalk, which now would be Gill's baby, we could be stuck with replacing the railings when they rust out as it would logically follow.

Since the sidewalk rests on beams subject to rusting from spray from the dam (half of which is also in Gill), then it follows that we should also be held responsible for maintaining the beams beneath the sidewalk we agreed to clear of snow and ice.

The sidewalk beams are connected to other beams which also need maintenance, and on to other beams that rest on piers that eventually deteriorate, if one of the piers is on the Gill side. It could become a sticky situation.

Since half of the Turners Falls Dam is in Gill, perhaps we should take on maintenance of that, too.

A topic that did not get an airing at the selectmen's meeting is SPS' responsibility in maintaining a cleared walkway.

In all my years in construction, I never worked

on a bridge under reconstruction that did not have a stipulation that the contractor maintain a pedestrian walkway.

SPS did maintain a cleared walkway for a period, but SPS has not done so, lately, though the bridge reconstruction is still incomplete.

I contacted Sara Lavoie, spokesperson for MassDOT, but have not heard a peep. So long as we folks in Gill are foolish enough to consider taking on the clearing of the sidewalk, MassDOT isn't losing. And it is only prudent for them to keep their traps shut.

On the Factory Hollow Bridge project, the state bridge contract stipulated that Northern Construction maintain a pedestrian walkway, even though the number of pedestrians crossing the bridge is about that of sighting an Arctic Owl, flying upside down.

According to a Northern Construction employee, last Fall three kids playing hooky, and on another day a man carrying a weed whacker, were the only pedestrians seen crossing the Factory Hollow Bridge since the job's inception.

The state initially required Northern Construction to build a specially constructed walkway, hung on brackets attached to the bridge.

The carpenter, building the walkway, used more board feet of lumber building the walkway than he'd used in building his five-room house.

The five room house, masquerading as a plywood walkway, is now gone. It was demolished along with the southerly section of the bridge in preparation for replacement of that section.

A walkway, cleared of snow by Northern Construction's snowblower, is now sandwiched between two chain link fences waiting in vain for that elusive pedestrian to show up.

Shame on Gill for not stepping up to the plate and taking on that responsibility, too.

Looking on the bright side: this Gill-Turners Falls Bridge sidewalk debacle could develop into a whole new enterprise for Gill, making it a sizable source of employment as sidewalk maintenance morphs into more and more, and wider responsibility (and liability) for Gill citizens. It could be our very own cottage industry.

Naturally, with the payroll, liability, insurance premiums, workmen's compensation insurance, health and accident insurance and other incidentals, there's something we should not talk about – that being a hike in our taxes.



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### NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

## Wastewater Scrutinized

By KATIE NOLAN

The Erving selectboard and finance committee met jointly on February 3 to start developing the town's FY'15 budget. Initial budget requests totaled \$9.2 million.

The selectboard and fincom will meet with department heads in February and March to discuss requests and publish the budget in the Around Town newsletter in April. Annual town meeting is set for May 5.

Looking at a stabilization fund of \$6.1 million and \$1.25 million in free cash, fincom chair Daniel Hammock commented that the town's finances were "in pretty good shape."

Assuming a 2.5% increase in property taxes, the town can raise approximately \$8.9 million from taxation.

Selectboard member Eugene Klepadlo and fincom member Arthur Johnson questioned whether the town should begin the budget season by assuming the allowed 2.5% annual increase in property taxes.

Selectboard chair Andrew Goodwin advised that the town should be saving money into the stabilization fund while it can. If the 2.5% increase is not included, he said, "What are you going to cut? Or are we not going to save? Saving now will protect us in the future."

Town coordinator Tom Sharp noted that the salary figures presented in the draft budget are unchanged from the FY'14 amounts, because the board has not decided on cost of living adjustment (COLA) or merit-based raise amounts.

#### Wastewater Contract

The board continued discussion of the January 13 request from Erving Industries, Inc. president Morris Housen to extend the company's

current wastewater treatment facility contract for operating the town's POTW#2 treatment plant for three to five years.

POTW#2, which treats Erving Center residential and commercial wastes while it treats Erving Paper Mill wastewater, is operated by Erving Industries subsidiary ERSECO.

The town pays \$1 per year for the wastewater treatment, and receives \$50,000 per year as a share of the tipping fees paid by outside waste producers.

According to Housen, even with tipping fees, the plant does not make a profit. The town's contract with Erving Industries expires in June.

Former selectboard chair Andrew Tessier, who helped negotiate the original contract, said that the payments from ERSECO were meant to be set aside, in case the town had to take over operation of POTW#2.

If the paper mill were not operating and sending wastes, the town would have to replace the plant to treat the much lower waste input from Erving Center residential and commercial properties.

Tessier quoted a figure of \$1 million to replace POTW#2 with a smaller treatment plant and questioned whether the town had enough set aside for replacement.

Sharp said that a Tighe & Bond report estimated a cost of \$500,000.

However, Tessier said, "Some of the [tipping fee] revenue should come to the town."

At the January 13 meeting, Housen reported a total of \$583,735 in tipping fees for 2013.

Selectboard member Margaret Sullivan asked the fincom to review the contract with ERSECO, suggesting that the town could ask for revisions to the terms of the contract.

For instance, Sullivan suggested,

if tipping fee revenues increase, a percentage of the increase could be paid to the town, or the payment to the town could increase annually by a specified percentage.

#### The fate of the sludge

At the January 27 meeting, the selectboard approved supporting Erving Industries, Inc. in seeking "a minor modification of a major modification permit" for upgrades to ERSECO's sludge landfill.

The sludge comes from the town-owned treatment plant, operated by Erving Industries subsidiary ERSECO, which treats a portion of the town's residential and commercial wastes while it treats Erving Paper Mill wastewater.

Jeff Collingwood of ERSECO's consultant Stantec said that Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) had required repairs to the landfill cap and improved drainage.

He said that ERSECO is also seeking a permit from MassDEP to produce biosolids and plans to use the landfill area for manufacture and stockpiling of biosolids.

According to US EPA's Office of Wastewater Management, "When treated and processed, sewage sludge becomes biosolids, which can be safely recycled and applied as fertilizer to sustainably improve and maintain productive soils and stimulate plant growth."

"Only biosolids that meet the most stringent standards spelled out in the Federal and state rules can be approved for use as a fertilizer."

MassDEP's biosolids regulations require testing of the material for pathogens, metals, and polychlorinated biphenyls before it is used.

Due to potential for odors from the manufacture of biosolids, ERSECO is reaching out to neighbors to discuss the production plans.

However, Collingwood said that,

ing here but you don't know what it is, do you Mr. Jones."

In other action the board approved a request from Michael Nelson and Kelsey Cadran to add a 5 Kilometer Road Race to the planned spring parade (April 14).

The road race will begin before the parade and run in the opposite direction, beginning and ending at Turners Falls High School. Nelson assured the board that the events had been planned so that joggers and paraders would not run into each other.

Tom Juravich, a resident of Lake Pleasant, requested to purchase several "paper streets" adjacent to his property. "Paper streets" are pathways or roads no longer in use by vehicles or regular foot traffic but which remain town property.

Selectboard member Michael Nelson said that he had taken a "field trip" to the area earlier in the day: "If I hadn't seen this [property] map I never would have known this road was there," he stated.

The selectboard decided to hand the issue off to the planning board, which would consider a variety of related issues including the need for surveys and potential easements.

even in the enclosed plant, he has not noticed strong odors during tests of the material. As part of its odor control program, ERSECO plans to manufacture the biosolids in winter. Collingwood said that biosolids production would start as soon as permitted by MassDEP.

#### Future Actions

The board received draft policies on use of town electronic equipment and email from Jacqueline Boyden. The board agreed to finalize the policies at the February 10 meeting.

The board will meet February 24 with Fire Chief Philip Wonkka to discuss the purchase of a new fire engine.

#### Other Announcements

The Massachusetts Municipal Association will hold a legislative breakfast meeting for town officials and local legislators at the Erving Senior/Community Center on February 28 from 8 to 10 a.m.

According to the MMA website, the meeting will provide information about the state budget, including school and municipal aid. MMA will present information about the unfunded liability for retired employee health insurance benefits and the prospects for reform legislation.

According to town coordinator Tom Sharp, Erving selectboard chair Goodwin, whose term expires this year, will not run for re-election.

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### NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

## Board Reflects on Loss of Kennel

By JEFF SINGLETON

"I guess we all need to reflect," said Montague Selectboard Chair Mark Fairbrother. "I think what this board needs is that we need to give explicit instructions." Fairbrother's comments were in response to the emerging reality that the popular and successful dog kennel, operated by the Franklin County Sheriff's department, would soon be leaving Montague. This unexpected development was clearly a big disappointment to the board.

What at first appeared to be a relatively minor "lack of communication" had turned into a complete breakdown in trust. The Sheriff, Chris Donelan, had approached the board in November requesting a three-year extension on the use of the kennel building off of Turnpike Road. The selectboard, concerned that the kennel stood in the way of a planned industrial park, granted a two year extension.

Everyone seemed happy with the compromise. But then nothing hap-

pened. Both the town administrator and Sheriff assumed someone else was writing the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) codifying the agreement.

Problems involving highway department use of an adjoining bay, which the kennel wanted for veterinary services, dangled unresolved. The Sheriff abruptly sent a message to Fairbrother saying, in essence, "I'm sick of dealing with Montague, we are looking for another location." The Sheriff did not respond to efforts to pull together a problem-solving meeting.

The discussion on Monday night revealed few new details in the controversy. The selectboard, or at least Mr. Fairbrother, seemed to feel town officials should have been more proactive in solving the few outstanding issues. The town officials seemed to feel the problems could have been easily solved with a bit more communication from the Sheriff's side. Outside observers were reminded of the famous Bob Dylan line, "Something is happen-

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## NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

## Paperwork Delays Solar; Freeriders Ruin Internet

By JOSH HEINEMANN

with Hampshire Power.

The Wendell selectboard had a long agenda for its January 29 meeting but much of the business was straightforward, and board members were able to complete the town's business in just over an hour.

Wanita Sears met the board and was hired for the clerk position shared by the open space committee and the energy committee. Her work will be mostly taking minutes, typing reports, and filing, and is estimated to take 11 to 14 hours per month, for an annual salary of \$2,400.

Selectboard chair Christine Heard told Sears to keep track of the actual time she puts into the job and alert the selectboard if she works 16 hours or more so that the town can make the right appropriation at the next annual town meeting.

At the request of the open space committee, the selectboard appointed Trevor Kearns of Montague Road to that committee. His appointment brings it up to its full complement of 5 members.

## Green Communities

Wendell has \$37,500 from the Green Communities grant money that the town can give to homeowners for energy improvements to their own homes. Energy committee chair Nan Riebschlaeger met the board and told them the procedure.

Payment will be made after work is completed. If the vendor is willing to wait for the town payment process, the town can pay after it receives an invoice for the completed work. Otherwise the homeowner can pay the bill, submit the invoice to the town and get reimbursed through the town process.

Selectboard members go through the bills and approve payment at the beginning of each regular meeting, and later in the meeting Carolyn Manley, the treasurer, takes the approved bills and pays them.

## Solar

Seaboard Solar has not yet paid Wendell what the company promised for hosting 8 megawatts of solar electricity generation, but town coordinator Nancy Aldrich said they are not reneging, and the slow start is not so much physical construction of facilities as negotiating the maze of paperwork required by the state.

One megawatt is nearly ready for connection to the grid, and all eight megawatts are on track to be connected in the next year.

Within three weeks, Seaboard Solar will pay the town for the lawyer fees that were incurred negotiating their contract with the town as they had agreed.

Aldrich will call Seaboard executives to see how the company's contract charge Wendell a lower rate for electricity meshes with the fixed-price contract the town has

## Information Technology

Selectboard member Jeoffrey Pooser (who brought wasabi almonds to the meeting, and passed them around to everyone in the room) said that he had disabled the town office building's wireless internet connection.

The HughesNet daily limit has been repeatedly exceeded, resulting in an almost complete stop to internet service the following day.

He said that the office building's Wifi connection was intended for town business, and that the excessive use was happening between 7 and 11 p.m., and not likely to be official use.

He himself sometimes uses the Wifi connection at meetings, but most official town work can be done through the wired internet connection.

Pooser said that Microsoft is abandoning its support for Windows XP, and that the people who use the town computers should make their computer needs known.

The computer that Aldrich uses is slowing down and is nearly obsolete and other town computers are also aging.

## Special Town Meeting

The board set Thursday, February 27 as the date for a special town meeting. So far the warrant has four articles, three to pay bills of prior years, and one article that would declare Wendell a no-fracking zone.

Other articles for that town meeting should be submitted to Nancy Aldrich for the warrant to be posted by February 13.

## Yes

Budget season is beginning, and accordingly finance committee member Doug Tanner came into the room and said, "May I ask a question?"

As one, the selectboard members answered, "Yes, and this is your answer."

Tanner asked, "May I ask another question?" and the selectboard members again answered, "Yes."

Tanner asked for departments and boards to submit their budget sheets to the Fin Com.

## Building Repairs

Selectboard members began to discuss continuing maintenance and repairs of town properties, which ordinarily is budgeted at \$10,000 a year.

The senior center roof should be replaced, and the estimate for that is \$15,000, and the senior center ramp needs work.

The town hall needs grading by the cellar door to direct water away from the building, and Aldrich said that \$2,000 should go for continuing maintenance of the emergency generators and heating systems.

Keller said the office building mechanical room has a smell of oil which gets worse right after a delivery. He said that the seals around the oil tank fittings are probably leaking, but that also a small vent fan in that room might be a good idea.

## Law and Order

Selectboard members gave final approval for the town's CORI check policy. Aldrich will conduct the check for people doing ongoing work with vulnerable populations, seniors, and children. Someone giving a single presentation, or performance will not be checked.

CORI information can only go to the hiring group, most likely the library, the council on aging, or the recreation committee and the town's copy must be kept separate and locked.

## Other Business

The updated town hall use check list includes turning the water heater off, and turning the thermostat down to 55 degrees.

The selectboard will hold an extra meeting Wednesday, February 5 to review applications for a part time fire chief. Two have been received, and the board plans to interview them with advice from Orange fire chief Dennis Annear on Saturday February 8.

Aldrich said that selectboard clerk, Joy Gorzocoski has organized and compiled the town's bylaws by going through records of town meetings back too many years to number. Jenn Gross will put the bylaws into digital form, which will make them available on the town website.

## SPRING from page A1

Muhammad's branch believed that only a blood relative of the Prophet could rule and he named his son-in-law Ali to be his successor. As it stands, Shi'a are present in all Islamic countries, but in general are the minority with the exception of Iran and Iraq.

Syria is yet another variation on this minority sect vs. majority sect. In Syria one Shi'ite family, the Alawites, has held power continuously since 1970 and is the sect of President Assad while the Sunni majority holds none.

Interestingly, Thornton recalled Georg Büchner's play, *Danton's Death* in which a character says, "Revolution, like Saturn, devours its offspring."

At the moment Syria is very troublesome, Egypt seems somewhat more stable, but Tunisia may be the one Arab country whose "revolution" seems to be succeeding along something like democratic lines.

Tunisia's struggle was once dubbed "The Jasmine Revolution," and in fact the uprising has

brought the biggest changes in this country since WWI. The old government left peacefully, and elections have gone forward.

Egypt, according to Thornton, is involved in a triangular struggle. At the top is the Army, the source of all rulers heretofore to have come, and so in conflict or chaos the army steps in. A second corner of the triangle is the Islamists, who seek a religious state. And in the opposite corner are liberal revolutionary youth, who have benefitted from the high literacy and other educational opportunities Egypt has made.

Both Tunisia and Egypt have shown big gains on the United Nations Human Development Index.

However, Egyptian youths' high expectations collided with the world economic downturn of 2010 which saw food prices increase by a third worldwide, even while 40% of the world are living on \$2 or less per day.

Another perhaps less known fact brought out by Thornton is that the Egyptian army is a major player in the economy of Egypt, controlling about 30% of econom-

ic activity, a position Thornton feels the army is not likely to give up willingly.

Quoting Marwan Muasher, the Jordanian Under-Prime Minister and author of the book *The Battle for Pluralism*, the way to a democratic future in these countries requires the following:

- 1) Establishing a system of checks and balances;
- 2) Providing for the peaceful rotation of power through elections;
- 3) Instilling respect for human rights and a practice of inclusion; and
- 4) establishing an independent judiciary.

Thornton cautioned such democratic values and institutions will not develop overnight, and indeed, may take decades.

The next symposium will be held on February 12, 2014 from 2-4 p.m. at GCC's Downtown Center.

The topic is **W.E.B. DuBois: From Great Barrington to The World**, presented by Whitney Battle-Baptiste.



## Notes from the Wendell Town Clerk

## Dog Licenses Available

Dog licenses are now available at the Town Clerk Office. All dogs 6 months and older must be licensed and tagged every year. Proof of rabies vaccination and the appropriate fee is required. Fee for a neutered or spayed dog is \$4 and for an unaltered dog is \$8. There is a late fee of \$20 for dogs licensed after Wednesday evening, April 2, 2014. Dog licenses may be purchased on Wednesday evenings 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. or Saturday mornings 9:30 to noon. Call (978) 544-3395 x 102 with any questions.

## Nomination Papers Available

Nomination papers for the Annual Town Election on Monday May 5 are now available at the Town Clerk Office. The last day to obtain nomination papers is Thursday, March 13, and the last day to submit nomination papers to the Board of Registrars for certification is Monday, March 17. Offices are as follows: Selectboard, Board of Assessors, Town Clerk, Tax Collector, Treasurer, Cemetery Commissioner, and Road Commissioner all have one position open for a 3-year term; Board of Health has one position for a 3-year term and one position to fill a vacancy for a 2-year term. Planning Board has one position for a 5-year term; School Committee and Library Trustees each have two positions for a 3-year term. Town Moderator and Tree Warden each have one position for a 1-year term. The annual town election will be held on Monday, May 5. The polls will be open from noon to 8 p.m. The deadline to register to vote is Tuesday, April 15. For more information, call the Town Clerk at (978) 544-3395 x 102.

## Election Dates, Town Meeting and Absentee Voting

There are three election dates scheduled for Wendell in 2014 thus far. The Annual Town Election is on Monday, May 5 with a voter registration deadline of April 15. The date for the State Primary is Tuesday, September 9 with a voter registration deadline of August 20. The date for the State Election is Tuesday, November 4 with a voter registration deadline of October 15. Also, please mark your calendars for the Annual Town Meeting which is set to begin at 10am on Saturday, June 7 with a voter registration deadline of May 16. It is important for all registered voters to keep their registration information up to date, informing the Town Clerk of any changes in name, mailing address or residential street listing. The deadline to obtain an absentee voter application for any election is Noon the day prior to the election date. Applications are available at the town clerk's office or on-line at: [www.sec.state.ma.us](http://www.sec.state.ma.us) For more information call (978) 544-3395 x 102.

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**MEETING** from page A1 comfortable.”

He also said that the prospective companies had agreed to have video cameras installed in their facility with a direct connection to the police department. “These would be mainly used in the evening. It would allow us to see what was going on if we had to send in officers.... At this point, I have no worries.”

Robert Quinn O’Connor asked several questions, including whether there would be any issue with Montague having a marijuana-growing facility, “if, say, Ted Cruz became president.” Ramsey reassured him that this would not be a problem.

Quinn O’Connor also suggested that the wording of the zoning law be changed. The planning board had written: “The special permit may be limited to the current applicant and to provide that the permit shall lapse if the applicant ceases operating the RMD or if the applicant registration with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health expires or is terminated.”

Quinn O’Connor suggested that “may be limited” be changed to “is limited,” as he thought that would strengthen the regulation.

Ramsey responded that the wording could be changed but that the board had spent considerable time on the language.

Quinn O’Connor did not pursue the matter but later in the meeting, Jeanne Golrick did. She proposed an amendment to change the wording to that which Quinn O’Connor had suggested. Considerable back-and-forth followed.

Building inspector and member from Precinct two, David Jensen, argued that the “may” should be left as is. “The applicant may not be the owner,” he said. He also stated that the current wording allowed more flexibility on the part of the Board of Appeals.

Town meeting agreed with Mr. Jensen. Golrick’s amendment was soundly voted down.

The discussion both prior to and after the vote on the amendment was considerably wide-ranging. Twice, moderator Ray Godin had to inform speakers that they were addressing issues beyond the scope of the article.

Kathleen Burek, from Precinct One, stated emphatically that she was against drugs and alcohol. “I

moved here,” she said, “because this was a nice town. Do we really want a facility in Montague for drugs? We have a drug problem already. Let’s wake up. Do we want to have drugs forced down our throats?”

Burek continued to speak against drug use until Godin reminded her that the issue was zoning, and that whether Montague liked it or not, the town could not prevent a facility from moving here.

“Let’s wake up.  
Do we want to have  
drugs forced down  
our throats?”

Kathleen Burek  
Precinct One

On the other side of the coin was Charles Kelley, from Precinct Four, who stated that he was a pot smoker and that Montague was a pot town. He also said he welcomed a medical marijuana facility here, as it would lower the street price.

Godin reminded him, as he had Burek, that his views on drugs were not germane to the article in question.

After about an hour of lively debate and discussion, town meeting overwhelmingly passed the zoning bylaw change.

Demolition Plea Demolished

Although town meeting members certainly participated widely in the debate over the zoning change, their ardor for discussion was not yet cooled.

Article 2 asked that money, originally appropriated by town meeting to the Montague Economic Development and Industrial Corporation (MEDIC) for repair of the former Cumberland Farms building at 38 Avenue A, instead be used for demolition of that building.

This was the third town meeting in which the question of demolition of this building was hotly debated.

According to MEDIC, a balance of \$29,000, out of \$30,000 appropriated previously, was sufficient to cover the cost of demolition.

Lynn Reynolds, from Precinct One, and a member of MEDIC, stated that the original plan for the

building was to transfer the property to Montague Community Cable Inc (MCCI) for a new studio, but that as MCCI had failed to obtain financing, she was appealing for the third time to town meeting to allow the reserve money to be used for demolition.

Garry Earles, co-chair of the Cable Advisory Committee (CAC) and a member from Precinct Four, asked why the repairs were not done when town meeting had appropriated the money. He did not receive an answer from Reynolds.

But David Jensen did weigh in, stating that in his opinion he did not feel MEDIC had acted wisely, and implied that they had ignored the wishes of town meeting that had twice said no to demolition and twice said yes to repairs.

“When the roof didn’t leak it was occupied,” he said. He also said that the building was still structurally sound, but that repairs had to be made. “Demo is premature,” he argued.

Ramsey, on the other hand, argued for demolition. He stated that the location was a key site in town and could be redeveloped in a much more attractive way.

He also said that if the building were to be demolished, electrical and water utilities would be left in place for use by the farmers’ market. He added that a roof repair would cost \$100, 000.

Selectboard chair Mark Fairbrother was emphatic: “The best thing we can do is take that piece of junk down.”

Charles Kelley, speaking this time as a former MCCI board member, had a very different view. He argued the reason MCCI had not been able to obtain financing was because MEDIC had “hamstrung MCCI from the get go.” He also

argued that MCCI was “95 percent there” with obtaining financing.

Mike Langknecht, current MCCI president and member from Precinct One, echoed Kelley’s remarks, but stated that a major obstacle that got in the way of MCCI being able to obtain financing was that the CAC had not yet come to terms with Comcast on a cable agreement.

As a result, he said, the one lender that had seemed willing to give money to MCCI had backed off due to uncertainty as to whether MCCI would remain the local access provider.

Mik Muller, now a Greenfield resident but an MCCI board member, told the meeting that MCCI was ready to move in and do the work: “You won’t have to spend \$26,000 [on demolition] and you’ll get a better TV station.”

“The best thing we  
can do is tear that  
piece of junk down.”

Mark Fairbrother  
Selectboard Chair

Muller also noted that another issue with financing had been that MEDIC had put out bids for demolition, and that only helped to scuttle the lender’s agreement with MCCI.

Garry Earles disputed Langknecht’s claim that the Comcast negotiations were an issue. “The town decides who is going to run the TV station, not Comcast.” Earles said.

Jeff Singleton, from Precinct

One, said he was struggling over why bids for demolition had been put out when town meeting had not appropriated money for that purpose.

Ramsey answered Singleton by saying that bid solicitation was done at the discretion of MEDIC in order to be able to inform town meeting what the full cost of demolition would be.

Ramsey’s comments, however, did little to mollify many members, who were clearly not happy that MEDIC had twice ignored their wishes, and had done nothing to repair the building except for patching the roof.

The strong “no” vote, again, sent a very strong message to MEDIC that demolition was not a course they wished to pursue.

Other Articles Passed

Articles 3, 4 and 5, all money transfer items, were far less contentious and easily passed with more than the two-thirds vote required for all money articles.

Article 3 appropriated \$5,000 to pay legal fees for the Comcast negotiations, passed with more than the required two-thirds vote.

Article 4 sent \$15,000 into the Parks and Recreation account for refurbishing and making handicap accessible the public restrooms in the Unity Park field house.

Article 5 gave the police department an additional \$20,000. Chief Dodge persuasively argued that the money was necessary as his department had incurred additional overtime expenses, had to pay for an unanticipated 30 percent increase in insurance premiums, and had to make use of the assessment center process to promote a detective to sergeant.



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY DIVISION

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

Project File No. 604696

A Design Public Hearing will be held by MassDOT to discuss the proposed Rehabilitation of Hatchery Road and Greenfield Road Pedestrian Bridge project in Montague, MA.

WHERE: Montague Public Safety Complex, Community Meeting Room,  
180 Turnpike Road, Turners Falls, MA 01376

WHEN: Thursday, February 20, 2014 @ 6:30 PM

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Hatchery Road and Greenfield Road project. All views and comments made at the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The proposed project consists of replacing the existing pavement, widening of the roadway throughout the project limits to include shared use bicycle accommodations, construction of a limited shared-use pedestrian-cyclist bridge, reconstructing driveway aprons, drainage system repairs/upgrades, installing new signs and pavement markings, and widening for a left-turn lane northbound on Turners Falls Road.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. MassDOT is responsible for acquiring all needed rights in private or public lands.  
MassDOT’s policy concerning land acquisitions will be discussed at this hearing.

Written views received by MassDOT subsequent to the date of this notice and up to five (5) days prior to the date of the hearing shall be displayed for public inspection and copying at the time and date listed above. Plans will be on display one-half hour before the hearing begins, with an engineer in attendance to answer questions regarding this project. A project handout will be made available on the MassDOT website listed below.

Written statements and other exhibits in place of, or in addition to, oral statements made at the Public Hearing regarding the proposed undertaking are to be submitted to Patricia A. Leavenworth, P.E., Chief Engineer, MassDOT, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Roadway Project Management Project File No. 604696. Such submissions will also be accepted at the hearing. Mailed statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing transcript must be postmarked within ten (10) business days of this Public Hearing.  
Project inquiries may be emailed to [dot.feedback.highway@state.ma.us](mailto:dot.feedback.highway@state.ma.us)

This location is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (including but not limited to interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, open or closed captioning for videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats, such as audio tapes, Braille and large print), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT’s Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368-8580), fax (857-368-0602), TTD/TTY (857-368-0603) or by email ([MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us)). Requests should be made as soon as possible prior to the meeting, and for more difficult to arrange services including sign-language, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten (10) business days before the meeting.

In case of inclement weather, hearing cancellation announcements will be posted on the internet at [www.massdot.state.ma.us/Highway/](http://www.massdot.state.ma.us/Highway/)

FRANCIS A. DEPAOLA, P.E.  
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR

PATRICIA A. LEAVENWORTH, P.E.  
CHIEF ENGINEER

TURNERS FALLS FIRE DISTRICT  
NOMINATION PAPERS AVAILABLE

Nomination papers for the annual Turners Falls Fire District election are now available to all district residents from the District Office located at 226 Millers Falls Road until Friday, March 4.

Papers must be returned no later than Tuesday, March 8. The District Office is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

All potential candidates need to obtain 30 signatures from registered voters of the Turners Falls Fire District.

Offices are as follows:

- District Clerk
- Moderator
- Treasurer
- Prudential Committee
- Water commissioner

All are for a 3-year term.

The annual election will be held on Tuesday, April 26. The polls will open noon to 7 p.m.

District residents wishing to register to vote may do so at the Town Clerk’s office located in Town Hall, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls.

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[www.franklincommunity.coop](http://www.franklincommunity.coop)

McCusker's Market  
3 State Street, Shelburne Falls  
Open Daily  
7 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
(413) 625-9411



RMD from page A1

underserved county to maximize patient access.”

The eight standby applicants scored between 137 and 149 points. No Western Massachusetts applicant was on the list, though J.M. Farms was awarded a score of 141, six more than the state’s cutoff of 136 points. A New Leaf received 111, while M.R. was awarded 106.

Karen van Unen, named director just two weeks ago of the state’s new medical marijuana program, said on Friday that her agency will launch an “abbreviated” review process for these eight applicants, and announce the results in June.

She also stated that she expected the eight to fare better in the coming months because they already met the agency’s criteria. She declined to say why the eight applicants, some of whom received higher scores than companies awarded licenses, were not yet selected.

“Most likely, between now and August we will be opening up maybe 24 to 26 dispensaries,” van Unen said.

DPH declined to comment on why the committee rejected applicants, only saying it used objective scoring guided by state procurement principles.

In defense of the process, van Unen said: “We weren’t prepared to

settle for anything less than highly qualified applicants. Only dispensaries with the highest quality applications were selected to be a part of this new industry.”

DPH scrutinized business plans, finances, background of their chief executives, operations plans, and whether the applicants had secured leases or purchased buildings for their places of business. The companies were asked to provide detailed information about their proposed security plans and how they would “help deter and prevent unauthorized entrance.”

Successful applicants will have to pass a final inspection by the state health department to ensure compliance with local permitting requirements.

Marina Goldman, executive director of ANL, Inc., noted that “it was disheartening to see how few of the Massachusetts dispensaries will be owned and operated by local entities... We would have preferred to see DPH include local ownership as a significant component of the scoring criteria.”

According to Goldman, the complex process and short timeframe “strongly favored applicants who operate in other states and have big money backers.”

Applicants for licenses paid a \$1,500 fee for the first phase of an

application, and \$30,000 for the second. Neither was refundable.

Goldman remains optimistic. “This round was just the first step in what will undoubtedly be an ongoing process,” she said. “We certainly learned a lot and made a lot of great connections that we hope to use in the future.

“It was wonderful to see how supportive the community at large has been.”

Those receiving licenses will pay a \$50,000 annual fee for a Certificate of Registration and Renewal. Dispensaries will also be required to pay an annual \$500 registration fee for each of their agents.

Qualified patients will pay a \$50 annual registration fee, and those who qualify for a hardship cultivation license will fork out an additional \$100 a year. Personal caregivers would not be subject to fees.

A home cultivation permit can be obtained by a patient with financial hardship, a physical incapacity to use transportation to drive to a dispensary, or a lack of a dispensary within a “reasonable distance”.

If the state does not allow a dispensary to open in Franklin County, presumably some qualified medical patients could obtain hardship cultivation licenses, since no dispensary would be located nearby.



Project as part of the ancient complex surrounding the Great Falls.

In her letter to the town of Gill in 2009, ordering the removal of archeological survey information on the Mariamante parcel from the town’s website, MHC’s Simon wrote that archeological locational information is “not public record.” Making such information public would “jeopardize the site’s integrity.”

Withholding information on archeological digs by the state agency charged with preserving the historical resources of the Commonwealth is generally defended as necessary to prevent looting by the public, say tribal representatives.

But these critics counter, in Graveline’s words, that the best way to protect sensitive historical and cultural resources is “to educate the public so that they might have a full understanding of the significance of the site” and the features it holds.

Or, as Howard Clark put it, “There is no oversight. Mass Historic and especially UMass has a tendency of burying things where the public can’t protect it, because they don’t know about it, and the tribes are left in the dark unless they get wind of it and exert their authority.”

Under the federal Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990, federal agencies and institutions receiving federal funding have a responsibility to return cultural items to the lineal descendants of Native Americans and to affiliated tribes, including funerary items, objects of cultural patrimony, human remains, and sacred objects. As amended, that act grants federally recognized tribes the power to consult on development projects where federal funds are being expended, as at the recent expansion of the runway at Turners Falls.

But if digs are conducted without first notifying the four federally recognized tribes in our area – the Stockbridge Munsee, the Narragansett, the Mashpee Wampanoags and the Wampanoags of Gayhead, Aquinnah – it is left to the professional archeologists, and to the state historians, to determine what is a burial site, what is a sacred landscape, and what is a sacred object.

Tribal representatives believe that cultural remains are still kept out of public view, in private collections, or locked away in back rooms of museums and universities for educational research.

While the tribal representatives and local historic commissioners saw points of agreement with the intent of Kocot’s law, they diverged on the makeup of the proposed fact-finding commission.

Reserving a seat each for the MHC and UMass Archeology, and see BILL page A8

NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

As Promised, School Budget Increase Below 2%

By DAVID DETMOLD

The last time school committee chair Catherine Brooks discussed budget matters with the selectboard, she promised to bring in the FY’15 elementary school budget at a 2% increase or less, regardless of how the long simmering contract negotiations with the teachers association were finally settled.

She has kept her word.

Under Brooks’ leadership, the school committee concluded negotiations with the teachers last month, granting union employees at Leverett Elementary a 1.75% cost of living increase retroactive to the beginning of the current fiscal year, and a 2% cost of living increase for next year.

And on Tuesday, the school committee brought forward their preliminary budget for FY’15, and though it will not become final until formal votes are taken by the school committee and town meeting in the months to come, its bottom line is already clear.

Even with the negotiated teacher COLAs (which account for about 1% in the increase from last year’s budget), the school committee’s preliminary budget calls for a \$31,888 – or 1.94% – increase for FY’15.

When principal Anne Ross passed along a request for supplemental library funds to bring in children’s authors to speak to the students, Brooks asked how an additional \$1000 spent on library enrichment would affect the bottom line.

Union 28 (U28) business manager Mike Kociela took out his calculator and said \$1000 would push the percentage increase ever so slightly above 2%. Brooks signaled she would oppose the additional spending, and the committee pushed Ross for other options.

Brooks said she would be ready to meet the selectboard to defend the elementary school’s budget at a town hall hearing on March 4, at 7 p.m.

And then, like her immediate predecessors as school committee chair, Farshid Hajir, who stepped down in 2012, and Dawn Sacks, who stepped down in 2013, Catherine Brooks announced on Tuesday she would not stand for re-election at annual town meeting this spring.

The next meeting of the Leverett Elementary School sustainability subcommittee will take place on February 13 at 6 p.m. at the elementary school library.

Kip Fonsh, the school committee’s representative to the Amherst-Pelham Regional School District, said the regional school district planning board has been appointed to update the regional agreement, to allow for K–12 regionalization.

The plan is to have an amended agreement, which would allow Leverett, and Shutesbury, to regionalize with Amherst and Pelham for elementary as well as upper school grades, ready for a vote at town meetings in the fall of this year, Fonsh said.

Fonsh reported preliminary bud-

get numbers for the Amherst-Pelham region. A \$29,668,478 FY’15 is proposed (an increase of 1.8%), which would include a 3.58% increase in the assessment for Leverett, a hike of about \$50,000 for the town. The Four Town meeting to review the regional budget will take place on Saturday, March 1, and will allow for a full discussion of proposed capital spending for the region.

Fonsh said the idea of closing the middle school and consolidating grades 7–12 in the high school has been broached, but he predicted it is an idea whose time has not yet arrived.

Last year, the regional school committee’s decision to spend \$306,000 on renovating the tennis courts at the middle school drew criticism from Leverett selectboard members, who felt the town had not been adequately consulted in advance, at a time when teacher layoffs where in the offing.

U28 superintendent Bob Mahler

Fonsh said the idea of closing the middle school and consolidating grades 7-12 has been broached.

has lost the word “interim” from his title. Mahler will remain superintendent until July of 2015, with a 2% COLA increase in salary and \$2,000 added to his compensation package for travel expenses. “We thought that was reasonable,” said Brooks, reporting from the U28 personnel committee.

Mahler said he would be bringing a UMass professor of education to meet with U28 teachers on curriculum days to discuss how, “in an era in which all we do is count kids’ scores,” teachers can become “researchers in their classrooms to see into the quality of their teaching experiences. My hope is teachers will see themselves as researchers, to ask themselves, ‘Gee, how do kids learn things?’”

Brooks said the process of hiring a replacement for Mahler when he retires in 2015 is already underway, and will culminate, hopefully, with presentation of candidates by December of this year.

“We are going to get the jump to get good candidates,” she said.

Principal Anne Ross said in addition to the operating budget, the elementary school will advocate for two capital spending items for the coming fiscal year: \$10,250 to repoint bricks on the south wall of the original building, and \$4,850 to repair slate on the roof damaged by snow.

But when Mahler pressed Ross on why, “with 20 fewer kids, and 40 fewer feet running down the halls,” she would need an additional \$2,000 (a 25% increase over last year) for custodial supplies, Ross said she would have to go back to the drawing board, or smart board, on that one.

BILL from page A1

Local historians for more than a century have known of an unusual “spokes burial” unearthed on or near this property, which was mapped and included in the National Register of Historic Places in the Riverside Archeological district in 1975, in large part due to the work of UMass Archeology professor Peter Thomas. Thomas referred to the Conway property as “a famous artifact mine.”

A ground-penetrating radar study of the property in 2009 by Doria Kutubres of Radar Solutions International, who came to Gill at the request of Native tribes working with town officials, revealed features below the plow line on that property which, Graveline said, are likely evidence of hundreds of ancient burials.

The parcel sits directly across from the town’s Riverside Cemetery. Tribal representatives maintain it was common practice in the early Colonial contact period for white settlers to bury their dead on or near lands already used for this purpose by Native Americans.

Mass General Laws Chapter 114, Section 17 states: “A town shall not alienate or appropriate to any other use than that of a burial ground, any tract of land which has been for more than one hundred years used as a burial place; and no portion of such burial ground shall be taken for public use without special authority from the general court.

“‘Burial place’, as referred to in this section, shall include unmarked burial grounds known or suspected to contain the remains of one or more American Indian.”

But even though state law prohibits a town from developing public land if even one burial is suspected, UMass Archeological, after conducting a two-part study at the town’s expense, including test pits on the land, gave the go-ahead for light industrial development on all but a small portion of the 12-acre parcel.

When the town briefly posted the results of the UMass archeological study on the town’s website, the MHC ordered it to be taken down and kept private, Graveline said.

“Even though this property was known as the locus of a unique spokes burial – 12 individuals buried in a circle – and even though ground-penetrating radar showed over 300 features associated with burials, burials under Main Road too, UMass denied any burials were there, and said Chapter 114, Section 7 would not kick in,” Graveline told Kocot.

Graveline and others in the room, including Greenfield historian Howard Clark and Bud Driver of the

Deerfield Historical Commission, described what they called a disturbing pattern of Mass Historic issuing permits, and UMass Archeological carrying out surveys at public expense on public land, then hiding the results from the public.

They cited digs kept secret at the Turners Falls Airport, where at least one ancient human burial has been uncovered, with a dog buried just above human remains.

Many believe, even in the absence of published findings, that the 12,000-year-old Hanneman site at the airport is one of the oldest-known inhabited sites in New England. Yet UMass has kept its published findings from the site hidden from public view, even as a professor from UMass Archeological talked about the site at a convention of the Massachusetts Historical Society in recent years.

At the Eaglebrook site in Deerfield, on private land, tribal representatives were never called in to consult on successive digs conducted by Mass Archeological under permit from the MHC.

Clark said the site showed little evidence of habitation, very few stone chippings, but hundreds of glass trade beads, and other ceremonial objects associated with Native burials. Some skeletal remains were also found at that site, Clark said.

All these indications, he said, point to a dig taking place not at the site of a Colonial-era Native village, but a Native burial ground. In which case, he said, the dig should have been shut down so as not to disturb the burials. But UMass returned for further explorations.

Skeletal remains were also removed from the former Mackin sand pit in Greenfield, site of a planned WalMart in the 1990s. The first, a complete skeleton, dubbed Herman, turned out to be the skeleton of a young woman, was turned over to UMass in 1964. Since then, Clark said, that skeleton’s location is unknown.

Parts of three more skeletons from the same location were displayed for a time at the Northfield Historical Society’s museum, and were never repatriated to the Mackin site, but eventually reburied in Deerfield.

According to Clark, in 1996, in a face-to-face meeting with tribal representatives, MHC executive director Brona Simon said that nothing of cultural significance remained at the Mackin site, which was under her authority as part of the Riverside Archeological district.

Despite the evidence of burials on the land, Simon was willing to sign off on its development, he said.

Some of that acreage has since been permanently preserved, and is under the care of the Nolumbeka



**HEROIN** from page A1

about because the facilities were found to be places of horror where patients languished for years without any hope of returning to normal life – there were supposed to be services to help patients transition back to the community. These never materialized.

Now there is no good plan for mental health care for the more seriously ill patients who do not succeed with just medication and outpatient care. Stern said frequently patients present with both drug addiction and mental health issues, and dual diagnosis is common.

Dr. Potee said that drug addiction is an expensive disease, because addicts can get bad diseases from IV addiction.

Both Hepatitis C and HIV are connected to IV drug use. Potee said treatment of Hep C requires 6 to 8 weeks of intravenous antibiotics. "Money spent on drug treatment is money well spent," she said.

Merrigan talked about the increase of crime connected to drug addiction. "Car break-ins – five dollars of change in cars? That's a bag of heroin."

He encouraged getting kids into the hospital for drug evaluation. He said the task force is looking for vol-

unteers, that Senator Stan Rosenberg and Denise Andrews are supporting their efforts.

Merrigan praised the Recover Project for doing very good work. This was echoed by recovering addicts attending the forum, who said it gave them support, purpose, and a safe place to be during the day.

Located on Federal Street in Greenfield, the Recover Project is a non-profit program offering support for drug and alcohol addiction, and peer-to-peer counseling.

For both drug and mental health treatment, Stern and Potee said it is important that there be parity with other chronic medical conditions such as diabetes and heart disease.

Stern said social workers at the hospital spend 50% of their time on the phone fighting with insurance companies for approval for treatment.

Stern said "There needs to be an effective way to spend money on mental health." Talking about the new Affordable Care Act, as well as Medicare and Medicaid, she said most people think there is already a requirement for parity but that this is not so, and said "there has to be a true parity law."

Dr. Potee said, "You are better off having diabetes," in terms of the

level of care available. The inconsistency of care and treatment programs that come and go has contributed to the problem.

Chief Robert Hai of the Greenfield police, speaking from the audience, said arrest is not the priority all the time. He said getting the help to those who need it is of the highest priority.

Everyone agreed that long-term treatment is what is needed, and the answer to drug addiction will never be arrest and incarceration. Short-term treatment that follows detox, returning a person to the same environment that led them to addiction, does not work.

Looking at both drug addiction and mental illness as chronic diseases, instead of bad behavior, would be a good first step to finding those elusive solutions.

**BILL** from page A7

allowing only one tribal representative, the bill would cut local historic commissions and other tribes' representatives out of the process.

In the often-fractionious world of intertribal politics, this could cause rifts among the descendants of the very people whose cultural and burial remains are at issue, tribal representatives say. A coalition of tribes, and an open door to local historic commissions, is needed to fully inform the process of cultural and historic preservation, they maintain.

Kocot said legislative hearings he had recently been party to suggest a pattern of indifference to public input and an opacity in decision making at the MHC under Simon.

"We learned the MHC is very difficult to work with, would not return phone calls, would not use email,

and would only respond to letters, in the modern age. There is a policy gap between what the MHC utilizes, and what we expect. What they do is very different than what we think they do," Kocot said.

Tribal representatives said Massachusetts, under the MHC and Brona Simon's leadership, has advanced a smaller percentage of sites to the National Register of Historic Preservation for permanent protection than any other New England state.

In a 1996 survey of New England historic sites, Clark said, Massachusetts had protected only 12 sites of Native origin out of a total of 3,602 in the National Registry, as compared to Maine, for example, which had protected 102 Native sites out of 1295 on the Registry, or Rhode Island, which had protected 29 Native sites out of 645 sites on the Registry. They claim Simon, and UMass Archeological have shown indifference, if not outright opposition, to Native American concerns, particularly in Western Massachusetts.

In a state whose seal is marked by the brand of a naked sword poised above the figure of a Native American, tribal representatives believe it would be unwise to leave MHC, and the researchers at UMass Archeological who are dependent on MHC for permits, in the catbird seat of a fact-finding commission dealing with Native cultural heritage concerns.

Calls to Brona Simon at the Massachusetts Historic Commission were not returned by press time.

"Is there a public policy need to protect and preserve artifacts and educate the public about the people who lived here before us?" asked Kocot on Friday.

"There is absolutely a need to protect that, yes," agreed Doug Harris, a preservationist for the Narragansett Indian Tribe. "With regard to human remains which are Native American, and the burial items that went with those remains, the traditional view was the burial items remain with the burials. We would request that we identify where these artifacts came from and replace them as close as possible to the burial sites to assist the souls in their journey."

Harris said the Narragansetts, among the region's federally recognized tribes, have a historic claim of kinship to the tribes that dwelt in the Connecticut River Valley. "As per federal law, we ask that we be allowed to have a voice in this process."

Kocot said, "You have my commitment. I will not advance any legislation that does not meet with your approval. I will make that a general statement. I will not push any bill for which there is no consensus."



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

## FACES & PLACES

Turners Falls boys' basketball senior Malcolm Smith takes a shot during the team's January 27 home game against Mohawk.

Turners Falls won, 65 to 42.

They are currently second in their division.

## Wood Pellet Stove Raffle

Citizens Awareness Network is raffling off a beautiful Red enamel Thelin "Parlour" Wood Pellet Stove.



The Solar Store of Greenfield is providing the 40,000 btu pellet stove as this year's grand prize. Support CAN's crucial work and keep your home toasty for years to come!

500 tickets at only \$20 a ticket! The drawing will be held in May.

Raffle tickets may be purchased at [www.nukebusters.org](http://www.nukebusters.org)



The stove is available at the Solar Store of Greenfield for viewing and questions. We are located at 2 Fiske Ave, Greenfield just behind Antonio's Pizza and next to Mesa Verde. Stop in Tuesday-Friday 10-5pm and Saturday 10-2pm, or call 413-772-3122. Email: [john@solarstoreofgreenfield.com](mailto:john@solarstoreofgreenfield.com) Delivery, installation, venting, battery backup and accessories are the responsibility of the winner. For more info on the stove: <http://thelinco.com/product/parlour-3000-pellet-stove/>

**4-5:30PM**  
LUKE BUCKHAM  
JANEL NOCKLEBY  
CHRIS SAWYER-LAUCANNO  
PAUL MARIANI

**5:30-6:30PM**  
MUSIC BY the 4th STREET BAND

**6:30-8PM**  
KEVIN SMITH  
ALLEN FOWLER  
EDITE CUNHA  
DAVID DETMOLD  
PATRICIA PRUITT  
KRISTEN BOCK  
CHRIS JANKE

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# MoRe

YEAR 12 – NO.16

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER

FEBRUARY 6, 2014

B1

## Three Eggs Laid – Three Chicks Fledged!

By PAT CARLISLE

**TURNERS FALLS** – Our Barton Cove eagle nest made news this past season of 2013. Three eggs have become more common in the last 4 or 5 years, but usually only one or two hatch. The parents were kept very busy with the many frequent feedings.

Barton Cove Island, now often called Eagle Island since that first nest built in 1989, became quite famous. When a camera was installed above the nest in 1997, a world famous website soon followed. No camera again this year – we miss it.

The nest area is below my home and I often call them “my eagles.” I watch the adults all year as they patrol their territory.

The young test their flight feathers in my view before the fall, when parents encourage them to leave home and establish lives elsewhere.

We humans send our babies off to school and jobs to make their way in our world in a similar way.

Now in winter the ice fishermen in the cove often discard their unwanted catch, which an eagle will gladly take for a meal.

The weekends can be very entertaining for those of us who have an eagle-eye view of the many colorful shanties used by families to set up their fishing spots on the river ice.

Several children and dogs join the groups for games, on afternoons of fresh air and exercise.

We watch the gulls and crows join the eagles as they vie for the fresh fish discards.

I have been keeping watch on this weekend’s entertainment as I write this next to my windows with full view of Barton Cove and Eagle Island.

## HOWARD WEIN RETURNS TO OPEN THE ALVAH STONE RESTAURANT



WICKS PHOTO

By LEE WICKS

**MONTAGUE CENTER** – A long time ago my husband and I would walk past the old abandoned mill on the Sawmill River, and one of us would say, “What a wonderful spot for a restaurant.”

Others thought so too, and in time people with the means and vision converted the structure to what we now call the Bookmill, and the Blue Heron opened its doors. Delicious smells wafted from the vents. I think some of us ate a considerable portion of our retirement funds in those heady days.

The Night Kitchen followed, and the Lady Killigrew as well. The “Lady” is thriving, but the Night Kitchen closed this winter. Not good. We are spoiled now. It feels like there’s supposed to be a restaurant in that space.

Enter Howard Wein who will open **The Alvah Stone** at the Bookmill this spring. The Alvah Stone Mill was the original name of the mill. Choosing this name reflects Mr. Wein’s attention to detail and devotion to Montague, the

place he swore he’d return to after graduating from Hampshire College in 1995.

His journey has taken him from Hampshire, to Woodstock ‘94 to cooking for the Beastie Boys on their 1995 North American tour, to leading the food service at Jacob’s Pillow, where he brought in local offerings and impressively increased sales.

At his office in the building next to the Bookmill, Wein said, “I’ve been motivated and organized from an early age, and food and hospitality have always been important parts of my life.” He comes from a large family and has fond memories of chopping vegetables and helping to prepare family meals, and he still enjoys cooking with his wife and daughter at their home in Leverett.

While he had developed plenty of hands-on experience on the road with the Beastie Boys, at Jacob’s Pillow, at the Black Sheep in Amherst and at Sienna in South Deerfield, Wein lacked what he calls a

see **STONE** page B4



MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK PRINT

By LESLIE BROWN

We arrive around nine although it is an hour later at home and we are tired. Fortunately, it is an easy trip through customs as we are entertained by a couple from Vancouver who enjoy poking fun at their green mayor who has created many bike paths around major traffic routes, and at least from their point of view, made life nicer for cyclists while thoroughly snarling automotive traffic flow.

We take a taxi from the airport to our hotel for the next five nights. The state of Mexico regulates the taxi system at the airports. While still in the airport, you announce your destination to a travel agent and pay the fee.

Outside another agent finds a driver who knows the route and assigns you to a driver. Before you leave the grounds of the airport your



JIM COOK PHOTOS

## THE TRAVELLER’S COMPANION

## Bienvenidos a Guadalajara!

taxi makes a stop at a gate where your fee, the time and your driver are all registered. This makes for the feeling of a secure, safe trip.

In under an hour we have driven through industrial areas and down some incredibly narrow one way alleys to the front door of the Hotel Frances.



Our reservation is confirmed and an elderly bellhop takes us and our luggage into an antiquated caged elevator to our rooms on the second floor.

The Hotel Frances was built in 1610, and while it has undergone structural renovations since, retains the high ceilings, wooden floors and etched glass French windows opening onto the balconies.

The lobby has a massive fountain and an enormous gold and crystal chandelier which hangs from the ceiling of the third floor and dangles above the lobby. Our suite contains a small sitting area, a modern bath and a large bedroom with two glass paneled doors opening onto balconies overlooking the streets.

see **TRAVEL** page B2

## Old Turners Falls Newspapers Digitized, Made Available Online

By MIKE JACKSON

**MONTAGUE** – It is sometimes hard for us to imagine, but a century ago Turners Falls was a bustling industrial and commercial center, with a population higher than it has now, and capable of supporting a weekly newspaper that lasted for fifty years.

Cecil T. Bagnall’s grave at Northfield Cemetery indicates he lived from 1850 to 1922. From 1872 to 1922, he edited and published the mighty *Turners Falls Reporter*, a mishmash of local gossip, national and international news, opinion, recipes, fiction – anything, apparently, he could set to type by the week’s deadline, in much the same manner, I can only presume, as that in which I am writing the sentence that runs along comfortably before your very eyes.

The *Reporter* is well worth a read, but until



last month, the best way to do that was by the daunting process of viewing the extensive microfilm collection at the Montague Libraries.

Now, thanks to money from State Aid to Libraries, the whole collection can be viewed from home at the click of a mouse.

Library Director Linda Hickman is out of

see **PAPERS** page B4

## Fourth Peskeomskut Noisecapades Transpire

By MIKE JACKSON

**TURNERS FALLS** – At high noon last Sunday, on or near a piece of temporary public territory accessible only by land owned by a large and non-labile multinational corporation, a small crowd of musicians, performance artists, archivists, on-lookers and their dogs gathered in the drizzle for a quick but friendly annual ceremony.

Twenty acts performed brief sets in quick succession, all acoustic or powered by battery but all electrifying. Acts exceeding the allotted five minutes were cut short with a friendly bang on a gong.

Two additional teams were on hand with interventions lasting see **TRANSPIRE** page B3



ILLUSTRATIONS BY THE DRAWING TEAM

Clockwise, from upper right: *Tumble Cat Poof Poofy Poof*; *mwchins*; *Aunt Goldsworthy*; and *the Assthetics*.

## THE HEALTHY GEEZER

## The Geezer Toughens Up

By FRED CICETTI

*Q. What can I do to avoid lead exposure?*

Lead exposure can cause anemia, make you irritable, affect your memory and ability to concentrate, and it can increase blood pressure, particularly in older people.

Lead can also lead to digestive problems and cataracts. Exposure to high lead levels can be fatal.

The following are some significant sources of lead exposure: tap water, lead-based paint that was used before it was banned from housing in 1978, soil, household dust, lead crystal or lead-glazed pottery.

Here are some steps you can take to prevent exposure to lead:

- \* Clean up paint chips immediately.
- \* Clean floors, window frames, window sills, and other surfaces weekly.
- \* Wash hands often.
- \* Clean or remove shoes before entering your home to avoid tracking in lead from soil.
- \* Repair damaged painted surfaces.
- \* Plant grass to cover soil with high lead levels.
- \* To remove lead hazards permanently, you must hire a certified lead-abatement contractor. Contact the Na-

tional Lead Information Center (NLIC) to locate certified contractors in your area. You can email NLIC on this website: [www2.epa.gov/lead](http://www2.epa.gov/lead).

*Q. What’s the best way to treat a nosebleed?*

Resist every instinct in your body to tilt your head back or to lie down. You have to keep your head higher than your heart to cut down on bleeding.

And, if you lean back, you can swallow blood, which can produce vomiting and diarrhea.



The best technique is to sit down and lean slightly forward so the blood will drain out of your nose. Then, using your thumb and index finger, squeeze the soft portion of your nose together.

Hold your nose until the bleeding stops. Don’t let go for at least 5 minutes. Repeat

as necessary. You can also place an ice pack across the bridge of your nose.

Self-treatment can stop almost all nosebleeds. If bleeding persists, get immediate medical attention.

*Q. I’m thinking of getting a tattoo. How could it affect my health?*

Complications from tattoos are relatively uncommon. However, there are risks that include: blood-borne diseases such as hepatitis, tetanus, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS; granulomas, which are bumps that can form around tattoo; keloids, which are scars that grow beyond normal boundaries; local bacterial infections, and allergic reactions.

Also, tattoos can create a misdiagnosis with Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) because there is metal in many tattoo pigments.

Magnets attract metals. So, tattoo pigments may interfere with the quality of the image from an MRI. In some rare cases, people experience swelling or burning in the tattoo when they have an MRI.

If you decide to get a tattoo, make sure the establishment is licensed and reputable.

Questions? Send them to [fred@healthygeezer.com](mailto:fred@healthygeezer.com).



## Pet of the Week

I'm an easygoing, friendly boy. I was brought to Dakin as a stray, but have definitely lived with people.

I'm used to being handled, and I enjoy being petted, especially on my head and neck. I have a silly habit of sticking the tip of my tongue out. That's just me being me.



“MOE”

I'm back to a healthy weight now. I do love to eat! I get chatty at meal times. It wasn't easy being homeless, but it taught me to appreciate the joys and comforts of love and attention. Come visit, I can't wait!

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

## Senior Center Activities February 10 through 14

### 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 not open.

*Due to weather, we had to base this week's Gill/Montague Senior Center schedule on a typical week, so it may be inaccurate. Please contact the above number to confirm.*

#### Monday 2/10

10:10 a.m. Aerobics  
10:55 a.m. Chair Exercise  
1 p.m. Knitting Circle

#### Tuesday 2/11

9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga  
Noon Lunch

#### Wednesday 2/12

10:10 a.m. Aerobics  
Noon Lunch  
12:45 p.m. Bingo

#### Thursday 2/13

9 a.m. Tai Chi  
10:30 a.m. to Noon Brown Bag  
Noon Lunch  
1 p.m. Pitch

#### Friday 2/14

10:10 a.m. Aerobics  
10:55 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.

#### Monday 2/10

9 a.m. Tai Chi  
10 a.m. Osteo-Exercise

#### Tuesday 2/11

8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics  
9:30 a.m. C.O.A. Meeting  
12:30 p.m. Painting

#### Wednesday 2/12

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

#### Thursday 2/13

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

#### Friday 2/14

9 a.m. Bowling

### LEVERETT

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

## WANTED: GOOD USED SKATEBOARDS FOR ART PROJECT!

The Unity Skatepark Committee is preparing for a major skateboard art auction in April, and we need your good used skateboards.

Sure, you think you are going to pull your old board out of the closet and ride around town on it come spring, but you've been saying that for years, right?

Your kids went away to college and left their skateboards lying around the basement, and you trip over them whenever you do the laundry?

Put those good used boards to a real good use, helping RiverCulture and the Unity Skatepark Committee re-purpose them for a creative art project to raise much needed funds to help build a permanent skatepark at Unity Park in Turners.

Drop your skateboards off at the Montague Reporter office, 177 Avenue A, during working hours, or give us a call at 413-863-9296 and we will arrange a convenient time to pick them up. And stay tuned for more info on a not-to-be missed skateboard art show and silent auction, coming soon at a former auto repair shop near you!

For more information on Unity Skatepark, go to [unityskatepark.com](http://unityskatepark.com). Now with a handy paypal button for your irresistible charitable impulse satisfaction.

### ERVING LIBRARY NEWS

## Reading, Valentines and Lego

#### Sunday 2/9 – Thursday 2/13

Valentines on the “Make-it” table – Library users of any age can drop in during open hours (Sundays 1-4 PM; Mondays 1-7 PM; Wednesdays 10-4 PM; and, Thursdays 1-7 PM) to create a Valentine. Materials supplied.

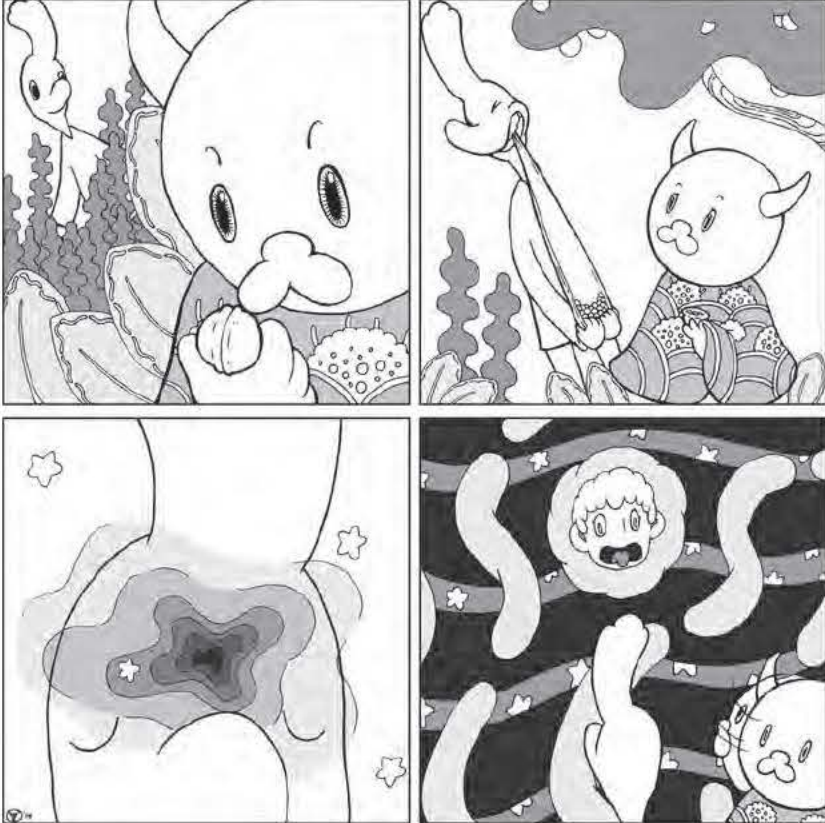
#### Sunday 2/9 – Sunday 2/23

Winter Reading Program – Any student who reads a book from February 9th through February 23rd is eligible to enter the Winter Reading contest for prizes.

#### February 16, 19 and 20, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Library Lego Lady – Build with thousands and thousands of blocks. Ages 5-12, teens and adults welcome.

## WEIRD HEALING by OVERTURE



Overture is based in Shelburne Falls. Check out [overture.org](http://overture.org).

### TRAVEL from page B1

We do not linger much over these details but instead enjoy a light snack before falling into bed. Our sleep is light with intervals of attention to traffic, Mexican music and the inevitable hourly chimes from a nearby church.

We are not yet on Mexican time in the morning, nonetheless we venture out for an execrable cup of coffee and a breakfast of omelets and toast. We walk around the streets adjacent to the hotel and try to get our bearings.

Guadalajara is the second largest of Mexican cities and dates back to 1532. Although it was moved several times, it remains a center of cultural and historical value.

Today it is more known as an industrial and business hub, but we have come to see the ancient cathedral and the original buildings which remain. We decide to take a bus tour the next day to get an overview we can't hope to manage on foot.

Wednesday morning we and several others board a bus shaped like an ancient boat and at eleven in the morning are offered our first drink of the day, a shot of tequila!

At first we demur, but then we think, “Why not...when in Rome...” The tour begins most merrily!

The hour takes in all eleven of the city's parks and plazas. As the city grew in population and economic development, more business space was required and many historic mansions were razed and replaced by businesses and large underground parking facilities. Today the city is best known for industry and electronics.

To the outsider, the city suffers from a confused identity as the ancient rubs elbows with the modern; it pays continued tribute to its heroes and history as it is enticed by the lure of new growth and wealth. One other notable sacrifice should be noted: while the city is full of the slogan “keep our city clean” and the cleaners sweep with large corn brooms early and late, the city is not clean.

We finish and begin each day with running eyes and noses and wheezy chests. As we leave the city Saturday morning, the smog dominates the view. When the taxi climbs the sinuous road up the mountain, the air begins to clear, and as we descend to Ajijic we can see the lake and mountainside like a fresh new day.

Still, we will remember our visits to the city's beauties which, like our ancient hotel, retain the grace and beauty of a mature woman past her prime.



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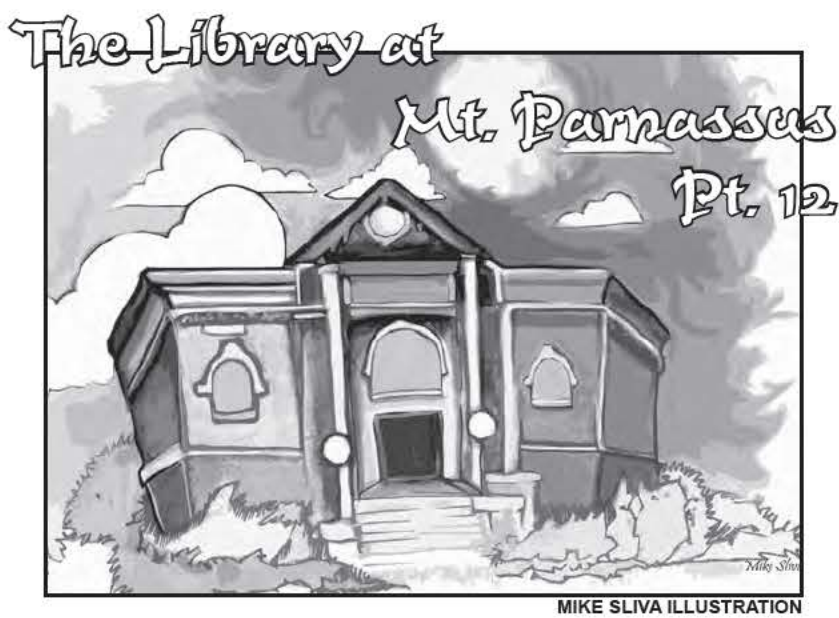
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By DAVID DETMOLD

“Can you make it out at all?”  
Old Clare was beside me, crouching in the half light, examining the charred and curled scrap of paper on my knee. The inked words glowed orange against the sooty black.

“I can read a few lines,” I said.  
“It’s in verse...”  
*Scissors slice  
Through cord and bone  
In trees of ice  
By hoplite stone  
A world of strife  
Her barren leaves  
Shorn of life  
Thy sister grieves...*

“Make any sense to you?” asked Clare, refilling his pipe from a pouch he kept handy in the pocket of his sweater.

“Not really...”  
“Melantha wrote it...” He sucked down the match flame, once, twice, until the pipe would draw. “Inscrutable, as always.”

The little fire and the disturbance of the wastebasket had caused enough of a stir to half rouse the sleepers over in the reading room.

I could hear Cadmus singing in a low, monotonous voice, and looked in to see him slouched in his leather reading chair, with the brim of his hat tilted down over his eyes, his feet stretched out toward the fender.

*The song he sang:  
I’m just an old cowpoke  
Alone on the prairie  
The wolves at the fire beside me  
I’m just an old cowpoke  
With none left to bury  
The brand of desire inside me...  
Seemed a familiar lament.*

And Orville, moaning in his dreams, “It’s no yu-u-use.”

Bored of this, Ulysses flapped in lazily and circled the lobby on ragged black wings. Behind the door of the children’s room, the mournful threnody of the bouzouki could be heard.

I brushed off my pant legs and

followed Clare to the double doors. I took his arm.

“Clare, you gotta be more careful with that pipe. Use an ashtray next time.” He tamped the bowl with his forefinger and struck a match against the wall.

We paused to listen to the music from the children’s room, the girls’ sweet voices singing softly, the grunts and snuffles of the boys.

“Must be nap time,” said Old Clare. He drew the blue and yellow flame thoughtfully into the bowl.

“That Penelope.”

I thought about her divination trick with the silver bowl and magic wand.

“She’s a wonder,” admitted Clare.

“Yeah, and I wonder if those kids’ parents have any idea what kind of shit she’s getting them into.”

“They don’t care,” said Clare. “Long’s they’re not out litt’rin’. Or stealin’ hubcaps.”

“Or smoking crack,” I added.

We walked out through the entryway in the comforting cloud of Clare’s tobacco.

“Clare?” I asked. “What’s a hoplite?”

“Cain’t recollect for certain,” said Clare.

Outside, the marble landing gleamed silver in the twilight, the dark cleft at the top of the granite stairs yawned. “Hoplite. Hmmm... lemme see. Lemme see. The foot soldier of ancient Greece.” Clare drew on his pipe. “C f. George Grote, in his diffin’itive History of Greece, ‘The hoplites maintained a close order and a well-dressed line.’”

“Dressed in togas, probably,” I sneered.

Old Clare leaned on his cornel cane. I took his arm again and we walked down into the gathering night.

The oak doors of the library closed silently behind us.

Continued next week.

NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Automobile Bedlam: Vehicles Are Smashed, Spew Debris, Run Over Animals, Race Around Loudly, Are Operated Erratically, and Cause Suspicion

Monday, 1/27

6:22 a.m. Three or four company vehicles broken into on Eleventh Street. Report taken.

7:47 a.m. Vehicle broken into overnight at Farren Care Center; rear window smashed. Report taken.

9:24 a.m. Storage shed at Moltenbrey Building on Avenue A broken into and items missing.

10:54 a.m. Trespass order served on Fourth Street.

11:08 a.m. Debris from vehicle falling off ramp truck in Millers Falls struck/damaged two other vehicles. Ramp truck operator cited for unsecured load.

12:10 p.m. A Turners Falls man was arrested and charged with domestic assault and battery and intimidating a witness.

Tuesday, 1/28

5:53 a.m. Complaint regarding a vehicle that races loudly up and down Davis Street several times every morning. Report taken.

4:53 p.m. Caller reported that his son was approached by a black truck near Turners Falls Road and Millers Falls Road while walking home from the middle school and of-

fered a ride. Driver described as male, mid 30s, blond hair, glasses. When son declined, truck sped from area. Patrol units advised.

5:47 p.m. Erratically operated vehicle into ditch at Kettle Hole Lane and Old Leverett Road. Vehicle towed; operator transported home and reported as an immediate threat.

Wednesday, 1/29

1:05 p.m. Disorderly student removed from Franklin County Technical School.

5:46 p.m. Illegal dumping in Lake Pleasant.

Thursday, 1/30

2:38 p.m. Caller stated for record that last night at 10:00 p.m., he struck a raccoon on East Mineral Road and cracked his front bumper.

11:15 p.m. [redacted] was arrested on probable cause for an outside agency.

Friday, 1/31

5:45 a.m. Complaint regarding a vehicle that races loudly up and down Davis Street several times every morning. Unable to locate.

8:57 a.m. [redacted] was

arrested and charged with larceny over \$250; larceny under \$250; improper use of a credit card over \$250; and larceny of a credit card.

9:31 a.m. Loose pit bull mix with no tags on Millers Falls Road transported to kennel by animal control.

6:04 p.m. Pile of copper wire found at end of East Mineral Road, reportedly stolen from FirstLight site nearby. Investigated.

6:36 p.m. Multiple calls complaining about fireworks being set off in Greenfield as part of Winter Carnival.

8:03 p.m. Report of suspicious blue van on Dell Street stopping in front of several houses. Unable to locate.

9:10 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Turners Falls Road. Investigated.

Saturday, 2/1

12:14 a.m. A juvenile was taken into custody following a domestic disturbance in Turners Falls.

5:38 a.m. Complaint regarding a vehicle that races loudly up and down Davis Street several times every morning. Unable to locate.

6:08 p.m. Party into lobby to dispose of a needle found outside of a Fifth Street apartment building.

Sunday, 2/2

12:07 a.m. Possible drug activity reported on Fourth Street. Investigated.

9:02 a.m. Loud music complaint on Grout Circle. Services rendered.

1:28 p.m. [redacted] was arrested on a default warrant.

3:23 p.m. Larceny at Montague Mini Mart. Investigated.

5:30 p.m. At request of Gill PD, carried out well-being check on vehicle operator on Montague City Road. Party removed to hospital.

6:34 p.m. Report of erratically operated vehicle on Montague City Road/Avenue A. Officer spoke to operator, who reported having issues with her glasses. Driver advised not to drive at night without proper glasses.

6:46 p.m. Burning odor at Highland School Apartments. Referred to TFFD. Odor turned out to be burnt popcorn.

TRANSPIRE from page B1

longer than five minutes. The first was *Overture*, two spectral, faceless figures watching mutely together from the sideline.

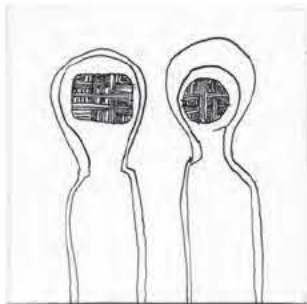
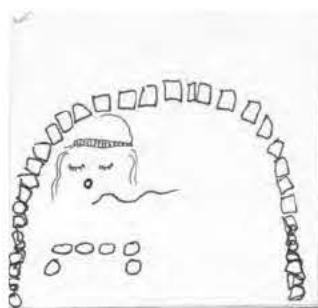
The second was *The Drawing Team*, consisting of Taryn Amina, Julia Handschuh, Jeff Havens, Eric Hnatow, Haley Morgan, and Angela Zammarelli. The Drawing Team drew the proceedings live, the cold rain threatening the paper of their five-minute sketches.

As participants, their record of the event is more accurate than our reporter’s would be, so we have printed excerpts here.

The twelve acts not included in these drawings were Bromptre; David Russell; the Banjo Assault Duo; Patrick Stephenson; Steve Theberge; Luminous in Nummer; Egg, Eggs; Jake Meginsky; Old Pam; Crank Sturgeon; Jen Gelineau & Sophie Leetnaa; and Wicked Rot.



ILLUSTRATIONS BY THE DRAWING TEAM



Left: Twin Cyster.  
Above, clockwise from top left: Frank Hurricane; Lauri McNamara; Overture; and Sam Gas Can.

MONTAGUE CRYPTOJAM!

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**PAPERS** from page B1

the state this week and had not responded to our email as of press time, but the entire region should be grateful to her department for the public service it has provided.

Bagnall was a great ironist, and his editorial voice colors even the most mundane local items. Many still-familiar local family names

pepper the *Reporter's* pages.

Topping off the collection are a scant few dozen issues of the *Turners Falls Herald*, which popped up in December 1940 pledging it had “no axe to grind,” and folded a scant 13 months later when its young editor, Joseph S. Cotton, was drafted 1-A and sent to war.

Cotton’s farewell editorial clos-

es: “To our successor, if ever there be one, we wish good luck and good fortune.” (Thanks mister!)

To view the collection, type *montague.advantage-preservation.com* into the address bar of your internet browser, and enjoy the show.

To give you an idea of what’s on the site, we present this special column:



## LOOKING BACK: 100 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was on February 4, 1914: News from the *Turners Falls Reporter's* archive.

### Montague

Ten members of the Women’s club attended the concert given at Turners Falls, Friday evening.

George Webber of Knoxville, Tenn. is visiting his sister, Mrs. Charles Nims, in the Meadows.

The public schools of Montague Center are closed on account of scarlet fever. So far the cases have been very light.

Robert Cushman, Jr., principal of the Turners Falls High School, will speak a the next meeting of the Board of Trade Wednesday evening on the subject “The Two Generations”.

Montague City people are planning to give a minstrel show in the not far distant future, for the benefit of the Library hall fund.

### Greenfield

The Greenfield police yesterday arrested William J. Barry and Thomas F. Lynch, who claim to be from Boston. It was reported to the police that two men were offering some cloth for sale on Deerfield Street. The men admitted that they

### Gill

A team of horses owned by Eugene McCarthy narrowly escaped drowning Saturday while they were hauling logs across the ice of Lily Pond. The ice gave way while they were crossing over with a heavy load, and the wagon and all went into the water.

It was necessary to loose the horses from the wagon, and a chain had to be hitched around their necks in order to haul them out of their cold bath.

### Erving

The moulders in the Millers Falls Company’s plant who have been working under a five days schedule since September, are now working six days weekly.

### Wendell

Mr. Haskins sawed the last log on the Baker job last week and moved his mill to New Salem where he has a job for a Springfield firm. He got moved in good time to escape the thaw.

His was the last mill in operation

here, though Allie Fisk is expected to set up his mill on the Sibley lot as soon as he finishes his job in Shutesbury. He has been bothered somewhat waiting for logs.

### Their Twelfth Victory

Last Thursday evening, the Turners Falls high school basketball team defeated the Athol Young Men’s Christian Association in the Hibernian hall by the score of 70 to 23. This was the local team’s 12th game this season, and every one has been a victory for them.

Turners Falls expected to have had a hard time playing the Athol team and were prepared for a stiff game. Instead of that, Turners Falls won easily. The line up was Black, Rist, Collins, Conway, Couture and Sullivan.

### Recipe: Marshmallow Salad

Cut ten cents’ worth of fresh marshmallows into quarters with the scissors. Add a half cupful of nuts broken in small pieces, and the same amount of dates, seeded and cut.

Pour over a cupful of sweetened whipped cream. Stir and mix well, then add a few maraschino cherries.

## LOOKING BACK:

### 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

*Here’s the way it was on February 5, 2004: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.*

#### Zoning Hearings to Commence

The Montague planning board will hold hearings on a number of proposed zoning changes.

On the docket for discussion is changing the general business zone to allow residential uses only by special permit, changing current residential/industrial zones along Millers Falls Road to commercial, requiring special permit review for the demolition of buildings within the historic industrial district while enlarging the district to include areas around Montague City Road, and a common driveway bylaw.

#### AT&T Tower Opposed

After weeks of public hearings Wendell’s zoning board of appeals is nearing a decision on an AT&T proposal to install cell phone transmitters atop a disused communications tower located on Lockes Hill Road.

Some residents fear that the repurposing of the 200 foot tower, originally operated by the US military, might have adverse health effects on residents, especially the 12 households located within 1000 feet of the Tower.

Besides the overwhelming opposition by residents present at the hearings, AT&T also needs variances for the project, something that building inspector Phil Delorey has recommended against.

At odds are federal and local policy: While the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 prohibits localities from addressing health and safety concerns in the citing of cell phone towers, Wendell town meeting passed a “precautionary principle” article in 1999 that states “When an activity raises the threat of harm to human health or the environment, precautionary measures should be taken even if some of the cause and effect relationships are not established scientifically”.

#### Teens Meet Lawmakers

On Friday the Greenfield Youth Center hosted to the 2nd annual Franklin/North Quabbin Legislative Forum for youth, an event that brings area youth and politicians together for discussion.

Teens proved they were not there simply to give politicians a PR opportunity, bringing up issues for discussion that included same-sex marriage, a lack of public transportation, weak treatment services for substance abuse, the encroachment of big businesses, and school funding.

Besides teens, in attendance were representatives Stephen Kulik and Chris Donelan, senator Stan Rosenberg, Greenfield mayor Christine Forgey, representatives of local Democratic, Republican, and Green/Rainbow parties, and members of numerous local service agencies, including FCAC, Dial/Self, the Brick House, Montague Catholic Social Ministries, Young Entrepreneurs, and the YMCA.

### STONE from page B1

hard-core business education, so he applied and was accepted to the graduate program at the Cornell School of Hospitality.

Two months before the program started he got a call from the Statler Hotel, located on Cornell’s campus, asking him to run the restaurant there. What perfect serendipity.

Cornell opened many doors, and he soon found himself in New York City where he worked as Corporate Director of Food and Beverage for the global hotel company Starwood Hotels and Resorts. He helped open the first W Hotel on 49<sup>th</sup> Street in New York City and many more after that.

Finding Starwood too big and impersonal, he left after five years to become the COO for the Starr Restaurant Group, a small and growing restaurant company based in Philadelphia.

With all this success, he never lost his resolve to return to Montague. He even set a date: his daughter was born while he and his wife lived in Philadelphia, and they wanted to be back in Western Massachusetts in time for her to start pre-school.

He is once again a member of the Leverett Co-op, just as he and his

wife were twenty years ago when they lived on Route 63, just outside Montague Center.

So they sold their home in Philadelphia and moved to the place that has always felt like home, and Wein rented office space at the Bookmill and launched Howard Wein Hospitality LLC, an advisory and venture firm serving the local and global hospitality industries.

Wein has a clear vision for **The Alvah Stone**. The fabric samples for the banquets are the colors of the rocks, the woods, and the river. His new design for the space is welcoming and intimate.

Over time, he plans to be open seven days a week for lunch and dinner, with brunch on the weekends, and he wants the restaurant to be accessible to the community.

He said, “The quality of the food, drink and hospitality and the surreal riverfront location will certainly make it a place to go for any special occasion, but I want it to be a venue for the community to visit regularly.”

He says he will source locally whenever he can and is an avid supporter of CISA and the local agricultural community. Through his current work on the sustainable

food system at Hampshire College, Howard already knows many of the area’s farmers.

The restaurant’s style Food & Drink and has been called New American: there will be snacks, salads, soups, beef, poultry, fish, pasta and a full beverage program featuring a cocktail list, ten craft beers on draft, and selection of wines by the glass or bottle. He was not ready to show me the full menu just yet...

Wein’s eyes sparkle when he talks about the venture. He says, “Opening this restaurant is living a dream.”

He has assembled a great team, he says, including David Schrier, a very talented chef from Brooklyn, and Luigi Ottaviani, an experienced general manager, to run daily operations. Wein will not be cooking this time round, he says, but it’s easy to imagine that he won’t be able to resist.

Having a restaurant at the Bookmill again is a dream for people who love to eat out, and knowing that Wein brings such impressive experience and personal commitment to the venture bodes well for its success.

Welcome home Howard Wein.



requests your **love poems** for our valentine’s day edition next week. send them to [editor@montaguereporter.org](mailto:editor@montaguereporter.org)!

#### NOTES FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

### Snow-Blowed Profanity

<b>Tuesday, 1/28</b>	taken.	noying telephone
7:40 a.m. Report of profanity snow-blown in lawn in area of Pleasant Street. Spoke with home owner. Same removed.	9 p.m. Noise complaint at North Street residence. Report taken.	calls to West High Street residence. Report taken.
<b>Thursday, 1/30</b>	Report taken.	9:10 p.m. Assisted Gill PD with domestic situation on South Cross Road.
3:30 p.m. Report of missing juvenile from Old State Road. Found to be home upon arrival at residence.	<b>Sunday, 2/2</b>	1:45 p.m. 911 call from camp on North Shore Road. Camp checked out secure. No one around.
<b>Friday, 1/31</b>	9 a.m. Assisted on scene of medical emergency on State Road.	6:05 p.m. Report taken of landlord/tenant dispute on North Street.
<b>Wednesday, 1/29</b>	11:13 a.m. Destruction of property at North Street residence. Report	
10:30 a.m. An-		

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## ONGOING:

## EVERY SUNDAY

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

## EVERY TUESDAY

The Millers Falls Library Club: Free after school program. 3:30 to 4:45 p.m.

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

## EVERY WEDNESDAY

Carnegie Library: Children and their families are invited to come enjoy stories, crafts, music and snacks. 10:15 to 11:30 a.m.

## EVERY THURSDAY

Arts Block, Greenfield: Thursday Night Jazz, *Ted Wirt and John Harrison*, 5 to 7 p.m.

Montague Center 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.

## ART SHOWS:

Augusta Savage Gallery, UMass,

Amherst: Jose Tonito Rodriguez: *Inkterventions* on display through February 14th.

Wendell Library, Wendell Center: *Flock of Days*, paintings by Heather Lenz and Monotypes by Pam Lawson on display through 2/28.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Third Annual Erotic Art Show*, Sensual>Sexual>Smut, exhibit of local artists ranging from mild to wild, through March 15.

## AUDITIONS:

Mutton and Mead Medieval Festival seeks Actors, Singers, Musicians and other performers for Shire Cast. Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: Feb 7th, 4 to 8 p.m. Feb 8th & 9th, 10 to 6 p.m.; snow dates Feb. 10th & 11th, 4 to 8 p.m. [www.muttonandmead.com](http://www.muttonandmead.com).

## CALL FOR POETRY:

*2nd Annual Slate Roof Press Poetry Chapbook Contest*. Contest winner's work is published by Slate Roof and author becomes a full member. Submit no more than 28 pages. \$25 reading fee. Deadline (upload/postmark): March 31, 2014. Full guidelines: [www.slateroofpress.com](http://www.slateroofpress.com) or <http://slateroofpresscontest.submittable.com/submit>.

## EVENTS:

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *The Collected Poets Series* featuring George Drew, Ravi Shankar, & Nancy White, 7 p.m.

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

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

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7

Family Dance at Gill Elementary School, 6 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls:

*Drew Paton's 1940s Hit Parade*, 6 p.m. Then *Shwill* in memory of Greg, benefit for Anthony, also *Haste! Grin/Brown/Teausz*, Zack Holmes & Sandy Bailey, \$, 9:30 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Bark Juice* with special guest Kenneth Coulson, alternative, earth jam, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Equalites*, reggae, 9:30 p.m.

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: *Valentine Paper Workshop* with



*Greenfield Community College welcomes award winning spoken word artist Taalam Acey on Wednesday, February 12, 12:30 p.m. Held in the Sloan Theater on the GCC Main Campus.*

Luc Bodin, 10 a.m. to noon. Learn about paper weaving, cutting, and folding to create your own paper masterpiece.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Opening Reception for Children of the Swift River Valley Exhibit*, 1 to 3 p.m. Free vintage-style portraits taken by Hallmark Institute of Photography students in front of simulated 19th century studio backdrops painted by Northfield Elementary School Students.

Central Congregational Church, Orange: *Food For Change*, provocative new film that looks at the current resurgence of food co-operatives in America, and their unique historic place in America's economic and political landscape. Sponsored by North Quabbin Community Co-op and Mt. Grace Land Conservation Trust, free, 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Peter Pan* by Ja'Duke, \$, 7 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Alan Williams*, singer/songwriter, 8 p.m.

Art's Block, Greenfield: *The*

*Happier Valley Comedy Show*. Bring your valentine and all lovers of comic theater to this show: *Scripted/Unscripted*. Featuring a cavalcade of talented improvisers and stage actors from the Pioneer Valley and Boston, \$, 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Russel Kaback*, soul/folk and *The Rambling Kind*, fresh bluegrass, 9:30 p.m.

Route 63, Millers Falls: *Electric Carnival*, 60's classic rock, \$, 9:30 p.m.

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Springfield College, William Blizard Gallery: Exhibition based on the book *A Home Run for Bunny* written by Richard Anderson and illustrations by Gerald Purnell. Gallery reception for author & artist. Noon to 4 p.m. Exhibit on display through 2/20.

Green Fields Market, Greenfield: *Seed Swap*, upstairs meeting room, 1 to 4 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Peter Pan* by Ja'Duke, \$, 2 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Crow's Rebellion*, Steve Crow, Peter Kim, and

Joe Fitzpatric, warped Americana, 8 p.m.

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

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Nick's Sweet '80s Movie, Howard the Duck*, 9 p.m.

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Nora & Martha's Open Microphone*, 8 p.m.

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12

Greenfield Community College, Sloan Theater: *Taalam Acey, Spoken Word Artist*. Open to the community, 12:30 p.m.

The Art Garden, Shelburne Falls: *Art for Change*, facilitated by Phyllis Labanowski and Jane Beatrice Wegscheider, drop-in, free. More info: [www.theartgarden.org](http://www.theartgarden.org), 6 to 9 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Simon White-Acoustic Style*, acoustic reggae by Simon White, Peter Kim, Jay Stanley & Boo Pearson, 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls:

*Shout Lulu*, southern string band, 8 p.m.

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Surly Temple*, Jim Henry, Guy DeVito, Doug Plavin and Tommy Boynton, 8 p.m.

Fine Arts Center, UMass Amherst: *Grace Kelly Quintet*, Bowker Auditorium, \$, 7:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Uncle Hal's Crabgrass Band*, 8 p.m.

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Russell Kaback (soul/folk)

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## NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT POLICE LOG

### Icy Roads Present Hazards

Wednesday, 1/1

2:35 p.m. Medical call on Depot Road. Subject refused transport to Cooley-Dickinson Hospital.

Thursday, 1/2

7:38 p.m. Arrested [redacted], on a warrant for trespass with a motor vehicle, destruction of property over \$250, and criminal harassment. [redacted] also charged with resisting arrest. Held for court.

Friday, 1/3

1:15 p.m. Motor vehicle accident on Montague Road. Criminal summons issued to [redacted] for operating an unregistered and uninsured motor vehicle with illegally attached plates. [redacted] lost control of this unregistered Pontiac Firebird on a snowy road and struck a guardrail. No injuries. Vehicle towed by Rau's.

1:15 p.m. Criminal summons issued to [redacted] for allowing that unregistered and uninsured Firebird, which she owned, to be driven.

1:15 p.m. Criminal summons issued to [redacted]

[redacted], who attempted to remove the same Firebird from the

scene, for operating after revocation of a license, plus operating the unregistered and uninsured vehicle with illegal plates.

Saturday, 1/4

9:40 a.m. Officer discovered railroad crossing lights stuck on Depot Road. New England Central Railroad notified.

Monday, 1/6

8:30 a.m. Motor vehicle accident on Amherst Road.

[redacted] lost control of her vehicle on slush and struck a utility pole head-on. No injuries. Vehicle towed by Rau's.

12:30 p.m. Male causing a disturbance at the Leverett Post Office. Subject sent on his way.

Friday, 1/17

3:38 p.m. Long Plain Road homeowner reported a breaking and entering at his residence earlier in the day. Cash and jewelry taken. Under investigation.

Saturday, 1/18

4:49 p.m. Motor vehicle accident on Dudleyville Road. [redacted] lost control on ice and snow and skidded off a road, striking a tree. No injuries. Vehicle towed to North Amherst Motors.

Sunday, 1/19

10:07 a.m. Motor vehicle accident on Shutesbury Road.

[redacted], of [redacted] skidded on the ice and struck a guardrail. No injuries. Vehicle towed by a private towing company.

Monday, 1/20

1:30 p.m. Report of a fight in front of the Public Safety Building. Parties aged 28 and 61 involved in a dispute. Both advised how to seek complaints if they wished and sent from the area.

Saturday, 1/25

10:55 a.m. Caller reported a parking complaint at the boat access area of Leverett Pond on Depot Road. Officer located subjects ice fishing, and had them move their vehicles to a safer area.

Wednesday, 1/29

7:20 p.m. Caller reported having to assist a man and his son being threatened by a loose German Shepard on Long Plain Road. Officer located the dog's owner, who restrained the dog.

Thursday, 1/30

6:30 p.m. Criminal motor vehicle citation issued to [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle after license suspension and marked lanes violation. Family member picked subject and vehicle up at the scene.

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