



The Montague Reporter

YEAR 13 – NO. 17

also serving Irving, Gill, Everett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

FEBRUARY 12, 2015

ERVING SELECTBOARD

After More Consideration, Mackin Parcel Accepted, 2-1

By KATIE NOLAN

The Erving selectboard voted Wednesday night to approve the Conservation Commission's decision to accept the Mackin family parcel on Poplar Mountain, and signed the donation agreement with the Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust.

At its February 4 meeting, the selectboard had expressed some reservations about Mount Grace's motives for conserving the land, suggesting that the land trust wanted to use the conservation agreement to hinder construction of Kinder Morgan's New England Direct natural gas pipeline. The proposed pipeline route goes through the utility right of way on the parcel.

Mount Grace staff proposed taking ownership of the land as a gift from the Mackin estate, clearing up title problems, and then donating the land to the town. Mount Grace would pay closing costs for obtaining the land from the Mackins and would pay real estate taxes while they own the land, and the Conservation Commission would pay closing costs (estimated at \$2,000) for

see ERVING page A7

Retrain the Brain: Healing With Neuroplasticity

By JOE KWIECINSKI

WENDELL – When Sharon Wachsler first became ill in 1995, she had been an active 25-year-old who could juggle taking classes at Northern Essex Community College, teaching self-defense at Tufts, and working full-time in human services in Waltham.

Then her world figuratively turned upside down. "I was diagnosed with chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS) and multi-chemical syndrome (MCS) by a medical doctor," she said.

Wachsler was assailed by a perfect storm of pains and discomfort. "I had flu-like symptoms, a chron-

ic low-grade fever, sore throats, headaches, crushing exhaustion. I was always weak, had trouble with my memory and thinking, suffered insomnia, and, of course, severe symptoms after exposure to chemicals such as fragrances, cleaning products, and gas stove odors."

After Wachsler moved to Cambridge, her condition deteriorated. She went to a plethora of doctors, trying to pinpoint why she was getting worse. "I was homebound for years," she said. "It was hard for me to do anything other than lay on my couch."

In 1998, the indomitable Wachsler moved to Ashfield. "I used a

see BRAIN page A4

COURTESY SHARON WACHSLER



Sharon Wachsler, no longer bedridden, visits a wild bird sanctuary in Florida last spring. In the background are black-bellied whistling ducks.

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Board Reviews Town Snow Policies, and Two Liquor License Violations

By JEFF SINGLETON

The Montague selectboard meeting of February 10 had been delayed twice by snow, or the fear of snow. So it was appropriate that Police Chief Chip Dodge began the meeting by reviewing local snow removal regulations.

According to what Dodge called the "snow removal bylaw," local homeowners are expected to remove snow from sidewalks in front of their property within 24 hours of a storm.

Given the amount of snow that has fallen recently, the town will be monitoring compliance more closely. Violators could be subject to fines of \$20 for the first violation, \$35 for the second and \$50 for the third.

"Every day is a new day," declared Dodge.

The chief stressed that residents should not shovel or blow their sidewalk snow onto the streets or onto the property of other residents. He encouraged homeowners to shovel snow from around fire hydrants for



NINAROSSIPHOTO

Dan Wetterwald removes an ice dam from a Central Street roof.

their own safety, although this is not required by the bylaw.

Dodge also urged residents to be aware of parking bans on frequently used, narrow streets that are being cleared by the highway department. He singled out Third Street in Turners Falls, which he termed "horrific."

After the snow policy discussion see MONTAGUE page A6

Walking through Our Region's African-American History

By ANNE HARDING

DEERFIELD – Western Massachusetts is home to at least four walking tours focusing on the history of African Americans in the region. All four have websites where you can access the maps and varying amounts of historical information.

Deerfield: Memorial Hall

Memorial Hall Museum of Deerfield has the most extensive resources with its "American Centuries" website that makes thousands of the museum's artifacts and documents available at the click of a mouse. The museum is open seasonally May through October, but the website provides year round access to a wealth of resources.

There are special sections for teachers, students and researchers and a myriad of categories to explore. There is also a lot of information to be found at the "Turn of the Centuries" section of the site, which follows themes through the centuries, one being African Americans.

One of their newer online exhibits explores African Americans in early rural New England, and in particular Deerfield: memorialhall.mass.edu/afram/index.html

There you will find a link to a printable walking tour detailing 23 African American historic sites in Deerfield and interpretive information. In conjunction with the map there is a set of short essays that can be printed.

Though few of the original buildings are still standing, the map identifies many sites on Main Street where enslaved and free African Americans lived and worked in the timeframe from 1695 to 1783.

Among the stops is the Ebenezer Wells

House where Lucy Terry Prince once lived as a slave and later as a free woman. She married Abijah Prince in 1756 – he was believed to have been given his freedom and some land rights by his former owner, Northfield's Reverend Doolittle.

Considered by many to be the first African American poet, Lucy was known as a story teller and created the poem "The Bars Fight" in commemoration of an Indian raid in 1746. The Prince family later moved to Guilford, Vermont.

see TOURS page A8



Louise Minks' painting of Lucy Terry Prince

NEWS ANALYSIS

What Creative Economy?

By GEORGE SHAPIRO

NORTH ADAMS – When the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art (Mass MoCA) opened in 1999 it was heralded by some as the beginning of a revitalization of North Adams. The state contributed over \$35 million dollars in grants to turn what had once seemed the fantasy of Williams College professors into reality.

The idea that investment in the fine arts could lead to broader economic transformation of communities, devastated by the collapse of U.S. manufacturing employment, was advocated by many voices at the time.

In his 2002 bestseller *The Rise of the Creative Class*, sociologist Richard Florida argued that intangibles such as culture and "coolness" had become critically important to economic vitality. The theory suggested that if cities and towns invested money in culture and the arts, they could attract young members of the "creative class," around which the new industries of post-industrial America would coalesce: the creative economy.

Mass MoCA's success has been widely heralded.



The former Arnold Print Works, now part of Mass MoCA. Creative Commons photo by Beyond My Ken.

Almost ten years after its founding, North Adams mayor John Barrett III celebrated the transformation of Yankee Magazine's description of North Adams from a "sorry gateway to nowhere" to a "hidden jewel."

The museum's visible success serves as an inspiration to those who promote the "arts economy" in western Massachusetts as a basis for economic redevelopment. Many private arts-related projects promote themselves as "revitalizing" the towns where they are situated. And the state has also announced a further \$25 million in grants to expand Mass MoCA.

But after 15 years, it is

reasonable to expect that the rhetoric of economic transformation will have translated to real results. With now over \$60 million in public funds invested, this transformation should not be intangible but readily apparent to the public.

It is hard to ignore what has changed, and what hasn't, in downtown North Adams. But, how you feel about the city today should not substitute for facts.

Before and After

I urge everyone to go to factfinder.census.gov and explore the census data for yourself. 1999 coincides neatly with the 2000 census see CREATIVE page A5

The Montague Reporter

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August, 2002

End the Madness!

Three weeks in a row, our little newspaper’s production cycle has been disrupted by snow.

If you are like us, you are by now exhausted by the powdery onslaught. Snow is an ugly color, mars the landscape and smells bad.

Whoever had the great idea to allow frozen water molecules to condense around dust particles high in the atmosphere should have their tenure revoked. What was once a nice way to not have to go to school has become an unnecessary logistical nightmare.

The stuff is unsuitable for packing and transport, much cheaper to synthesize than to store. If it were food we could at least eat it. As it is we can only push it around into towering, dirty piles, which, to add insult to injury, will eventually break down into dirty water, one of the worst kinds of water.

Spread around on sidewalks and road surfaces, it takes on a quality similar to butter or lard, reducing traction and making navigation a hazard.

Apologists for this nuisance sometimes say they find it attractive. This rings false to us.

To our knowledge, no municipality has ever commissioned artists to coat an entire local landscape in a single hue. If one did there would be an uproar – and rightly so, for such an extensive intervention in monochrome is in every case tacky and inappropriate.

Yet when it comes to snow we have been trained since youth to set aside our better aesthetic judgment and marvel at the effect. Simply because it dumps out of clouds!

And as for the expansive tranquility, the muffled and moonlit night scenes the snow brings – if we don’t condone the drive to nihilist sensory obliteration exhibited by drug-users, we should hardly indulge it in our area nature-freaks.

Perhaps several generations of taking Transcendentalist diletantes a bit too literally have left New Englanders completely incapable of proper critical thought about snow.

Sure, it is in one sense “natural.” But so was polio, and we didn’t just sit around suffering through that for any longer than we had to.

As if it couldn’t get any worse, an army of opportunists sweats out of the woodwork at first dusting. Skiers, sledders, shovelers

and plow drivers – each chasing a cheaper thrill or a quicker buck than the last – thrive amidst our common snowbound misery.

Each of these antisocial types could have developed a more sustainable sport or trade, but instead insist on rolling the dice, then wallowing around ostentatiously in what the weather occasionally leaves us.

But it’s time to draw a line.

We endorse a system of snow quotas, coupled with a steep table of fines for violations.

Nine inches in a week, and two feet in a month, should be more than enough to satisfy the snow-huggers and snow profiteers.

Beyond that, the full social cost of the nuisance should be borne by those who purport to enjoy it.

If such a system were put in place regionwide, we think we would quickly see the end of our irresponsible abrogation of responsibility for the doings of “nature,” and those who still claim to enjoy snow in moderation would quickly invest in strategies to limit its excessive downfall.

Does it seem unreasonable? Two feet a month has been more than our average snowfall. That might be changing.

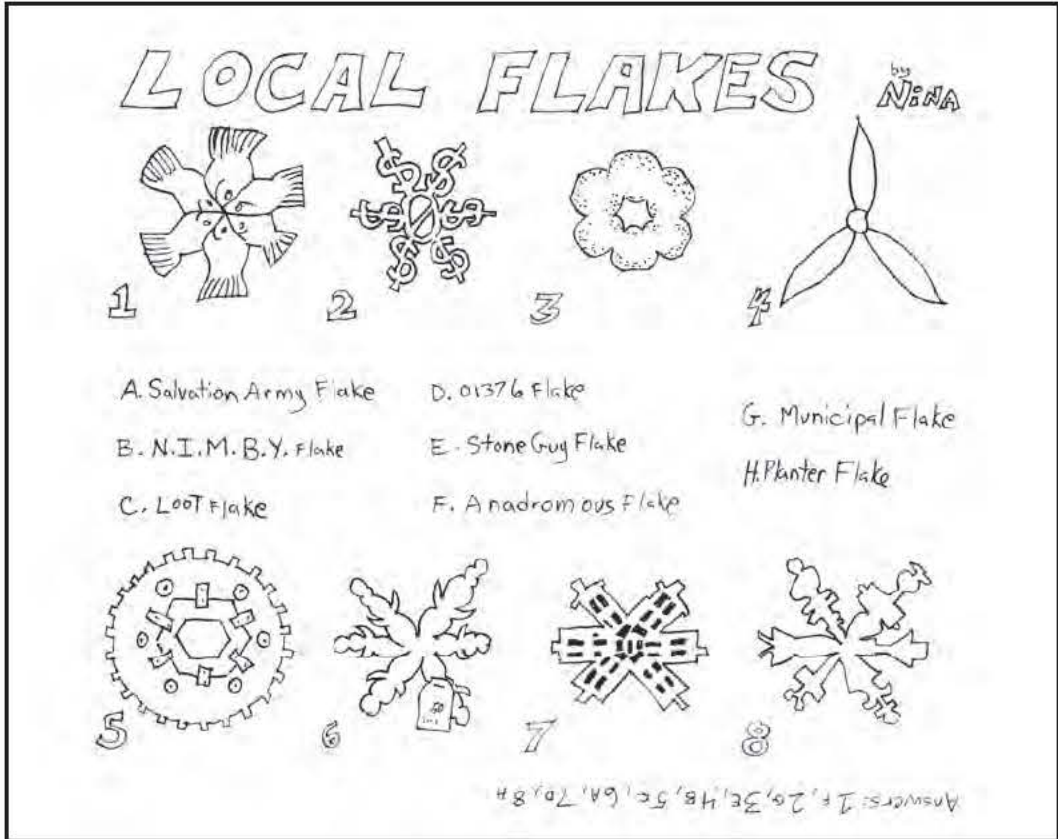
Warmer ocean temperatures transfer more moisture into the atmosphere, leading to heavier precipitation when storms fall. And yet the dangerous and disruptive result is tolerated, even celebrated by the snow-fiends.

Let’s not sit idly by while their tacit support for climate change blankets us all in a suffocating, cold mess. If we register them and tax them for snow violations, they will very quickly rejoin the side of sanity and get to work on blizzard prevention.

While we are waiting for this legislation to pass, the *Montague Reporter* also announces a snow contest.

Simply make a paper snowflake (out of an 8-1/2” x 11” piece of paper), write your name and telephone number on it, and submit it to our office at 177 Avenue A in Turners Falls. You can mail them or leave them in our mailbox.

Next week we’ll dump them all and draw one at random to win a very special snow package, consisting of a snow shovel courtesy of Aubuchon Hardware, a can of soup, and a roll of toilet paper. Get snipping!



Letter to the Editors

Flabbergasted

We were flabbergasted when we saw the front page headline about the Leverett selectboard’s February 5 meeting, “Should Transfer Station Stay in Operation”?

The transfer station has repeatedly won kudos from the state for Leverett’s success with recycling. It is a shining example of “refuse, reduce, recycle”. For example, it has one of the finest operations to take deposit bottles and cans out of the waste stream, for the benefit of the town’s Rattlesnake Gutter Trust (that buys and manages conservation land in town), entirely operated by unpaid volunteers.

Another group of volunteers man-

ages, at no expense to the town, the book shed, where books are dropped off, sorted and shelved by subject as in a public library and recirculated to the community.

The clothing shed and the “Take it Leave It” are also run entirely by volunteers, and the citizens themselves place whatever else is recyclable in the waste stream in the appropriate pigeonholes.

The expenses of the transfer station are covered by the user fees. No money is saved by closing the transfer station.

But closing the transfer station would significantly decrease recycling in Leverett, redirect funds from

the non-profit sector to for-profit companies outside of town, and, most significantly, destroy a model operation that does not just recycle, but help to foster community.

An out-of-town garbage truck by the roadside does not at all replace the community building that is exemplified by the present Leverett Transfer Station. Closing it might make the work of the Selectmen easier, in not having to administer it any more, but so would closing the roads, the school, the police, and any other significant part of what constitutes the community of Leverett!

H. Martin Wobst
Leverett

GUEST EDITORIAL

No Exemptions for Entergy!

By SANDY KOSTERMAN

GREENFIELD – Local towns and residents are very concerned with plans for decommissioning of Vermont Yankee, just over the border in Vernon, Vermont.

The Town Council of Greenfield wrote a letter and resolution which opposes granting 2 exemptions that Entergy Inc., the parent company of VY, is requesting. The towns of Gill, Bernardston and Warwick have also written letters opposing granting the exemptions, and other towns in the area are in the process of doing so as well.

These local towns are supporting the State of Vermont in denying VY exemptions that affect public safety.

The first exemption Entergy is requesting from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is to discontinue emergency planning zone (EPZ) coverage for the present 10-mile radius around Vermont Yankee. The second one is increasing the notification time for an accident at VY from the present 15 minutes to 60 minutes.

Local towns oppose granting these exemptions to Vermont Yankee due to the fact that doing so would endanger public safety. These local towns support the State of Vermont in requiring VY to continue the EPZ until the spent fuel pool is empty, and all highly radioactive spent fuel is in dry cask storage.

The EPZ should actually be 50 miles, as the US government advised US citizens in Japan after the disaster at Fukushima to evacuate if they were within 50 miles. The NRC needs to protect the public!

Presently, the temporary spent fuel pool is holding 4 times as much fuel as it was designed to hold – close to 3,000 spent fuel rods, on top of a 7 story building, covered with a thin metal roof.

Highly radioactive fuel will continue to be moved through 2020 from the over-packed spent fuel pool high above the reactor into dry cask storage, and we need to be protected.

With VY downsizing its staff, is there enough security and oversight to protect citizens from terrorist threats? And, if we lose power due to severe weather or if the grid goes down for any other reason, will the back-up generators be sufficient to cool the spent fuel pool to ensure public safety?

These questions are important to consider especially after 9/11 and the disaster at Fukushima – a plant that was the same Mark 1 Boiling Water Reactor as Vermont Yankee.

The NRC needs to take these 2 questions into consideration knowing that there are close to 3,000 spent fuel rods – 3 million curies of highly radioactive spent fuel – in the temporary spent fuel pool at VY. (Hiroshima was only 2,000 curies.)

Please make your voices heard on this important issue. Upcoming public events that we can attend and give our input are:

Thursday, February 19, from 6 to 9 p.m.: NRC public meeting to discuss and answer questions regarding decommissioning of VY, at the Quality Inn on Putney Road in Brattleboro. This will be the only hearing NRC will hold on the decommissioning of VY, and the public is welcome to attend and voice their concerns.

Wednesday, February 25: Nuclear Decommissioning Citizen Advisory Panel (NDCAP) meeting, time and place to be announced. For more info, see safeandgreencampaign.org and www.mikebusters.org.

In the meantime, the NRC is accepting public comments until March 23. The docket number is 50-271 and you can submit them online through www.regulations.gov, or by mail to Cindy Bladley, Office of Administration, Mail Stop: 3WFN-06-A44M, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C., 20555.

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

Compiled by DON CLEGG

Kids, want to make a Valentine Surprise for a special person? **Pick the Valentine you want to customize.** Folks will be on hand to guide you with your efforts if you wish help. A completely free event and light refreshments will be provided..

Held at Greenfield Savings Bank, 282 Avenue A, in Turners Falls on Saturday, February 14, from 10 to 11 a.m.

Mike Naughton's Yankee Doodle Circus is coming to Turners Falls High School on Friday, February 13, from 7 to 9 p.m.

Tickets at the door are \$18 for adults and \$6 for children. Kids and teens attend free with an adult pre-sale ticket, in a special offer for families, friends and neighbors of the Class of 2015: adult advance

ticket, plus 2 free youth tickets, only \$14.75. You can order your pre-sale tickets online now at GetCircus-Tickets.com.

The **Crazy Diamond Band** will be playing the music of **Pink Floyd on Valentine's Day**, Saturday, February 14, from 8 to 11 p.m. at the Wendell Town Hall at a benefit for Friends of the Wendell Meetinghouse.

The band includes Wendell residents Ray Grigonis on bass guitar and Shelly Hines singing back up vocals. In 2014 they won Rock 102's Battle of the Tribute Bands.

The concert will be filmed and part of it will be broadcast on Montague TV on future dates, which Hines hopes will help to spread the word about both the band and efforts to restore the Wendell Meetinghouse.

The suggested contribution for the show is \$6-20. To learn more

about Friends of the Wendell Meetinghouse visit www.wendell-meetinghouse.org.

The **Turners Falls High School Hockey Cooperative** is hosting a benefit breakfast on Sunday, February 15, from 8 to 11 a.m. at the Montague Elks Club located on the corner of Elk Avenue and L Street, Turners Falls. The Montague Reporter issue of February 5 previously listed the event as Saturday, February 14.

This full breakfast meal will include pancakes, sausage, bacon, eggs, hash browns, coffee, tea, juice, and milk. The prices are \$6 for adults, \$4 for kids under ten, \$5 for senior citizens, three or under eat for free.

Craft Day for Teens and Adults at Erving Public Library on Sunday, February 15, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. -- make a curly scarf with Maggie Fidanza. Registration is required and all programs are open to the public and held at the library at 17 Moore St. There is a \$5.00 materials fee.

Make a free 90-second Public Service Announcement to promote the 2015 **Summer Reading Program** at the Erving Public Library

on Thursday, February 18, from 10 a.m. to noon. The theme is Heroes. Registration is required, call (413) 423-3348. For teens 13 to 18 only.

Celebrating its seventh anniversary, the **Eventide Singers** will present their fifth annual benefit concert on Sunday, February 22, at 3 p.m. at the First Congregational Church, 43 Silver Street in Greenfield.

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.

The benefit concert will feature two speakers sharing their experience of Eventide singing for their loved ones. Admission to the concert is by suggested donation ranging from \$12 to \$15. Snow date is March 1. For additional information call (413) 774-5828 or email joetoritto@yahoo.com.

The concert is being co-sponsored by Hospice of Franklin County, Hospice of the Fisher Home of Amherst, New England Health Center of Sunderland and the Buckley Care Center of Greenfield.

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Montague, Leverett Raise Tobacco Purchase Age

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

The Board of Health of Montague voted to change the regulations on the sale of tobacco products by unanimous vote at their meeting on January 21. The age for purchasing tobacco products in Montague will be raised from 18 to 21, and the sale of most flavored tobacco products will be banned.

This decision followed a process that included a public meeting held December 17, allowing time for public comments and a period of 30 days for further comments before consideration of the issue. The new policy will go into effect on July 1.

There was general support in the community for this change at the public meeting held in December, but some in the retail business sector expressed concern over how it would affect them.

Reached at F.L. Roberts last week, employee Will Fisher said he and his fellow employees were concerned about how the new regulations would impact sales.

One question they have is about flavored tobacco products. He said they sell a lot of wintergreen flavored chewing tobacco: "That's about 50% of our sales in this category, so it would surely lower our sales," he said.

Fisher said they also sell a lot of vanilla-flavored cigarillos, and expressed concern over how a ban on flavored tobacco products would affect overall sales. A call to F.L. Roberts general manager Ray Cross in Springfield was not returned.

Michael Sullivan, superintendent of the Gill-Montague Regional School District, expressed support for the new regulations. "I was pleased to see the board make this courageous move," he said. "I think a compelling case can be made that this will help prevent future teen addictions."

Montague will ban all flavored tobacco products, except menthol and mint.

Montague director of public health Gina McNeely said she based her opinion on medical research which links delayed initial use of tobacco products by adolescents with lower rates of addiction.

According to McNeely, the American Journal of Medicine in its November 2014 edition stated that the young adult brain is more susceptible to nicotine addiction than that of older adults. What those in public health are learning about the human brain indicates that individuals who begin smoking at a young age are more likely to become addicted.

McNeely pointed to the health concerns related to tobacco use, citing statistics showing ninety percent of lung cancers are attributable to cigarette smoking. She said

statistics also show use of chewing tobacco and snuff increases rates of oral cancer, and adults who smoke die ten years sooner than those who don't smoke.

McNeely said that only two percent of total tobacco sales are to those younger than 21, yet most lifetime smokers start smoking before that age.

Regarding flavored tobacco products, McNeely said, "The tobacco industry knows if they can hook a person at or before the age of 18 years they will likely have a market for the lifetime of that person." She pointed to the flavored tobacco products as a way of appealing to youth.

Montague will ban all flavored tobacco products except menthol and mint.

Questioning the regulation was Peter d'Errico, member of the Leverett selectboard. Leverett's board of health passed a similar set of regulations the same night.

D'Errico spoke of the historical use of tobacco in America. He said tobacco is an ancient plant that has long been used by Native Americans in its natural state as part of their rituals. He pointed to additives and the use of pesticides in growing tobacco as possible causes of current-day health issues.

D'Errico expressed concern at what he said seemed like an increasing demonization of tobacco. "Let's step back," he said, "and ask, what is the goal here? How much is hysteria and how much is good public health? Is this one more step

towards complete eradication of tobacco?"

Pointing to the decision in 2013 to make UMass-Amherst a tobacco-free campus, d'Errico said he would like to see more thoughtful discussions that include a clear sense of balance and proportion.

For Kara McLaughlin, project director of the Gill-Montague Community School Partnership, a group dedicated to helping young people make healthy decisions for their lives, the issue is protection.

"How much is hysteria, and how much is good public health?" Peter d'Errico, Leverett selectboard

A strong supporter of the new rules, McLaughlin said she felt tobacco regulation was an important step in protecting young people at an age where research shows their brains are not yet fully developed, and they are more prone to risky behavior.

According to McLaughlin, addiction is "a disease of adolescence," so just protecting young people between the ages of 15-21 from access to addictive substances can result in a 45 percent decrease in addiction rates. She said, "It is our duty as adults to make sure we are not putting our children in harm's way."

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Grade 8

Victoria Veaudry

BRAIN from page A1

mobility scooter to get around outside my house," she said, "as well as a carbon filter mask and oxygen, accompanied by my service dog that I had trained. I had enjoyed a small improvement, but I had to rest most of the time.

"Inexplicably, after two years I started to get chronic migraines, with one lasting for weeks at a time. This was in addition to the other CFS and MCS symptoms." Eventually, Sharon transitioned from her mobility scooter to a power chair.

In 2006, Sharon moved here to Wendell. A few months after the move, she was bitten by a tick and contracted Lyme disease and other tick-borne ailments.

"I became desperately ill – feeling worse than I ever thought was possible. I was in excruciating pain. All my other sensitivities were getting worse. I lost the ability to speak.

"Eventually, I was put on an aggressive antibiotic treatment, for which I will always be grateful. It was brutally hard. I got worse before I got better. But I stuck with it and completed the treatment in August, 2013."

But Wachsler's recovery wasn't complete. Although she could stand, at times, she was still in bed virtually all the time; weak, and on occasion, non-verbal.

However, the determined Wachsler refused to stop battling her problems. She obtained Canadian Annie Hopper's set of DVDs, teaching

a system called Dynamic Neural Retraining System (DNRS). A rehabilitation program that requires a strong commitment, DNRS was an ideal match for the highly motivated Wendell resident.

DNRS is based on the theory of neuroplasticity. Neuroplasticity is the quality that "allows the neurons (nerve cells) in the brain to compensate for injury and disease and to adjust their activities in response to new situations or to changes in their environment." (MedicineNet.com, 2012)

The proud owner of her third service dog, Wachsler was able to structure her own "workable, effective training program. I had trained my dogs and seen how training had changed them. It seems to be a small leap, since behavior is malleable and plastic, and behavior comes from the brain – why can't changing behavior change the brain itself?"

Pru Smith of Wendell is in full agreement. A wellness coach, Smith works with people with limbic system problems and helps people, in her words, "to rewire their brains. I am not an expert on neuroplasticity, just someone who uses it and helps others use it to their advantage. Neuroplasticity is a very interesting and powerful medium for healing."

Smith herself agonized with chronic fatigue syndrome for close to three decades. Her doctor told her about DNRS, having seen many favorable outcomes of the applied program.

After her health improved, Smith became fascinated with helping alleviate others' burdens. She studied formally and earned certifications in psychosynthesis, Kripalu yoga, mindfulness-based stress reduction, plus health and wellness. Along with using DNRS, Smith incorporates the Ashok Gupta Amygdala Retraining program.

The amygdala is part of the human brain's limbic system, along with the hippocampus, cingulate cortex, and hypothalamus.

Both Hopper's and Gupta's programs contain very specific steps involving movement, affirmations, imagery, memory, and visualization of positive successful outcomes.

Learning anything, such as driving a car or walking, depends on setting down unconscious patterns in the brain. Unfortunately, the human brain can also influence health negatively when the flight-or-fight response, a state of hy-

per-activation of the limbic system, kicks in.

"Physical and mental work," said Smith, "has to incorporate emotions, because the limbic system operates primarily with our emotions. The limbic system is the seat of emotions in the brain. We're trying to downgrade the negative emotional response in the limbic system, so that it can relax, so to speak."

Hopper claims that DNRS can be used to improve cases of fibromyalgia, MCS, CFS, and post-traumatic stress disorder, since each of these conditions is caused by some form of injury to the brain.

"I got my life back," marveled Smith. "I hadn't been able to get on a plane, walk down a detergent aisle, or even go to a party, due to CFS and CMS. I'm so grateful I got better, and it's great to see others reclaim their lives and be joyful."

Sharon Wachsler, too, has recovered completely. She swims twice a week, attends two yoga classes a week taught by Shay Cooper at the library in Wendell, and can walk her dog for two and a half miles daily.

Wachsler has started a business called At Your Service Dog Training. "It's a dream come true for me," she said, "to be a professional dog trainer." She also helps teach an obedience class at Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society, and gives dog training lessons in clients' homes for Pet Behavior Consulting, a Shutesbury business.

Shay Cooper and Sharon Wachsler will deliver a talk entitled "Embodying Your Better Brain: Neuroplasticity techniques and yoga exercises to retrain the brain" at 6:30 p.m. on March 31 at the Wendell Free Library.



NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Affordable Housing Lottery in the Works

By DAVID DETMOLD

If you have your eye on a house in Leverett priced at no more than \$250,000, and if your household earns less than 100% of the area median income, you may soon be able to get your application in for an affordable house lottery to receive a subsidy of up to \$50,000 toward the purchase of your new home.

The Leverett selectboard approved a draft of a town sponsored Affirmative Fair Housing Marketing and Homebuyer Selection Plan on February 10. Acting through the Leverett Affordable Housing Trust, with funds accumulated from the town's Community Preservation Committee (CPC), the board hopes to encourage Leverett residents and employees to participate in the affordable housing lottery.

If town meeting voters back the plan, and if the CPC makes more funds available to the Affordable Housing Trust, selectboard member

Julie Shively said the board would like to make a total of \$200,000 available for home purchase subsidies for the first round of lottery applicants later this year.

If all goes as planned, the town, working with the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority as the program's administering agent, hopes to make half the subsidy money available for income eligible Leverett residents, children of Leverett residents, or employees of the town.

In accordance with state law, not all the money can be set aside for town employees or residents, so the other half of the available subsidy money would be made available to lottery applicants from the surrounding area.

In theory, four applicants could be chosen the first year from the lottery pool – two from Leverett, and two from the wider geographic region. Once purchased, the homes will have a deed restriction to keep the subsidy available for future

homebuyers who may eventually buy that house, creating a stock of below market homes in town that could grow over time, if the program is successful.

The program is due to be advertised shortly on the town website and on local bulletin boards, and through area realtors.

Budget Hearings Continue

In other news, the board and finance committee held a joint budget hearing for the police department, with chief Gary Billings presenting an expense budget showing 3.5% and 8% reductions, in line with the targets the selectboard and finance committee have requested, due to a number of fiscal uncertainties facing Leverett this year.

Billings said he would have to cut money from his training and from his radio maintenance budget in order to meet the targets. "But for a small department like ours, at 8% you're talking about paper and pencils, that sort of thing."

The police department had a \$187,830 budget last year – but the expense lines exclusive of salaries totaled only \$29,263. Billings said he did not want to cut back on hours of coverage by reducing hours for salaried or part time officers.

Will Stratford postponed the hearing for the highway department budget to a later date, so he could have a chance to recover from a weekend of long hours behind the wheel of a snow plow. The finance boards agreed to allow his department to deficit spend for snow and ice removal for the rest of the winter anyway.

Fire Chief Welcomed

About 50 firefighters, friends and families showed up at the beginning of the meeting for the swearing in of Leverett's new fire chief, John Ingram, who beamed with pride during the ceremony.

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CREATIVE from page A1

and its associated “American Community Survey,” which has just seen its updated 2009-2013 data released to the public. These surveys tabulate a wide array of social and economic facts about American life.

I have selected out some “before and after” figures which I believe can be useful in judging whether building Mass MoCA has driven a social and economic transformation in North Adams.

Each table shows changes in North Adams between 2000 and the 2009-2013 community surveys. It is difficult to make direct conclusions based on this kind of data. For example, child poverty in North Adams has increased from 26% in 2000 to over 30% today, but it would be irresponsible to suggest that this was due to the investment in Mass MoCA. Indeed, one could argue that without the museum, child poverty would be even higher.

On the other hand, if the \$100 million in public and private money spent on Mass MoCA had been invested differently, child poverty might have actually declined over the same time period. These kinds of arguments are endemic to trying to interpret social and economic data: there are no easy answers.

Several expensive studies have been conducted trying to correlate specific economic gains with the investment in Mass MoCA. It would be strange if an investment on the scale of Mass MoCA did not result in some economic gains. However, what I want to assess is whether there has been positive social change and economic revitalization in North Adams since Mass MoCA was established in 1999, regardless of any specific cause.

The answer seems to be, in brief, no. The economy of North Adams has not improved, and the accompanying social trends persist.

1. In the first table we see that the population of North Adams has declined 7% since 2000, and the child poverty rate has increased by about 4% while the general level of poverty has increased by 1%.

Measuring changes in income is tricky, because you have to account for inflation and other factors. According to the latest figures, calculated by economists Thomas Piketty and Emmanuel Saez, a household making over \$100,000 a year is in the top 10% across the country. (Household income greater than \$150,000 puts you into the top 5%, and greater than about \$400,000 puts you into the top 1%.)

I used that as a benchmark, and found that 645 households were in that tier in 2013. To find a comparison for 2000, I adjusted for inflation, and found that 651 households made over the equivalent income, \$75,000.

So while child poverty increased, the percentage of people in North Adams at the nationwide top 10% of income also increased slightly. (As Piketty argues, this increase in inequality has been a nationwide trend.)

ECONOMY	2000	2013	change
Total population	14,681	13,657	-7%
% of individuals in poverty	18.2%	19.4%	6.6%
% of families with children in poverty	25.9%	30.1%	16.2%
% of households with income in top 10%	10.3%	11.0%	6.8%
# of households with income in top 10%	651	645	-6
# of households with income above \$200k	49	29	-41%

OCCUPATIONS	2000	2013
Agriculture, forestry, hunting, fishing, and mining	0.5%	0.4%
Construction	5.3%	7.9%
Manufacturing	14.4%	7.8%
Wholesale trade	2.3%	1.6%
Retail trade	11.1%	14.2%
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	2.8%	1.6%
Information	2.8%	1.9%
Finance, insurance, real estate, and rental and leasing	4.1%	5.2%
Professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management services	5.2%	6.5%
Educational, health and social services	29.5%	34.3%
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services	12.9%	9.3%
Other services (except public administration)	5.5%	4.3%
Public administration	3.5%	5.0%

2. If Mass MoCA were attracting a significant number of young creative types with higher incomes, then we might expect that the population of North Adams would have increased, and the child poverty rate to have declined.

Let’s examine the survey data on just what occupations are being practiced in North Adams. If the new creative economy was creating new industries in North Adams and attracting “knowledge workers,” we might expect to see a transformation in changes in the distribution of occupations.

Instead, while we can see a modest increase in retail employment and construction employment, the largest change has been an increase in “education, health and social services.”

Employment in “Professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management services,” which is the mainstay of places like Boston or San Francisco, has increased just slightly in the last 10 years.

Meanwhile, there has actually been a decline in “arts and entertainment” related employment, and a collapse of almost 50% in manufacturing jobs.

I think that we can say that North Adams is no closer to looking like San Francisco than it did 10 years ago, and it’s not even clear that the addition of Mass MoCA has created much of a “tourist economy.”

HOUSING	2000	2013	change
# of housing units built in previous 10 years	257	118	-139
# of housing units worth > \$300k	0	263	+ 263
# of housing units worth > \$1 million	0	18	+ 18
% for whom rent is greater than 35% of income	29.7%	38.2%	28.6%
% for whom mortgage is > 35% of income	11.0%	21.3%	93.6%



From Russ Miller, “Northangle Nocturne I” (2006).
Used with the artist’s permission.

In summary, since the founding of Mass MoCA: the population has declined, poverty has remained at a constant high rate, child poverty has increased, social inequality has increased, rent has increased, and the number of households with income in the top 10% has declined.

It’s important to recognize that the arguments for the creative economy have always rested, not on the direct economic contribution of the arts, but the potential for investments in art to change the social fabric, attracting people with talents and resources and encouraging them to invest in the community in other ways.

In many ways the building of Mass MoCA in North Adams represents a best-case test scenario for this theory: the project was large relative to the community, and has been successful in its own right. If there had been dramatic changes in North Adams, you would have been hard pressed to attribute them to anything else.

It is clear that while Mass MoCA may have helped raise property values, and employs around 60 people, some of whom may earn larger salaries, the claim that making North Adams “cool” would change the social fabric and economic basis of the city seems, after 15 years, to have been a false hope.



3. Finally, we can look at housing data. Some critics of the investment in Mass MoCA have raised the spectre of “gentrification,” saying that attracting young creative professionals could trigger a rise in land values that increase housing costs for everyone. Indeed, even Richard Florida has recently acknowledged that this consequence of his theory could erase any associated gains.

We see that in 2000, there were no owner-occupied residences worth more than \$300,000. Now there are 263, with 18 residences worth more than \$1,000,000 dollars.

Meanwhile, 38% of the population is paying more than 35% of their income on rent, an increase of almost 9% since 2000.

However, we can see that, while as a percentage of the total population the number of top 10% households has increased, the total number of these households has actually slightly

declined, and the number of households making more than \$200,000 dollars a year has dropped almost in half.

It would be hard to argue that increases in the cost of housing have been due to increasing demand, given that the total number of people able to pay more for housing has decreased.

In particular, it is interesting to note that the number of people in the top 5% of income has declined, while 18 \$1,000,000 residences were built.

It seems likely that the owners of at least some of these residences don’t actually live in North Adams, but maintain them as secondary homes. But it’s hard to argue that gentrification has been a negative consequence of Mass MoCA, because the “gentry” don’t seem to have moved to North Adams in significant numbers.

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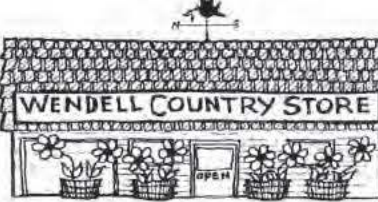
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MONTAGUE from page A1

Dodge remained at the selectboard table for two liquor license violation hearings.

On January 15 the police department implemented two "liquor license compliance checks," more popularly known as "sting operations," to check for underage drinking. Dodge noted that all but two establishments passed, thus the two violation hearings.

The first hearing involved Rocket Science LLC, better known as the Rendezvous in Turners Falls. Owner Chris Janke said that he was "very embarrassed" by the violation and did not contest it noting that his business took the law seriously and all his employees are "TIPS trained."

TIPS is a program utilized by many establishments designed to prevent service to intoxicated or underage customers. The town generally requires TIPS training before issuing one-day liquor licenses.

Janke stated that a new employee had not taken the training program yet, and "fell through the cracks."

Dodge, noting that there had been a previous violation in 2010, recommended a two-day suspension of the Rendezvous' liquor license in the next few months.

However, board member Michael Nelson argued that the policy should involve a "sunset" or "reset button" for past violations, and suggested that nearly five years was a long time between violations. The board voted to give the Rendezvous a warning.

The second hearing involved the Pioneer Tavern, a relatively new establishment on Route 63 in Millers Falls, formerly known as the Route 63 Roadhouse. The general manager of this tavern, Sean Keller, also seemed embarrassed to be brought before the board for serving a minor.

After a lengthy narrative of how and why the server, who happened to be Keller himself, had failed to

ask the customer for identification – the customer was cold and he wanted to provide good customer service – the business was given an official warning by the board.

Next, Dodge requested that the board officially place a police officer, Richard Suchanek, on 111F, which is known as "injured on duty status." The board, acting as the personnel board, approved the request but gave no information on the nature of the injury.

Dodge continued at the front table for yet another agenda item, an update on an aggressive dog named Bailey owned by Joe Dobias. As the result of a complaint at a previous dog hearing, the animal had been required to enter a training program and receive a "certificate of completion."

Dobias said that he had participated in a six week program called "Canine Head Start" but apparently this effort, while productive, did not lead to a certificate. Dobias stated that he had just enrolled in another program called FIDO which does issue certificates. The program is

slated to start on February 19 and last for six weeks.

The board seemed pleased with Mr. Dobias' efforts, although member Mark Fairbrother noted that "the goal is to alter [the dog's] behavior, not just get a certificate."

Paperwork

Next on the agenda was Robin Sherman, the former Montague Town Planner and the current Executive Director of the Franklin County Regional Housing Authority. Sherman requested that the board, through the chair Chris Boutwell, sign "a whole bunch of things" required by the town's application for 2015 Community Block Grant funds. The board approved the request, and Boutwell agreed to sign the documents after the meeting.

Sherman also requested that the board disburse \$10,200 to the firm Catlin and Petrovick for the Senior Center planning study. The board approved the request.

Under the town administrator's report, Frank Abbondanzio re-

quested that the board execute five deeds to successful bidders who had purchased town property at a recent auction. The board approved the request.

Compact in Force

Abbondanzio also brought to the board's attention a letter from the Gill board of selectmen to the Gill-Montague Regional School Committee.

The Gill letter expressed concern that the chair of the school committee had implied that the funding "compact" between the school district, member towns and the state had "expired." The compact and the long term fiscal plan associated with it ended state fiscal control of the district several years ago.

The Gill letter expressed support for the compact, suggesting that it was still in force unless the parties met in a collaborative spirit to terminate or change it.

The Montague selectboard directed Abbondanzio to draft a similar letter.



Montague Special Town Meeting Could be Short (and Sweet?)

By JEFF SINGLETON

The February 18 Montague Special Town Meeting, delayed for a week due to a snowstorm that never happened, could be short but productive.

The agenda includes some so-called "housekeeping" measures, including extra funds for this year's police and legal budgets, but it also involves some key decisions involving upgrades to the town's sewer system and the purchase of a building that currently houses the Senior Center.

Article 1 appropriates \$10,078 to supplement a previous appropriation to fund a recently concluded collective bargaining agreement with town employees in the United Electrical and Machine Workers Union.

The funding source for the article is divided between the town's free cash reserve and the sewer retained earnings fund. This is because the union represents both regular town workers and those employed by the Water Pollution Control Facility.

Article 2 appropriates \$15,000 to supplement this year's police

budget.

These funds will cover unexpected overtime caused by the need to replace an injured officer and a new transmission for a car used to transport an officer to the police academy in Springfield. The funding source is free cash.

Article 3 appropriates \$22,500 to supplement the current legal budget. The "town counsel" portion of the budget is predicted to have a "significant shortfall" with six months still left in the fiscal year. Again, the funding source is free cash.

Article 4 would appropriate \$40,000 for sander, plow and other attachments to a new six-wheel dump truck. The truck itself is being purchased by state aid (Chapter 90) but these funds do not cover the attachments. The funding source is the newly created Capital Stabilization Fund.

Article 5 allows the town to acquire easement rights to property owned by the First Light power company on First Street to construct a sewer pump station replacement. The parcel is described in the article and motion as containing 2,310 square feet, "more or less."

NOTES FROM THE GMRSD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Concerns at School Budget Hearing

BY ELLEN BLANCHETTE

GILL-MONTAGUE – The importance of the arts to the school community was clear Tuesday night as speaker after speaker mentioned arts as one of their priorities in the discussion of budget cuts.

In response, Gill-Montague school committee chair Joyce Phillips emphasized, as did others, that no cuts have been made to any arts programs in this proposal for the FY'16 budget. Nor have cuts to the arts been made in the past; as a result, there is a wide variety of arts programs available at all the schools in the district including visual arts, music programs that include band and chorus, a theater program, video arts, and more.

The budget hearing was an open-

ended process that allowed all who wished time to speak an opportunity to express their views. The process was cordial and inclusive, with a wide variety of speakers contributing to the consideration of the future of the school district budget.

Another concern, echoed by school committee members, was recommended cuts to technology services and infrastructure. Some expressed dismay about cuts to low paying positions such as para-professionals, while increases are included in the budget for administration staff.

One individual spoke of the effect on students of the loss of staff members they've come to know, suggesting that it's not enough to simply preserve academics, and that continuity of personal relation-

ships between students and teachers or counselors are vitally important as well. Also mentioned was the importance of maintaining a full year schedule of AP classes to the success current high school students will have in college.

The conversation is ongoing, including efforts to put pressure on legislators to change the formula for Chapter 70 funding to rural school districts. The towns and school district are in agreement on this matter.

A spirit of cooperation seemed to reign, demonstrating the progress that has been made over the years, so that all involved want to maintain the success of the school district while working collaboratively to solve the fundamental problems of the district budget.

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Legislative Breakfast at the United Arc

The United Arc invites the community to attend its 2nd Annual Legislative Breakfast this Friday, February 13 from 8:30 to 11 a.m. at 294 Avenue A in Turners Falls.

The event will include a light continental breakfast and time to speak with legislators. The program will begin at 9 a.m., and time for questions will follow.

Senator Anne Gobi and Representatives Stephen Kulik and Susannah Whipps-Lee will be in attendance to discuss the current legislative needs of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Western Massachusetts.

The breakfast is free and open to anyone concerned with the needs of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

To RSVP, please contact Siiri Paton at siiripaton@unitedarc.org or (413) 774-5558. Online registration and more information on the event is available at www.unitedarc.org.



Sterling Clark shared this photograph of the 1991 steeple repair at the First Congregational Church in Montague Center. Got a picture you'd like to share with our readers? Send it in to feature@montaguereporter.org!

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Chase Leads To Arrest in Wendell

Tuesday, 1/27
10:55 a.m. Report of vehicle off roadway, Route 2. No damage, just stuck. Pulled out by tow company.
7:40 p.m. Criminal application issued to [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle with a revoked registration.
Wednesday, 1/28
8:40 a.m. Assisted Orange PD with pursuit in Wendell. Subject arrested by Orange PD.
10:25 p.m. Alarm on

Lillians Way. Same was secure.
Thursday, 1/29
9:30 a.m. Report of illegal dumping on Moore and Forest streets. Same picked up.
Saturday, 1/31
7:30 p.m. Motor vehicle lockout at Weatherheads convenience store. Entry gained.
Sunday, 2/1
12:25 p.m. Took report of harassment on French King Highway.
Tuesday, 2/3
10 a.m. Smoke alarm at a Warner Street residence.

Assisted Erving FD.
4:10 p.m. Alarm at Box Car Restaurant, East Main Street. Building secure.
9:20 p.m. Removed tree blocking Old State Road.
Wednesday, 2/4
6:40 a.m. Assisted on scene of medical emergency on Pleasant Street.
9:47 a.m. Assisted state police on scene of three-car crash at Route 2 bypass.
11:10 a.m. Assisted on scene of medical emergency on State Road.
Thursday, 2/5
11:55 a.m. Took report of

phone scam.
Friday, 2/6
9:30 a.m. Traffic hazard: snow banks at Semb Drive and Route 2 intersection. Same pushed back by town.
11:50 a.m. Took report of larceny at West High Street.
Sunday, 2/8
3:35 a.m. Mutual aid to Gill PD for medical emergency on Center Road.
5:40 p.m. Alarm at Box Car Restaurant, East Main Street. Building secure.

LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on February 10, 2005: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Mariamante Group Outlines Goals

Graduate students from the UMass regional planning department are working with the town of Gill to plan for future use of the 12-acre Mariamante parcel.

The town purchased the prime acreage on Main and West Gill Road last fall, and on December 13 held a community brainstorming session to gather the viewpoints of more than 60 residents on how best to use the parcel.

An advisory committee was formed to guide the town's work on the Mariamante land; the 15 members of the committee will gather for the first time at the town hall on February 10. The UMass grad students will meet with them, and present their preliminary outline for the task ahead.

One of the students, Cana McCoy, told the selectboard, "Along with the ad hoc committee, we hope to come up with three specific development plans [for the land] and decide which to pursue, so we can show the town 'here's what the site might look like, along with the traffic impact and zoning changes required for each specific plan.'"

Town Meeting Authorizes Strathmore P&S

On February 3, members of both the selectboard and the finance committee offered strong dissenting opinions on Montague's bid to purchase the Strathmore Mill.

Still, a declared two-thirds majority of town meeting members voted favorably on the proposed \$300,000 purchase and sale agreement, in order to gain access to the 134-year-old mill to conduct four months of feasibility work to determine whether the actual purchase would be in the town's interest.

Should the results of the studies cast the prospects for redeveloping the mill in a negative light, the town has reserved the right to pull out of the deal without penalty before June 3, under the terms negotiated.

Erving Decides on a Slogan

The Erving selectboard voted to accept "It's a Great Place to Live" as the slogan for the new town welcome sign to be put up near the French King Bridge.

The winning slogan, selected from about a dozen competitors, was submitted by Sydney Upham, a first-grader at the Erving elementary school.

Preview: Erving Special Town Meeting Monday, February 23

By KATIE NOLAN

Erving's February 23 special town meeting will consider whether to make the town treasurer an appointed rather than an elected position and also will vote on \$93,111 in expenditures from unexpended fund balances (free cash).

Treasurer and selectboard member Margaret Sullivan does not plan to run for treasurer when her term ends in 2017. She has recommended that the town change the position to an appointed one in order to ensure that the next treasurer is professionally qualified.

If approved at the special town meeting, the change would need to be approved by a town ballot vote within 60 days before it becomes effective.

Money items on the warrant are:

- \$30,000 for a wood chipper for the highway department.

Cities and towns are no longer allowed to burn brush and hauling unchipped brush for disposal costs Erving \$45,000 per year according to highway foreman Glenn McCrory.

- \$25,000 for purchase and installation of a wheelchair lift at the Pleasant Street Graded School.

Selectboard chair William Bem-bury said there is no current requirement for the lift, but if the recreation commission offers programs at the former school building, then the lift

would be needed to be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

- \$15,000 for dry storage containers to replace two wooden sheds at the highway department.

- \$9,135 for partial tuition for one student at Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School.

The student will be pursuing a specialized program not offered at Franklin County Technical School. One of the student's parents lives in the Smith Vocational district and one lives in Erving, so Erving is being asked to pay half the tuition.

- \$5,000 for tuition for one full-time Erving police officer at the state police academy.

At the January 28 selectboard meeting, police chief Chris Blair told the board that there is a shortage of police officers. He recommended posting internally for a full-time officer, who would attend the state Police Academy at the town's expense, in return for a 3-year commitment to Erving.

- \$5,000 to fund maintenance of recreation fields and program. The money would be used to hire a maintenance person who would report to the recreation commission.

- \$3,976 for a bill of prior year from town trash hauler, Duseau Trucking.

ERVING from page A1

receiving the land from Mount Grace.

Mount Grace's Matthias Nevin told the board that the landlocked, 50-acre lot was originally considered part of the Giniusz farm property that the town accepted with a conservation restriction in 2006, creating Erving Town Forest. However, in researching lot boundaries and titles, it was determined that the plot was owned by the Mackin family and not the Giniusz family.

Nevin said the land provided "wonderful wildlife habitat" as well as historical and cultural resources. He said that it is adjacent to the town forest and shares a trail system with the town forest.

At the February 11 meeting, Nevin told the board that acceptance of the donation "completes the conservation vision for the Town Forest." And regarding the NED pipeline, he said, "we're not shying away from that issue."

According to the Poplar Mountain project outline prepared by Mount Grace for the meeting, "The parcel is on the current route of the proposed pipeline. It is known that the town has not taken a position, or passed a resolution, on the pipeline issue. Mount Grace is not shying away from the project due to the pipeline and will work to defend the project from the pipeline during our

ownership."

Selectboard chair William Bem-bury and member Margaret Sullivan voted to sign the contract with Mount Grace. Selectboard member Arthur Johnson voted against signing the contract.

Last Week

At the February 4 selectboard meeting, highway foreman Glenn McCrory told the board that the recreation commission's "yearly to-do list" for highway workers gets "bigger and bigger and bigger every season."

For FY'2012, the selectboard had decided to move recreation's parks and grounds maintenance money from the commission's line item to the highway department, with the idea that the highway department would maintain park and recreational fields.

Selectboard member and town treasurer Margaret Sullivan checked the FY'2013 budget and reported that it didn't appear that the money was transferred for that year. However, the recreation department is asking for highway department help on many tasks, including removing snow from skating ice and lining soccer fields, which McCrory called time-consuming work, sometimes completed using overtime hours.

Bembury commented, "The highway department is always go-

ing to be in demand." McCrory said of tasks such as lining fields, "I honestly feel it should be done by the rec commission."

The board decided to keep discussing the issue with the highway department and recreation commission. An article on the February 23 special town meeting asks for \$5,000 to fund maintenance of recreation fields and programs. The money would be used to hire a maintenance person, who would report to the recreation commission.

The Erving selectboard and finance committee also met jointly on February 4 to consider the draft fiscal year 2016 budget, and FY'16 budget process. The board and committee agreed to finalize the budget by March 23, allowing time for publishing it in the Around Town newsletter before the May annual town meeting.

The board appointed selectboard member Margaret Sullivan to the committee reviewing the six bids for the marketing feasibility study for the former IP Mill. The study, funded at \$65,000 by the November 2014 special town meeting, should be completed by this June.

The senior center director search committee received ten applications and plans to interview three candidates. Senior center director Polly Keily is retiring as of February 27.



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TOURS from page A1

There are no known photographs of Lucy Terry Prince, but Louise Minks' rendition of her portrait graces the cover of a brief biography by David R. Proper and is also on exhibit at the Memorial Hall Museum.

Northampton: Heritage Trail

Another of Minks' paintings is of Sojourner Truth. Around the time she made the painting a group of Northampton citizens began the drive for a tribute to this remarkable woman. Ultimately, a memorial statue was installed in Florence in a tiny park at the corner of Pine and Park Streets.

Ten years in the making, the park opened in 2002 and keeps alive the legacy of Sojourner Truth, an ardent abolitionist, women's rights advocate and social activist.

She was a member of the communal Northampton Association from 1843 to 1846 and later bought a home in Florence where she lived until 1856. The association was founded by abolitionists who also supported religious tolerance, women's rights and pacifism.

There is an African American Heritage Trail associated with the Memorial that leads walkers through some of the town's historic sites from 1840 to 1860.

Maps, Truth's biography, other historical information and present day scholarship information are available at the memorial's website: sojournertruthmemorial.org

Springfield: Pan African Museum

There are two very similar walking tours focusing on sites in Springfield that were active in or related to the Underground Railroad, which was a network of safe houses and secret routes used by slaves to escape to free states or Canada with the help of supporters of the abolitionist movement.

One can be found at the 20 year



Louise Minks' painting of Sojourner Truth

old Pan African Historical Museum located in Towersquare at 1500 Main Street.

The museum is open Tuesday through Friday from noon to 4 p.m. and Saturdays by appointment. From April to October on the third Saturday of the month, there are guided walking tours along a two-hour circuit covering several city blocks and historic sites.

During the season, costumed actors supplement the tours and add compelling realism to the journeys of Black Americans in search of freedom. The map and other museum information can be found at their website: pahmusa.mysite.com

Springfield: Our Plural History

The map appears to be an offshoot of the "Our Plural History" project of Springfield Technical Community College (STCC). This web-based resource focuses on the history of the Connecticut River Valley of western Massachusetts.

Their purpose is "to show the contributions made to American so-

ciety by different cultural groups, the richness of American lives in ethnic, racial, religious and cultural terms, and to increase understanding of the unique and shared experiences of all Americans."

You will find a great deal of information about all manner of ethnic populations of the area from the First Nations, to colonists and their practice of indentured servitude and slavery, to industrialization and European immigration and later twentieth century immigration waves.

The website follows a chronological format, beginning with a brief geologic history, and it includes a user-friendly timeline with excellent links to the subject matter.

It includes an extensive segment on the Springfield area "Resistance to Slavery" that includes an expanded map of the African-American Heritage Trail, as well as information about Springfield's role in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s.

John Brown is one of the better known names on the walking tours. He moved to Springfield in 1847 to try and set up a fair market for wool producers and met the famed abolitionist Frederick Douglass shortly after his arrival.

Although his business failed, Brown lived in Springfield for four years and formed the League of Gileadites in response to the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850. His role in the creation of the Underground Railroad cannot be minimized.

Much like Memorial Hall Museum, the STCC project is intended to provide free resources to students, teachers and the general public. There is a good quality printable map, but it contains minimal supplemental information. However, it is easy enough to access and print the relevant write-ups before embarking on your tour.

See ourpluralhistory.stcc.edu.



TRUE LOVE

For God so loved the world
That He gave
His only
Begotten
son
That whoever
Believes in Him
Should not perish
But have everlasting life.

(John 3:16)

This is as written.
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God's blessings are yours.

Can't believe it's been a year
But we still hold you very dear
With each morning and each night
We know you are safe in God's great light
No more pain, no more tears
It's time to bring back all the cheer
We want to thank you for what you
have taught us all the lessons we have
learned your smile will never be
forgotten your voice forever heard we
now forever hold you deep within our
hearts.

We miss you.
Love, your husband and family

RIP Fern Gallison 4/28/1964 – 1/31/2014



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6x6 Art Show at the Bookmill

By LEE WICKS

MONTAGUE CENTER – Six by six for thirty-six. It’s a catchy description of the current show at Sawmill River Arts at the Bookmill in Montague. For thirty-six dollars you can purchase a small exquisite piece of original art, created by the 12-member resident artists of the Sawmill River Arts cooperative as well as by other local artists, some displaying their work publicly for the first time.

A call went out to artists early this fall. Community members were invited to submit one to three pieces of wall art for the sale. Twenty percent of the sales will go to the cooperative gallery to sustain operations, and the rest will go to the individual artists. This is the second time “six by six” has been organized, and plans are already underway for next year.

The show opened on Saturday with a reception that drew close to 100 people. By the end of the afternoon, a number of pieces had red dots on their labels, signaling that they had been sold. But, there’s plenty left.

Joan Levy, a coop member, said, “We have about 90 pieces from 40 artists, in a wonderful variety of mediums. It’s an exciting show.” She turned over a round painting to show that the artist had used the lid

of a paint can for a canvas.

A visit to the gallery is a visual treat at any time, but this show is a crazy quilt of colors and textures. The tiny works of art have been stitched, pasted, painted, quilted, etched, molded, harvested (as in tiny painted gourds) and knit. They are whimsical and haunting, witty and somber, and some lend themselves to groupings.

It might be hard to walk out with just one. There are plenty of dogs, and this dog lover was particularly drawn to their images. Some of the landscapes have a tinge of the familiar blended with the artists’ interpretation.

Surrounded by windows framing a view of icicles, a waterfall, and the river below, the setting itself is a work of art. The entire gallery has not been given over to this exhibit:



Coop member Joan Levy with the current 6” x 6” exhibit.

in other rooms large works are on display along with lovely pottery, jewelry and woven wearable art.

Sawmill River Arts has been here a while. It is easy to take it for granted and forget to check in. A visit to the show will remind visitors to go often for the ever-changing exhibits. In addition to the Sawmill River Gallery and the iconic used bookstore, the Bookmill complex at 440 Greenfield Road in Montague is home to the Lady Killigrew cafe, a restaurant called the Alvah Stone, and the Turn It Up record store.

The “six-by-six” show will be on display until the end of February. Gallery hours are Thursday to Sunday, from noon to 6 p.m.

Check out the website www.sawmillriverarts.com for news of upcoming shows and biographies of the member artists.

WICKS PHOTOS

WEST ALONG THE RIVER: Battlefield Study Underway

By DAVID BRULE

TURNERS FALLS – We made our way through the snowscape from the near and far corners of Franklin County to meet at the Montague Town Hall. In spite of the regular Monday snowstorms and blizzards of this winter, we kept our Tuesday rendezvous with history on February 3.

We had been waiting a long time for this day. The “we” in this case are the members of the Advisory Board overseeing implementation of the National Park Service grant that is funding a study of the events of May 18-19, 1676.

It’s also safe to say, by no stretch of the imagination, that the restless spirits of more than twenty generations have been waiting too, and both Colonials and Indians will now have their say about those events on that morning in May, three hundred and thirty-nine years ago.

That battle/massacre at the falls, in the spiritual landscape that indigenous peoples called, and still call, Peskeompskut and Wissatannewag, ended a 12,000-year history of peaceful native existence in this spot on the river.

Shortly after their arrival

on our shores, the English colonials had developed a pattern of cruel, total warfare against the indigenous peoples in New England: the burning alive of more than four hundred men, women, and children during the Pequot War of 1637 and the massacre of an equal number of Narragansetts in the Great Swamp Massacre in December of 1675 are primary examples. Beheadings, mutilation, dismemberment or slavery were not the rare fates of Indian populations.

New England had descended into a devastating cycle of war and slaughter, with mounting atrocities on both sides.

King Philip’s War, 1675-1676, has been demonstrated to be the most devastating war in American history in terms of the proportion of civilian populations killed and military fatalities, topping even the Civil War and World War II in the comparative death rates per capita. Yet it is the least known, and the least studied, of all our wars.

In that bloody context, Captain William Turner led his militia to the falls, where in a surprise attack, he shattered the tribal resistance to the relentless genocidal effort to eliminate once and for all any significant native presence in this region.

see STUDY page B4



Archaeologist Dr. Kevin McBride and senior historian Ashley Bissonnette are part of the research team from the Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center.

First Place for TFHS Basketball: Three More Victories

By MATT ROBINSON

On Monday, February 3, the Turners Falls boys basketball team upended the Hopkins Golden Hawks in the Hawks Nest, 84 to 74. The win leap-frogged Powertown into first place in the Hampshire Conference and improved their ranking to 20th best in all divisions in Western Massachusetts.

But the game didn’t start out well for the Tribe. It could have been the deafening brass band, the two costumed Hawks screaming at the end of the court, or the rambunctious crowd chanting “You can’t doooo that” every time an Indian made a mistake. Or it could’ve just been schoolboy nerves.

But for whatever reason, Turners found themselves down 13 to 7 with just 2 minutes 22 seconds left in the first period. Then Powertown clicked into gear. A travel and two three-pointers knotted the score at 13. Turners took the lead briefly at 15-13 but Hopkins bounced back. A couple of Blue miscues and a Golden Hawk three-pointer at the end of the quarter put the Hawks up, 18 to 15.

In the second quarter, Gold increased their lead to 6 points, 25 to 19. But the Tribe chipped away and once again took the lead, 29 to 28 with 2:14 left in the half.

Then it was the Tribe’s turn to build on their lead. In the last 1 minute 30 seconds of the half, Turners went on an 8 to 3 run, culminating with a buzzer beating 3-pointer by Nick York and the teams entered the locker room with Turners leading, 37-31.

Turners played loose in the third quarter and soon were leading by 10 points. And by the end of the quarter, Turners held a commanding 62 to 48 lead.

In the fourth quarter, Blue stretched the lead to 21, 84 to 63. And with the score 84 to

68, Coach Gary Mullins sent in his subs.

The Hopkins game was one of the biggest games, so far, this season. Turners Falls was facing the only team in the Hampshire Conference to beat them. And they were traveling into the very intimidating “Hawks Nest” on the heels of the latest winter blizzard which disrupted schools from Nebraska to Maine. But Turners Falls and Hopkins weren’t playing for the Hampshire Championship on Monday. Both teams have four Hampshire Conference games left. But with Hopkins’ loss to Pioneer early in the season, Turners Falls sits atop the conference. If they want to add “2015” to the banner in the gym, Blue cannot let up.

So why is Turners Falls so good this year? If you ask head coach Gary Mullins, he puts the credit squarely on his players’ shoulders, especially Liam Ellis. “Liam does so many

see BASKETBALL page B4



Liam Ellis

Snowflakes, as photographed in 1902 by Wilson Bentley.

Pet of the Week

Hello, I'm Dottie and I am one cool dude. I will be cool to you, in fact some might say too independent.

I am not the kind of cat who will just prance into your house and want

to be the center of attention. I will want to take my time.

What is great is that I am not one of those needy cats who demand your love all the time, I can keep my self entertained. I love to play!

I would be happiest in a home with no children as they tend to frighten me.

Once I warm up to you my temperature can run hot! I can get over-stimulated with petting and have been known to change my mind suddenly.

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



DOTTIE

Senior Center Activities

February 16 to 20

GILL and MONTAGUE

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

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

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

Monday 2/16

10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise
Noon Pot Luck & Bingo

Tuesday 2/17

9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga
11 a.m. Sing Along w/ Momingstar
Noon Lunch
1 p.m. Knitting Circle

Wednesday 2/18

10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise
Noon Lunch

Thursday 2/19

9 a.m. Tai Chi
10 a.m. Tech Tutor
Noon Lunch
1 p.m. Pitch

Friday 2/20

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

WENDELL

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

ERVING

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

Lunch is at 11:30 a.m., with reservations required 24 hours in advance. Call Mealsite Manager Rebecca Meuse at 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 to confirm activities, schedule a ride, or find out about the next blood pressure clinic.

Monday 2/16 Closed President's Day

Tuesday 2/17

8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
10 a.m. Zumba Fitness
10:45 a.m. Senior Business Mtg.
12:30 p.m. Painting

Wednesday 2/18

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

Thursday 2/19

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

Friday 2/20

9 a.m. Bowling
12:30 p.m. Beginner Quilting

LEVERETT

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

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

Drawing Closer:

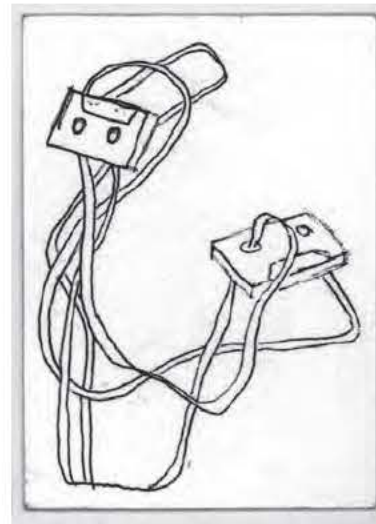
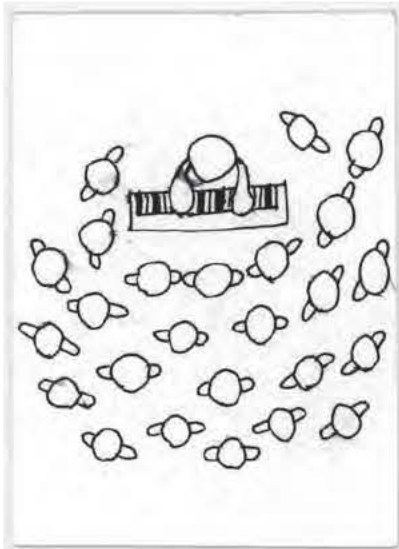
Last weekend the Fifth Annual Peskeumskut Noisecapades took place at their usual location.

The festival, which consisted of a couple dozen very short, very cold performances in rapid succession, was documented by a team of quick drawers called the Drawing Team.



Performers portrayed here (clockwise, starting above) are Omeed Goodarzi, Montana Big Boys (Foam/Burkett), Noise Nomads, Pete Wackernagel, and Lauri McNamara.

This year's Drawing Team consisted of Terran Amina, Julia Handschub, Eric Hnatow, Andrew Huckins, Haley Morgan and Lynx Rainer.



THE HEALTHY GEEZER

The Science of Farts

flatulence. When we swallow air and don't release it by belching, the air will work its way down and out the rectum. About half the gas passed from the rectum comes from swallowed air.

For the record, normal people pass gas about ten times each day. Twenty times daily is still considered normal.

Some people suffer from bloating caused by gas. Most who suffer from bloating do not generate excessive gas, but they don't move swallowed air fast enough. Sometimes, gas in these people moves in the wrong direction, returning to the stomach. The gas accumulates and produces discomfort. Some feel more discomfort than others because they don't tolerate intestinal stretching well.

Another major cause of gas is partially digested food passing from the small intestines to the colon, where bacteria process the food further and produce gases.

Discomfort from gas is usually nothing to worry about. However, you should go to a doctor if you have other symptoms such as abdominal pain, vomiting, diarrhea, constipation, weight loss, bleeding from the gastrointestinal tract and sometimes heartburn.

Here are some ways to alleviate bloating:

- Eat multiple small meals during

the day instead of two or three large ones.

- Chew food thoroughly and don't gulp. Eat slowly.

- Don't eat when you're nervous or hurried.

- Don't smoke; it makes you swallow more air.

- Avoid gassy foods. Some of the usual suspects are beans, onions, broccoli, brussels sprouts, cauliflower, artichokes, asparagus, pears, apples, peaches, prunes, whole-wheat bread, bran, beer, soda, ice cream.

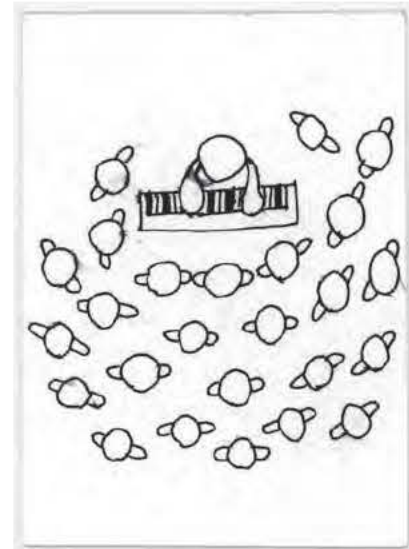
- Cut down on fatty foods. Fat slows digestion, giving food more time to ferment.

- If you take a fiber supplement, try cutting back and then build up your intake gradually.

- Reduce consumption of dairy products. Or try using products that help digest milk sugar (lactose).

- Use over-the-counter aids. Add products such as Beano to high-fiber foods to help reduce the amount of gas they produce. Try using simethicone, which helps break up the bubbles in gas. Charcoal tablets also may help.

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



JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

Q. I get a lot of gas and someone told me it would help if I stopped chewing gum all the time (ex-smoker). That sounds like bunk to me. What do you think?

It's not bunk. When you chew gum, you swallow more often and some of what you're swallowing is air. In addition, artificial sweeteners such as sorbitol that is found in some gums can give you gas.

But, what exactly, is gas?

Most people produce between a pint and a half-gallon of gas each day. Oxygen, carbon dioxide, and nitrogen from swallowed air make up a large part of gas or "flatus." Fermenting foods in the colon produce hydrogen and methane as well as carbon dioxide and oxygen.

The unpleasant odor of some flatus is the result of trace gases, such as hydrogen sulfide, indole, and skatole, which are produced when foods decompose in the colon.

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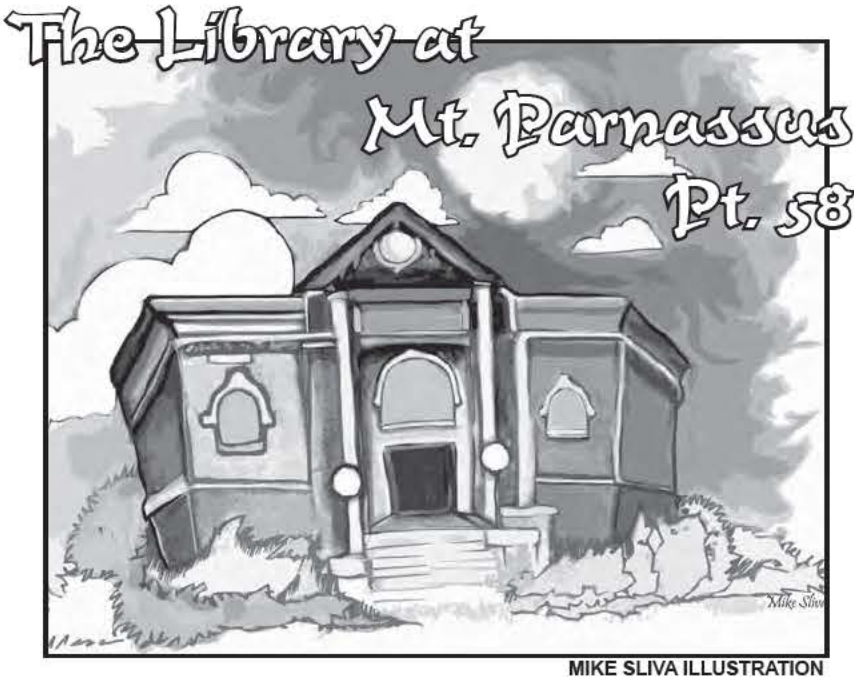
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“What’s this, Melantha?”
I pointed to the headline: Stair Repair Declined.
“Have you read the latest?”



By DAVID DETMOLD

She nodded.
“Well? What’s going to come of it?”
“Nothing.”
“You mean... they’re going to give it up? But it says here...”
“The crack is deeper than they imagined.”
“Yes, but in the article it goes on to suggest...”
“They have no idea how to deal with it.” Her dark hair fell in a loose wave along the curving line of her shoulder.
“I’m aware of that. But it says here...”
“The next town meeting does not take place until June. By then, they will have forgotten all about it.”
“But what about the building inspector...?” My eyes followed the blue vein in the hollow of her throat. I inhaled the smoldering scent of her perfume and lost my train of thought completely.
“People will come to accept it for what it is,” said Melantha. She gazed out into the vestibule. “It will be a part of what draws them this place, though most won’t know why.”
“It’s never bothered me,” I said. She was standing so close to me now. “Although sometimes I get dizzy... from the fumes.”
Even now I felt light headed. I looked up at the bust of Homer, but the sad streaks of guano reminded me of Ulysses, and of Cadmus, far away.
Melantha gazed out through the doorway, lost in thought.
A cloud of vapor was gathering in the vestibule.
“It’s nothing,” said Melantha finally. “It will pass.”

I went in to say goodnight to Orville, who had settled back in his armchair for a nap.
“You know, Or, I saw a sign in the window at Athens Pizza today, looking for a dishwasher. Wouldn’t you like to make some money, be with other people?”
“N-n-no. Not really, Otis.”
I looked over at Creon. He had fallen asleep to, nose down in Aristophanes. I thought I had better not disturb him, he looked almost peaceful in sleep.
Melantha was holding a cheap plastic hand mirror, applying whorls of electric blue woad at the corners of her eyes as I passed by the desk again. She batted her lashes and glanced at me.

“Better?” she asked with a languid smile.
“Yes. All’s well in the reading room. Let’s hope no one needs the Atlas tonight.”
We paused and looked at each other quietly for a moment. The walnut desk defined the planes and angles of the space between us.
“You look very beautiful tonight, Melantha,” I said.
“Thank you,” she replied. There was a faint odor of antimony hanging in the air. “I have to look my best.” She rubbed the gold band on her finger nervously with her thumb.
“Well. I’ll just be going then.”
As I walked out to the vestibule, I heard footsteps coming up the circular stairs from the basement. The little side door opened and an old man with a tonsured head emerged carrying a three legged stool fashioned of hammered brass.
When she saw him, Melantha came rushing through the swinging doors tossing a shawl about her shoulders. “Outside!” she cried. She followed the custodian out onto the landing. “Just here.” She pointed to the edge of the landing, where the narrow chasm glowed.
A cloud of pipe tobacco greeted us. Old Clare was standing outside the door, leaning against a pilaster, smoking. Klee was back, calmer now, standing beside him in the lamplight and shadows, puffing on a black cigar. Steam rose from the fissure in the landing.
The custodian, dressed all in white, set the tripod down on the top step, but it would not seat properly. No allowance had been made for the seven inch rise to the marble landing.
Melantha fumed, “I told you explicitly! One leg shorter by half a foot!”
The custodian looked miserably at Old Clare for assistance.
“Cain’t we alter it, Melantha?”
“No time now. Fools!” Melantha was beside herself.
“What’s the problem?” said Klee.
“One leg’s supposed to be shorter than the other two. So the stool sits level on the landing,” Clare explained.
“Give it here,” barked Klee. He grabbed the tripod from the custodian, who backed away and retreated through the basement door.

Continued next week.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Snow, Snow, Snow, Snow, Snow

Monday, 2/2
12:55 a.m. Caller from Central Street reports that loud music/TV from the first floor apartment is keeping him and his newborn child awake. Noise level lowered before first floor could be contacted; caller advised to call back if same occurs again.
8:14 a.m. Caller from Guidewire, Inc. requesting that an officer attempt to make contact with the mother of one of their clients, who is in the ICU at Berkshire Medical Center. BMC needs mother’s consent for a medical procedure. Officer found a light on at the mother’s house and her vehicle parked in the driveway, but no one answered the door. Caller later advised that she made contact with the client’s mother.
10:05 a.m. Officer assisted motorist up Unity Hill; vehicle was sideways nearly all the way up the hill, spinning its wheels. Operator advised re: driving in this weather if his vehicle cannot operate safely in these conditions.
12:48 p.m. Officer assisted a motorist who struck a cement pillar in his driveway and got stuck.
2:12 p.m. Report of a tractor trailer unit stuck on the hill on Sunderland Road, currently trying to back down hill. DPW notified; plow truck and sander en route to assist. TT unit able to get out prior to officers’ arrival.
3:07 p.m. Caller from Randall Wood Drive complaining of neighbor constantly shoveling snow from her driveway into the road. States she does this every storm; has never complained before, but today, due to the amount of snow, caller almost got stuck in the road. Referred to an officer.
4:21 p.m. Caller from Fifteenth Street requesting to speak to an officer about a “plowing law.” Officer advised. May need mediation among caller, DPW and/or town officials, and chief.
9:05 p.m. Party calling from area of Great Falls Discovery Center reports that a state plow truck just struck her vehicle. No injuries; minimal damage to vehicle. MassHighway and MassDOT contacted; all drivers that they spoke to denied being involved in an accident on the bridge. MassDOT will continue to look into this.

Tuesday, 2/3
12:45 a.m. Caller reports that the vehicle she is operating is stuck in the alley between Fourth and Fifth Streets; requests police assistance. Services rendered.
7 a.m. Assisted DPW with vehicle tows for snow removal in Third and Fourth

Street lots.
1:19 p.m. Report of a strong odor of gas coming from vicinity of Cumberland Farms. TFFD determined that the odor was coming from Simon’s Stamps.
1:59 p.m. Caller observed female exit her apartment building on Fourth Street and pace outside holding a kitchen knife as if she were going to stab someone. Caller states that this female has had problems with the neighbors recently. Units spoke with female, who denied carrying a knife but stated that if she did carry a knife, it would be because the neighborhood was dangerous.
2:23 p.m. Caller from out of town requests lookout assistance for her daughter, who is in Turners Falls. Caller insists that the officer hurry because her daughter wants to get to a hip hop dance class. Delayed response due to call volume. Vehicle located; services rendered.
4:44 p.m. Caller from East Main Street reports that items are missing from his store and that he suspects his landlord, who has a key to the shop. Last articles missing are two electric heaters that are now being used by the landlord to heat the upstairs for other tenants. Report taken.
5:58 p.m. Caller from Avenue A reports that another driver alleged that caller just hit his car. Caller does not believe that he did so, but offered to call police. Other driver stated no need, just give him \$20. Caller declined. Passenger of other vehicle stepped out of car and stated, “You don’t want to have to go to court.” Caller started to call police; vehicle left area.
7:31 p.m. Burglar alarm set off by balloons at Greenfield Savings Bank.
7:46 p.m. [REDACTED] was arrested and charged with operating under the influence of liquor; marked lanes violation; and not being in possession of a license.

Wednesday, 2/4
1:56 a.m. Caller reports structure fire in Wendell. Advised caller that emergency personnel have already been dispatched to this fire. Caller reports that her relatives live next door and that the fire is close to other residences. State police advised of call. Caller called back concerned that the female resident of the house that burned down may have perished in the fire; also concerned that there may be inaccuracies in the story that 22 News ran regarding the fire. Caller referred to State Police to be put in touch with someone from the Wendell police or fire department.

12:52 p.m. Report of suspicious activity outside the Montague Senior Center. Investigated.
1:33 p.m. Officer reports suspicious activity involving subjects in a gold Nissan outside Aubuchon’s Hardware. Subject picked up. Police presence shown in area.
10:40 p.m. Caller advises that there is a male party sitting in a car outside the Brick House laying on his horn every couple of minutes. When the caller asked him to stop, he was threatened. Officer advised. Caller reports that vehicle left scene as the cruiser passed by.
10:51 p.m. Caller reports that a motorist struck a deer in front of his house. Vehicle and operator OK, but deer still in road, alive. Caller’s wife later called back to report that the deer was gone.

Thursday, 2/5
6:30 a.m. Report of structure fire on Dry Hill Road. TFFD on scene.
8:27 a.m. Report of a sidewalk on Millers Falls Road that has not been shoveled all winter, forcing pedestrians to walk in road. Property appears to be a foreclosure. Management company contacted and will send someone out.
8:53 a.m. Accident involving a DPW vehicle on K Street. No injuries. Report taken.
10:29 a.m. Caller reports that the metal plate on the sidewalk on the bridge that connects Canal Road in Turners Falls with Turners Falls Road in Greenfield has come out of position and is sticking out into the roadway. MassHighway advised; will send someone to return plate to its proper position. Per Chief Dodge, the entire sheet of metal was in the road yesterday; it is likely that plows are catching it and causing it to move. Due to safety concerns for motorists and pedestrians, Chief Dodge requests that MassHighway make a more secure repair and call back with the disposition. MassHighway later called back to advise that the plate has been secured and they do not expect it to come up again.
12:19 p.m. Party into station to report that her boyfriend took her credit/debit card and her vehicle without permission and is refusing to return them. Investigated. Vehicle left on Avenue A without keys; towed to MPD parking lot. Party’s grandfather arrived with receipt from towing company. Unable to find or duplicate key. Parties advised that vehicle must be moved from MPD lot within 24 hours due to impending snowstorm. Grandfather arranged for vehicle to be towed from

MPD lot. Summons issued.
12:56 p.m. Officer shut down an Asplundh crew working without a detail on Greenfield Road near the Bookmill.
4:55 p.m. Following a motor vehicle stop on Millers Falls Road, a citation was issued for a marked lanes violation and an immediate threat was filed on the vehicle’s operator.
9:09 p.m. General disturbance on Third Street. Investigated.

Friday, 2/6
1:18 p.m. Report of three small brown dogs loose on Fosters Road. Animal control officer and staff sergeant advised; investigated. All dogs located and returned home.
4:57 p.m. Taxi service on Fifth Street to pick up a male party reports that party is stumbling all over and believed to be highly intoxicated. Party detained and transported voluntarily to Baystate Franklin Medical Center.
6:13 p.m. Caller from Third Street reports that water is pouring out of his ceiling from an unknown source. Third Street shut down from Avenue A to Canal while problem addressed; later reopened.
9:00 p.m. Officer at high school sporting event broke up an altercation between two parties. Both given strong warnings about their behavior at a youth event.

Saturday, 2/7
1:20 a.m. Clerk reports that a female shoplifted a container of ice cream and a candy bar from F.L. Roberts. Report taken.
2:04 p.m. Caller from Federal Street reports that her next door neighbor is burning trash in a barrel; this has been a continual problem. State police notified to send MCFD.
4:04 p.m. Car into telephone pole at Lake Pleasant Road and Millers Falls Road; no known injuries, but several airbags deployed. Medical attention refused. WMECO advised.
6:57 p.m. CO/smoke detector going off at Montague City Road residence. High CO levels detected. Berkshire Gas sending crew.

Sunday, 2/8
11:23 a.m. 2 car accident involving DPW pickup truck vs. small truck. Report taken.
2:04 p.m. Caller reports that there was a couple in the Shady Glen restaurant that stole a pile of gloves and hats that belonged to another group dining with several children. Investigated.
8:12 p.m. Report of car stuck on guardrail on Canal Street. No damage to vehicle, which was able to get out without needing a tow.

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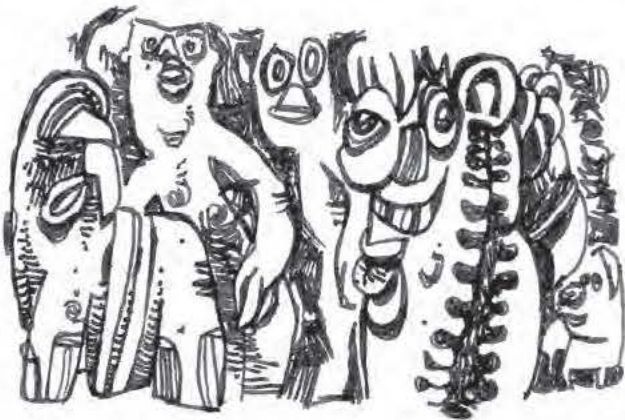
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BASKETBALL from page B1

things for our team. His effort every night is incredible even if his performance is not up to his standards. His passion has been contagious and the kids have followed his lead,” Coach Mullins said after the game.

But Mullins also gave credit to his other players. “This is not to say that the other five kids including Emmett Turn have not done great things.” He said.

In Monday’s game, Nick York led the Indians with 22 points, including three 3-pointers. He also pulled down 7 rebounds and gave 4 assists.

Liam Ellis got back to his double-digit form, scoring 21 points. He grabbed 8 rebounds and had 8 assists. Jalen Sanders added 17 points, 6 rebounds and 2 assists.

Tyler Charbonneau sunk a 3-pointer and ended with 11 points. He banged out 4 rebounds and had an assist. Tionne Brown contributed 9 points, a rebound and 2 assists. Emmett Turn came off the bench to score 4 points. He also grabbed 3 rebounds and provided 4 assists.

Nick Croteau snared 2 rebounds and gave an assist. Colby Dobias, Spencer Hubert, James Vaughn, and Eulalio Veras also contributed for the Tribe. Next game up was against Mt. Greylock.

The Mounties

On Thursday, February 5, the Tribe traveled over the mountain to play a nonconference game against Mt. Greylock. Powertown defeated the Mounties 66 to 52. And Coach Mullins gave credit where credit was due: “Tionne (Brown) was terrific at Mt. Greylock with 17 points.”

He also had praise for his other players: “We cannot underscore the growth of Nick York, Charbs (Tyler Charbonneau), Tionne and Jalen (Sanders) as basketball players because EVERY player on the team has been the high scorer or tied for high scorer at least one night.”

But his emphasis was on team work. “This is a great indicator of a TEAM: balanced scoring and having the selflessness to find the open man. That is truly an important lesson in my coaching style.”

In Thursday’s game, Liam Ellis also scored 17, Jalen Sanders and Nick York 14 each scored 14 and Tyler Charbonneau added 4.

The Falcons

Friday found the Turners Falls Indians at home hosting Smith Academy.

Powertown defeated the Smith Falcons 73 to 62 and improved their record to an amazing 15 and 2. It was an unusual start for the Turners Falls boys’ basketball team. After all, the Indians went into Friday’s game sporting a 10 game winning streak and were sitting pretty atop the Hampshire Conference.

But the Tribe played flat. They made costly turnovers, missed shots and didn’t pull down rebounds, at least at the beginning.

“Play some basketball,” “talk to each other,” “get the ball back,” the

coaches on the sidelines implored. But the Indians fell farther and farther behind.

With the score 17 to 7, Powertown put on a full court press but more mistakes and some accurate shots by the Purple Falcons, put the score at 21-7 after one quarter.

In the second quarter, Turners regained some composure. The full court press was having an effect but Turners lost the ball several times under their own basket and Purple took their biggest lead of the game, 31 to 15. But at the end of the second quarter, Turners went on a 9-2 run and slimmed the Purple Falcons’ lead to 33 – 24.

“Smith liked the pace in the first half because we could not turn them over too much and they were able to get good looks at the hoop,” Coach Mullins said after the game.

“Both teams had played Thursday night and the legs were probably going to determine the winner of this game,” he explained.

In the third quarter, the Indians finally played up to their potential. Blue played as a team. Two, three or five passes to open men and Turners began dominating outside as well as underneath. Tyler Charbonneau became hot in 3 point land and with 2 minutes 53 left in the quarter, the game was knotted at 41.

That’s when Turners turned up the heat. Jalen Sanders and Tyler Charbonneau worked the boards, Nick York and Liam Ellis penetrated from the outside and Tionne Brown found the open man. And when the third quarter ended, Turners held a 49 – 45 lead.

Explaining the momentum change, Coach Mullins said, “When we got them to make mistakes we started to cash in and then Charbs (Charbonneau) got us a quick “six” from the corner.” “You then saw the mental fatigue leave us and go to them. When we tied the game, the kids were screaming with confidence again.”

And with new confidence, Blue methodically built on the lead and stretched the margin to 72 – 59. That’s when Coach Gary Mullins sent in his subs.

Liam Ellis led the Tribe with 20 points, 13 rebounds and 9 assists. Tyler Charbonneau contributed 18 points, including 2 key 3-pointers, 7 rebounds and an assist. Jalen Sanders had 17 points, 9 rebounds and 4 assists. Tionne Brown scored 5 points and Spencer Hubert added 1. Nick Croteau snagged a defensive rebound and Emmett Turn gave an assist. Colby Dobias also saw playing time.

The Turners boys’ basketball team cannot rest on their laurels. They have three tough games ahead of them. “Every game we have left is going to be difficult for various reasons.” Coach Mullins explained.

“Pioneer has great scoring potential, Frontier plays excellent defense and Mahar is hot right now. I am hopeful that we will continue to work hard and maybe, just maybe ring the Hampshire League bell,” he said.



SNOW from page B1

types. Simple and very common designs are the “Stellar Plates” and “Sectoried Plates” and these have broad arms and wide centers.

The kind of snowflake that we consider “typical” are dendritic snowflakes, with arms that branch into smaller and smaller divisions, like trees. The more complex the journey through various temperatures, the more complicated the shape.

Some snowflakes look like popsicle-stick assemblies and sometimes two are attached together to make a 12-armed snowflake. Very rare are the triangular flakes, but they do sometimes occur.

There’s an astounding number of water molecules in a little snowflake. We’re talking a number with 18 zeroes. Water molecules are not all exactly alike, giving a unique foundation to even the simplest hexagonal crystals that form in the clouds. Given the hugely vast amount of variables that go into snowflake growth, from molecular differences to temperature, and humidity fluctuations, it is not mathematically probable that two exactly alike snowflakes ever existed on the planet, according to Kenneth G. Libbrecht, author of the California Institute of Technology’s excellent online snowflake guide, *snowcrystals.com*, where most of this information was gleaned from.

Who studies stuff like this – and why? An early treatise on snowflake forms was written by Johannes Kepler (1611), followed by René Descartes’ observations of columnar crystals (1635), and Robert Hooke’s

detailed drawings in “Micrographica” (1665).

After this brief flurry of interest in the Renaissance, jump ahead to 1931 when Wilson A. Bentley, a Vermont farmer, published his famous book of 2000 snowflake photos, “Snow Crystals,” still in print. There is even a museum dedicated to his work in the small town of Jericho, Vermont (*snowflakebentley.com*).

Bentley has been criticized, however, for only portraying the kind of symmetrical snowflakes he found beautiful. Crystallization isn’t a perfect, symmetrical process, and irregularities are common even if not very apparent at first glance.



Ukichiro Nakaya did a more systematic cataloguing of snow flakes in the 1950s, and expanded our knowledge of how snowflakes grow by producing artificial ones for the first time.

The study of crystal formation involves more than taking pictures and classifying shapes. The snowflake is a “self-made” structure, growing out of the air with no instruction or blueprint, no DNA, yet incredibly complex.

As the study of nano-engineering develops, this property of self assembly may become increasingly important in ways we cannot even conceive of at the moment, according to Libbrecht.

STUDY from page B1

The National Park Service approved the application filed by the Town of Montague to launch the definitive study of these events, by granting the town \$60,000 to launch a multiphase historical and archaeological research project.

This effort will be unique, as well as historic. The events of this battle/massacre played out on the territory of five contemporary towns: Deerfield, Greenfield, Gill, Montague, and Northfield. The Historical Commissions of these towns are cooperating in this study.

In addition, the Tribal Historic Preservation Offices of four of the tribes whose ancestors were present on that day in May 1676 are collaborating with the five towns, in a cooperative effort to present all sides and perspectives to this event that gave Turners Falls its name.

The Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah), the Narragansett Indian Tribe, the Nipmuc/k Tribe of Massachusetts, and the Stockbridge-Munsee Mohicans will participate in the research and documentation. Each of these tribes will provide a written history on the event from an Indian perspective.

So the date of February 3, 2015 was a red-letter day in this historic process: this past Tuesday launched the study, with the Advisory Board

finally meeting the research team we selected to tackle the project.

Kevin McBride, archaeologist and widely published researcher, was selected as principal investigator for the study. Composing his team are David Naumec, who will serve as military historian and historical researcher, Ashley Bissonnette, who will serve as senior researcher, and Noah Fellman, who will serve as GIS specialist. This team is employed by the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center.

During the February 3 meeting, we were introduced to the research team and we reviewed the specific tasks of this phase of the project:

1. Develop the archaeological research design.
2. Conduct colonial and tribal military history research.
3. Conduct historical and archaeological research.
4. Coordinate tribal history research and perspectives on the battle.
5. Coordinate a public information process.
6. Prepare GIS maps of the project area.
7. Prepare a technical report.

In essence, this first part of the study will be a planning and data-gathering phase, with no shovels

There are numerous ways to explore snowflakes, if you aren’t utterly sick of them at this point in the season. Cheapest of all is to go outside with a piece of black mat board or other such dark background, and wait for interesting flakes to land, similar to opening a bar on Third Street.

You could assemble a very expensive camera and microscope rig to take your own photos, but that’s probably not realistic. Check out one of the beautiful photo books already made instead.

There are instructions online at *snowcrystals.com* to make artificial snowflakes using dry ice and some common household items. That might be entertaining on the next snow day if you can stay home with the kids, or even better, when they are bored in July.

Instructions may also be found on the same site to create “snow fossils” with some glass slides and super glue in your own freezer.

(I happen to have a box of vintage glass cover slips, about 1.5” square, that could be used for this experiment. If you’re interested just request some by writing *features@montaguereporter.org*.)

Confused about how to cut a six-sided snowflake out of a piece of paper for our contest (page A2)? You may find instructions for folding the paper on *instructables.com* and other crafting websites.

Or make as many arms on that thing as you want – four, eight, ten, five; use your artistic license. We may post a picture of your snowflake if you win.



in the ground, no active archaeology, with a final report due in 2016. We hope that further grants will be forthcoming to fund more phases of research over the next five to six years.

The research team later joined a focus group meeting coordinated by the Gill Historical Commission, in their offices located a few hundred yards from the massacre site in Riverside.

The Gill Commission was represented by chair Ivan Ussach and commissioners Lynn Stowe Tomb, Pam Shoemaker, and Bev Demars. Also present were Nolumbeka Project officers Joe Graveline, and Howard Clark, Ed Gregory of the Greenfield and Montague Historic Societies, and Shelley Small, Fish and Wildlife archaeologist (retired), who has done extensive research in Riverside.

This group provided the research team with a lengthy list of local resources and sources of information, which led McBride, the Principal Investigator, to remark that his team had never begun a project with so much local input, so many resources, and such a high level of local interest.

Check this site for updates on meetings, presentations, and programs about the Battlefield study.



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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.

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

EVERY MONDAY

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

EVERY TUESDAY

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

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

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

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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

EVERY THURSDAY

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

EVERY FRIDAY

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

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The Friends of the Greenfield Public Library are seeking po-



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ems for the 24th annual *Poet's Seat Poetry Contest*, which is open to all Franklin County residents and students. Submit up to three poems. **Deadline 3/9/15.** Awards will be given in adult and youth categories. Awards ceremony and poetry reading April 28th. Info contact Hope Schneider, 772-0257.

EXHIBITS:

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *An exhibit of historic photographs of villages, hamlets and hollows, reproduced from the collection of the Swift River Valley Historical Society* on display in the Great Hall. On display through March 28.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *The Fourth Annual Erotic Art Show*. Art of more than two dozen local and regional artists working in a wide array of materials along the erotic spectrum from "mild" to WILD. Through March 14. Smith College Museum of Art, Northampton: *Mary Bauermeister: The New York Decade* This exhibition is the first to concentrate on the work of German artist Mary Bauermeister (b.

1934) during the decade she lived and worked in the United States from 1962 to 1972. Featuring her signature optical lens boxes, assemblages, stone reliefs, drawings, and other works. Free admission 2nd Friday of each month, 4 to 8 p.m. On view through May 24.

EVENTS:

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13

The Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Ja' Duke presents *The Wizard of Oz*. \$, 6 p.m.

Ja' Duke presents *The Wizard of Oz*. \$, 6 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Drew Paton* sings 1940's love songs for lovers, 7 p.m.

Shutesbury Athletic Club, Shutesbury: Community gourmet dinner and dance concert with *Dysfunctional Family Jazz Band*. Celebrate both Valentine's Day and Mardi Gras. Dinner at 6:30 p.m., music and dancing begin at 8 p.m. \$.

Wendell Town Hall, Wendell: *The Crazy Diamond Band* benefit concert for Friends of the Wendell Meetinghouse, 8 p.m. Suggested donation \$6-20.

Arts Block Cafe, Greenfield: *Trailer Park*. Dance your heart out! Trailer Park rocks for this Valentine's Day benefit for the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Franklin County, \$, 9 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Eric Love Band*, 60's & 70's gold, 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Smith College, Northampton: *Jerry Noble and Friends* concert. A generous bouquet of love songs in honor of Valentine's Day. Bob Sparkman (clarinet) Jerry Noble (composer and pianist) will be joined by mezzo-soprano Lisa Woods, soprano Teri Lafleur, and soprano (and violist) Erin Pratt '17 among others. Sweeney Concert Hall, Sage Hall, 3 p.m.

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Twin Peaks Season One*, 1 to 4 p.m., TNT Karaoke, 9 p.m.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *BIN-GO!* 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Knitting & Crafts night*. All welcome, any craft, skill level.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19

Greenfield Community College, Main Campus: *Talk by Marjorie Agosin*, an award-winning poet, essayist, fiction writer, activist, and professor. Interests in Jewish literature, literature of human rights in the Americas; women writers of Latin America; migration, identity, and ethnicity. Main Core, Rm C208, 12:30 p.m.

Leverett Library, Leverett: *Book discussion* with Arlyn Diamond. *The Art Forger* by B.A. Shapiro is this year's "Read It Leverett!" book, 7 p.m.

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

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Tommy Filiault Trio*, original guitar, 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Uncle Hal's Crabgrass Band*, 6 p.m.

Arts Block Cafe, Greenfield:

Third Friday Comedy Night with Andrew Mayer, Ryan Shanahan, Dave Yubruh and host Jennifer Myszkowski, \$, 8 p.m.

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Itasca, Tropical Rock, and Willie Lane*. All ages, substance free, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Josh Levangie & The Pistoleros*, outlaw country, 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *Gender Role Free Contra Dance* all level dance, \$, 7 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Rockit Queer* with DJ Just Joan, \$, 9:30 p.m.

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Heavy Equipment Activity



"heavy equipment activity," by Max Armen, February 2015.
Red and blue ink on watercolor paper, 9 by 13 inches.

Turners Falls-based artist Max Armen is sharing some of his artistic process with us over the next few issues:

"Through these works I reconnect with the raw emotional power contained within the language of gestural line. I have seen that the imaginative power and natural learning capacity of children is often underestimated, misunderstood and sometimes even discouraged.

"I have honestly only scratched the most insignificant fleck of the surface of this vast ocean of creativity that fully emerged from within me when I was so young.

"I hope that by choosing to value the limited time of my life in an act of devotion to this process, I may discover certain keys about the pure unadulterated human consciousness that would otherwise remain buried by the heavy fog of time."

"From No Nukes to No Pipeline"

On George Washington's Birthday, 1974, Montague resident Sam Lovejoy singlehandedly downed a weather tower erected on the Montague Plains by Northeast Utilities as a first step towards planned construction of twin 1150 megawatt nuclear plants. His action, and the ensuing trial, helped ignite a vibrant anti-nuclear movement.

The plant was not built. But now the Montague Plains – and many communities to its west, north and east – are threatened by construction of a major pipeline to bring fracked

gas from Pennsylvania through the state. Is this pipeline needed any more than a nuclear plant?

Come to "Protecting our Communities & Future," Sunday, February 22 from 3 to 5:30 p.m. at the Arts Block Main Hall, 289 Main Street in Greenfield.

The hour-long 1975 Green Mountain Post film *Lovejoy's Nuclear War* will be followed by a discussion with Sam Lovejoy, still from Montague, and anti-pipeline activists Katy Eiseman, Rosemary Wessel and Jim Cutler.

"In the '70's it was Nukes. Now it is extreme energy extraction and exploding pipelines. This classic film reminds us that we must remain vigilant against the old mindset in order to give birth to a new one," said Cutler, founder of Hilltown Community Rights, part of MassPLAN (www.massplan.org), a coalition of groups and organizations against the proposed Kinder Morgan/Tennessee Gas Pipeline Northeast Energy Direct Project.

All donations will go to No Fracked Gas In Mass.

Western MA SWIM FINALS



DAVID HOITT PHOTOS

Top: Jay Fritz powers his way to a 9th place finish out of 15 swimmers in the 100 Yard Backstroke during last Saturday's regional swim championships at Springfield College.



Bottom: The TFHS Girls 200 Yard Medley Relay Team: (left to right) Melissa Hersey, Mackenzie Salls, Allison Wheeler, and Mackenzie Phillips. Salls and Phillips also qualified to race individual events.

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